

North Carolina NAEP News

February 2005

The National Assessment of Educational Progress

North Carolina 2003 NAEP Results

Measuring Student Progress for 40 Years

NAEP has served American educators as an information resource, providing reliable profiles of what our students know and can do in key subject areas.

The Nation's Report Card, as it has come to be known, is the only ongoing project to monitor trends in our students' achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Since 1990, NAEP assessments have also been conducted to give results for participating states. States can now monitor their own progress over time in the selected subject areas. They can then compare the knowledge and skills of their students with students in other states and with the nation.



What did NAEP assess in 2003? The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) conducts state-level assessments at grades 4 and 8. The most current state-level reports for NAEP are the 2003 mathematics and reading results. This was the first year all states were required to participate in the state-level NAEP assessments, as required by the 2001 "No Child Left Behind" legislation. North Carolina has voluntarily participated in the state-level assessments of NAEP since 1990. The 2003 Mathematics and Reading Reports are located on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Web site at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/reports/>.

North Carolina 2003 Mathematics Results*

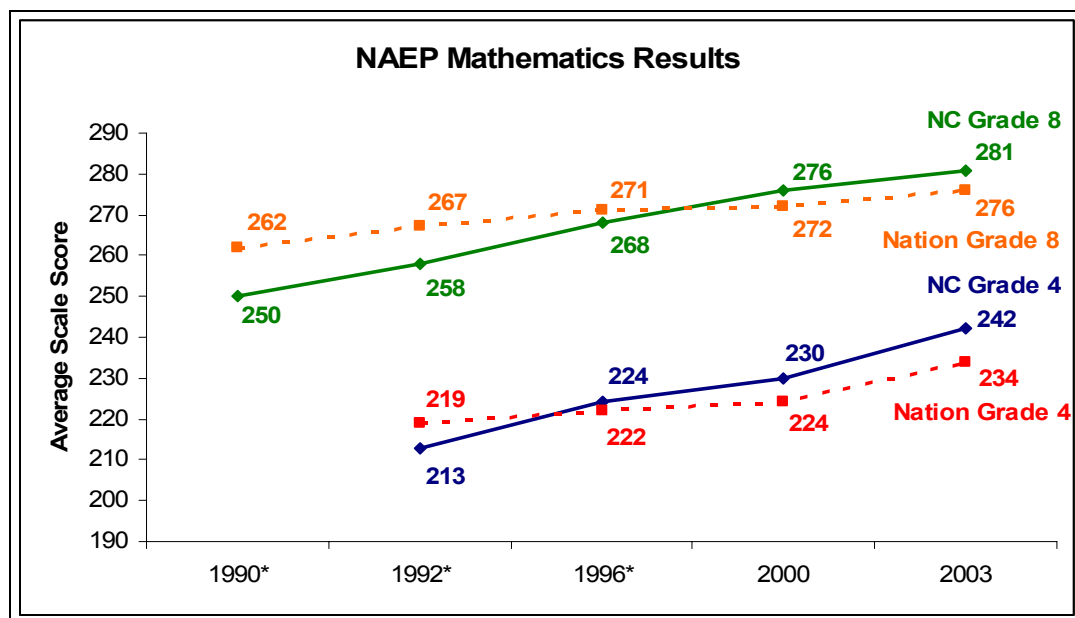
Grade 4 Mathematics

- The average scale score (242) in 2003 was higher than the average scale score in 2000 (230).
- The average scale score (242) was higher than the nation (234).
- The percentage of North Carolina students performing at or above the Proficient level was 41 percent in 2003. This was significantly higher than 2000 (25 percent).

Grade 8 Mathematics

- The average scale score (281) in 2003 was higher than the average scale score in 2000 (276).
- The average scale score (281) was higher than the nation (276).
- The percentage of North Carolina students performing at or above the Proficient level was 32 percent in 2003. This was significantly higher than 2000 (27 percent).

*Comparisons of higher, lower and not different are based on statistical test. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance.



*NAEP did not provide accommodations for students with disabilities or students identified as limited English proficient. NOTE: The NAEP mathematics scale ranges from 0 to 500. At grade 4, NAEP did not administer mathematics assessments in 1990. SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1990-2003 Mathematics Assessments.

