The Nation's Report Card: Reading and Mathematics Achievement Levels

Results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), or the Nation's Report Card, are out for the nation, states, and participating urban school districts in reading and math for grades 4 and 8. More than 400,000 students nationwide took NAEP between January and March 2022, with results representing the nation, 53 states and jurisdictions, and the 26 urban districts that participated in the NAEP Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program. The assessments were last administered in 2019.

The reading assessments measure students' knowledge and skills in literary and informational reading. The math assessments test knowledge and skills associated with number properties and operations, measurement; geometry; data analysis, statistics and probability; and algebra. NAEP also includes survey questions that provide context for student performance.

NAEP Achievement Levels

- Students performing at the ***NAEP Basic* level** have partial mastery of knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at that grade and subject.
- Students working at the ***NAEP Proficient* level** have demonstrated competency over challenging material, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills. It should be noted ***NAEP Proficient*** does not signify being on grade level (state assessments often are aligned to state grade-level expectations). Additionally, NAEP achievement levels are distinct from those used on state assessments.
- Students at the ***NAEP Advanced*** level have shown superior performance.

Examples of **skills and knowledge** students demonstrated they have at each achievement level in **grade 4** and **grade 8** in **reading** and **math** are listed below.

For a full set of expected skills and knowledge at each level, please visit this link.

GRADE 4

READING

NAEP Basic
Sequence or categorize events from a literary text

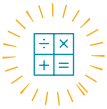
NAEP Proficient
Describe the impact of a character's actions or explain how characters influence one another

NAEP Advanced
Determine the meaning of nonliteral phrases

MATH

NAEP Basic
Locate whole numbers on a number line

NAEP Proficient
Add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers, fractions, and decimals in single and multi-step problems



NAEP Advanced
Understand and be able to use inverse operations* and simple ratios**

GRADE 8

READING

NAEP Basic
Identify basic literary elements such as the order of events, character traits, and main idea

NAEP Proficient
Make inferences and draw conclusions about literary elements such as character interactions and plot features

NAEP Advanced
Interpret descriptive or figurative language and how those impact the meaning of the text

MATH

NAEP Basic
Simplify expressions involving integers

NAEP Proficient
Apply strategies to solve Pythagorean Theorem*** problems

NAEP Advanced
Solve problems involving area, including composing and decomposing complex figures

* **Inverse Operations:** Inverse operations are two operations that are opposite of one another. For example, the inverse operation of a + b is a - b.

** **Ratio:** A ratio is a comparison of two or more values where their sizes are provided in relation to each other, written in the form a:b, where for every a units of one value there are b units of the other value.

*** **Pythagorean Theorem:** A relationship between the lengths of the sides of a right triangle (i.e., a triangle with one interior angle equal to 90 degree) represented using the equation $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, where a and b are the lengths of the sides creating the right angle and c length of the longest side (i.e., the hypotenuse).