

Rhode Island

Grade 8 Public Schools



State Science 2011

This report provides selected results for Rhode Island's public school students at grade 8 from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessment in science. Results are reported by average scale scores and by achievement levels (*Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*).

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools (DoDEA) participated in the 2011 science assessment at grade 8.

For more information about the assessment, visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/> which contains

- *The Nation's Report Card: Science 2011*
- The full set of national and state results in an interactive database
- Released test questions, scoring guides, and question-level performance data

NAEP is a project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), reporting on the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States.

KEY FINDINGS FOR 2011

Grade 8:

- In 2011, the average science score for eighth-grade students in Rhode Island was 149. This was lower than that of the nation's public schools (151).
- The average score for students in Rhode Island in 2011 (149) was higher than that in 2009 (146).
- In 2011, the percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above *Proficient* was 31 percent. This was not significantly different from that for the nation's public schools (31 percent).
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 (31 percent) was greater than that in 2009 (26 percent).
- In 2011, the percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above *Basic* was 63 percent. This was not significantly different from that for the nation's public schools (64 percent).
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above *Basic* in 2011 (63 percent) was greater than that in 2009 (59 percent).

The U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) has provided software that generated user-selectable data, statistical significance test result statements, and technical descriptions of the NAEP assessments for this report. Content may be added or edited by states or other jurisdictions. This document, therefore, is not an official publication of the National Center for Education Statistics.

Introduction

What Was Assessed?

The content for each NAEP assessment is determined by the National Assessment Governing Board. The framework for each assessment documents the content and process areas to be measured and sets guidelines for the types of questions to be used. The development process for the science framework required the active participation of teachers, curriculum specialists, subject-matter specialists, local school administrators, parents, and other members of the general public. The current framework is available at the Governing Board's website at <http://nagb.org/publications/frameworks/science-2011.pdf>.

The 2009 NAEP science framework approved by the Governing Board replaced the framework used for the 1996, 2000, and 2005 science assessments. A variety of factors made it necessary to create a new framework to guide the assessment of science in 2009 and beyond: the publication of *National Standards* for science literacy, advances in both science and cognitive research, the growth in national and international science assessments, advances in innovative assessment approaches, and the need to fairly assess the widest possible range of students. The framework is unchanged for 2011.

Assessment Criteria

Each question in the 2011 science assessment was classified based on two criteria: *science content* and *science practices*. By considering these two criteria for each question, the framework ensures that NAEP assesses an appropriate balance of content along with a variety of ways of knowing and doing science.

SCIENCE CONTENT

The science content for the 2011 NAEP is defined by a series of statements that describe key facts, concepts, principles, laws, and theories in three broad areas:

- Physical Science
- Life Science
- Earth and Space Sciences

Physical Science deals with matter, energy, and motion; Life Science with structures and functions of living systems and changes in living systems; and Earth and Space Sciences with Earth in space and time, Earth structures, and Earth systems.

SCIENCE PRACTICES

The second aspect of the framework is defined by four science practices, which focus on what students should know and be able to do in science:

- Identifying Science Principles
- Using Science Principles
- Using Scientific Inquiry
- Using Technological Design

Assessment Design

The assessment design allowed for broad coverage of the three science content areas and four science practices, while minimizing the time burden for any one student. Each student in the state assessment was asked to complete two 25-minute sections. Each section contained between 14 and 18 questions depending on the balance between multiple-choice and constructed-response questions. Released NAEP science questions, along with student performance data by state, are available on the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls/>.

Who Was Assessed?

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools participated in the 2011 science assessment at grade 8.

The overall participation rates for schools and students must meet guidelines established by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the National Assessment Governing Board for assessment results to be reported publicly. A participation rate of at least 85 percent for schools was required. Participation rates for the 2011 science assessment are available on the NAEP website at http://nationsreportcard.gov/science_2011/participation.asp.

