

South Carolina NAEP Trend Results

Reading and Mathematics, 2007–2017

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Introduction

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](#) online.

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](#).

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

Mathematics

Achievement Levels: Overall

In 2017, 75 percent of the state’s 4th-graders scored at or above Basic on NAEP, down from 79 percent in 2015. In grade 8, 62 percent scored at or above Basic, compared to 65 percent in 2015. At the national level, 79 percent of 4th graders and 69 percent of 8th graders scored at or above Basic.

Thirty-two percent of the state’s 4th-grade students performed at or above the NAEP proficient level, compared to 36 percent in 2015. In grade 8, the percentage scoring at or above proficient remained at 26 percent. Nationally, 40 percent of 4th graders and 33 percent of 8th graders scored at or above proficient in 2017.

Six-percent of South Carolina 4th graders scored at the Advanced level in 2017.

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

Jurisdiction	Grade	Year	Below Basic	At or Above Basic	At or Above Proficient	At Advanced
South Carolina	4	2015	21	79	36	6
South Carolina	4	2017	25	75*	32*	6
Nation’s Public	4	2015	19	81	39	7
Nation’s Public	4	2017	21	79*	40*	8
South Carolina	8	2015	35	65	26	5
South Carolina	8	2017	38	62	26	6
Nation’s Public	8	2015	30	70	32	8
Nation’s Public	8	2017	31	69	33	10

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2015.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

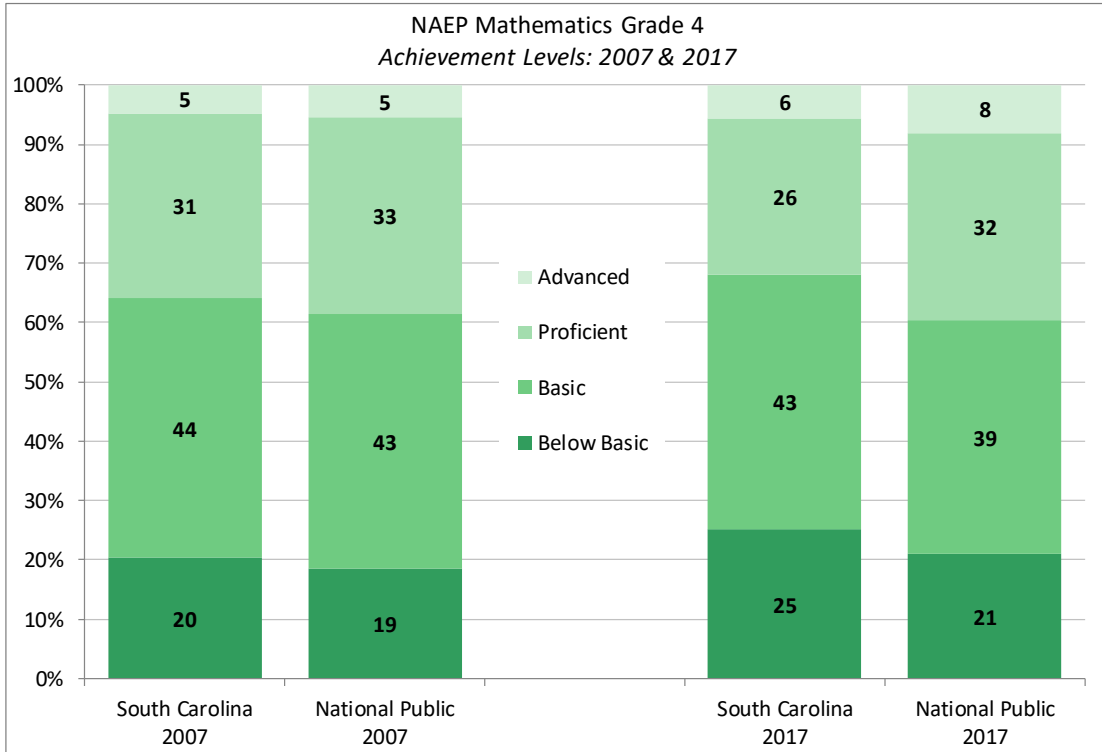


Figure 1. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

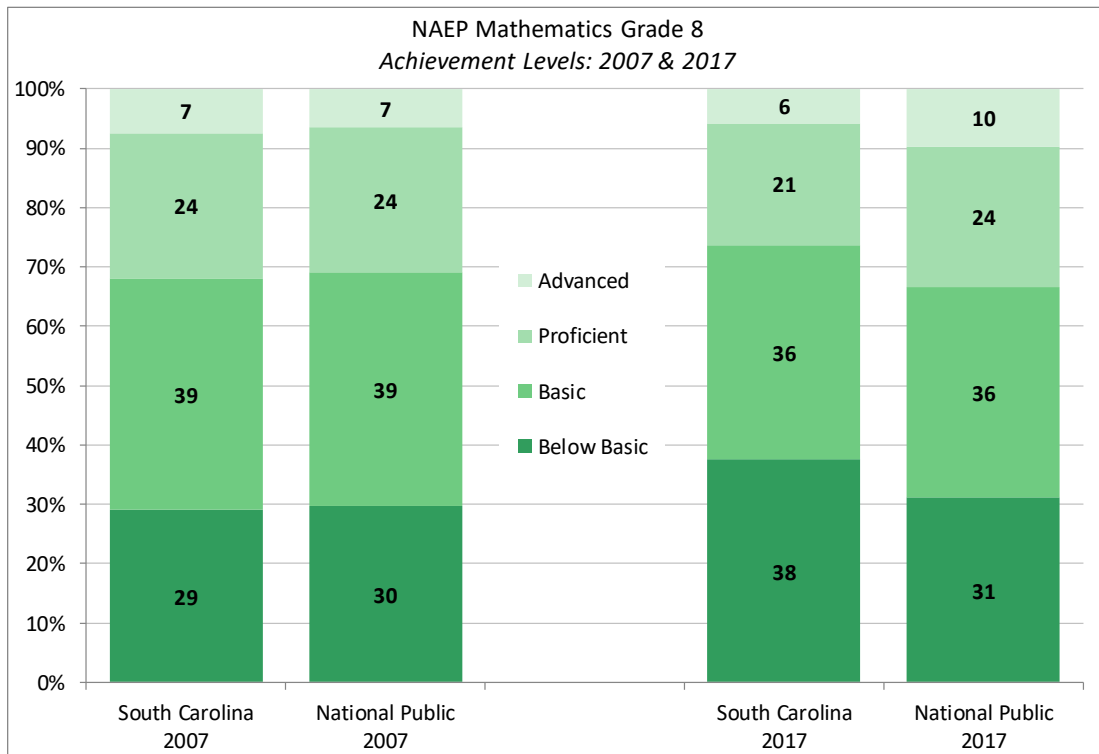


Figure 2. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

State vs. National Comparisons

South Carolina’s 4th graders had an average score of 237 in 2017, which is 3 points lower than the previous reporting of state-level scores in 2015. During the same period, South Carolina 8th graders remained statistically unchanged. The national averages for grades 4 and 8 were also statistically unchanged since 2015.

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 10 and 19).

Table 2
Average Mathematics Scale Scores for South Carolina and the Nation

Grade	Jurisdiction	Year	Overall
4	South Carolina	2015	237
4	South Carolina	2017	234*
4	Nation’s Public	2015	240
4	Nation’s Public	2017	239
8	South Carolina	2015	276
8	South Carolina	2017	275
8	Nation’s Public	2015	281
8	Nation’s Public	2017	282

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2015.

