

Science Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

Table 13-2. Average science scores for 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-graders, by selected student characteristics: 1996, 2000, and 2005

Student characteristic	Grade 4			Grade 8			Grade 12		
	1996	2000	2005	1996	2000	2005	1996	2000	2005
Total	147*	147*	151	149	149	149	150	146	147
Sex									
Male	148*	149*	153	150	153	150	154*	148	149
Female	146	145*	149	148	146	147	147*	145	145
Race/ethnicity ¹									
White	158*	159*	162	159	161	160	159	153	156
Black	120*	122*	129	121*	121	124	123	122	120
Hispanic	124*	122*	133	128	127	129	131	128	128
Asian/Pacific Islander	144*	‡	158	151	153	156	147	149	153
American Indian	129	135	138	148	147	128	144	151	139
Parents' education									
Less than high school	—	—	—	—	—	128	—	—	125
High school diploma or equivalent	—	—	—	—	—	138	—	—	136
Some college	—	—	—	—	—	151	—	—	148
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	—	—	—	—	159	—	—	157
Eligible for free or reduced-price lunch									
Eligible	129*	127*	135	129	127*	130	127	124*	129
Not eligible	159*	158*	162	156*	159	159	154*	149	152
Information not available	151*	160	160	157	155*	160	152*	150*	158

— Not available.

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

* Significantly different from 2005 ($p < .05$).

¹ Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

NOTE: At the state level, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) includes only students in public schools, while national results in this indicator include both public and private school students. Variations or changes in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples may affect comparative performance results. See *supplemental note 4* for more information on testing accommodations and NAEP.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1996, 2000, and 2005 Science Assessments, NAEP Data Explorer.