Overall Results

- In 2015, the average score of eighth-grade students in North Carolina was 261. This was lower than the average score of 264 for public school students in the nation.
- The average score for students in North Carolina in 2015 (261) was lower than their average score in 2013 (265) and was not significantly different from their average score in 1998 (262).
- The percentage of students in North Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 30 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (33 percent) and in 1998 (30 percent).
- The percentage of students in North Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP Basic level was 72 percent in 2015. This percentage was smaller than that in 2013 (76 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (74 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results

**Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation (public)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Score</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
<th>Nation (public)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>265*</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>261*</td>
<td>265*</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>265*</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (p < .05) from state's results in 2015. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

**Score Gaps for Student Groups**

- In 2015, Black students had an average score that was 27 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1998 (25 points).
- In 2015, Hispanic students had an average score that was 19 points lower than that for White students. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 1998, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2015, female students in North Carolina had an average score that was higher than that for male students by 14 points.
- In 2015, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 28 points lower than that for students who were not eligible. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1998 (24 points).

NOTE: Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.