Average Scale Scores: Overall

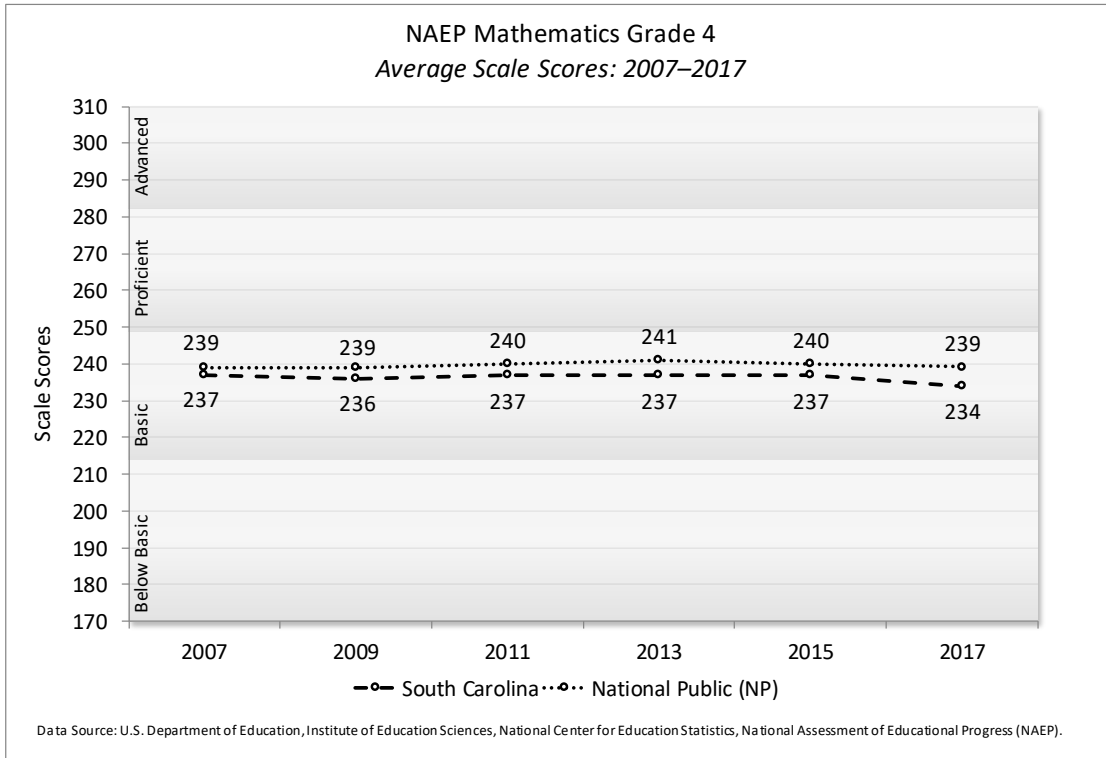


Figure 3. Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

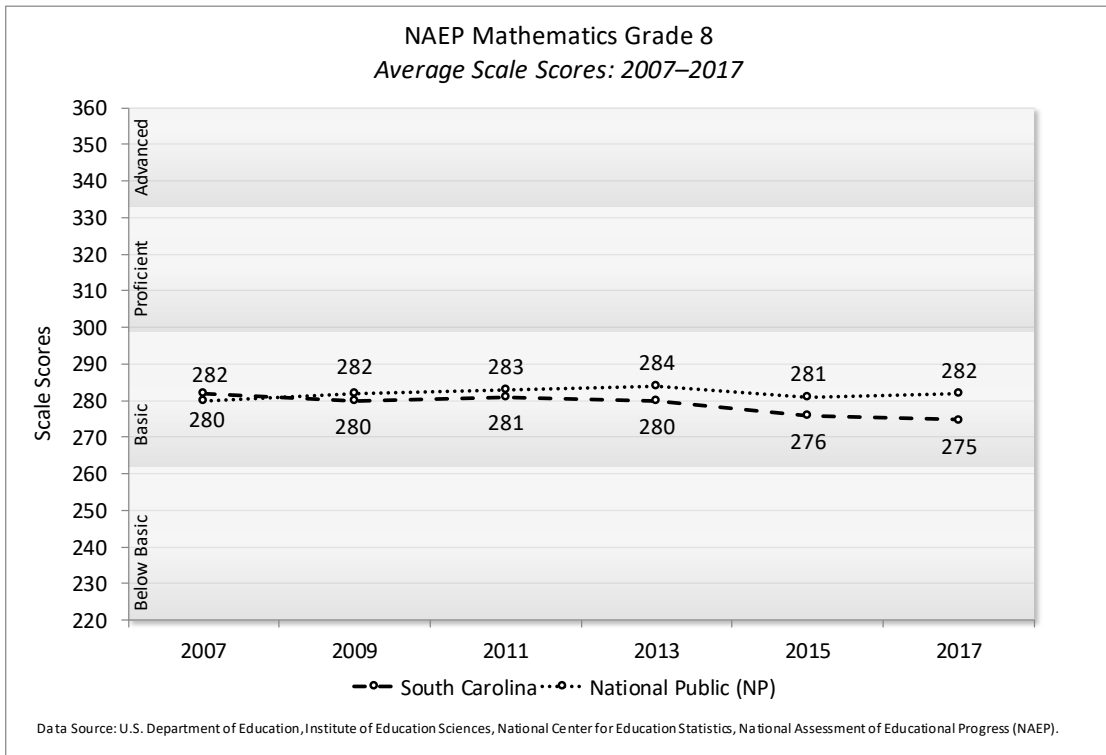


Figure 4. Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

Average Scale Scores: Demographic Groups

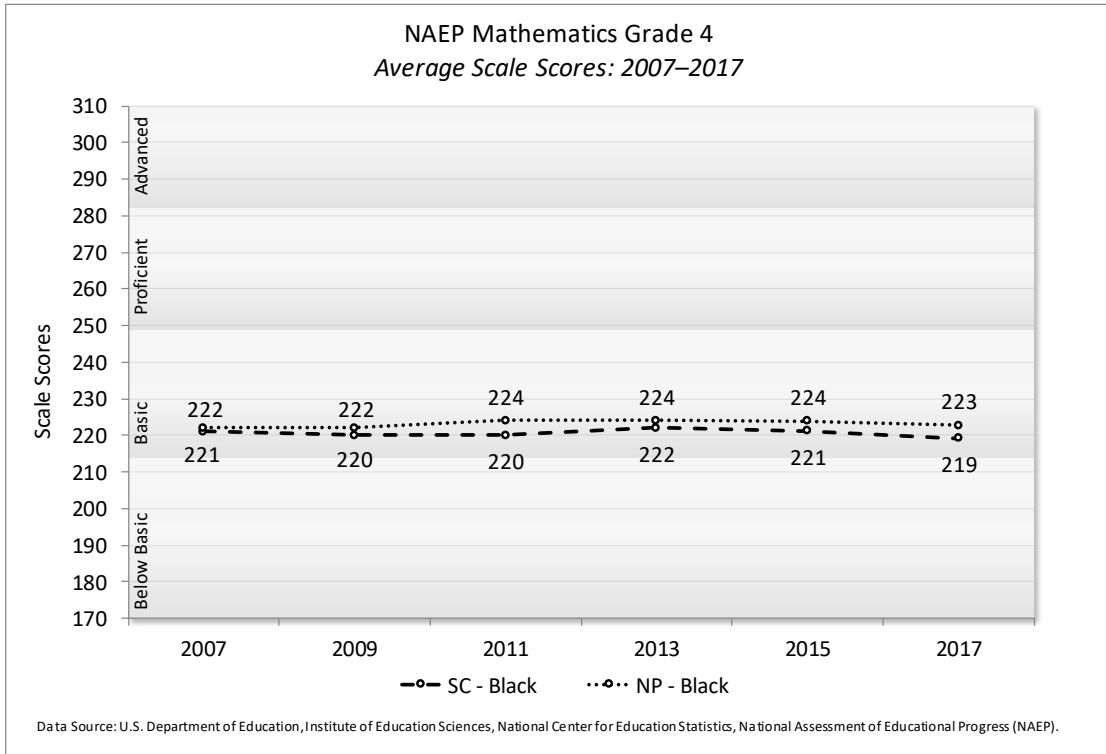


Figure 5. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

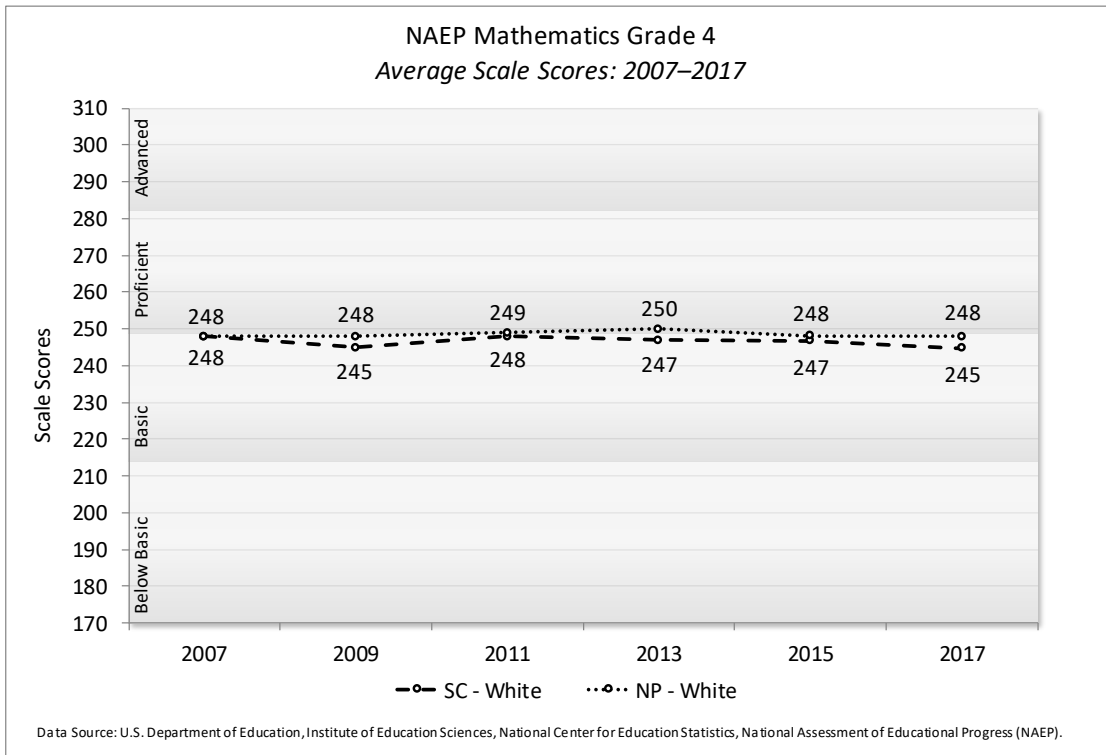


Figure 6. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

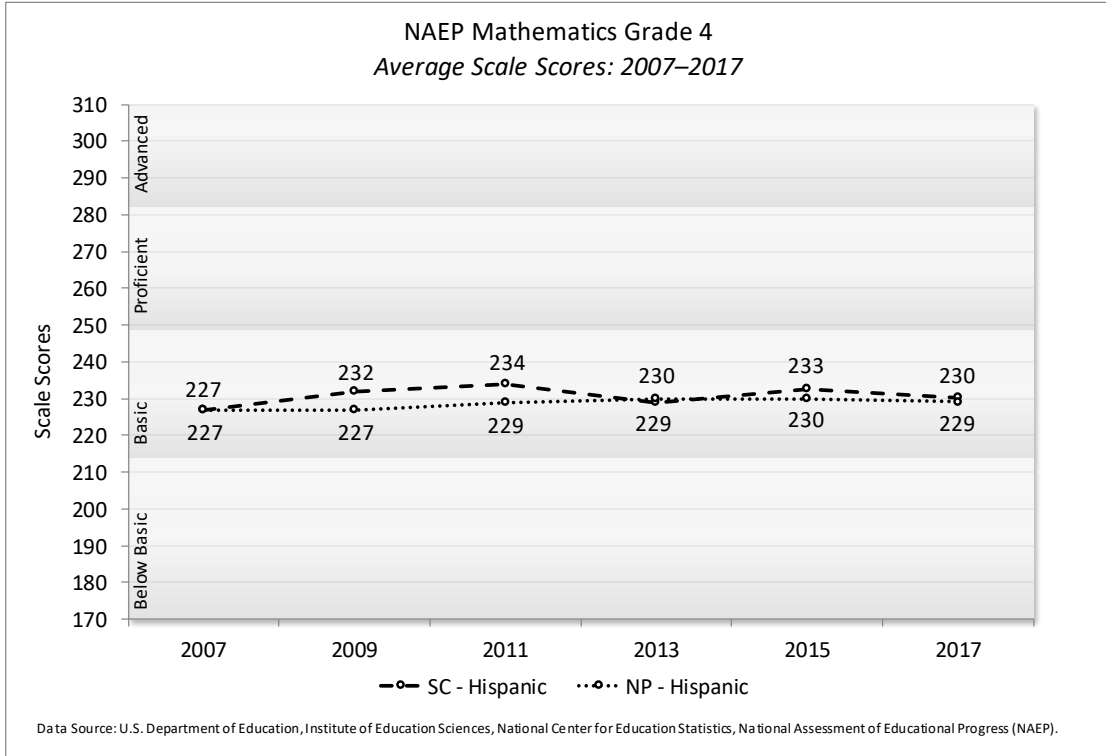


Figure 7. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

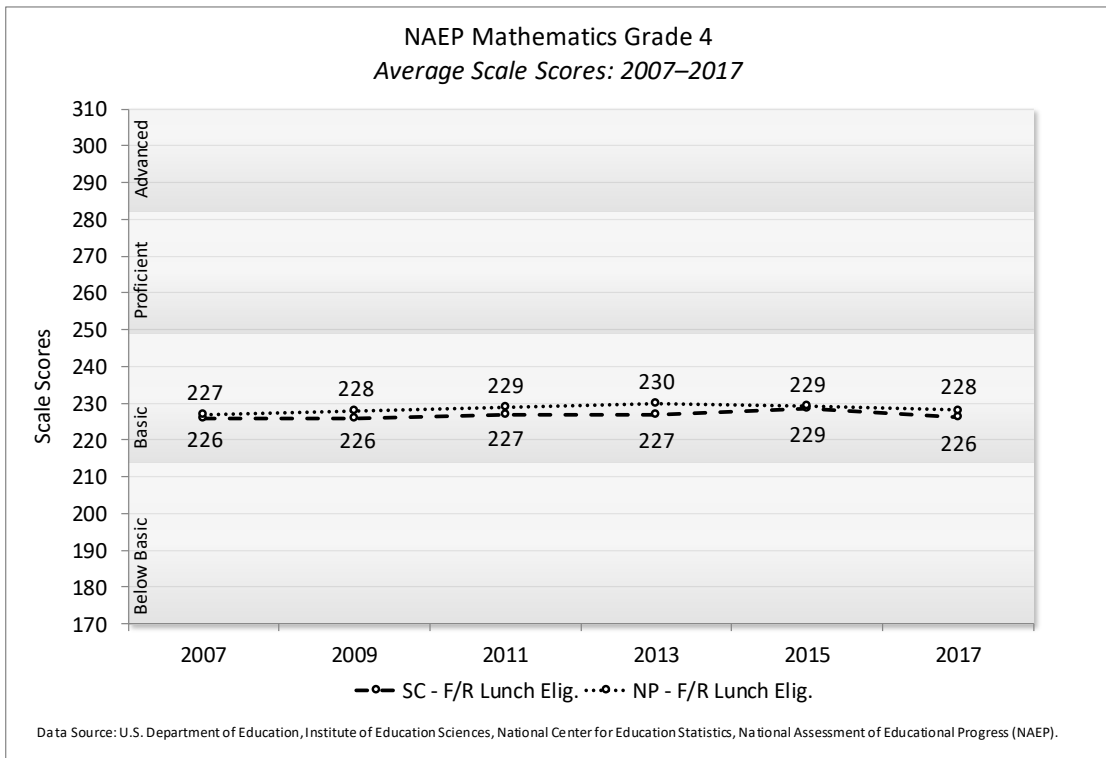


Figure 8. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

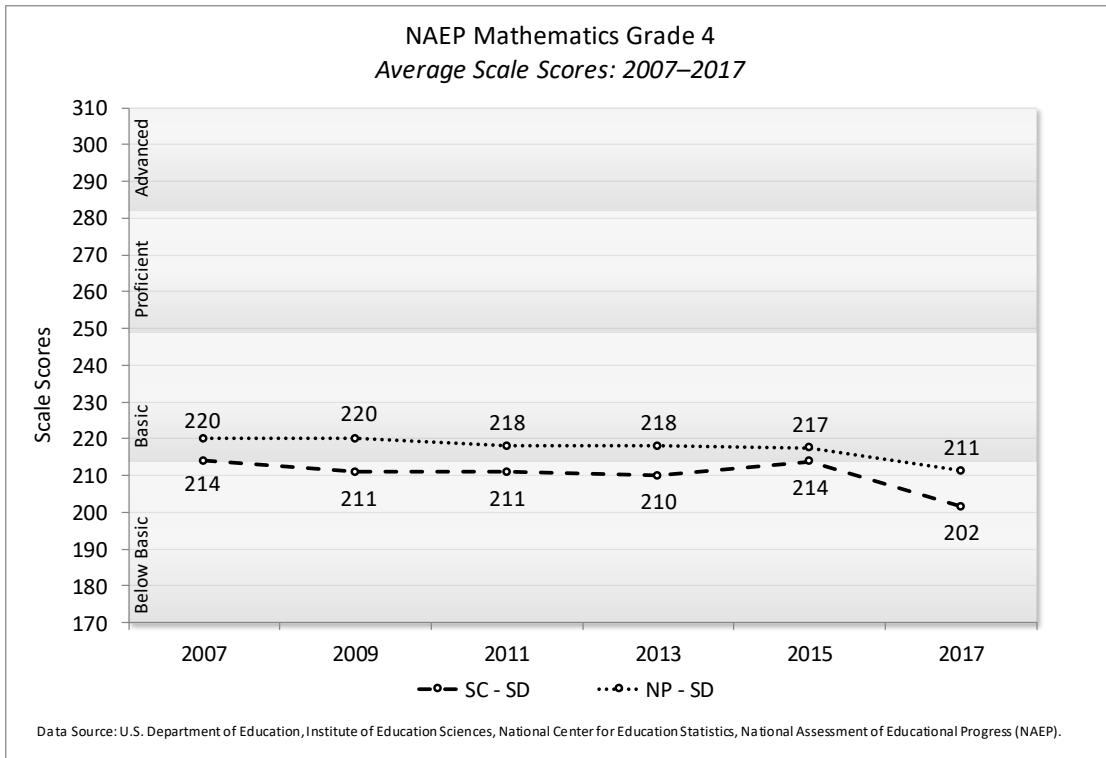


Figure 9. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

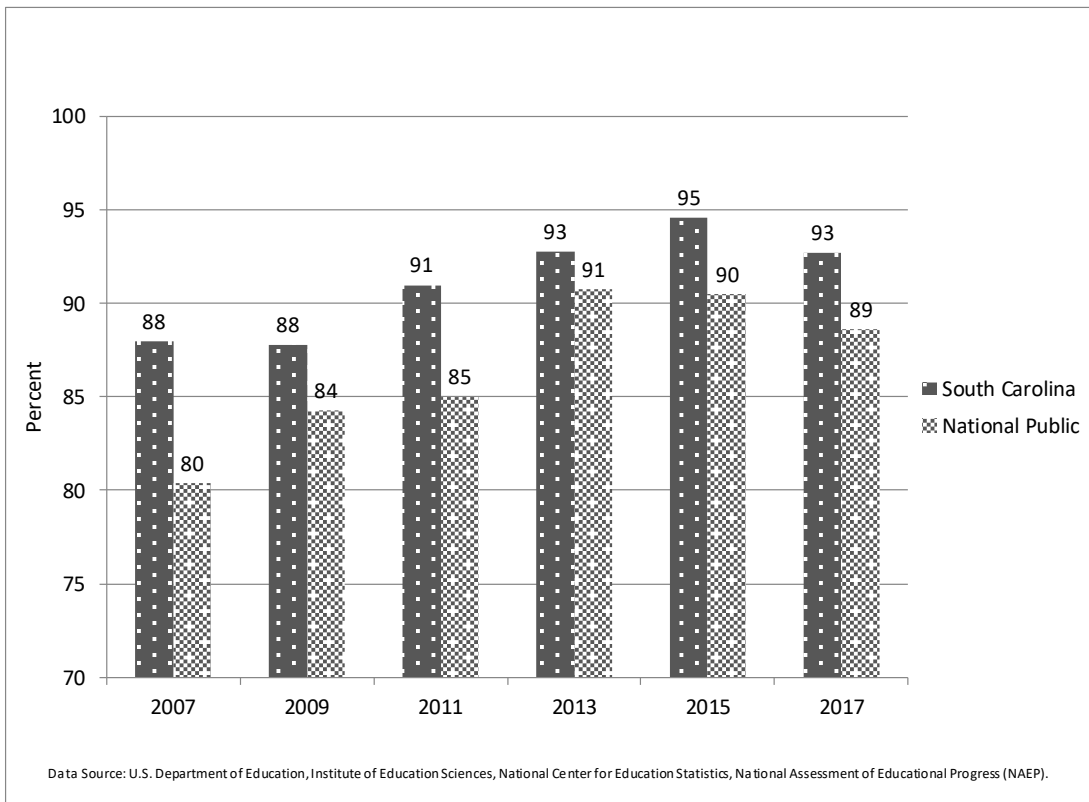


Figure 10. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

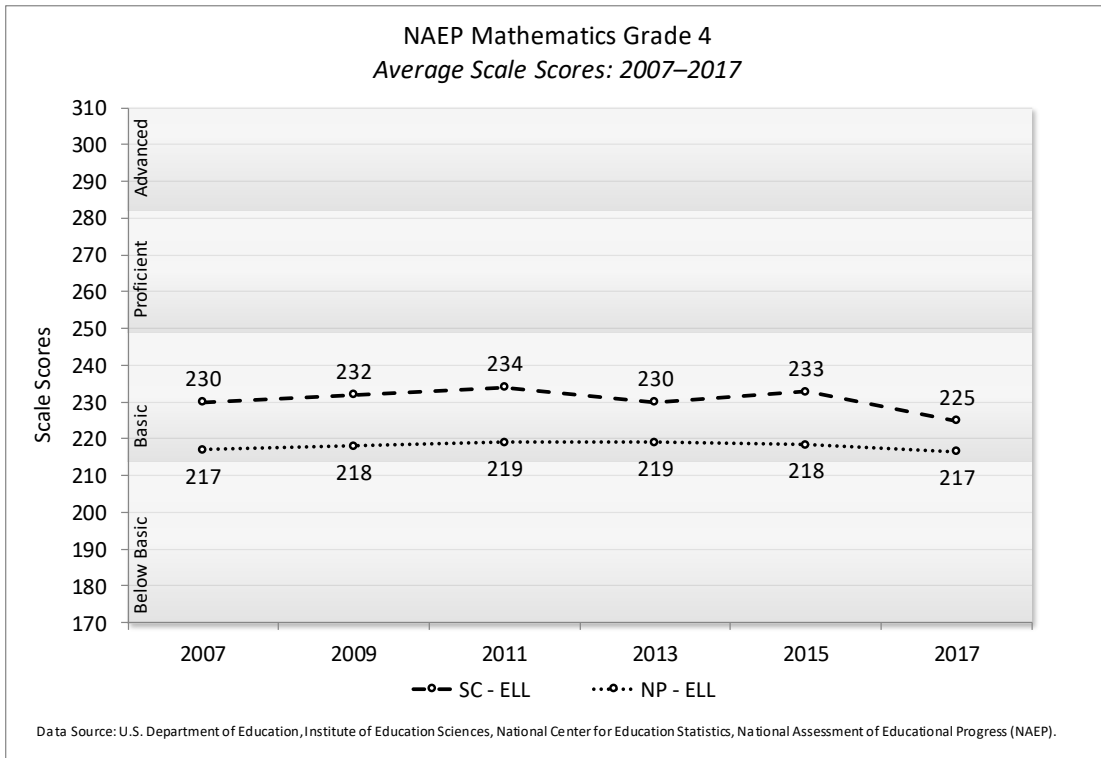


