

2009 Science Assessment Content

Guided by a new framework, the NAEP science assessment was updated in 2009 to keep the content current with key developments in science, curriculum standards, assessments, and research. The 2009 framework organizes science content into three broad content areas.

Physical science includes concepts related to properties and changes of matter, forms of energy, energy transfer and conservation, position and motion of objects, and forces affecting motion.

Life science includes concepts related to organization and development, matter and energy transformations, interdependence, heredity and reproduction, and evolution and diversity.

Earth and space sciences includes concepts related to objects in the universe, the history of the Earth, properties of Earth materials, tectonics, energy in Earth systems, climate and weather, and biogeochemical cycles.

The 2009 science assessment was composed of 143 questions at grade 4, 162 at grade 8, and 179 at grade 12. Students responded to only a portion of the questions, which included both multiple-choice questions and questions that required a written response.

Compare the Average Score in 2009 to Other States/Jurisdictions



¹ Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

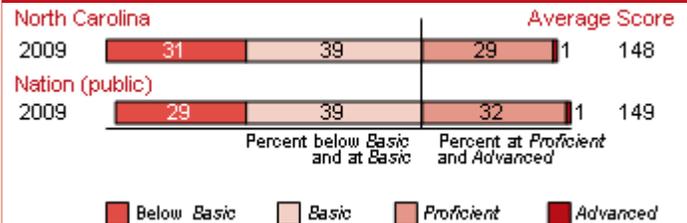
In 2009, the average score in **North Carolina** was

- lower than those in 24 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 9 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 13 states/jurisdictions
- 5 states/jurisdictions did not participate

Overall Results

- In 2009, the average score of fourth-grade students in North Carolina was 148. This was not significantly different from the average score of 149 for public school students in the nation.
- The percentage of students in North Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 30 percent in 2009. This percentage was not significantly different from the nation (32 percent).
- The percentage of students in North Carolina who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 69 percent in 2009. This percentage was not significantly different from the nation (71 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Results for Student Groups in 2009

Reporting Groups	Percent of students	Avg. score	Percentages at or above		Percent at Advanced
			Basic	Proficient	
Gender					
Male	51	149	70	33	1
Female	49	146	68	27	#
Race/Ethnicity					
White	54	162	86	45	1
Black	28	126	44	9	#
Hispanic	11	132	51	11	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	163	83	52	#
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	128	46	10	#
National School Lunch Program					
Eligible	48	133	53	13	#
Not eligible	51	162	84	46	1

Rounds to zero.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, and the "Unclassified" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed.

Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2009, male students in North Carolina had an average score that was higher than female students.
- In 2009, Black students had an average score that was 36 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from the nation (35 points).
- In 2009, Hispanic students had an average score that was 30 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from the nation (32 points).
- In 2009, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 29 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was not significantly different from the nation (29 points).