The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures the progress of our nation's fourth and eighth graders in mathematics and reading.

HAVE THE NATION'S STUDENTS MADE GAINS IN READING?

NAEP has monitored how student performance in reading has changed over the last three decades. It reports these scores as a national average at grade 4 and 8. Since 2013, average grade 8 reading scores declined but were higher than those recorded in 1992.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ARE AT OR ABOVE PROFICIENT?

NAEP also reports student performance by achievement level: Basic, Proficient and Advanced. Students reaching Proficient demonstrate competency over challenging subject matter. Between 2013 and 2015, the percentage of grade 4 students scoring at or above Proficient in reading did not change significantly, but the percentage of grade 8 students scoring at or above Proficient declined by two percentage points. The percentage of grade 8 students scoring below Basic also increased.
HOW ARE STUDENTS IN AMERICA’S STATES PERFORMING?

NAEP reports average reading scores by state, providing a closer look at where changes in student performance occurred. In grade 4 reading, scores increased in 13 states/jurisdictions and declined in 2. In grade 8, scores increased in 1 state and declined in 8 states.

HOW ARE STUDENTS IN AMERICA’S DISTRICTS PERFORMING?

NAEP measures student progress in America’s large cities through the Trial Urban District Assessment. Fourth and eighth graders in 21 urban districts participated in the mathematics and reading assessments in 2015. Since 2013, reading scores increased in 5 districts and decreased in 3 in at least one grade.

To see more results for reading and other subjects, visit www.nationsreportcard.gov