Figure 11. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

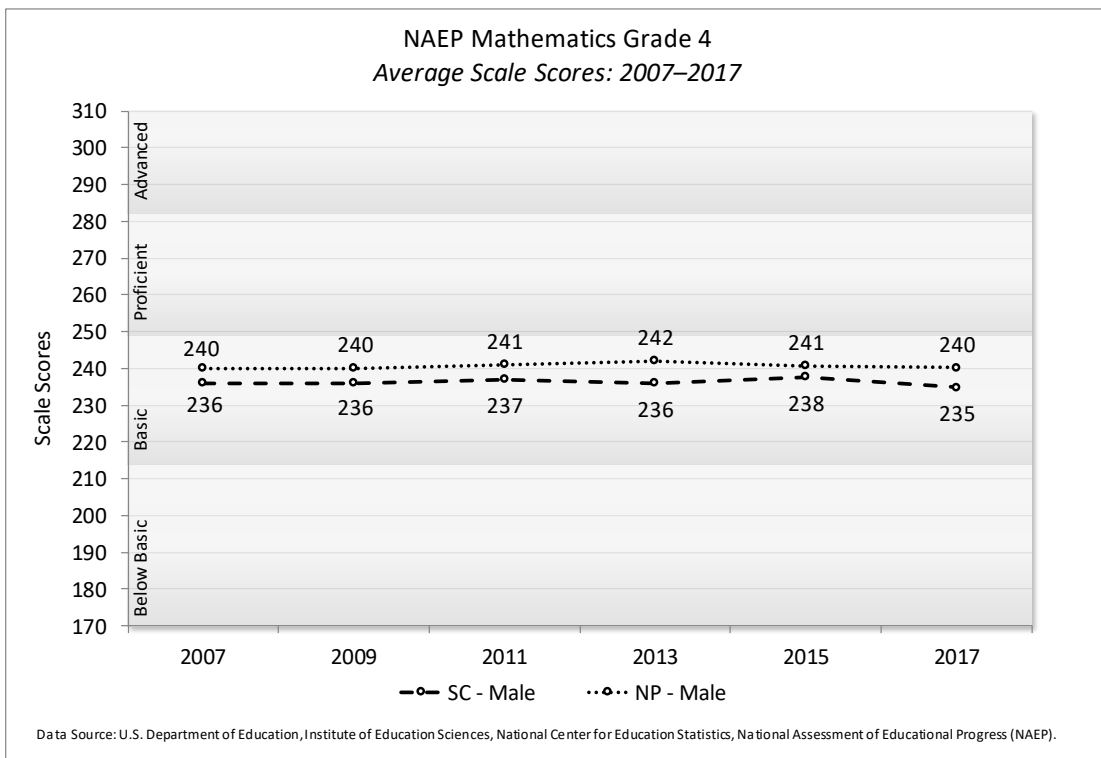


Figure 12. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

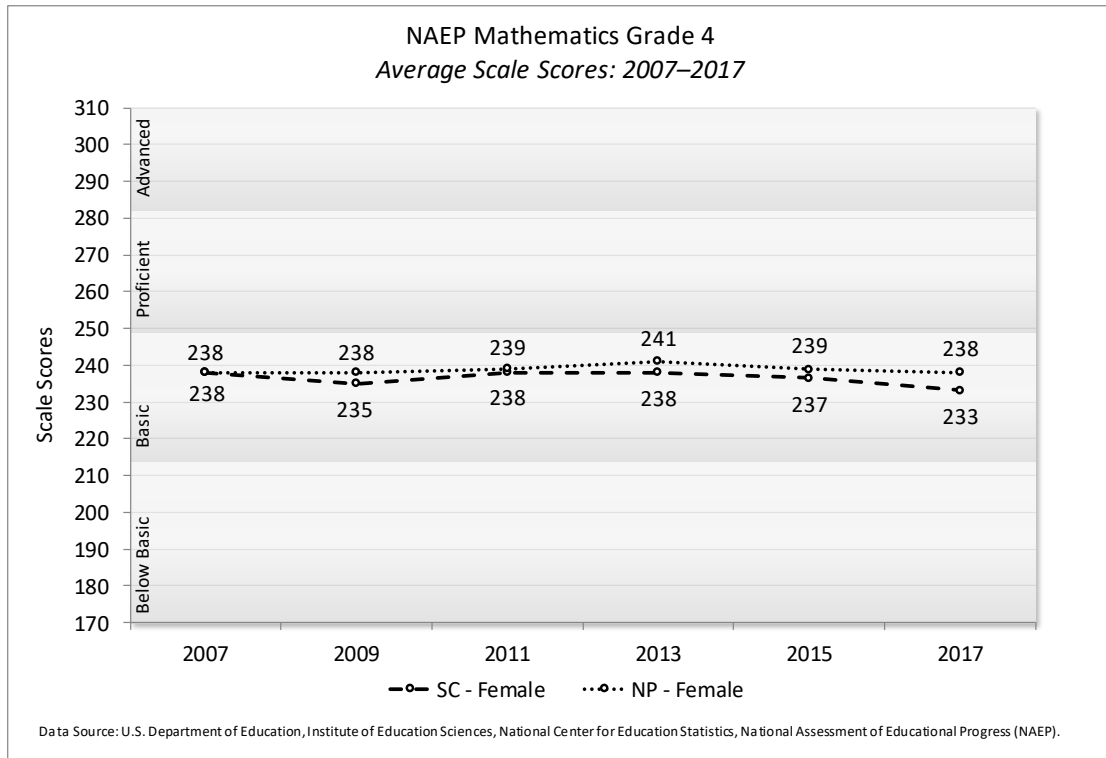


Figure 13. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

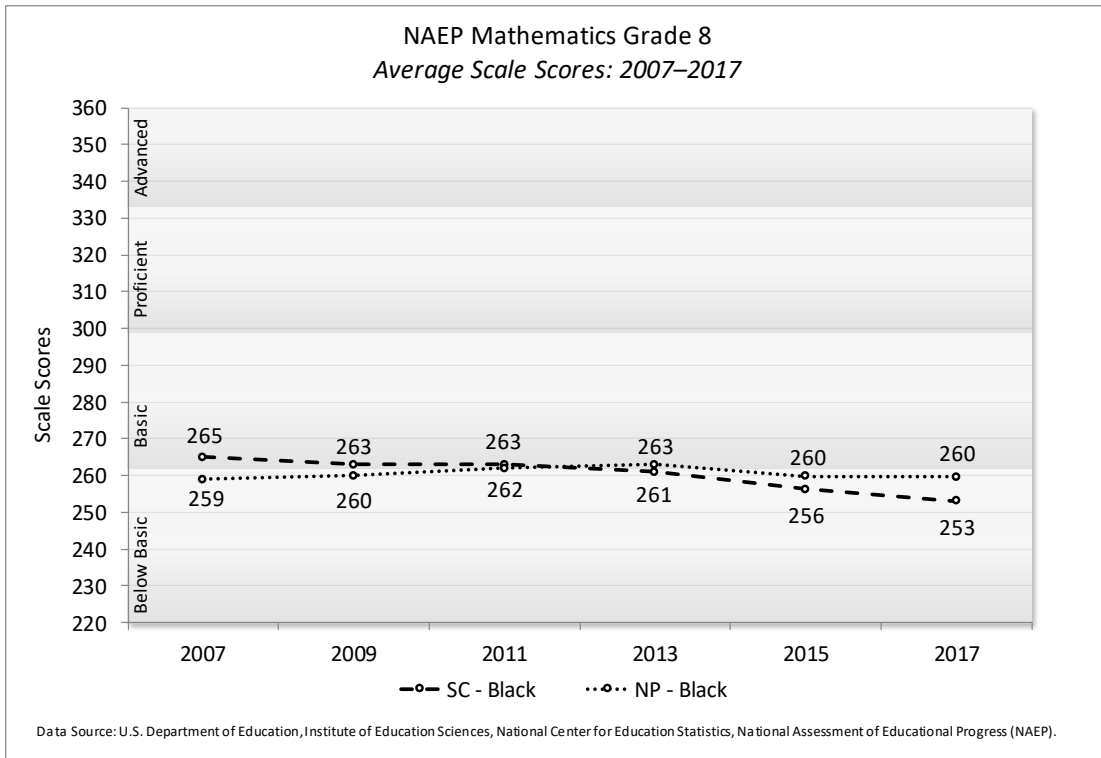


Figure 14. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

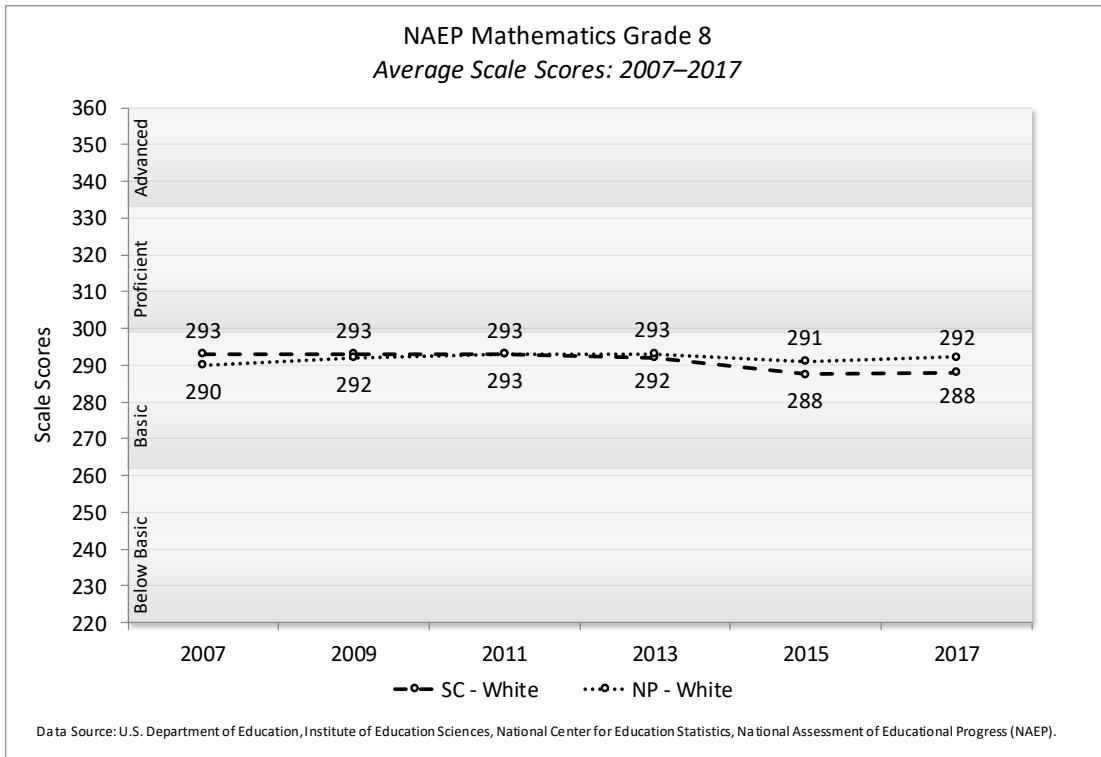


Figure 15. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

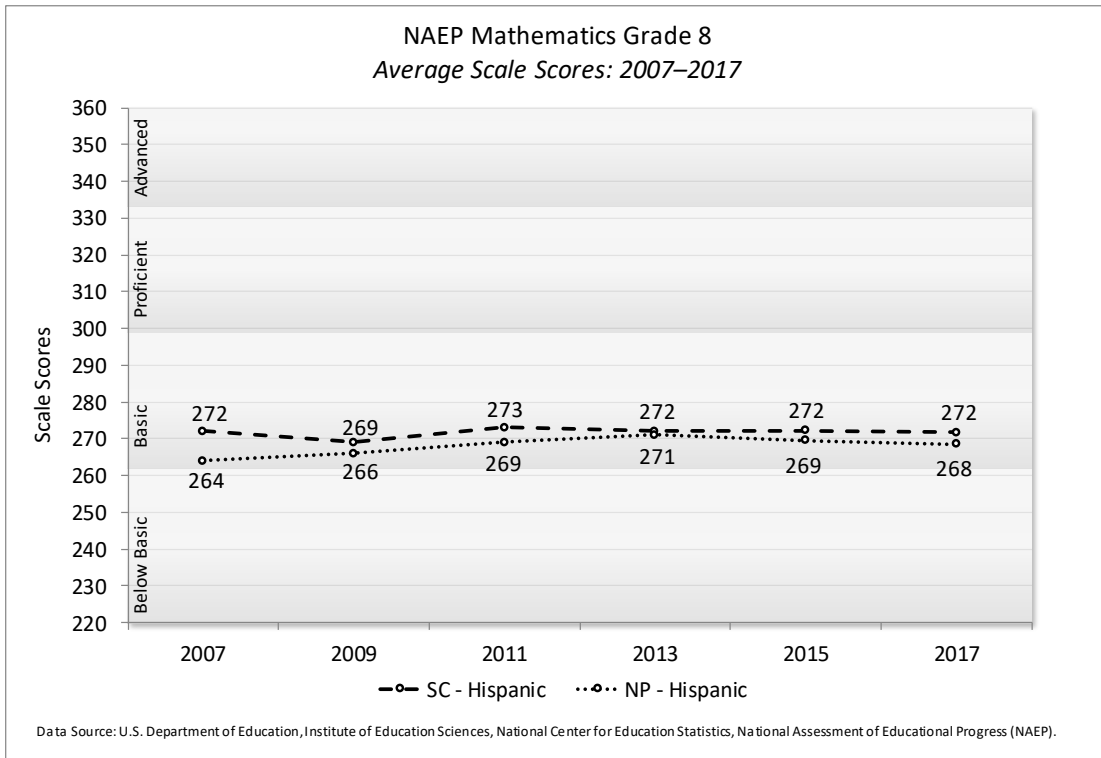


Figure 16. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

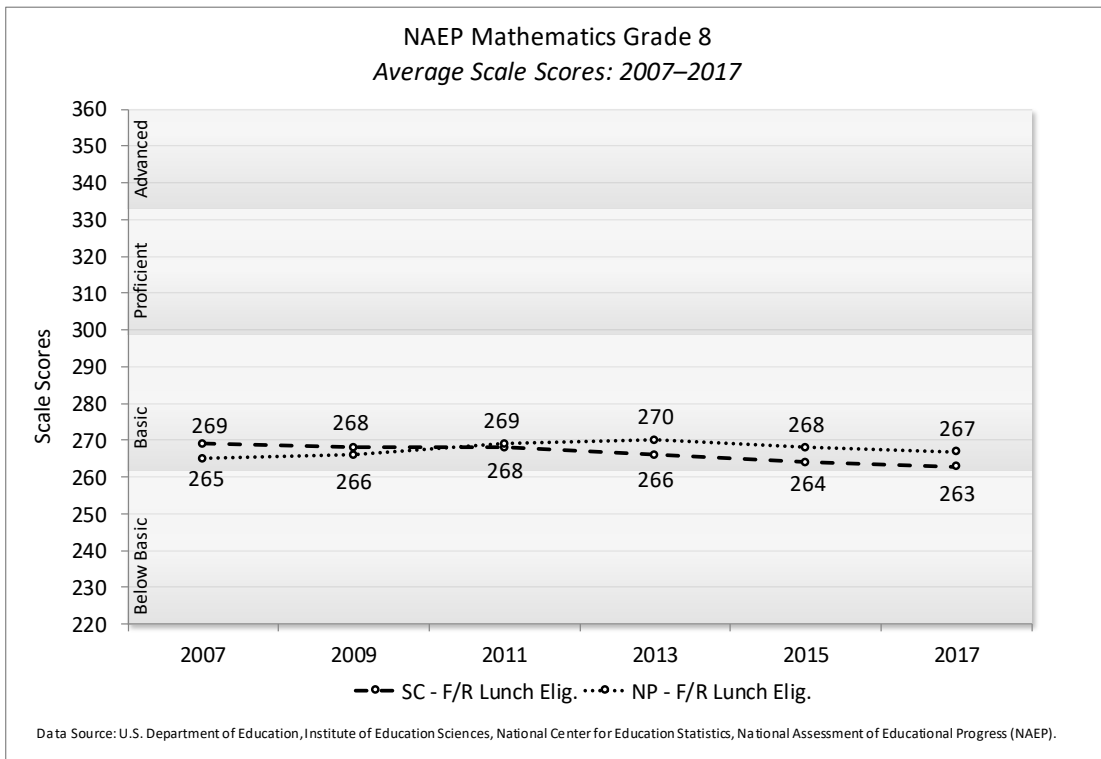


Figure 17. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

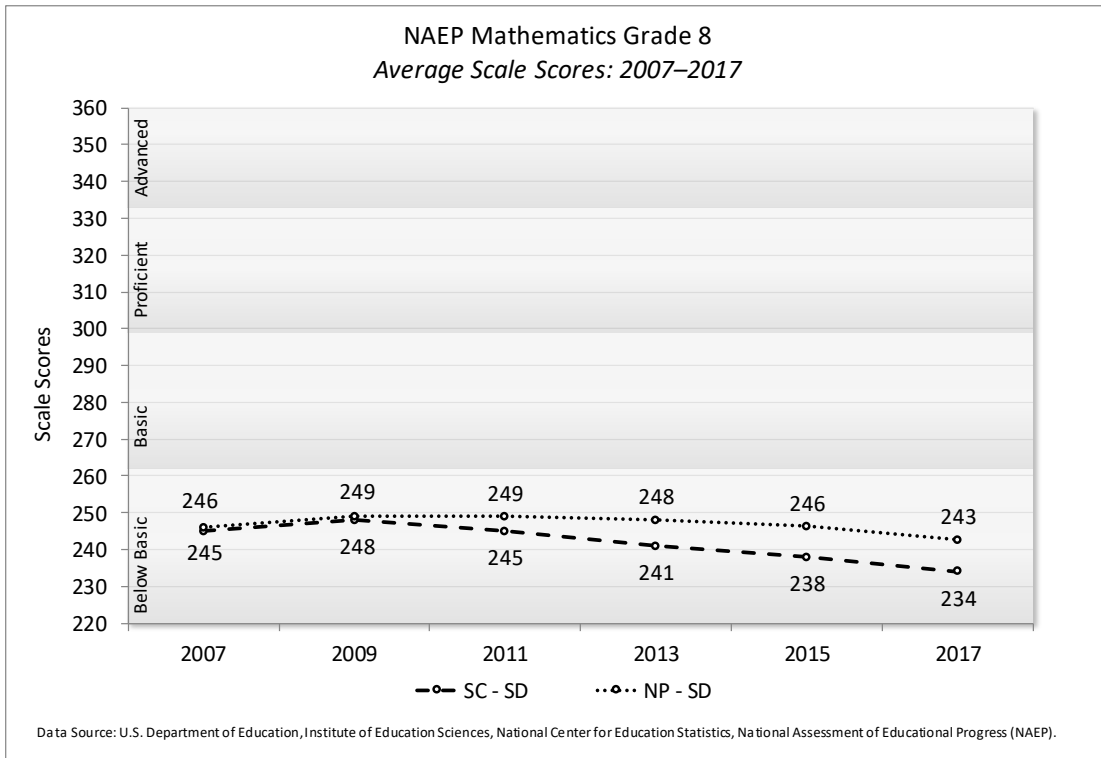


Figure 18. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

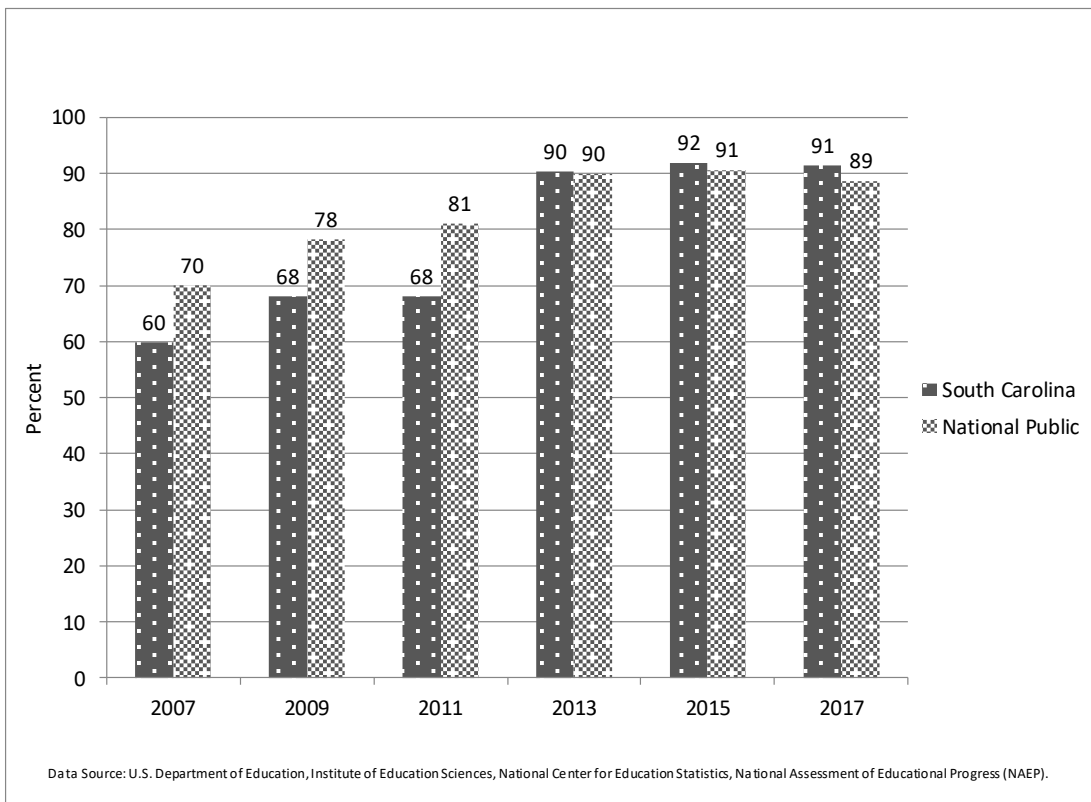


Figure 19. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, mathematics grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