The schools and students participating in NAEP assessments are selected to be representative both nationally and for public schools at the state level. The comparisons between national and state results in this report present the performance of public school students only. In the figures and tables shown in this report, the category "nation (public)" does not include private, Department of Defense Education Activity, or Bureau of Indian Education schools.

How Is Student Science Performance Reported?

The 2011 state results are compared to results from the nation at grade 8.

Average Scores: Student performance is reported as an average score based on the NAEP science scale, which ranges from 0 to 300. Because NAEP scales are developed independently for each subject and for each content area within a subject, the scores cannot be compared across subjects or across content areas within the same subject. Results are also reported at five percentiles (10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th) to show trends in performance for lower-, middle-, and higher-performing students.

Achievement Levels: Based on recommendations from policymakers, educators, and members of the general public, the Governing Board sets specific achievement levels for each subject area and grade. Achievement levels are performance standards indicating what students should know and be able to do. They provide another perspective with which to interpret student performance. NAEP results are reported in terms of three achievement levels—*Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*—and are expressed in terms of the percentage of students who attained each level. The three achievement levels are defined as follows:

- *Basic* denotes partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at each grade.
- *Proficient* represents solid academic performance for each grade assessed. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and appropriate analytical skills.
- *Advanced* represents superior performance.

The achievement levels are cumulative; therefore, students performing at the *Proficient* level also display the competencies associated with the *Basic* level, and students at the *Advanced* level also demonstrate the competencies associated with both the *Basic* and the *Proficient* levels.

As provided by law, NCES, upon review of congressionally mandated evaluations of NAEP, has determined that achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted with caution. The NAEP achievement levels have been widely used by national and state officials. The science achievement-level descriptions are summarized in figure 1.

Figure 1	The Nation's Report Card 2011 State Assessment
	Descriptions of eighth-grade achievement levels for 2011 NAEP science assessment

Basic Level (141)	Students performing at the <i>Basic</i> level should be able to state or recognize correct science principles. They should be able to explain and predict observations of natural phenomena at multiple scales, from microscopic to global. They should be able to describe properties and common physical and chemical changes in materials; describe changes in potential and kinetic energy of moving objects; describe levels of organization of living systems—cells, multicellular organisms, and ecosystems; identify related organisms based on hereditary traits; describe a model of the solar system; and describe the processes of the water cycle. They should be able to design observational and experimental investigations employing appropriate tools for measuring variables. They should be able to propose and critique the scientific validity of alternative individual and local community responses to design problems.
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Science Practices: Students performing at the *Basic* level should be able to state or recognize correct science principles; explain and predict observations of natural phenomena at multiple scales, from microscopic to global, using evidence to support their explanations and predictions; design investigations employing appropriate tools for measuring variables; and propose and critique the scientific validity of alternative individual and local community responses to design problems.

In the physical sciences, students at the *Basic* level should be able to recognize a class of chemical compounds by its properties; design an investigation to show changes in properties of reactants and products in a chemical process such as burning or rusting; describe the changes in kinetic and potential energy of an object such as a swinging pendulum; describe and compare the motions of two objects moving at different speeds from a table of their position and time data; describe the direction of all forces acting on an object; and suggest an example of a system in which forces are acting on an object but the motion of the object does not change.

In the life sciences, students at the *Basic* level should be able to identify levels of organization within cells, multicellular organisms, and ecosystems; describe how changes in an environment relate to an organism's survival; describe types of interdependence in ecosystems; identify related organisms based on hereditary traits; discuss the needs of animals and plants to support growth and metabolism; and analyze and display data showing simple patterns in population growth.

In the Earth and space sciences, students at the *Basic* level should be able to describe a Sun-centered model of the solar system that illustrates how gravity keeps the objects in regular motion; describe how fossils and rock formations can be used as evidence to infer events in Earth's history; relate major geologic events, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain building to the movement of lithospheric plates; use weather data to identify major weather events; and describe the processes of the water cycle including changes in the physical state of water.

