South Carolina NAEP Trend Results

Reading and Mathematics, 2005–2015
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Introduction

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences. NAEP was first administered in 1969 and is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation’s students know and can do in core subjects. Standard administration practices are implemented to provide a common measure of student achievement. NAEP results are released as The Nation’s Report Card, and are available for the nation, states, and twenty-one urban districts. The reports are used by policymakers, state and local educators, principals, teachers, and parents to inform discussions about education. For access to the full array of NAEP results and data tools, visit the Nation’s Report Card website at http://nationsreportcard.gov.

NAEP uses a carefully designed sampling procedure for the assessment to be representative of the geographical, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic diversity of schools and students in the state. First, schools are selected to be representative of schools statewide, on the basis of characteristics such as school location, minority enrollment, level of school achievement, and average income of the geographic area. Then, within each school, students are randomly selected to participate. Each participating student represents hundreds of other similar students.

This document includes NAEP reading and mathematics results for South Carolina and national averages, which for the purposes of this report, are reflective of public schools only. The national average for public schools is also referred to as “National Public” and abbreviated as “NP.” Results are reported in terms of scale score and the percentage of students performing in each achievement level: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. Scale scores for both subjects are reported on a 500-point scale. Detailed information about NAEP performance levels is available on the NCES website at https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/achievement.aspx.

Note: NAEP is administered to samples of students; therefore, all results are population estimates and some observed differences may not be statistically significant.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

Mathematics

Achievement Levels: Overall

In 2015, 79 percent of South Carolina 4th graders scored at or above basic (unchanged from 2013). Sixty-five percent of 8th graders performed at or above basic in 2015, compared to 69 percent in 2013. Nationally, 81 percent of 4th graders and 70 percent of 8th graders scored at or above basic in 2015.

Thirty-six percent of our state’s 4th-grade students performed at or above proficient in 2015, compared to 35 percent in 2013. Twenty-six percent of 8th graders scored at or above proficient in 2015, down from 31 percent in 2013. Nationally, 39 percent of 4th graders and 32 percent of 8th graders scored at or above proficient in 2015.

The percentage of South Carolina students scoring at the Advanced level in 2015 was down by 3 percentage points.

Table 1
Mathematics Achievement Level Percentages for South Carolina and the Nation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Below Basic</th>
<th>At or Above Basic</th>
<th>At or Above Proficient</th>
<th>At Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>19*</td>
<td>81*</td>
<td>39*</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>70*</td>
<td>32*</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>26*</td>
<td>5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Value is significantly different (p < .05) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2013.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

Figure 1. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

Figure 2. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

**State vs. National Comparisons**

South Carolina’s fourth graders had an average score of 237 in 2015, unchanged from the previous reporting of state-level scores in 2013. In 2015, South Carolina eighth graders had an average scale score of 276, down from 280 in 2013. At the national level, the 2015 average score for grade four was one point lower (241 to 240) and the average for grade eight was down three points (284 to 281).

Year-to-year comparisons involving the students with disabilities group should be interpreted with caution, as representativeness of the sample has change significantly since 2005 (See Figures 10 and 19).

Table 2

*Average Mathematics Scale Scores for South Carolina and the Nation*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>240*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>281*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>276*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Value is significantly different (p < .05) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2013.
Average Scale Scores: Overall

![Graph](image)

**Figure 3.** Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

![Graph](image)

**Figure 4.** Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

Average Scale Scores: Demographic Groups

Figure 5. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

Figure 6. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

Figure 7. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

Figure 8. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.
Figure 9. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

Figure 10. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, mathematics grade 4.
Figure 11. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

Figure 12. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.
Figure 13. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

Figure 14. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

Figure 15. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.
Figure 16. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

Figure 17. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

Figure 18. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

Figure 19. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, mathematics grade 8.
Figure 20. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

Figure 21. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.
Figure 22. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.
Performance Relative to Other States

South Carolina 4th graders performed about the same as or better than students in 23 of the 50 states. South Carolina performed higher than 4: Alabama, California, Nevada, and New Mexico. South Carolina 4th-grade mathematics scores were not statistically different than 19: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and West Virginia.