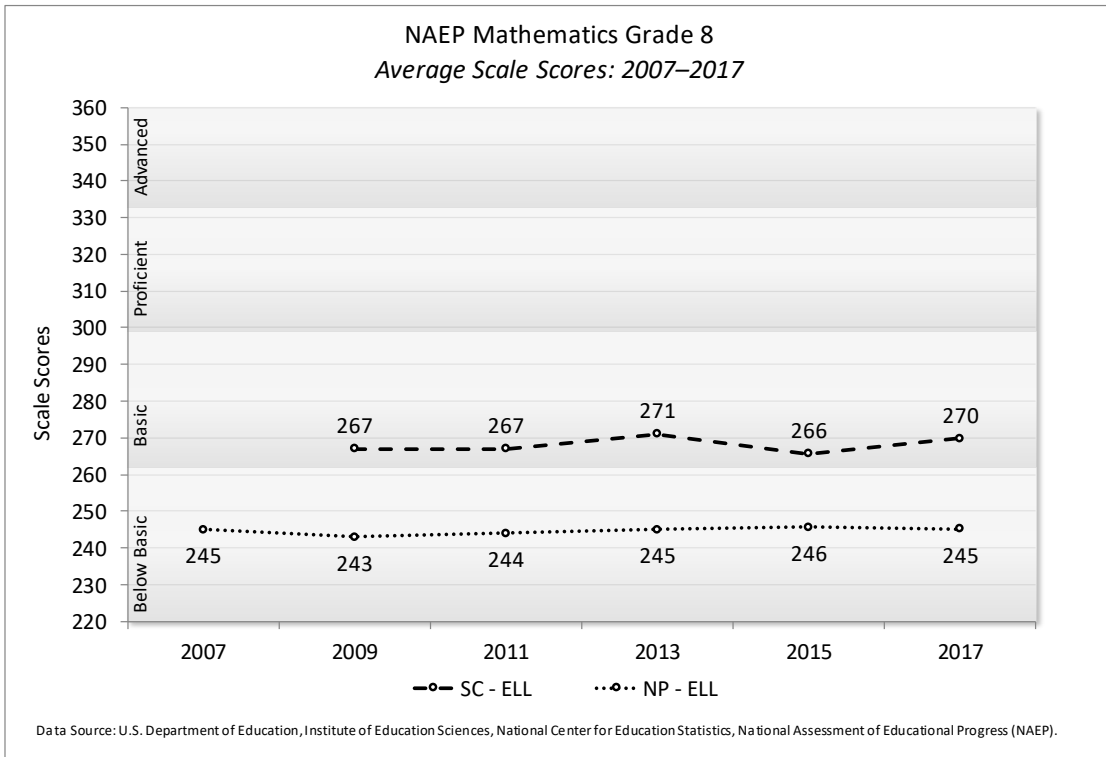


Figure 20. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

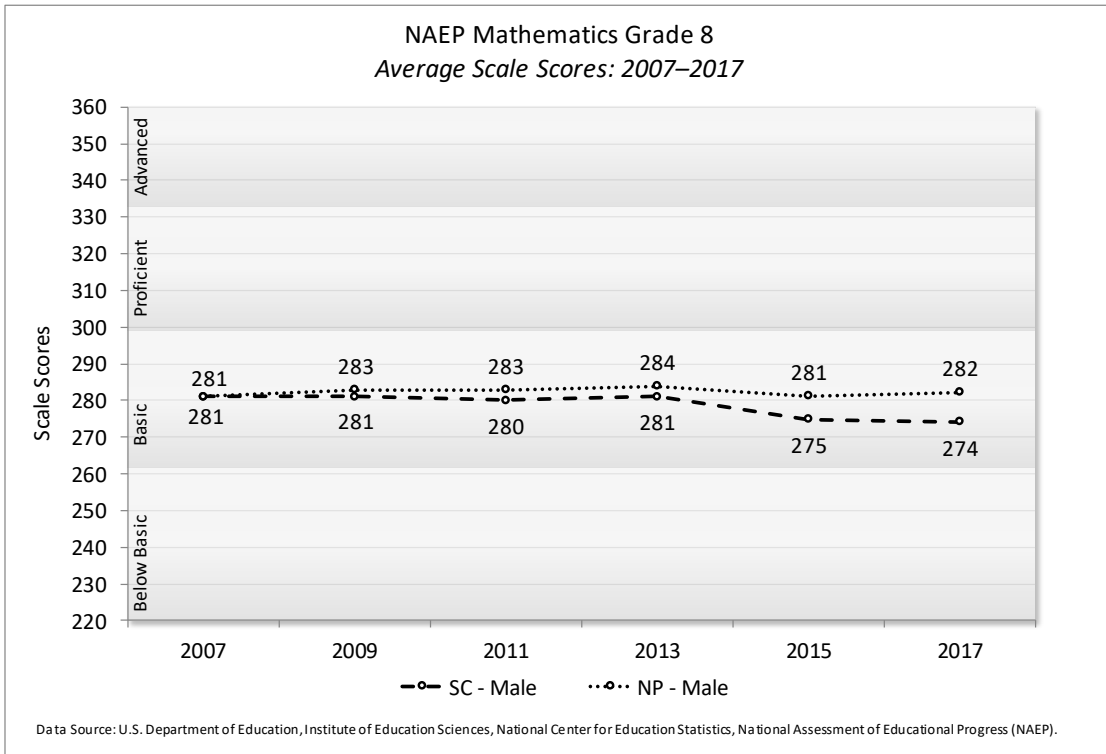


Figure 21. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

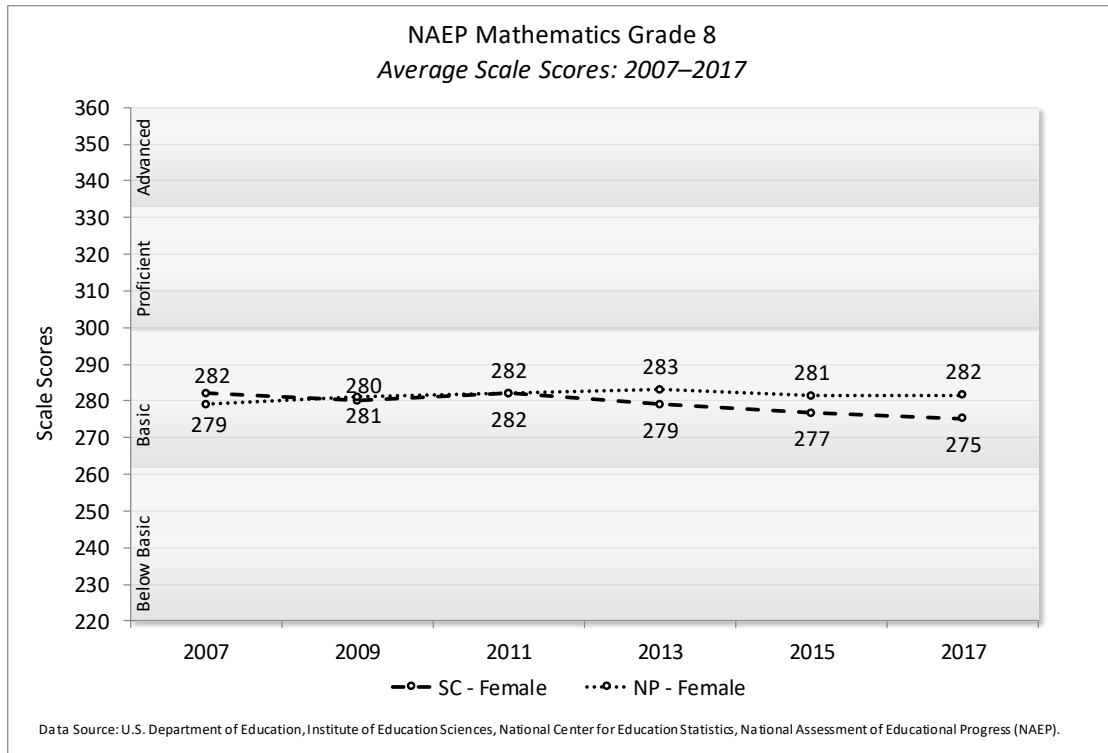


Figure 22. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, mathematics grade 8.

Performance Relative to Other States

South Carolina fourth graders performed about the same, or better than students in 16 of the 50 states. South Carolina performed higher than 3: Alaska, Louisiana, and New Mexico; and not statistically different than 13: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi New York, Nevada, Tennessee, Oregon, and West Virginia.

South Carolina eighth graders scored about the same or better than students in 11 states. South Carolina scores higher than 4: Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico; and statistically no different than 7: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Nevada, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and West Virginia.

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.

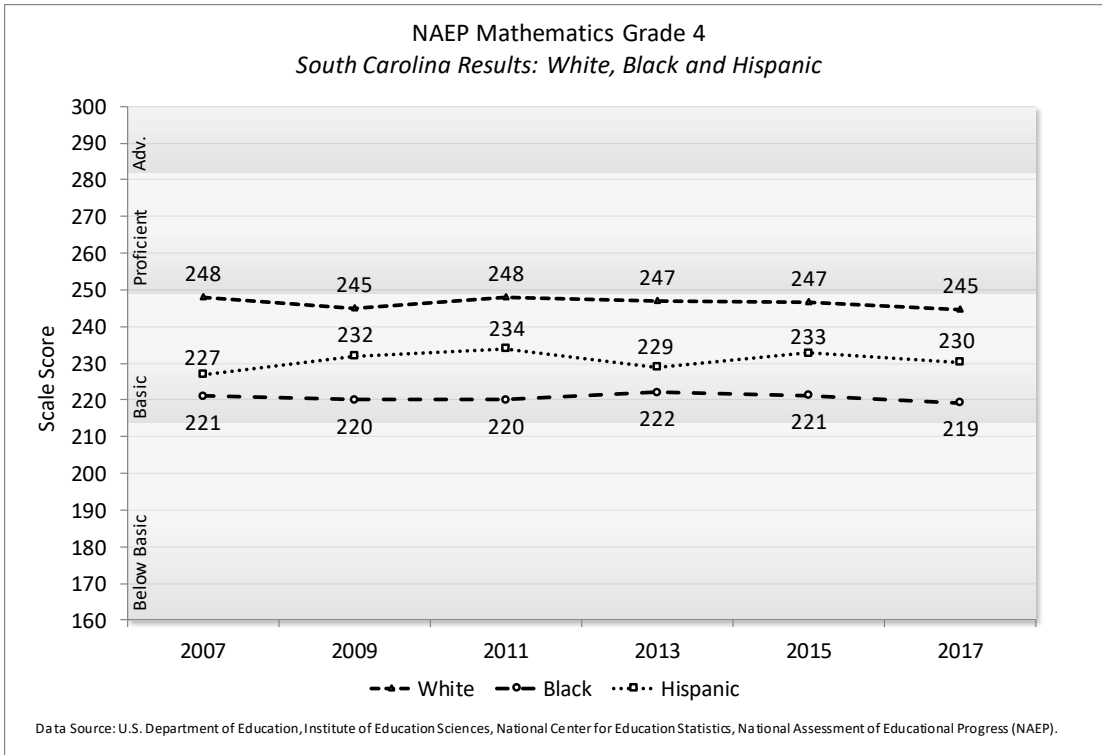


Figure 23. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

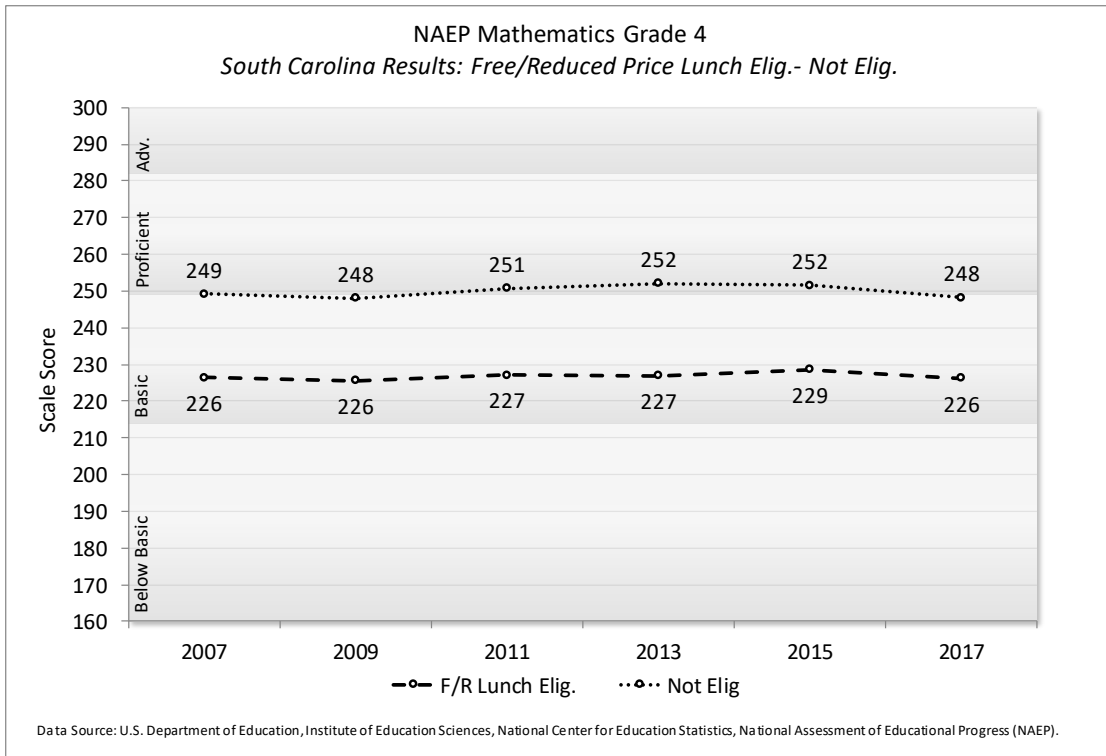


Figure 24. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.

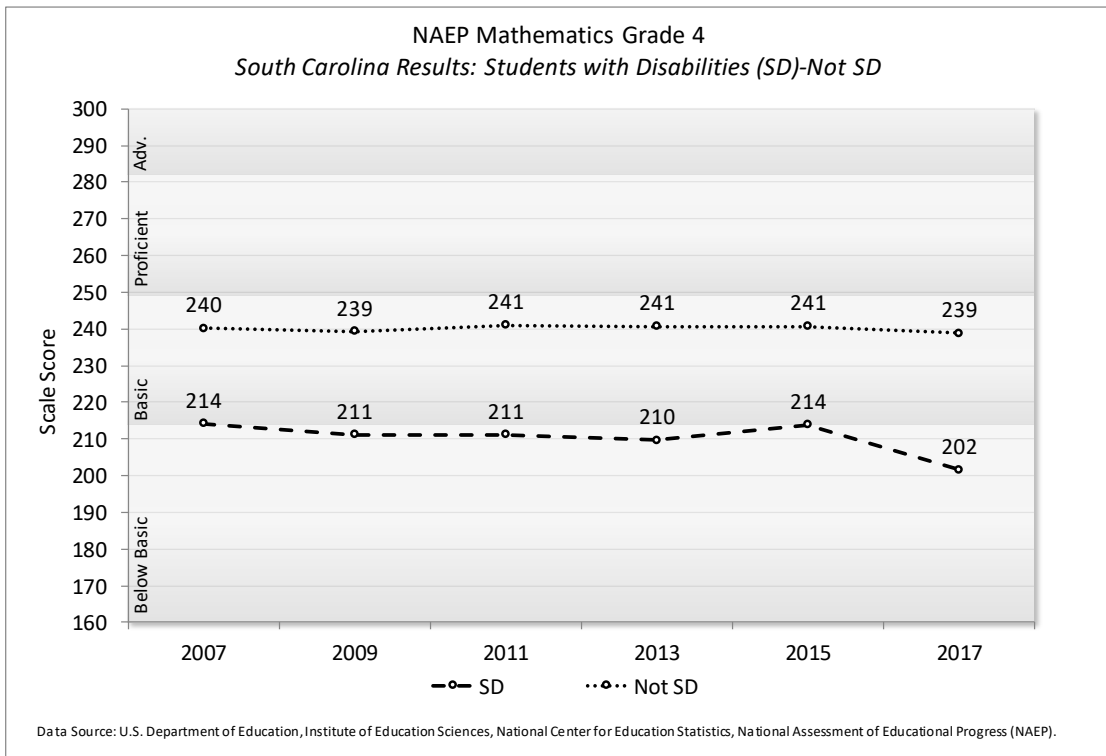


Figure 25. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, mathematics grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

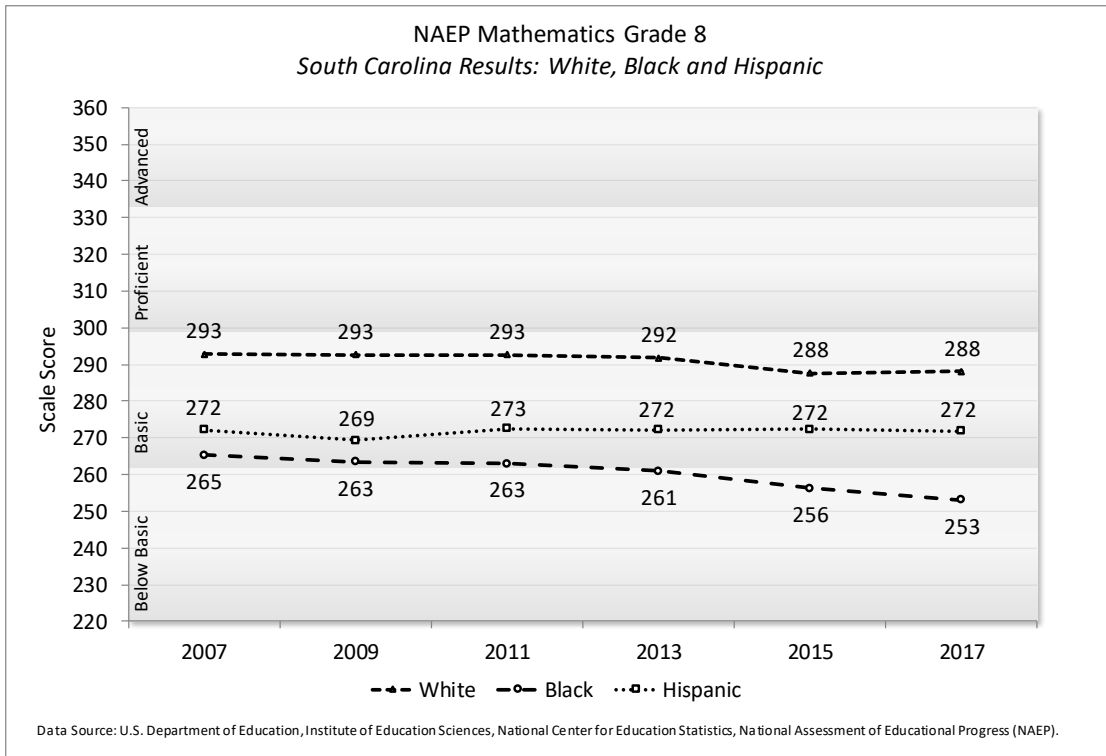


Figure 26. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 8.

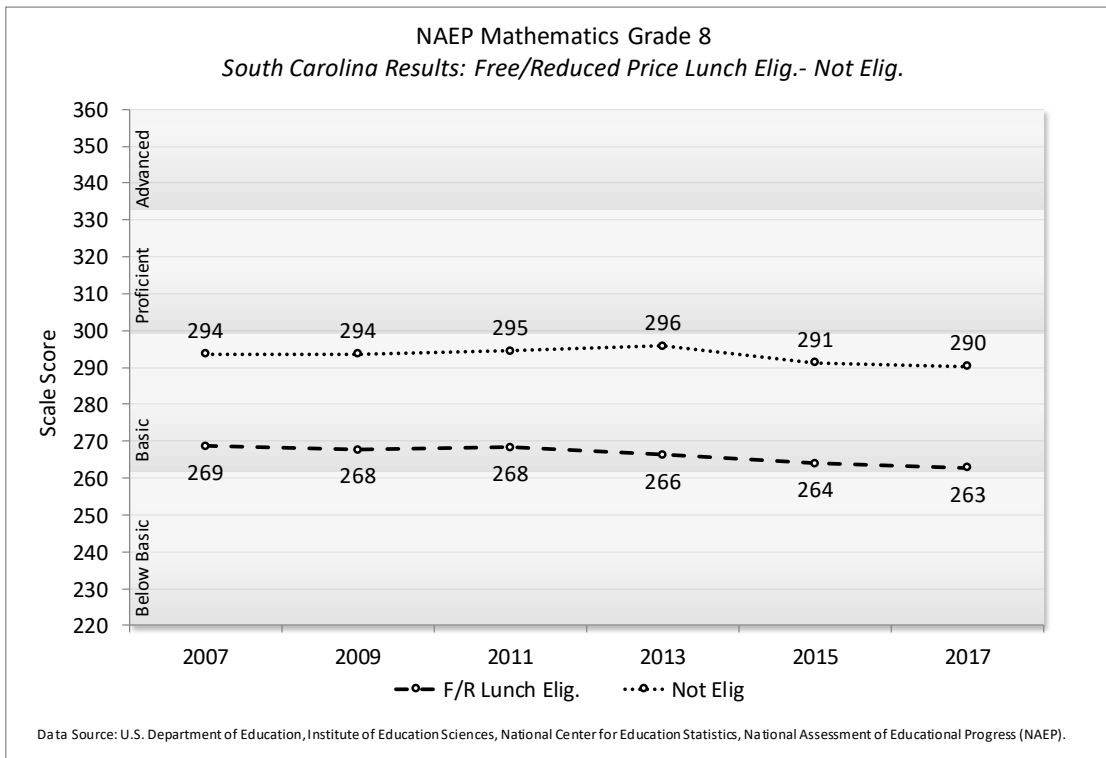


Figure 27. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, mathematics grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Mathematics

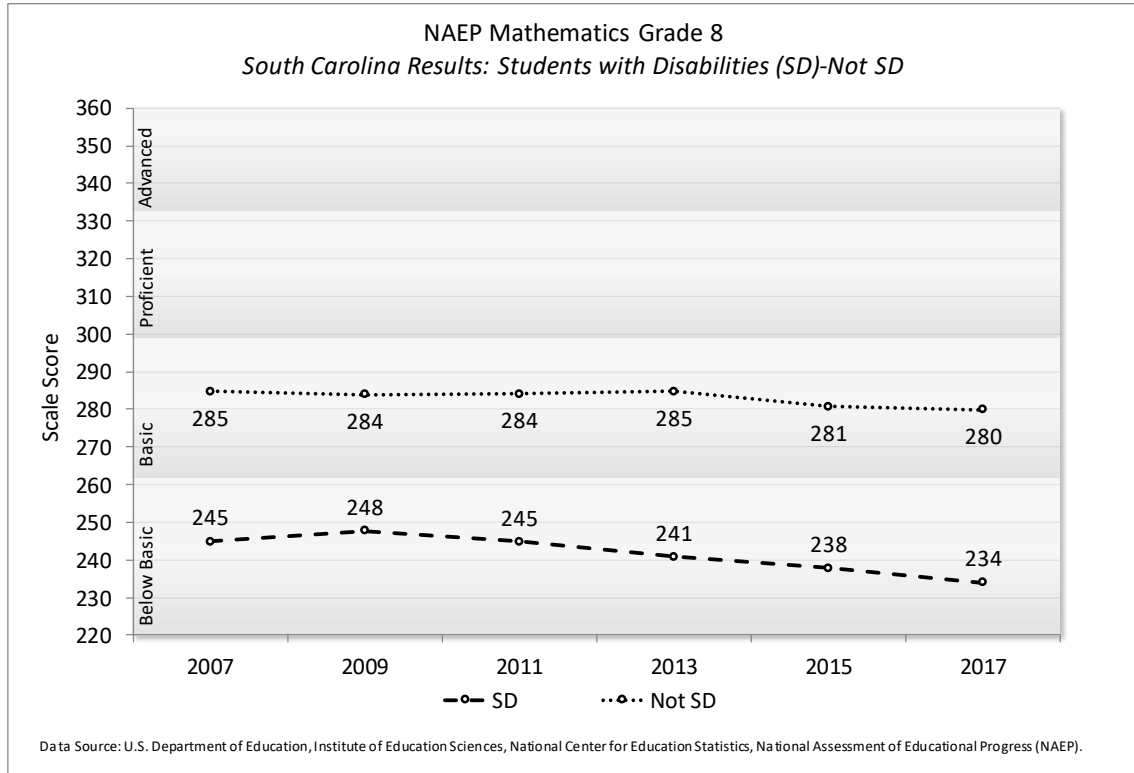


Figure 28. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, mathematics grade 8.