Proficient Level (170)	Students performing at the <i>Proficient</i> level should be able to demonstrate relationships among closely related science principles. They should be able to identify evidence of chemical changes; explain and predict motions of objects using position-time graphs; explain metabolism, growth, and reproduction in cells, organisms, and ecosystems; use observations of the Sun, Earth, and Moon to explain visible motions in the sky; and predict surface and groundwater movements in different regions of the world. They should be able to explain and predict observations of phenomena at multiple scales, from microscopic to macroscopic and local to global, and to suggest examples of observations that illustrate a science principle. They should be able to use evidence from investigations in arguments that accept, revise, or reject scientific models. They should be able to use scientific criteria to propose and critique alternative individual and local community responses to design problems.
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Science Practices: Students performing at the *Proficient* level should be able to demonstrate relationships among closely related science principles; explain and predict observations of phenomena at multiple scales, from microscopic to macroscopic and local to global, and suggest examples of observations that illustrate a science principle; design investigations requiring control of variables to test a simple model, employing appropriate sampling techniques and data quality review processes, and use the evidence to communicate an argument that accepts, revises, or rejects the model; and propose and critique solutions and predict the scientific validity of alternative individual and local community responses to design problems.

In the physical sciences, students at the *Proficient* level should be able to demonstrate the relationship between

the properties of chemical elements and their position on the periodic table; use empirical evidence to demonstrate that a chemical change has occurred; demonstrate the relationship of the motion of an object that experiences multiple forces with the representation of the motion on a position-time graph; predict the position of a moving object based on the position-time data presented in a table; and suggest examples of systems in which potential energy is converted into other forms of energy.

In the life sciences, students at the *Proficient* level should be able to explain metabolism, growth, and reproduction at multiple levels of living systems: cells, multicellular organisms, and ecosystems; predict the effects of heredity and environment on an organism's characteristics and survival; use sampling strategies to estimate population sizes in ecosystems; and suggest examples of sustainable systems for multiple organisms.

In the Earth and space sciences, students at the *Proficient* level should be able to explain how gravity accounts for the visible patterns of motion of the Earth, Sun, and Moon; explain how fossils and rock formations are used for relative dating; use models of Earth's interior to explain lithospheric plate movement; explain the formation of Earth's materials using the properties of rocks and soils; identify recurring patterns of weather phenomena; and predict surface and groundwater movement in different regions of the world.

Advanced Level (215)	Students performing at the <i>Advanced</i> level should be able to develop alternative representations of science principles and explanations of observations. They should be able to use information from the periodic table to compare families of elements; explain changes of state in terms of energy flow; trace matter and energy through living systems at multiple scales; predict changes in populations through natural selection and reproduction; use lithospheric plate movement to explain geological phenomena; and identify relationships among regional weather and atmospheric and ocean circulation patterns. They should be able to design and critique investigations involving sampling processes, data quality review processes, and control of variables. They should be able to propose and critique alternative solutions that reflect science-based trade-offs for addressing local and regional problems.
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Science Practices: Students performing at the *Advanced* level should be able to demonstrate relationships among different representations of science principles. They should be able to explain and predict observations of phenomena at multiple scales, from microscopic to macroscopic and local to global, and develop alternative explanations of observations, using evidence to support their thinking. They should be able to design control of variable investigations employing appropriate sampling techniques and data quality review processes that strengthen the evidence used to argue for one alternate model over another. They should be able to propose and critique alternative solutions that reflect science-based trade-offs for addressing local and regional problems.

In the physical sciences, students at the *Advanced* level should be able to interpret diagrams, graphs, and data to demonstrate the relationship between the particulate nature of matter and state changes (for instance, melting and freezing); demonstrate relationships between position on the periodic table and the characteristics of families of the chemical elements; explain changes of state in terms of energy flow in and out of a system; identify possible scientific trade-offs in making decisions on the design of an electrical energy power plant; suggest examples of systems in which objects are undergoing transitional, vibrational, and rotational motion; and suggest examples of systems in which forces are acting both through contact and at a distance.

