The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) arts assessment is the only national assessment for the arts. In 2016, about 8,800 eighth-graders attending public and private schools across the nation responded to and critiqued existing works of music and visual arts and created their own original artwork. In addition, students and school administrators responded to survey questionnaires that look at students’ participation in and access to the arts.

1. **Student Performance Stayed Steady Overall**

   Average scores in music and visual arts for eighth-graders were not significantly different from 2008.

   **Grade 8 Music Average Score**
   - Scale Score (0-300)
   - '08: 150
   - '16: 147

   **Grade 8 Visual Arts Average Score**
   - Scale Score (0-300)
   - '08: 150
   - '16: 149

2. **8th-grade Music and Art Class Enrollment Unchanged**

   In 2016, 63 percent of eighth-graders reported taking a music class in school and 42 percent reported taking a visual arts course in school, which were not significantly different from 2008.

   - 63% Took a music class in 2016
   - 42% Took a visual arts course in 2016
Some Declines in Arts Engagement Outside of School

The percentages of eighth-grade students who reported engaging in some music or visual arts activities outside of school declined compared to 2008.

* Significantly different \((p < .05)\) from 2016.

### Music
- **2008**: 38%
- **2016**: 35%

### Visual Arts
- **2008**: 62%
- **2016**: 56%

White – Hispanic Score Gap Decreased

Music White – Hispanic Score Gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Hispanic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>129*</td>
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<tr>
<td>'16</td>
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<td>135</td>
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Visual Arts White – Hispanic Score Gap

<table>
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<th>White</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>26*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'16</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>19</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Regional Differences Reported Across the United States

Students in the Northeast outperformed their peers from other regions in visual arts.

A higher percentage of students in the Northeast reported taking a visual arts course than students in other regions.

* Significantly different \((p < .05)\) from the Northeast.

To see more results for arts and other subjects, visit nationsreportcard.gov/arts_2016.