Reading

Achievement Levels: Overall

In South Carolina, 59 percent of 4th graders scored at or above basic, down from 65 percent in 2015. Seventy-one percent of 8th graders performed at or above basic in 2017 (71 percent in 2015 also). Nationally, 67 percent of 4th graders and 75 percent of 8th graders scored at or above basic in 2017.

Twenty-nine percent of our state’s 4th-grade students performed at or above proficient in 2017, compared to 33 percent in 2015. Thirty percent of 8th graders scored at or above proficient in 2017, compared to 28 percent in 2015. Nationally, 35 percent of 4th graders and 35 percent of 8th graders scored at or above proficient in 2017.

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

Grade	Jurisdiction	Year	Below Basic	At or Above Basic	At or Above Proficient	At Advanced
4	South Carolina	2015	35	65	33	8
4	South Carolina	2017	41*	59*	29	6
4	Nation’s Public	2015	32	68	35	8
4	Nation’s Public	2017	33	67	35	9
8	South Carolina	2015	29	71	28	2
8	South Carolina	2017	29	71	30	3
8	Nation’s Public	2015	25	75	33	3
8	Nation’s Public	2017	25	75	35*	4*

* Value is significantly different (p < .05) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2015.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

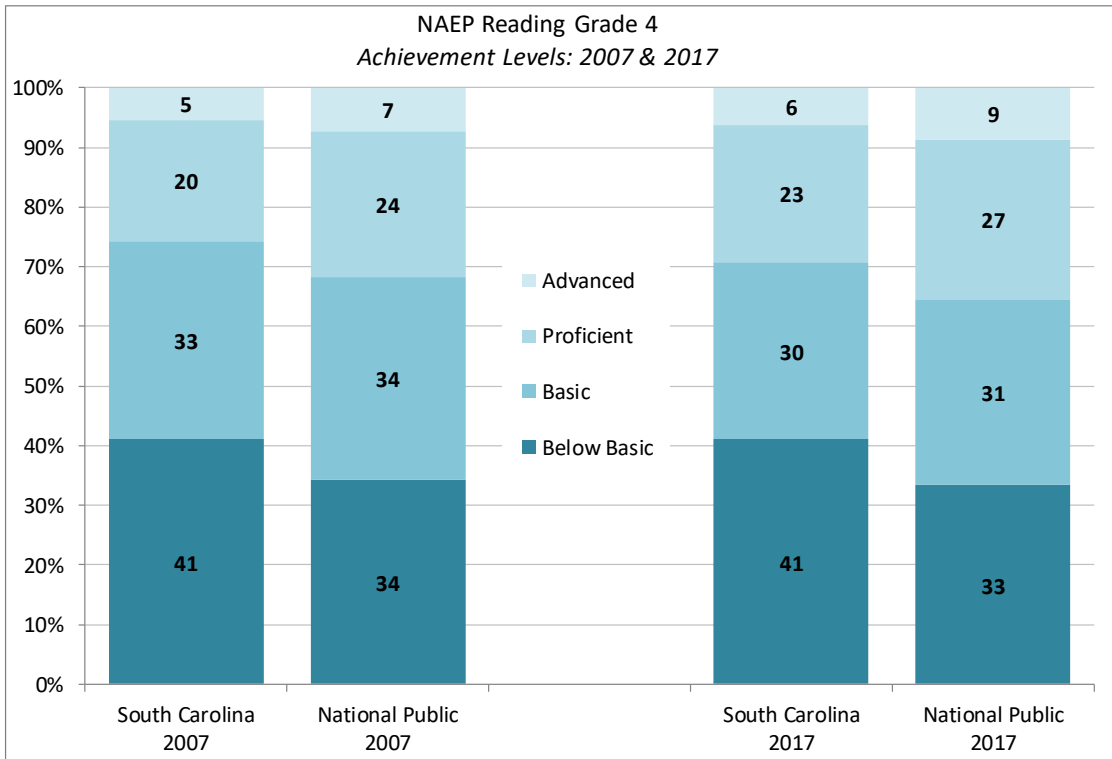


Figure 29. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

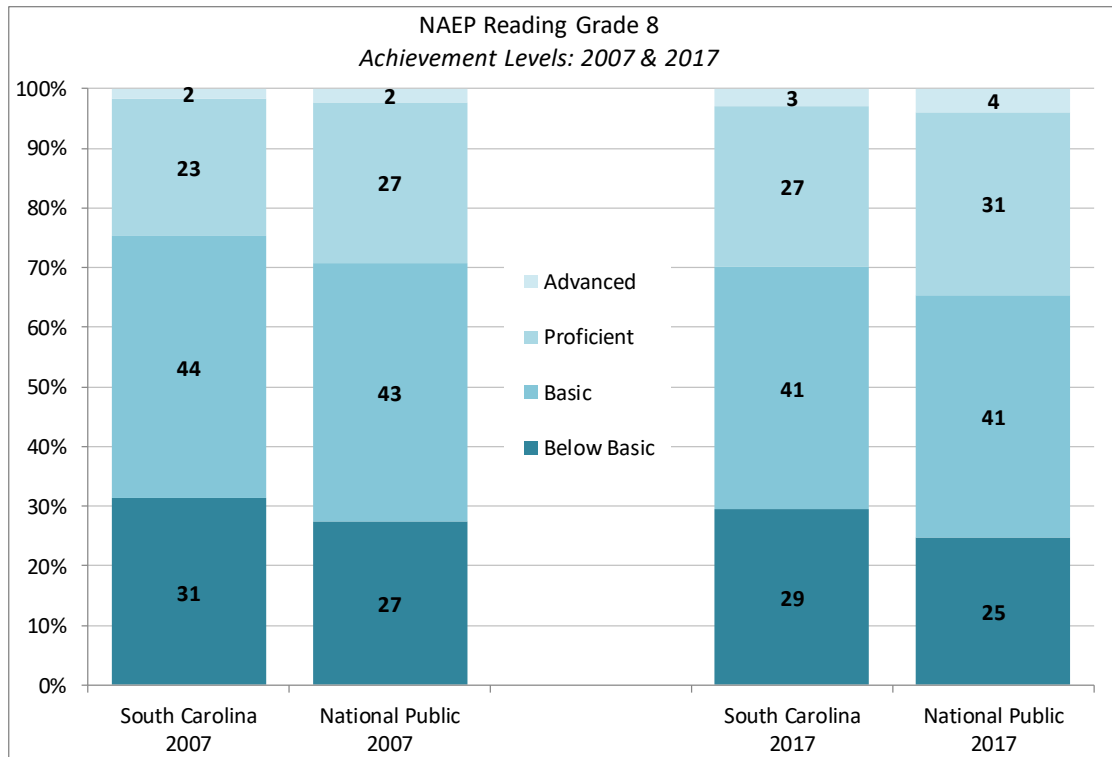


Figure 30. Achievement level results for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

State vs. National Comparisons

South Carolina’s 4th graders had an average score of 213 in 2017, 5 points lower than the previous reporting of state-level scores in 2015. South Carolina’s 8th graders’ average score was 260, which was unchanged since 2015. The national average for 4th grade was unchanged at 221, and a slight increase was noted at grade 8 (264 to 265).

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

Grade	Jurisdiction	Year	Overall
4	South Carolina	2015	218
4	South Carolina	2017	213*
4	Nation’s Public	2015	221
4	Nation’s Public	2017	221
8	South Carolina	2015	260
8	South Carolina	2017	260
8	Nation’s Public	2015	264
8	Nation’s Public	2017	265*

* Value is significantly different (p < .05) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2015.

Average Scale Scores: Overall

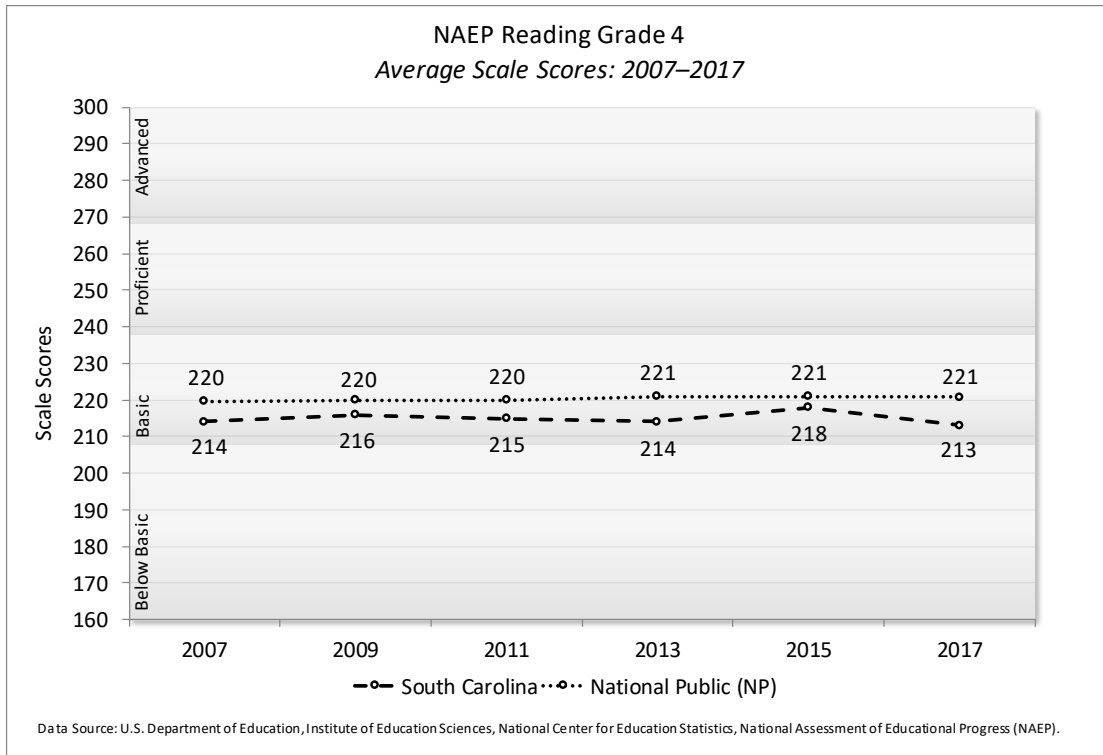


Figure 31. Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

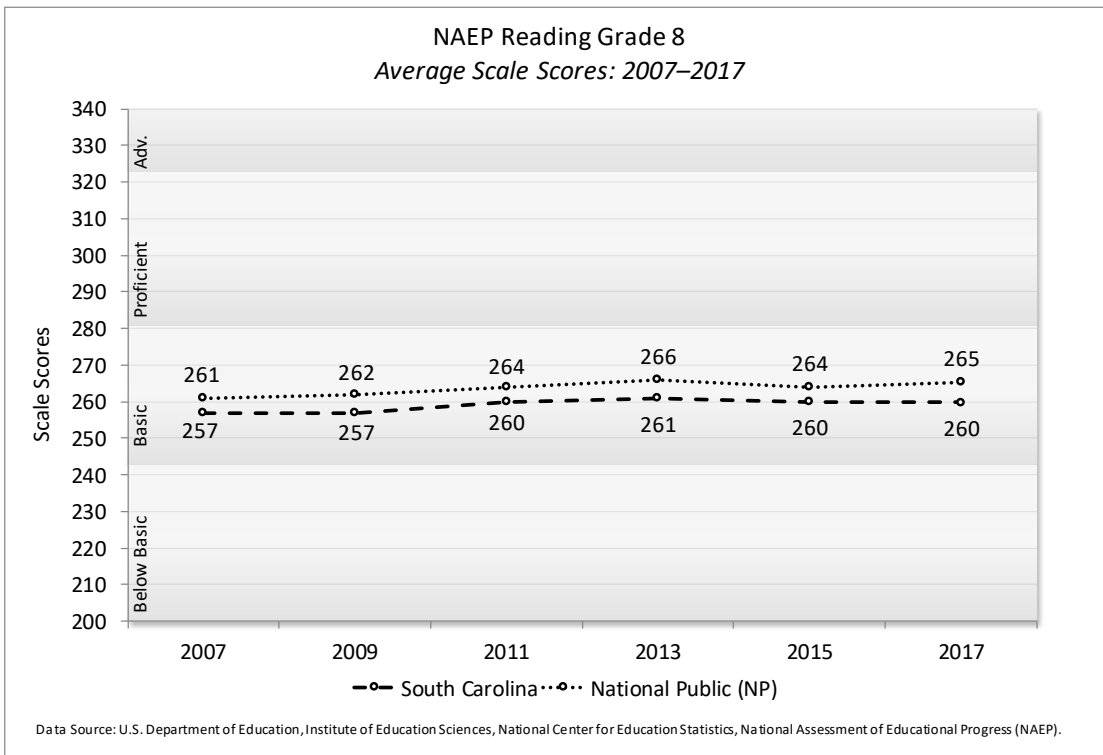


Figure 32. Average scale scores for South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