In the life sciences, students at the *Advanced* level should be able to explain movement and transformations of matter and energy in living systems at cellular, organismal, and ecosystem levels; predict changes in populations through natural selection and reproduction; and describe an ecosystem's populations and propose an analysis for changes based on energy flow through the system.

In the Earth and space sciences, students at the *Advanced* level should be able to explain the seasons, Moon phases, and lunar and solar eclipses; illustrate how fossils and rock formations can provide evidence of changes in environmental conditions over time; use lithospheric plate movement to explain geological phenomena; identify relationships among regional weather and atmospheric and ocean circulation patterns; and use the water cycle to propose and critique ways for obtaining drinkable water.

NOTE: The scores in parentheses in the shaded boxes indicate the lowest point on the 0–300 scale at which the achievement-level range begins.

SOURCE: National Assessment Governing Board. (2010). *Science Framework for the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress*. Washington, DC: Author.

Assessing Students With Disabilities and/or English Language Learners

Testing accommodations, such as extra testing time or individual (rather than group) administration, are provided for students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL) who could not fairly and accurately demonstrate their abilities without modified test administration procedures. However, even with the availability of accommodations, some students may still be excluded from the NAEP assessment. Due to differences in policies and practices regarding the identification and inclusion of SD and ELL students, variations in exclusion and accommodation rates should be considered when comparing students' performance across states. The types of accommodations used in the 2011 NAEP science assessment are available on the NAEP website at http://nationsreportcard.gov/science_2011/type_accomm.asp

Interpreting Results

The scores and percentages in this report are estimates based on samples of students rather than on entire populations. In addition, the collection of questions used is only a sample of the many questions that could have been asked to assess the skills and abilities described in the NAEP framework. Comparisons between groups are based on statistical tests that consider both the size of the differences and the standard errors of the two statistics being compared. Standard errors are margins of error, and estimates based on smaller groups are likely to have larger margins of error. The size of the standard errors may also be influenced by other factors such as how representative the assessed students are of the entire population. Statistical tests that factor in these standard errors are used to determine whether the differences between average scores or percentages are significant. All differences were tested for statistical significance at the .05 level using unrounded numbers.

Differences between scores or between percentages are discussed in this report only when they are significant from a statistical perspective. Significant differences are marked with a notation (*) in the tables. Any differences in scores that are mentioned in the text as "higher," "lower," "greater," or "smaller" are statistically significant.

Score or percentage differences or gaps cited in this report are calculated based on differences between unrounded numbers. Therefore, the reader may find that the score or percentage difference cited in the text or tables may not be identical to the difference obtained from subtracting the rounded values shown in the accompanying tables or figures.

The reader is cautioned against making simple causal inferences between student performance and the other variables (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, and type of school location) discussed in this report. A statistically significant relationship between a variable and measures of student performance does not imply that the variable causes differences in how well students perform. The relationship may be influenced by a number of other variables not accounted for in this report, such as family income, parental involvement, or student attitudes.

NAEP 2011 Science Overall Average Score and Achievement-Level Results for Public School Students

Overall science results for public school students from Rhode Island are reported in this section, as well as regional and national results. The regions defined by the U.S. Census Bureau are Northeast, South, Midwest, and West (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/hsts/tabulations/regions.asp>).

Overall Average Score Results

Student performance is reported as an average score based on the NAEP science scale, which ranges from 0 to 300.

Table 1 shows the overall performance results of grade 8 public school students in Rhode Island, the nation (public), and the region in which the jurisdiction is located. The first column of results presents the average score on the NAEP science scale. The remaining columns show the scores at selected percentiles. A percentile is a score point at or below which a certain percentage of students fall. For example, the 25th percentile demarks the cut point for the lowest 25 percent of students within the distribution of scale scores.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results

- In 2011, the average scale score for students in Rhode Island was 149. This was lower than that of students across the nation (151).
- In Rhode Island, the average scale score for students in 2011 was higher than that in 2009 (146). Similarly, the average scale score for students in public schools across the nation in 2011 was higher than that in 2009 (149).