Want to know
more about what
NAEP measures??



Visit the National Center
for Education Statistics
(NCES) Web site at

[http://nces.ed.gov/
nationsreportcard](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard)

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North Carolina 2003 Reading Results*

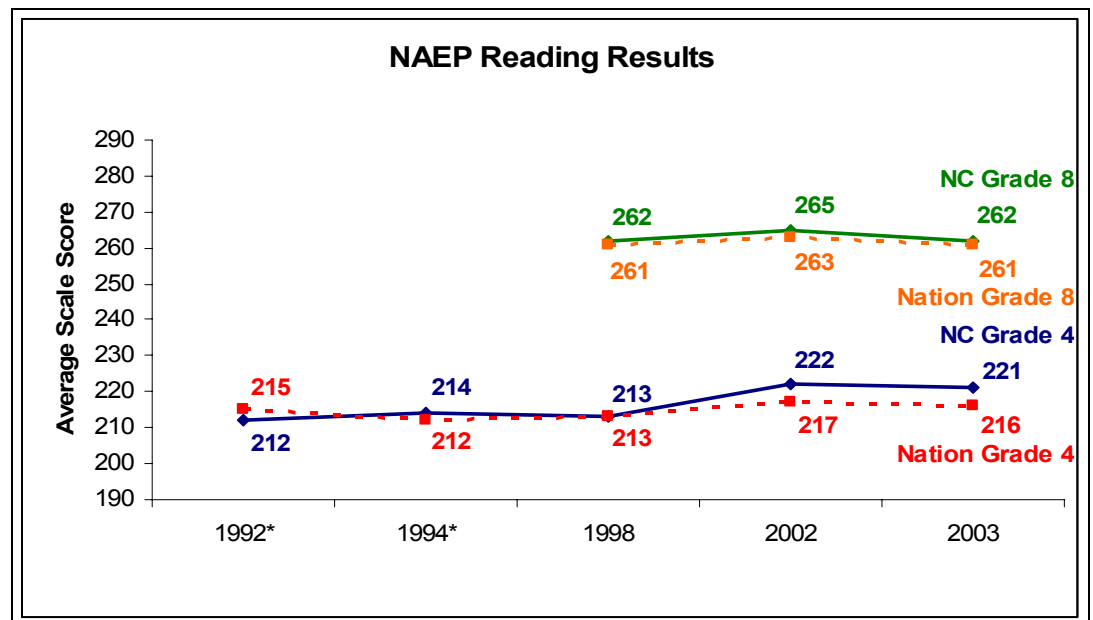
Grade 4 Reading

- The average scale score (221) in 2003 was not found to be significantly different from the average scale score (222) in 2002.
- The average scale score (221) was higher than the nation (216).
- The percentage of North Carolina students performing at or above the Proficient level was 33 percent in 2003. This was not significantly different from 2002 (32 percent).

Grade 8 Reading

- The average scale score (262) in 2003 was lower than the average scale score in 2002 (265).
- The average scale score (262) was not significantly different from the nation (261).
- The percentage of North Carolina students performing at or above the Proficient level was 29 percent in 2003. This was not significantly different from 2002 (32 percent).

*Comparisons of higher, lower and not different are based on statistical test. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance.



*NAEP did not provide accommodations for students with disabilities or students identified as limited English proficient. NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500. At grade 8, NAEP did not administer reading assessments in 1992 and 1994.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1992-2003 Reading Assessments.

What will NAEP assess in 2005? NAEP will be conducting state-level assessments in mathematics, reading and science at grades 4 and 8 this school year. Grade 12 assessments will be conducted at the national level. The assessments will take place from January 24 through March 4, 2005. The results for the 2005 NAEP assessments will be released in the fall of 2005.

Did you know NAEP releases assessment items every year? NAEP has an interactive item bank that can be used to prepare students for standardized assessment as well as provide instructional support. This item bank is called the NAEP Questions Tool and has over 1,000 released items. You can access the NAEP Questions Tool through the NAEP Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls>.

Where can you find additional information? Contact Marcie Hickman, NAEP State Coordinator, at mhickman@dpi.state.nc.us or by phone at (919) 807-3768, or visit the NAEP Web site at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