Average Scale Scores: Demographic Groups

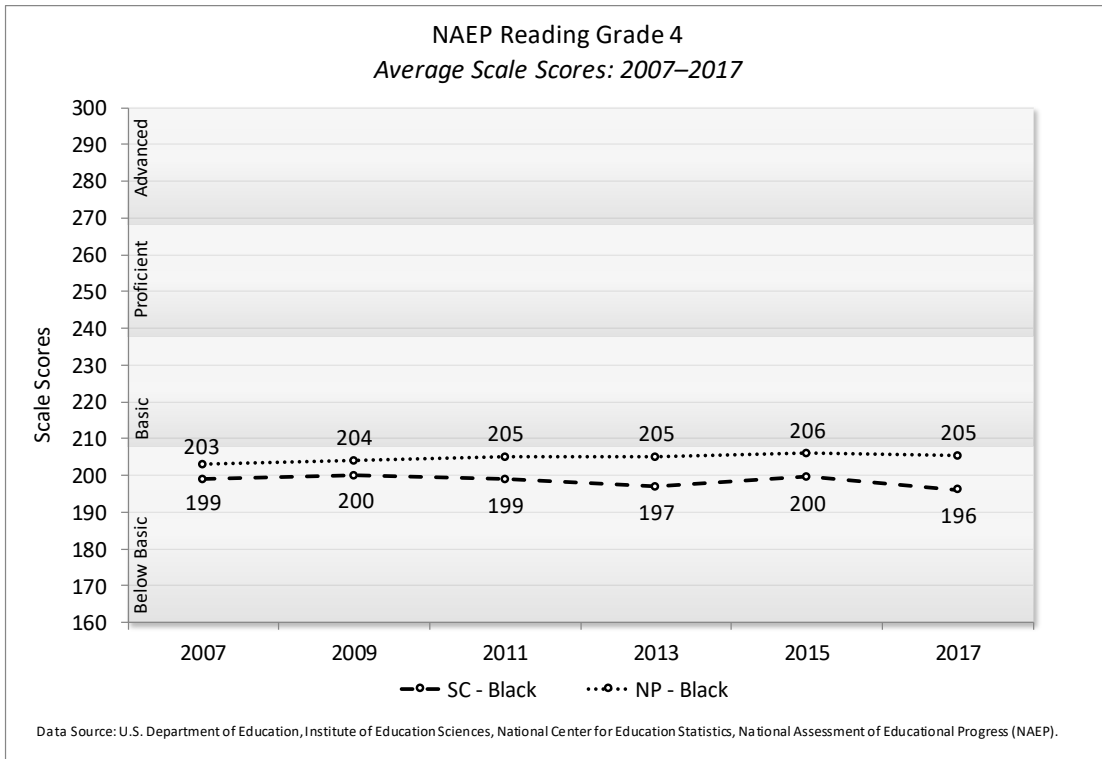


Figure 33. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

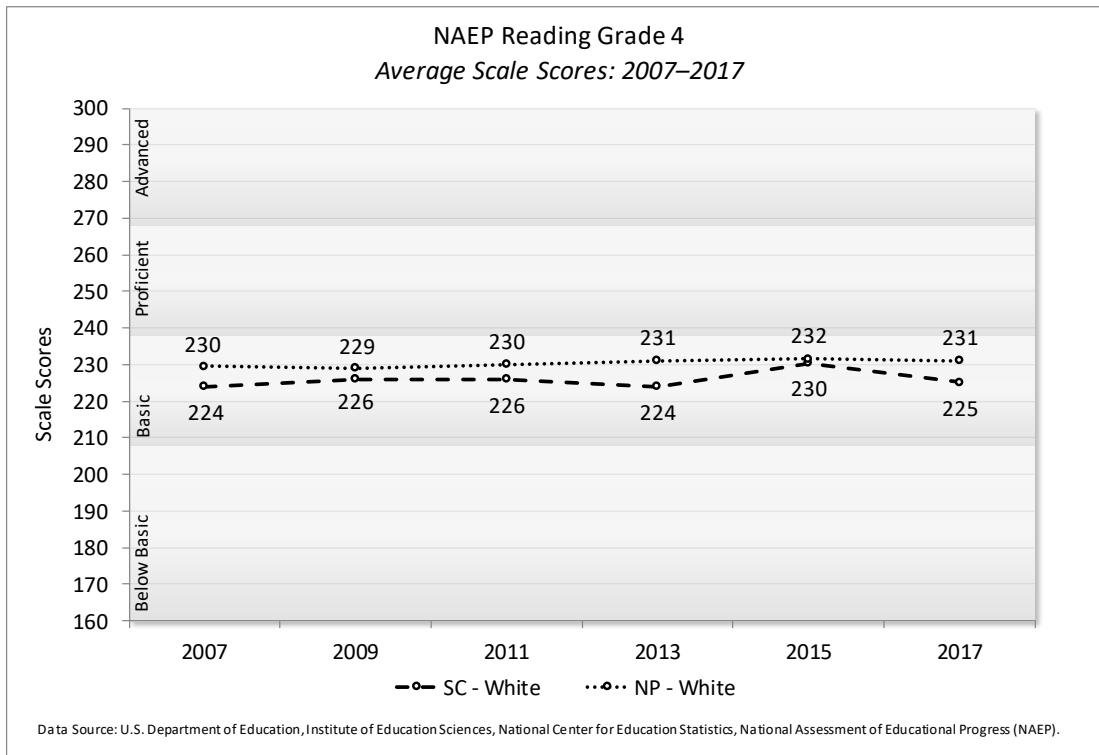


Figure 34. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

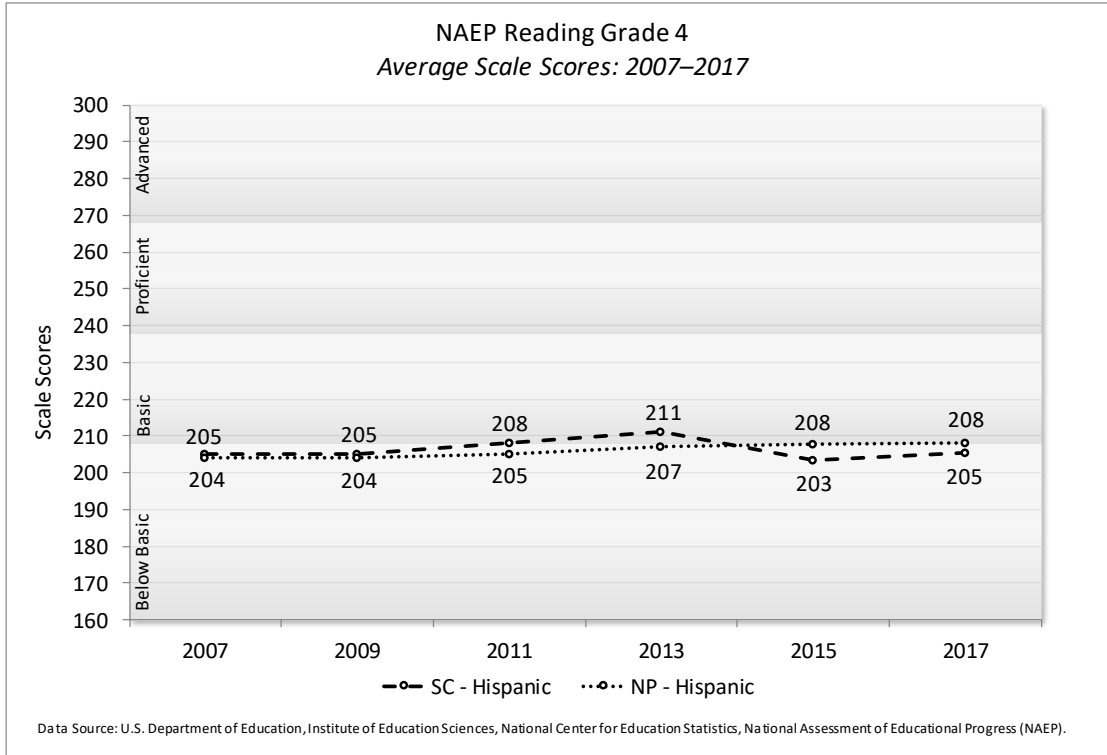


Figure 35. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

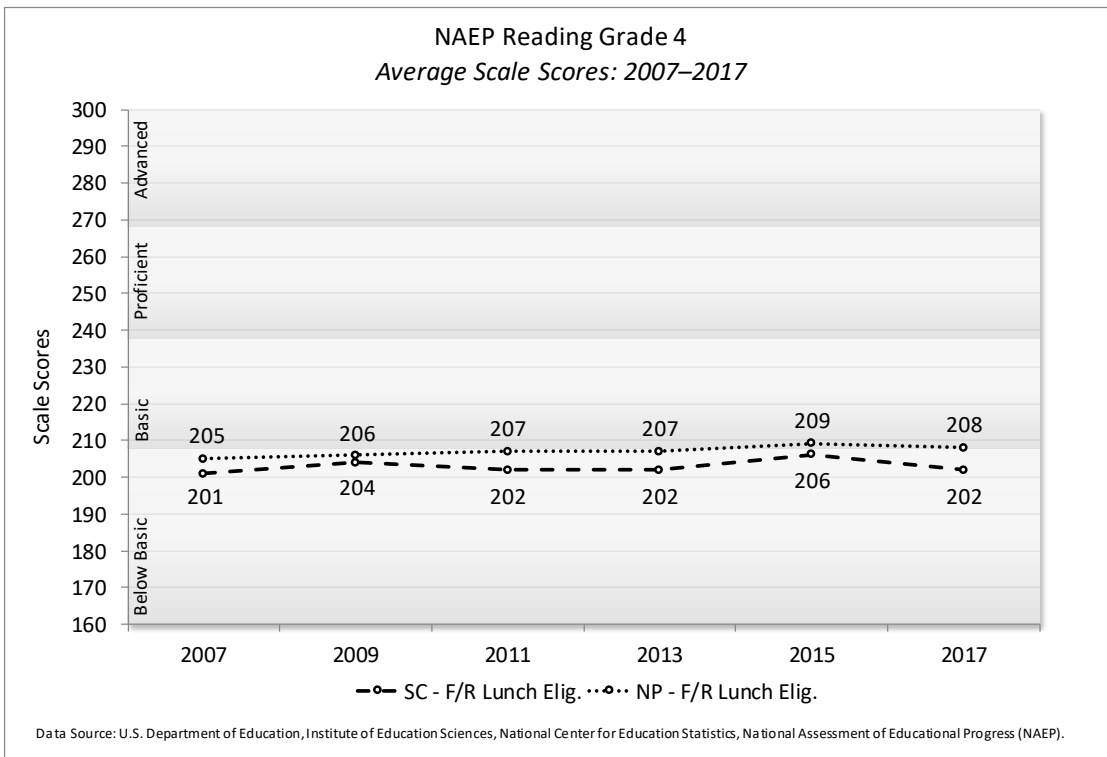


Figure 36. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

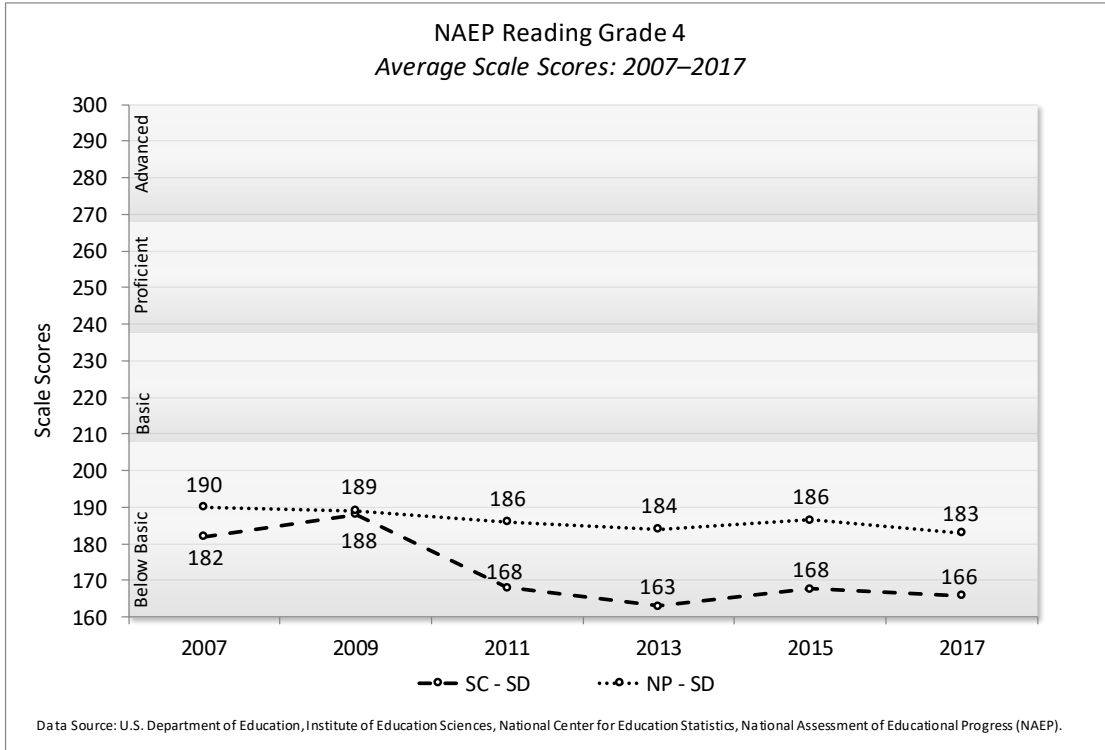


Figure 37. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

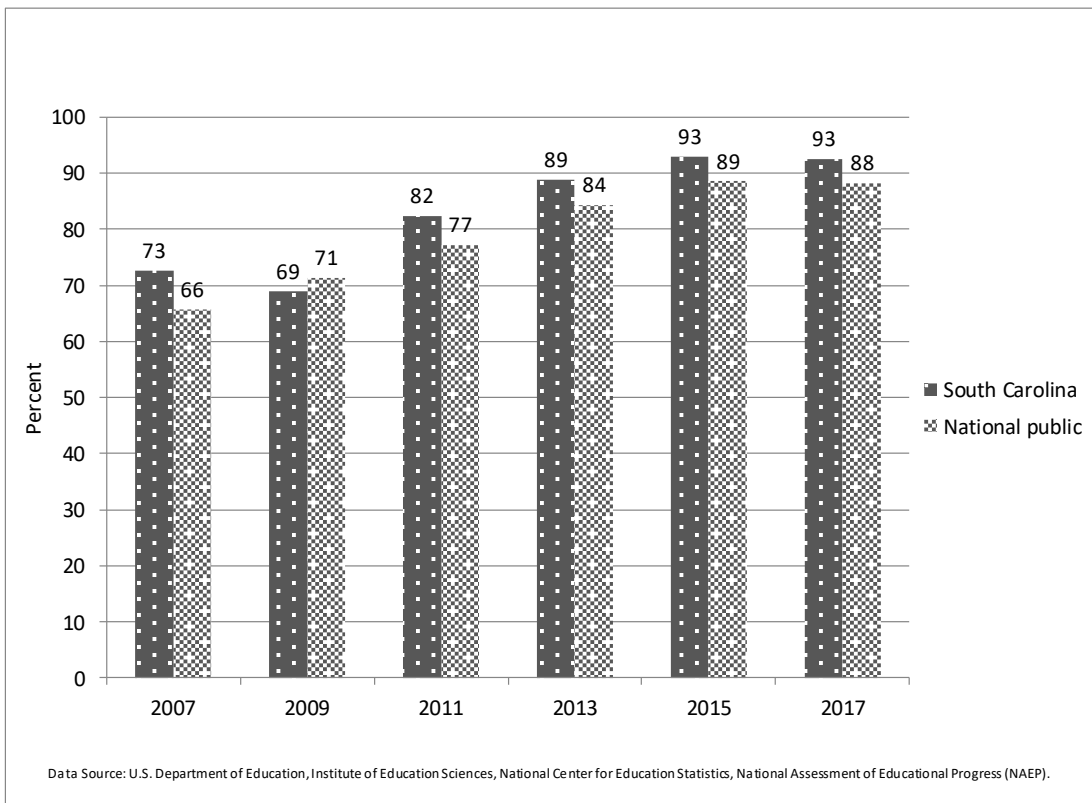


Figure 38. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, reading grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

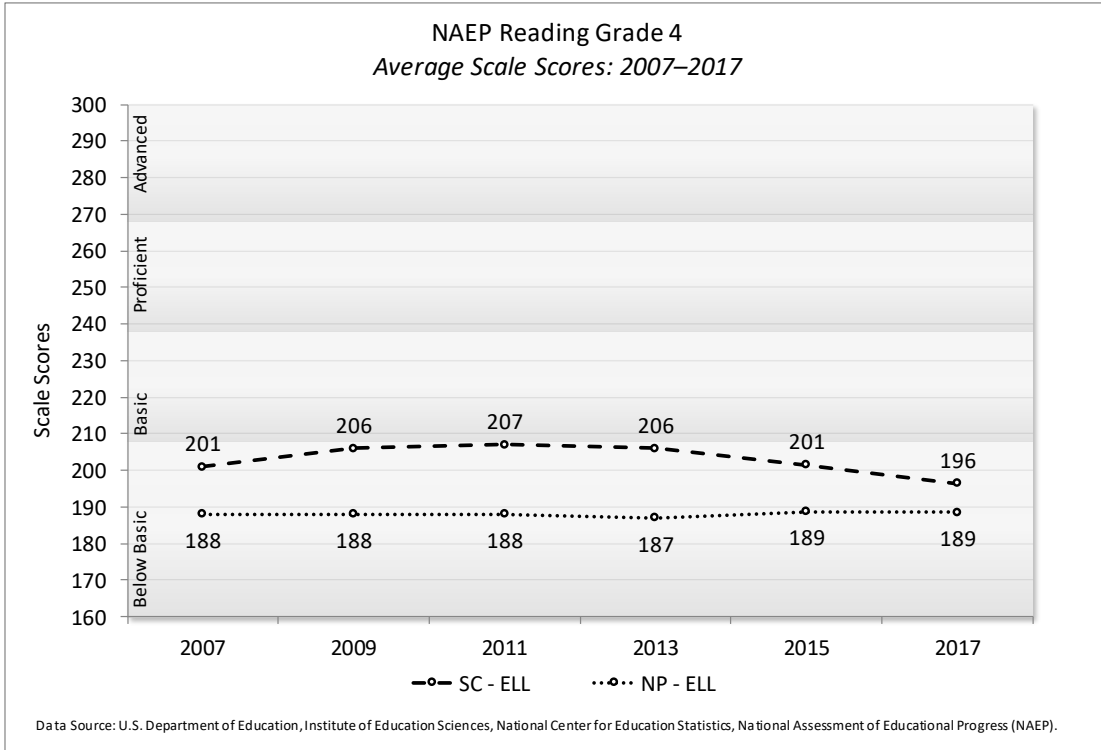


Figure 39. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

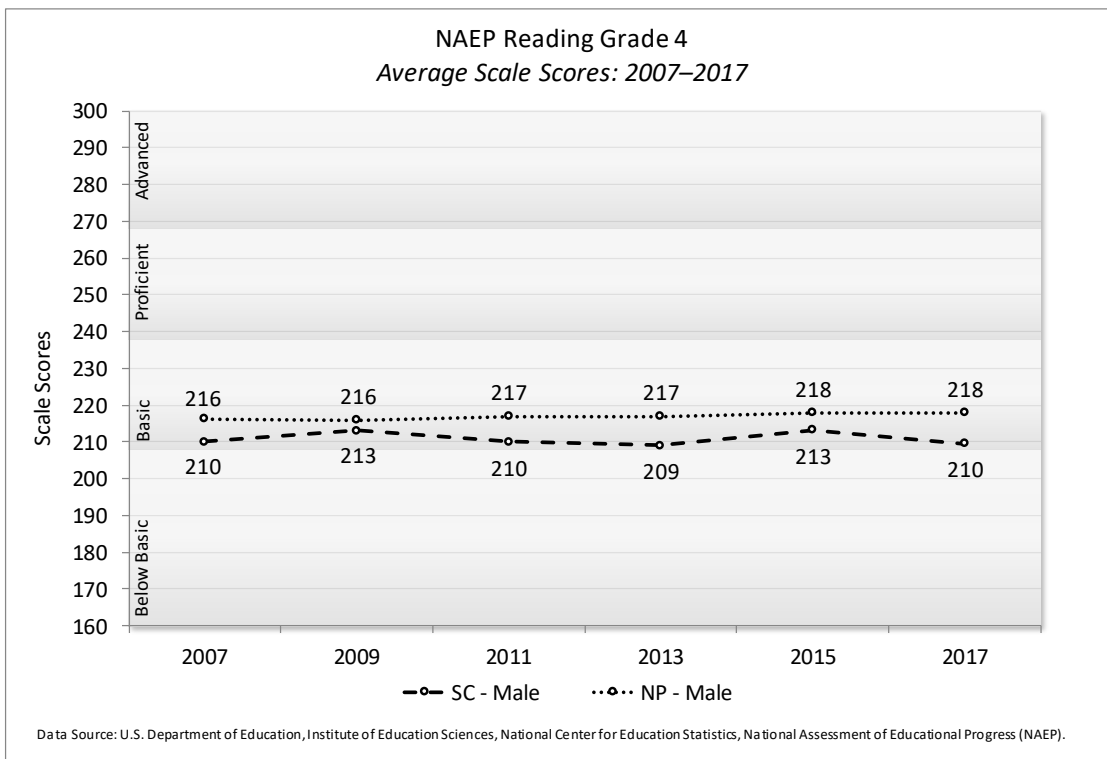


Figure 40. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

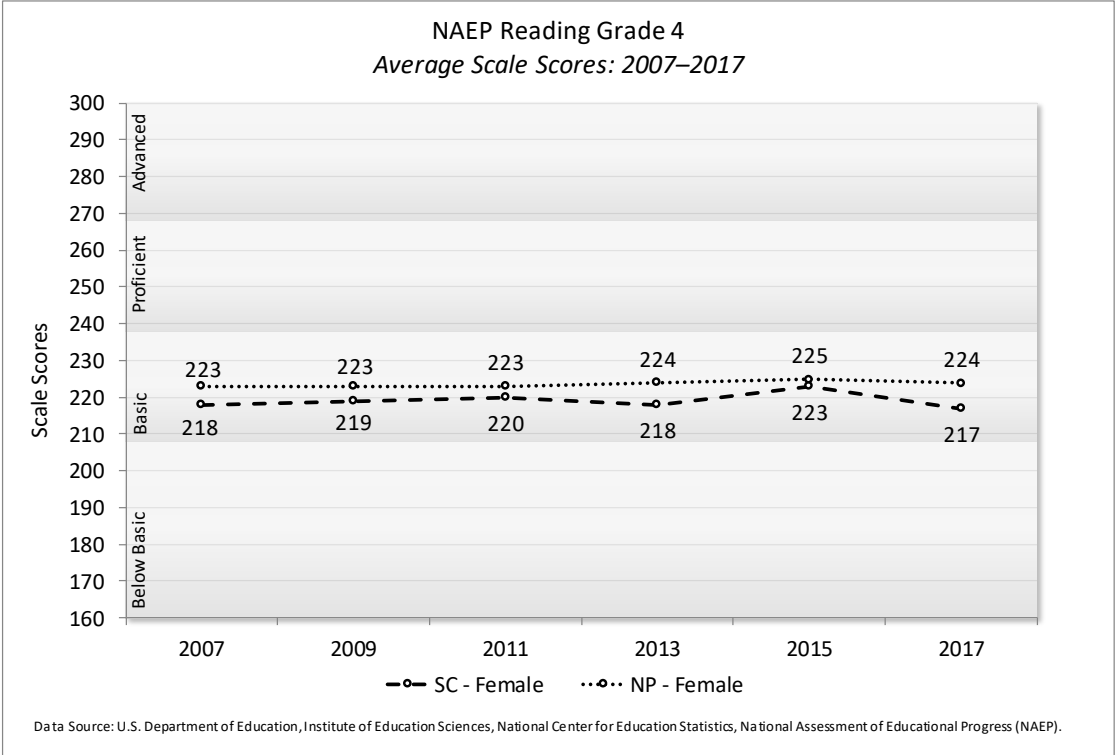


Figure 41. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

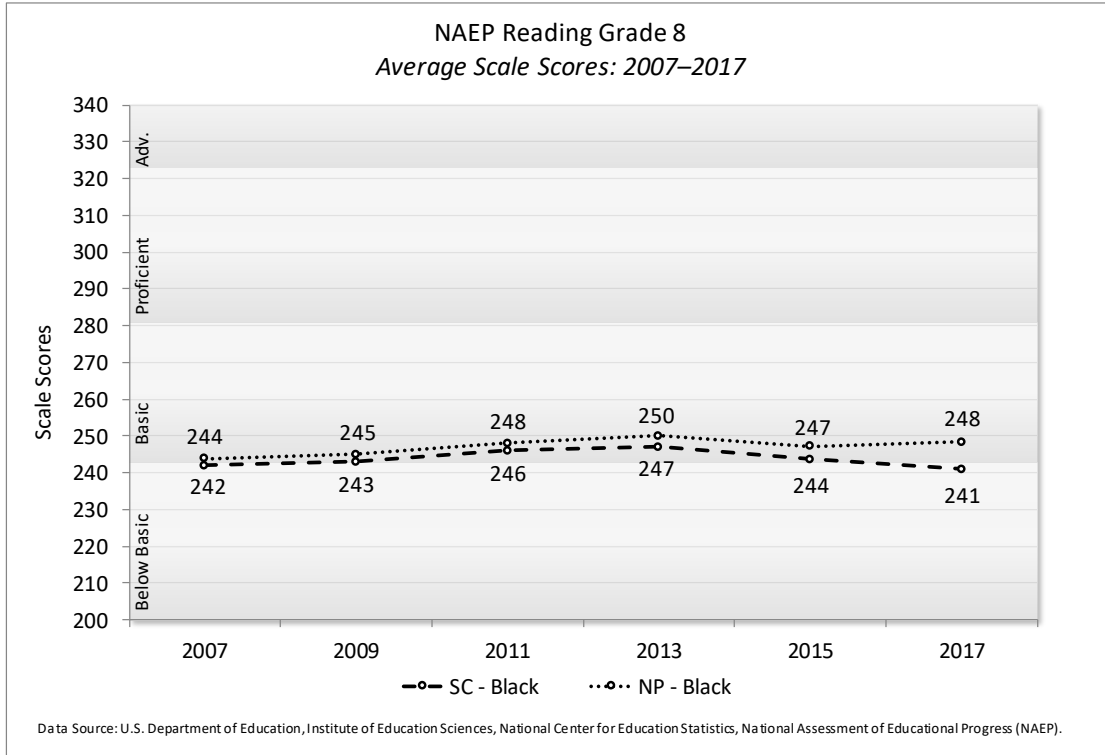


Figure 42. Average scale scores for black students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