**Table
1**

Average scale scores and selected percentile scores in NAEP science for eighth-grade public school students, by year and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

Year and jurisdiction		Average scale score	10th percentile	25th percentile	50th percentile	75th percentile	90th percentile
2009	Nation (public)	149 *	102 *	127 *	152 *	174 *	191
	Northeast ¹	153	106	132	157	178	195
	Rhode Island	146 *	100	125	148 *	171 *	188 *
2011	Nation (public)	151	105	129	154	175	192
	Northeast ¹	153	107	132	157	178	194
	Rhode Island	149	99	128	153	175	192

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2011.

¹ Region in which jurisdiction is located.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

Overall Achievement-Level Results

Student results are reported as the percentages of students performing relative to performance standards set by the National Assessment Governing Board. These performance standards for what students should know and be able to do were based on the recommendations of broadly representative panels of educators and members of the public.

Table 2 shows the percentage of students at grade 8 who performed below *Basic*, at or above *Basic*, at or above *Proficient*, and at *Advanced*. Because the percentages are cumulative from *Basic* to *Proficient* to *Advanced*, they will sum to more than 100 percent. Only the percentage of students performing at or above *Basic* (which includes the students at *Proficient* and *Advanced*) plus the students below *Basic* will sum to 100 percent.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results

- In 2011, the percentage of Rhode Island's students who performed at or above *Proficient* was 31 percent. This was not significantly different from the percentage of the nation's public school students who performed at or above *Proficient* (31 percent).
- In Rhode Island, the percentage of students who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 was greater than the percentage in 2009 (26). Similarly, the percentage of students who performed at or above *Proficient* in the nation in 2011 was greater than the percentage in 2009 (29).
- In 2011, the percentage of Rhode Island's students who performed at or above *Basic* was 63 percent. This was not significantly different from the percentage of the nation's public school students who performed at or above *Basic* (64 percent).
- In Rhode Island, the percentage of students who performed at or above *Basic* in 2011 was greater than the percentage in 2009 (59). Similarly, the percentage of students who performed at or above *Basic* in the nation in 2011 was greater than the percentage in 2009 (62).

**Table
2**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students at or above NAEP science achievement levels, by year and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

Year and jurisdiction		Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced
2009	Nation (public)	38 *	62 *	29 *	1
	Northeast ¹	33	67	34	2
	Rhode Island	41 *	59 *	26 *	1
2011	Nation (public)	36	64	31	2
	Northeast ¹	33	67	34	2
	Rhode Island	37	63	31	1

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction in 2011.

¹ Region in which jurisdiction is located.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

Comparisons Between Rhode Island, the Nation, and Participating States and Jurisdictions

All 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Schools participated in the 2011 science assessment at grade 8. References to "jurisdictions" in the results statements may include states, the District of Columbia, and/or Department of Defense Schools.