Figure 23. Performance of other states, jurisdictions, and the nation, compared to South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.
South Carolina 8th-grade students scored about the same as or better than students in 14 of the 50 states. South Carolina scored higher than 5: Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and West Virginia. 8th-grade mathematics scores were not statistically different that 9: Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Tennessee.

Figure 24. Performance of other states, jurisdictions, and the nation, compared to South Carolina, mathematics grade 8.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

**Average Scale Scores: South Carolina Demographic Groups**

The following graphics show South Carolina’s ten-year trends for student demographic groups based on race/ethnicity, free and reduced lunch eligibility, and disability status.

![Graph showing average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.](image-url)


Figure 25. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

Figure 26. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.

Figure 27. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.
Figure 28. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 8.

Figure 29. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 8.
Figure 30. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, mathematics grade 8.
Reading

Achievement Levels: Overall

In South Carolina, 65 percent of 4th graders scored at or above basic, up from 60 percent in 2013. Seventy-one percent of 8th graders performed at or above basic in 2015, compared to 73 in 2013. Nationally, 68 percent of 4th graders and 75 percent of 8th graders scored at or above basic in 2015.

Thirty-three percent of our state’s 4th-grade students performed at or above proficient in 2015, up from 28 percent in 2013. Twenty-eight percent of 8th graders scored at or above proficient in 2015, compared to 29 percent in 2013. Nationally, 35 percent of 4th graders and 33 percent of 8th graders scored at or above proficient in 2015.

Table 3
Reading Achievement Level Percentages for South Carolina and the Nation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Below Basic</th>
<th>At or Above Basic</th>
<th>At or Above Proficient</th>
<th>At Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>35*</td>
<td>65*</td>
<td>33*</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>75*</td>
<td>33*</td>
<td>3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Value is significantly different (p < .05) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2013.
Figure 31. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

Figure 32. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.
State vs. National Comparisons

South Carolina’s 4th graders had an average score of 218 in 2015, 4 points higher than the previous reporting of state-level scores in 2013. South Carolina’s 8th graders’ average score was 260, compared to 261 in 2013. The national average for 4th grade was unchanged at 221, and a slight decrease was noted at grade 8 (266 to 264).

Year-to-year comparisons involving the students with disabilities group should be interpreted with caution, as representativeness of the sample has changed significantly since 2005 (See Figures 40 and 49).

Table 4  
Average Reading Scale Scores for South Carolina and the Nation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>218*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>264*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>National Public</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Value is significantly different (p < .05) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2013.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

Average Scale Scores: Overall

Figure 33. Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

Figure 34. Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.
Average Scale Scores: Demographic Groups

Figure 35. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

Figure 36. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.
Figure 37. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

Figure 38. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.
Figure 39. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

Figure 40. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, reading grade 4.
Figure 41. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

Figure 42. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.
NAEP Reading Grade 4
Average Scale Scores: 2005–2015

![Graph showing NAEP Reading Grade 4 average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.](image)


Figure 43. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

Figure 44. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

Figure 45. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.
Figure 46. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

Figure 47. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

Figure 48. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

Figure 49. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, reading grade 8.
Figure 50. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

Figure 51. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

Figure 52. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.
Performance Relative to Other States

South Carolina’s fourth graders performed about the same as or better than students in 12 of the 50 states. South Carolina performed higher than three: Alaska, Mississippi, and New Mexico. South Carolina fourth-grade reading scores were not statistically different from nine states: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia.

Figure 53. Performance of other states, jurisdictions, and the nation, compared to South Carolina, reading grade 4.
South Carolina’s eighth graders scored about the same as or better than students in 15 of the 50 states. South Carolina scored higher than five: Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and West Virginia. Eighth-grade mathematics scores were not statistically different from ten: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Figure 54. Performance of other states, jurisdictions, and the nation, compared to South Carolina, reading grade 8.
Average Scale Scores: South Carolina Demographic Groups

The following graphics show South Carolina’s ten-year trends for student demographic groups based on race/ethnicity, free and reduced lunch eligibility, and disability status.

![Graph showing average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, reading grade 4.](https://example.com/graph55)

Figure 55. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, reading grade 4.
South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

Figure 56. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, reading grade 4.

Figure 57. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, reading grade 4.
Figure 58. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, reading grade 8.

Figure 59. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, reading grade 8.
Figure 60. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, reading grade 8.