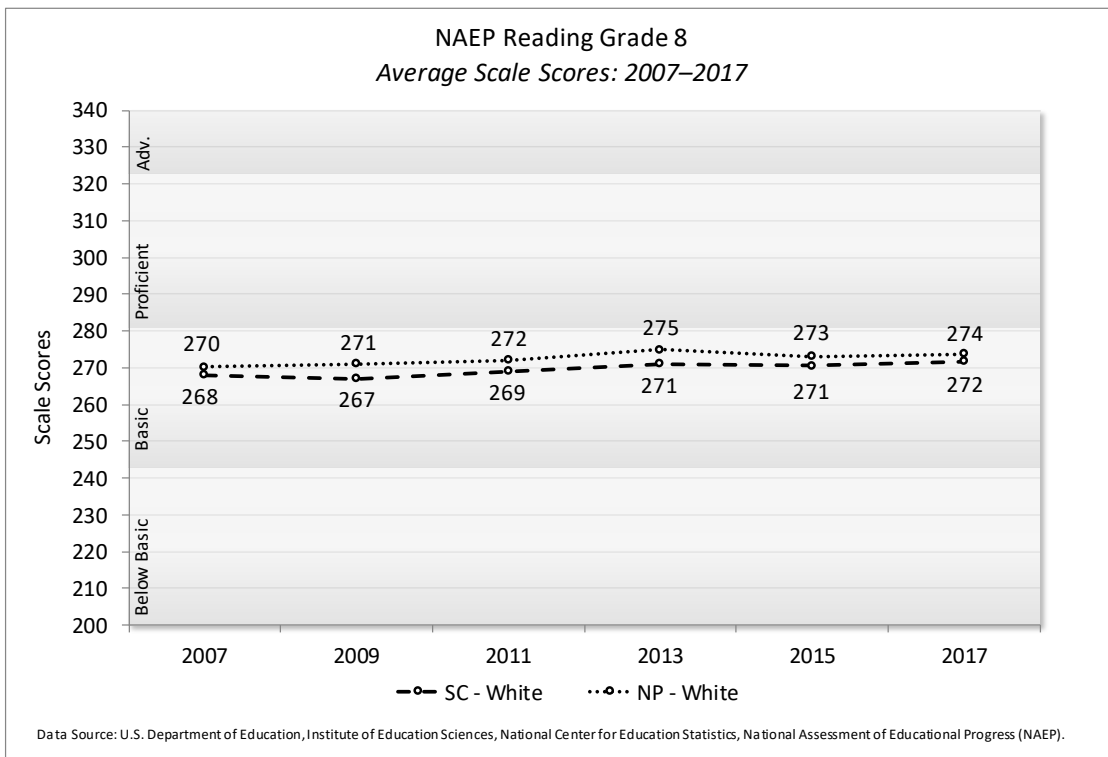


Figure 43. Average scale scores for white students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

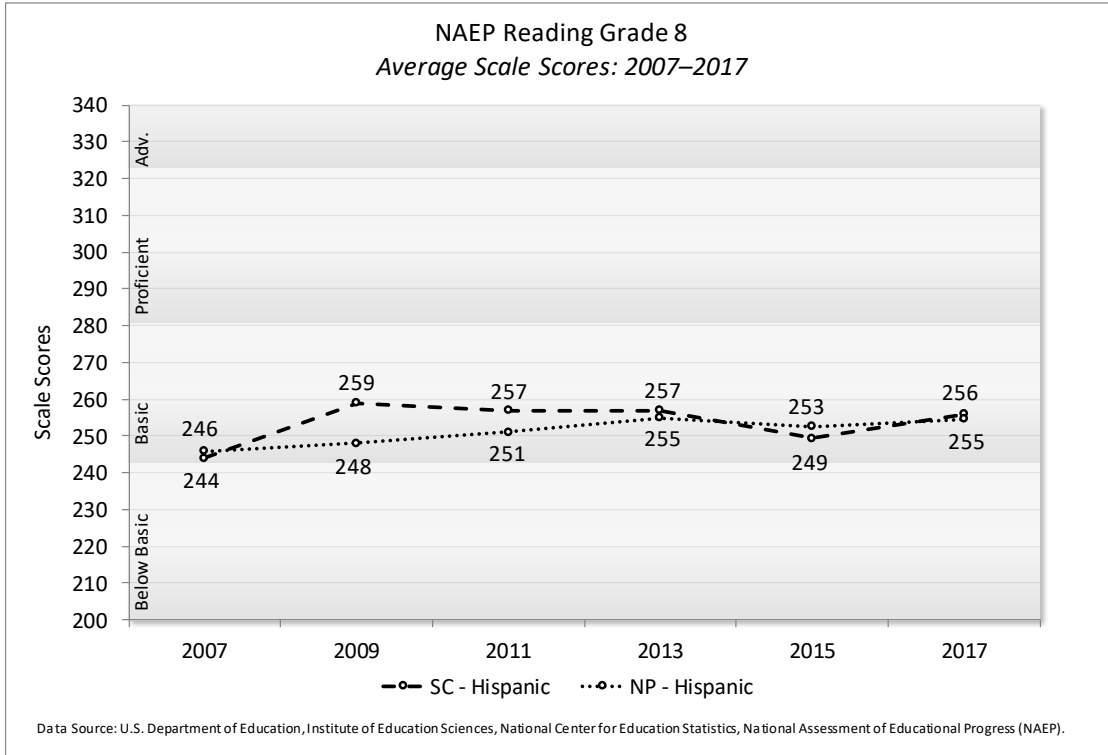


Figure 44. Average scale scores for Hispanic students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

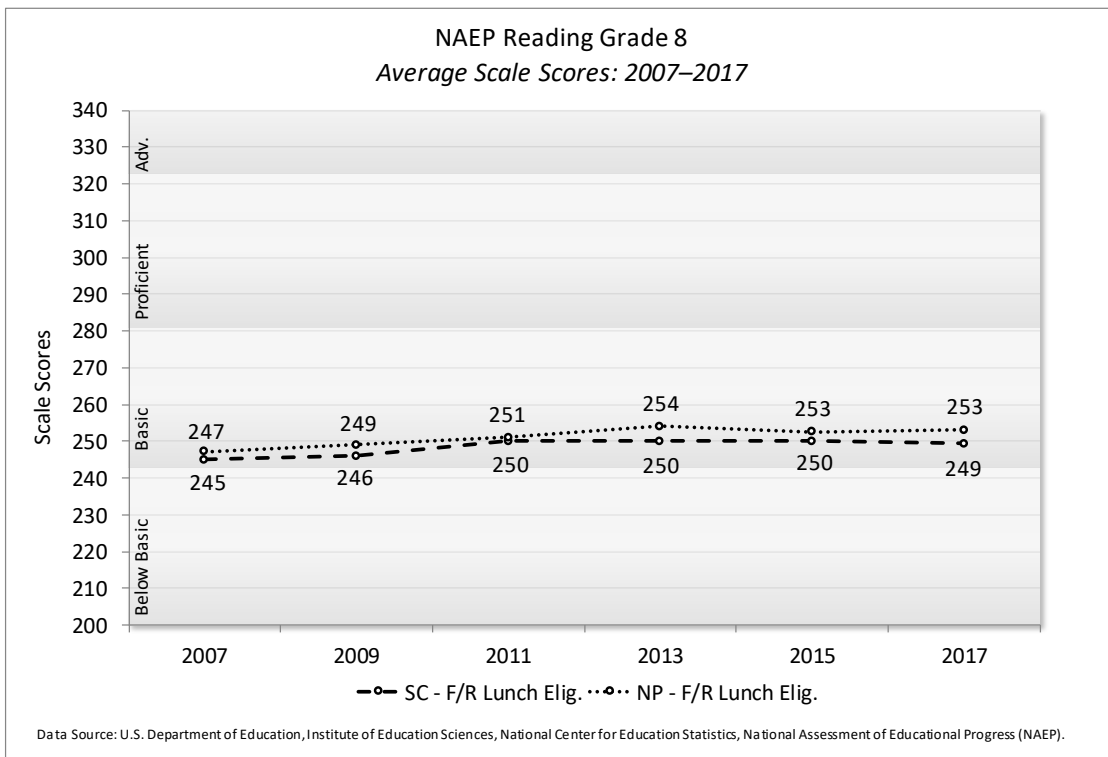


Figure 45. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible students in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

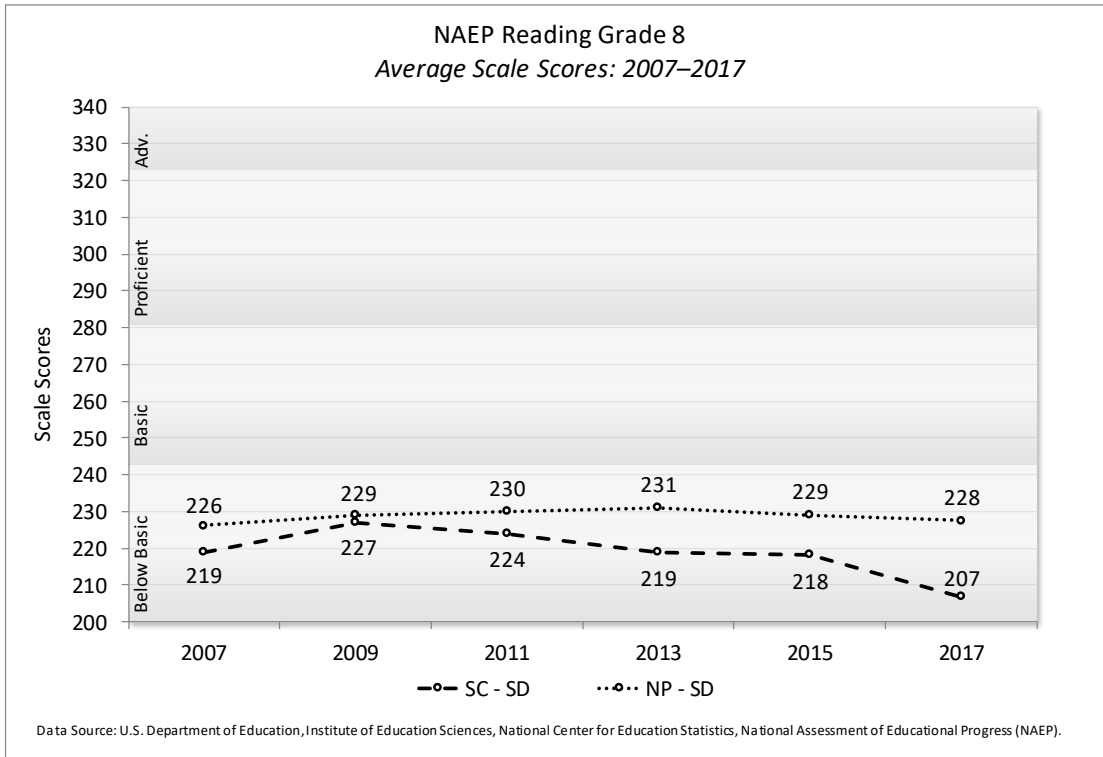


Figure 46. Average scale scores for students with disabilities in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

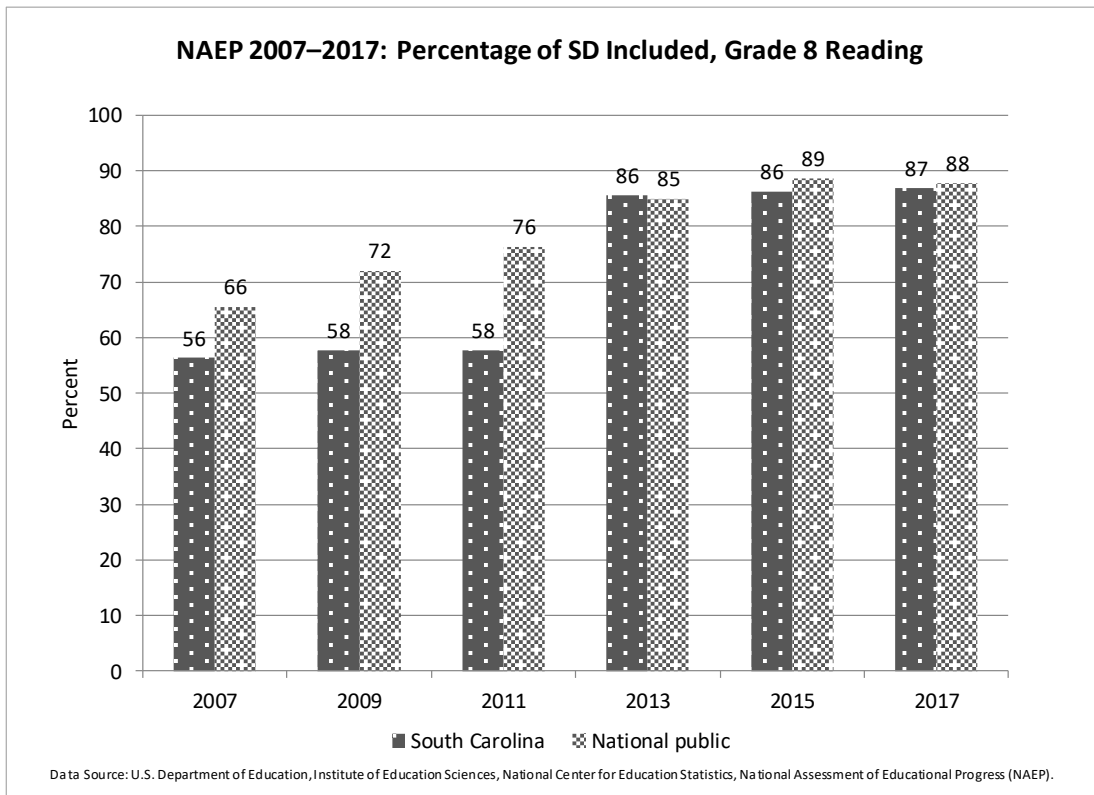


Figure 47. Percentage of students with disabilities (SD) included in the assessment, as a percentage of SD, reading grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

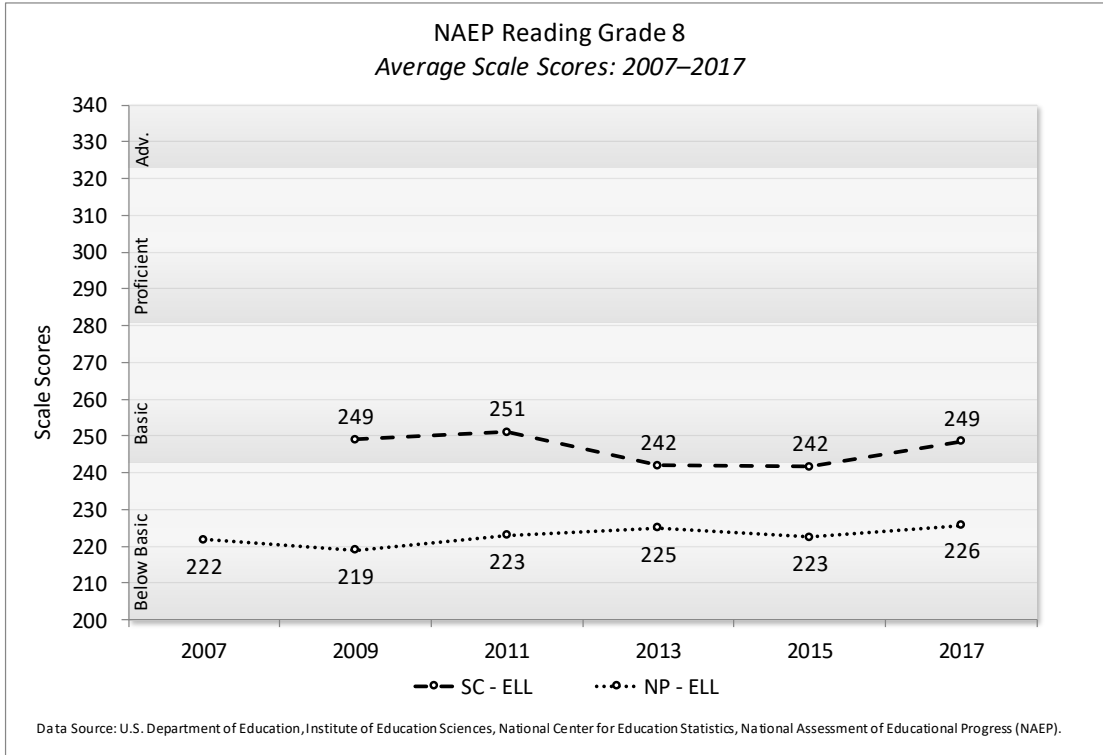


Figure 48. Average scale scores for English language learners in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

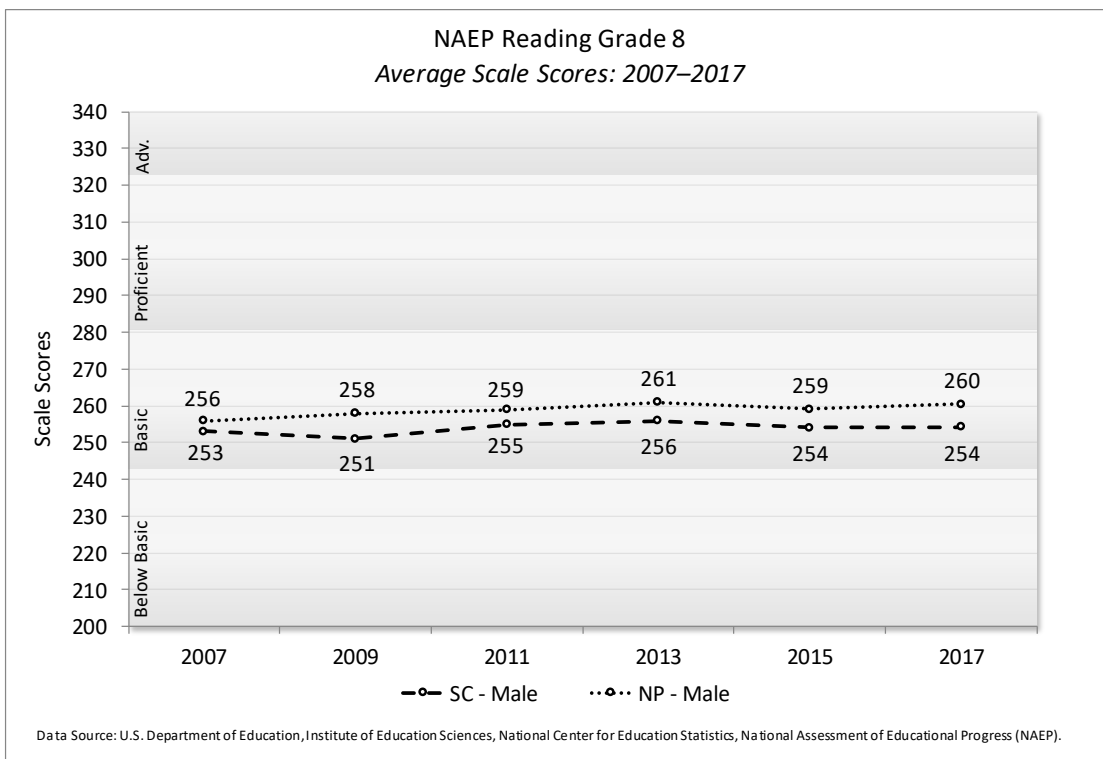


Figure 49. Average scale scores for males in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

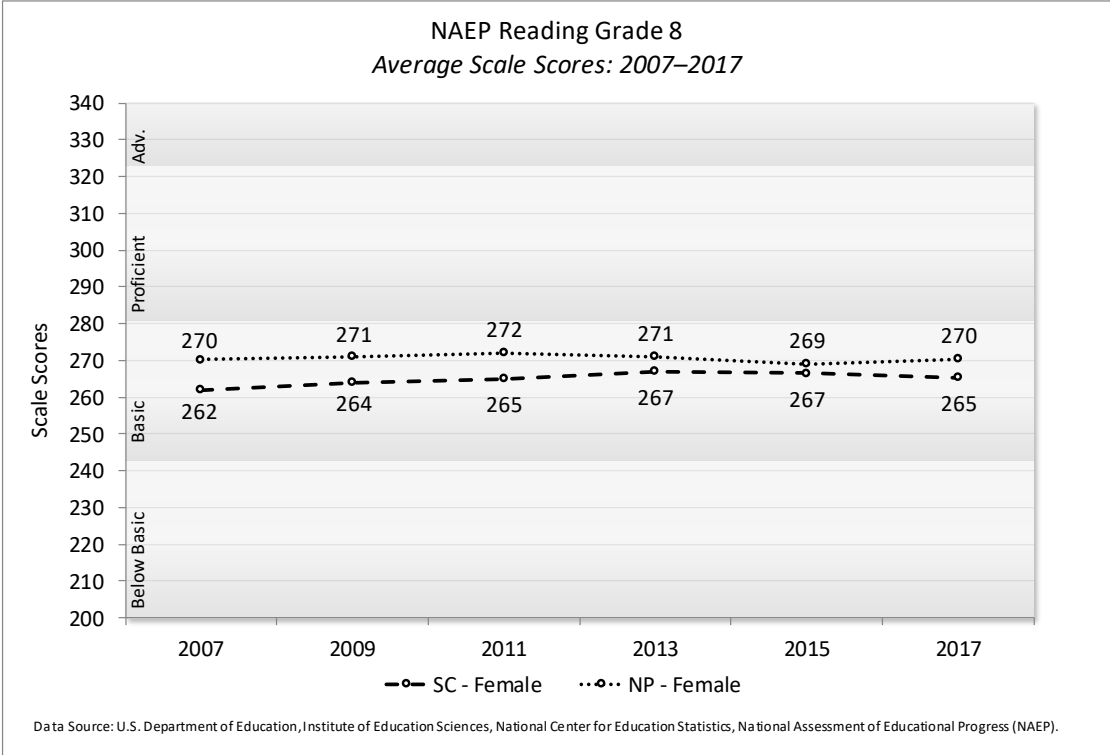


Figure 50. Average scale scores for females in South Carolina and the nation, reading grade 8.

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.

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.

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.

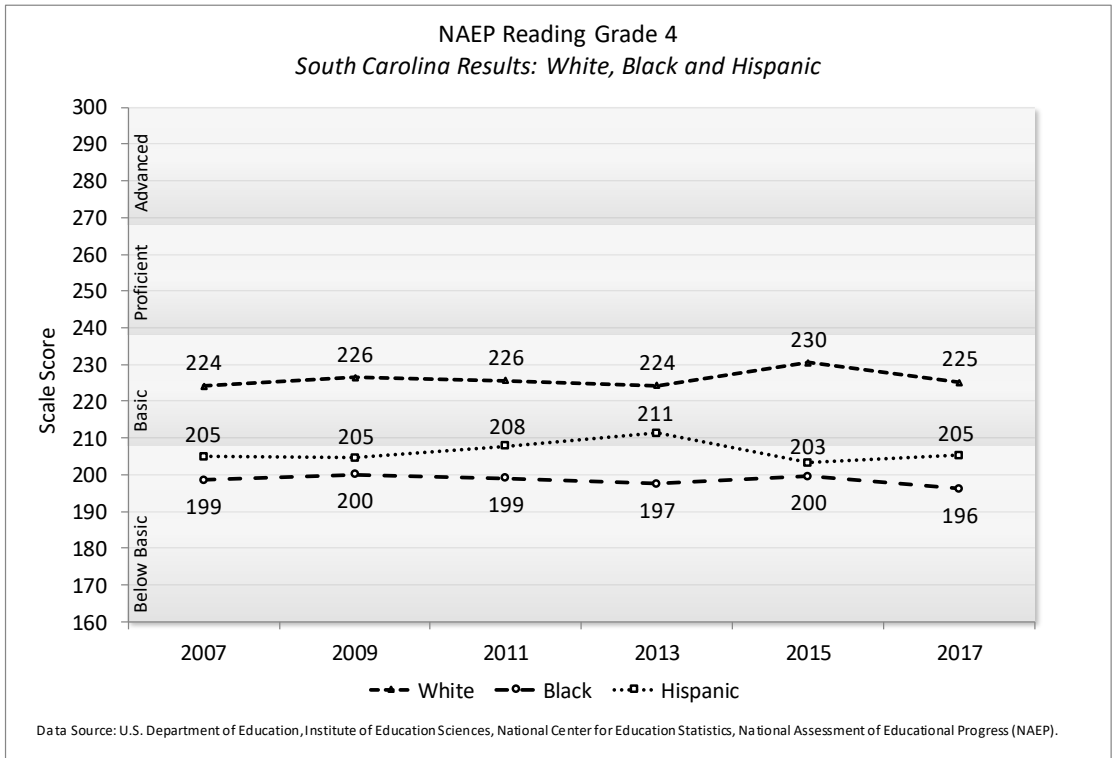


Figure 51. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, reading grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

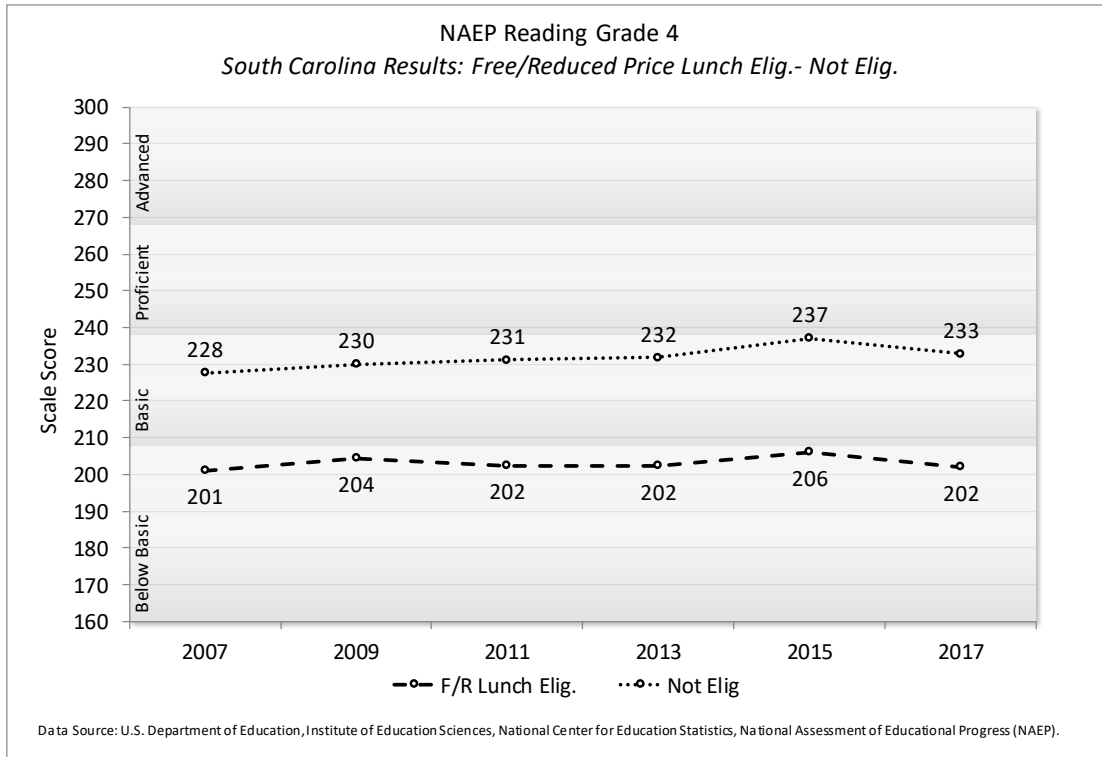


Figure 52. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, reading grade 4.

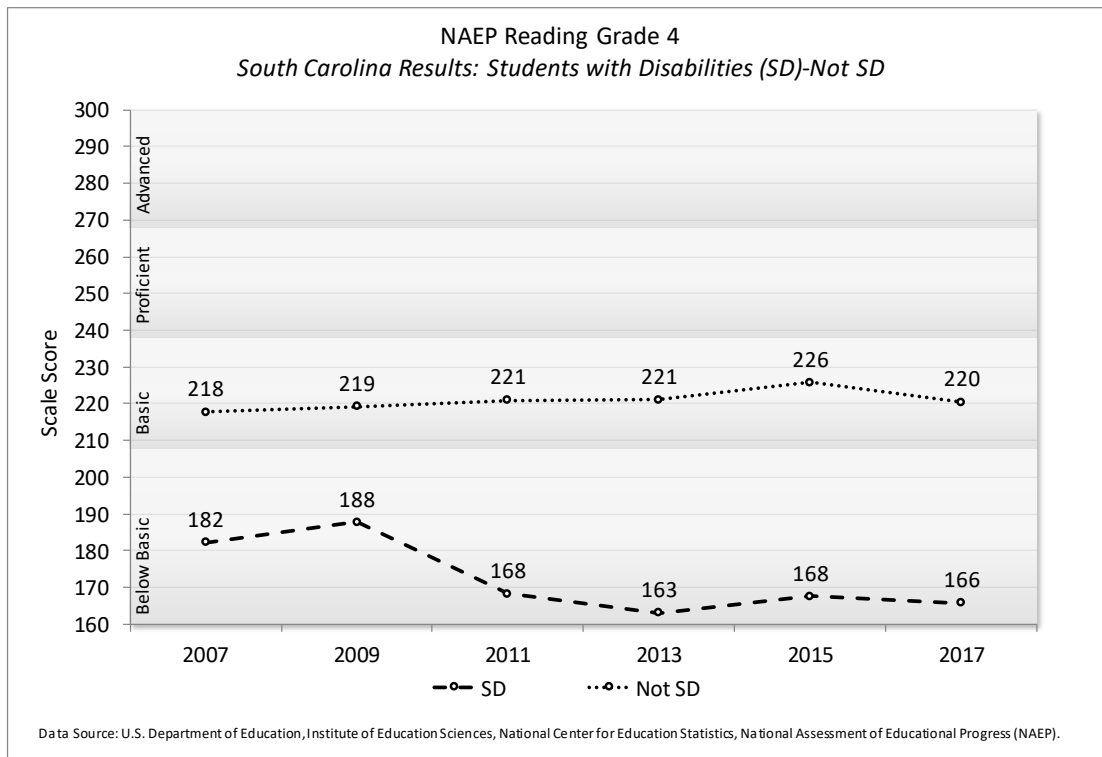


Figure 53. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, reading grade 4.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

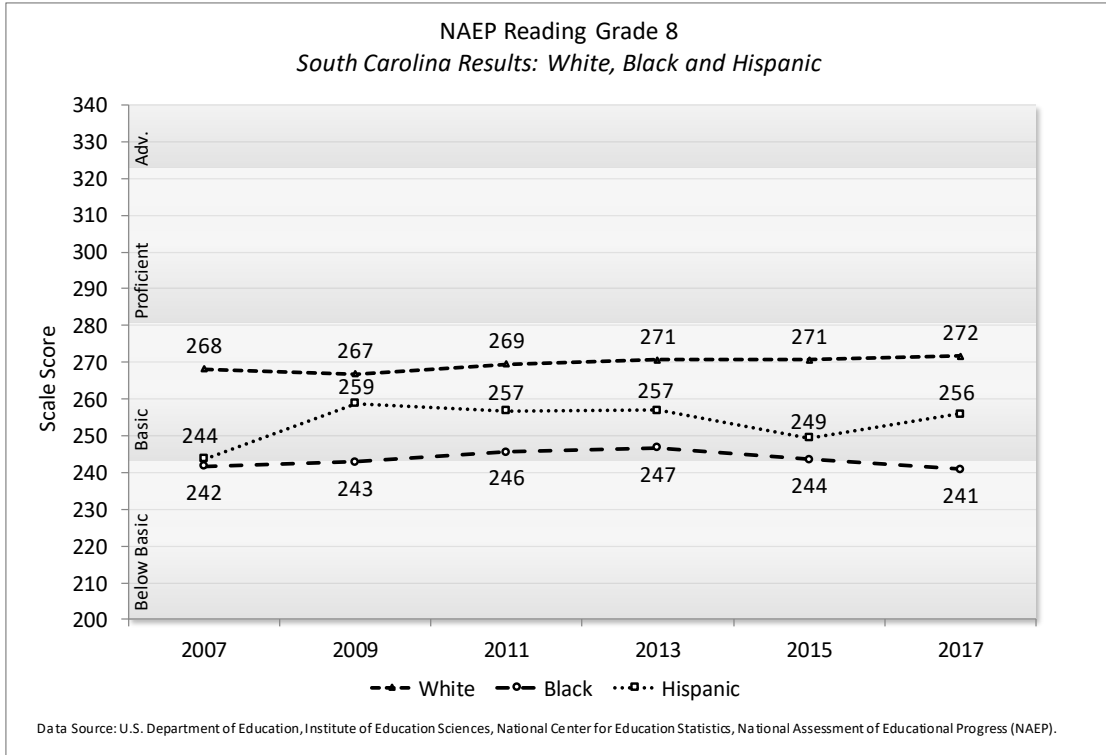


Figure 54. Average scale scores for white, black, and Hispanic students in South Carolina, reading grade 8.

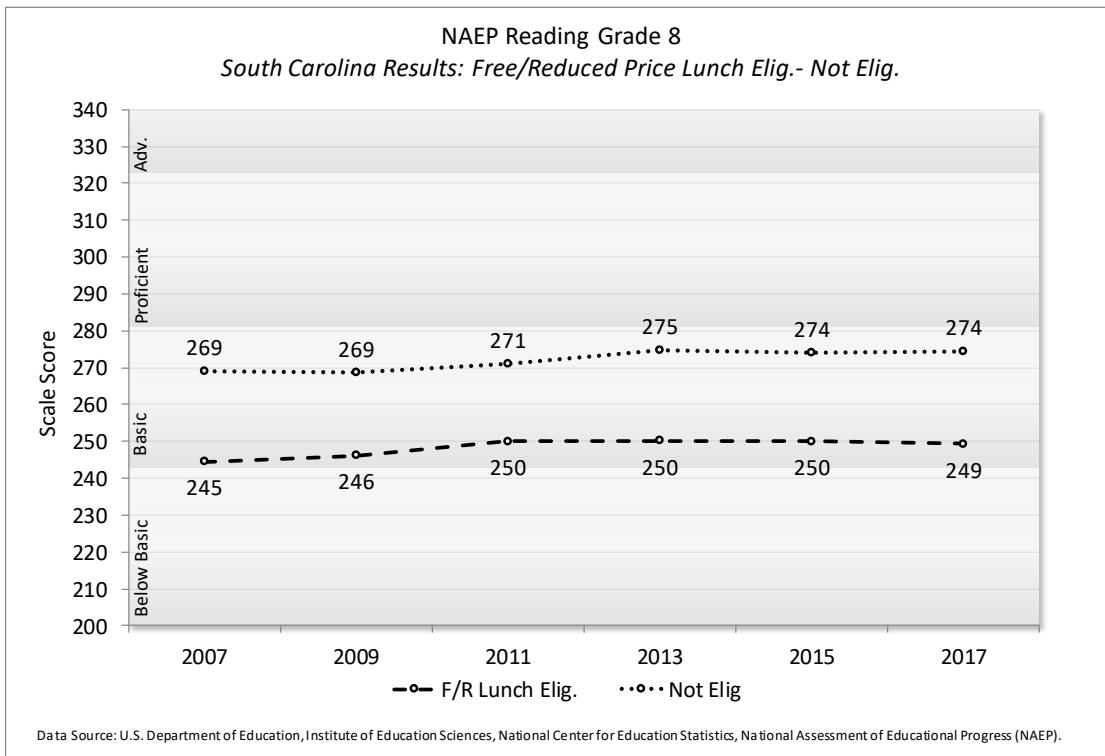


Figure 55. Average scale scores for NSLP-eligible and not eligible students in South Carolina, reading grade 8.

South Carolina NAEP Results: Reading

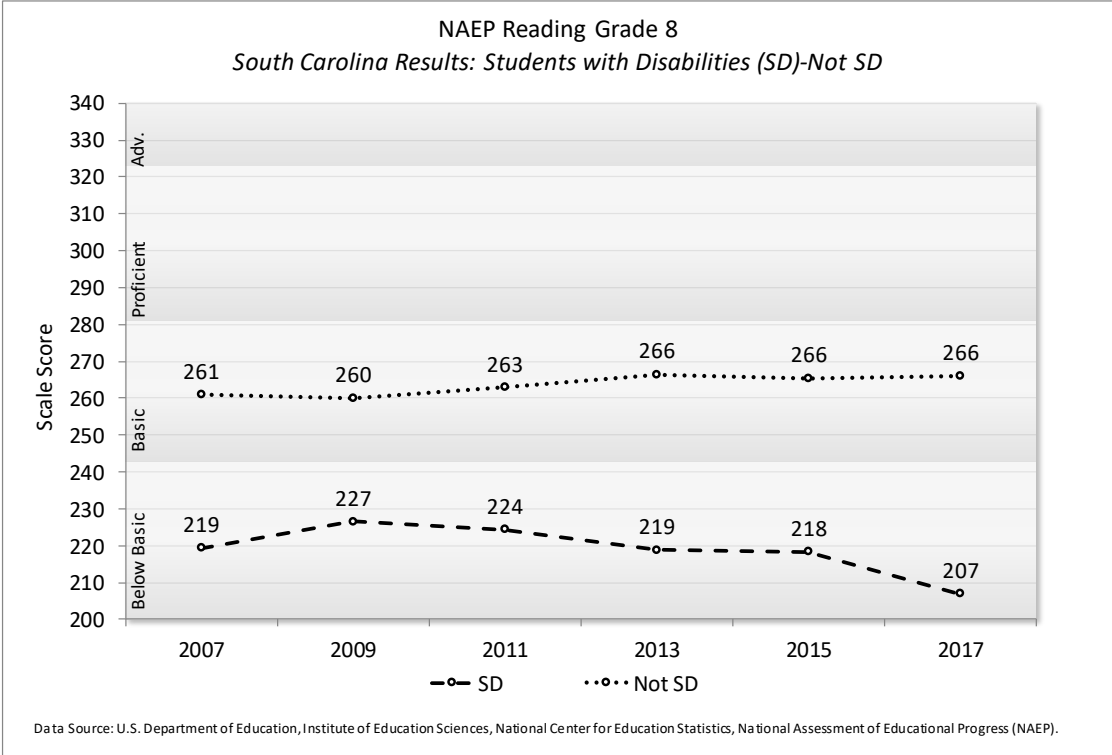


Figure 56. Average scale scores for students with and without disabilities in South Carolina, reading grade 8.