Comparisons by Average Scores

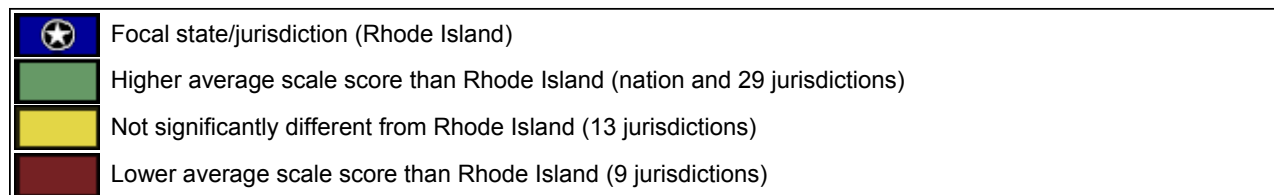
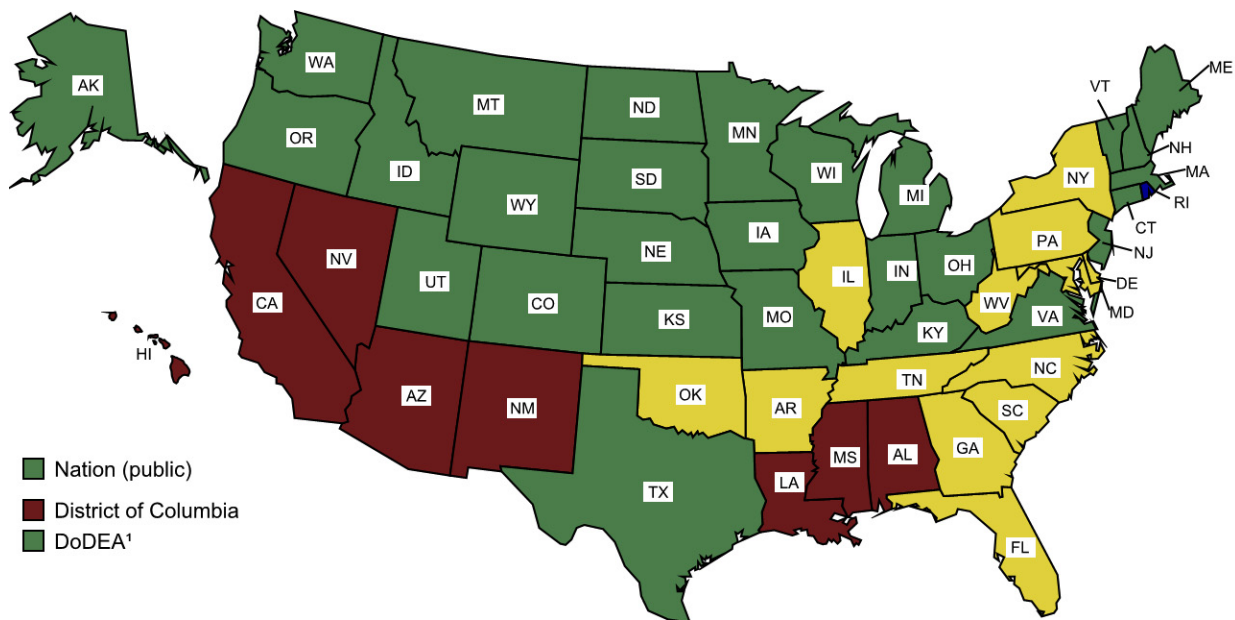
Figure 2 compares Rhode Island's 2011 overall science average scores at grade 8 with those of public schools in the nation and all other participating states and jurisdictions. The different shadings indicate whether the average score of the nation (public), a state, or a jurisdiction was found to be higher than, not significantly different from, or lower than that of Rhode Island in the NAEP 2011 science assessment.

Grade 8 Scale Score Comparison Results

- The average score for students in Rhode Island was higher than 9 jurisdictions, not significantly different from 13 jurisdictions, and lower than 29 jurisdictions.

Figure 2

Rhode Island's average scale score in NAEP science for eighth-grade public school students compared with scores for the nation and other participating jurisdictions: 2011



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

NOTE: Significance tests used a multiple-comparison procedure based on all jurisdictions that participated.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2011 Science Assessment.

Comparisons by Achievement Levels

Figure 3 permits comparisons of all jurisdictions (and the nation) participating in the NAEP 2011 science assessment in terms of percentages of grade 8 students performing at or above *Proficient*. The participating states and jurisdictions are grouped into categories reflecting whether the percentage of their students performing at or above *Proficient* (including *Advanced*) was found to be higher than, not significantly different from, or lower than the percentage in Rhode Island.

Note that the selected state is listed first in its category, and the other states and jurisdictions within each category are listed alphabetically; statistical comparisons among jurisdictions in each of the three categories are not included in this report. However, statistical comparisons among states by achievement level can be calculated online by using the NAEP Data Explorer at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>.

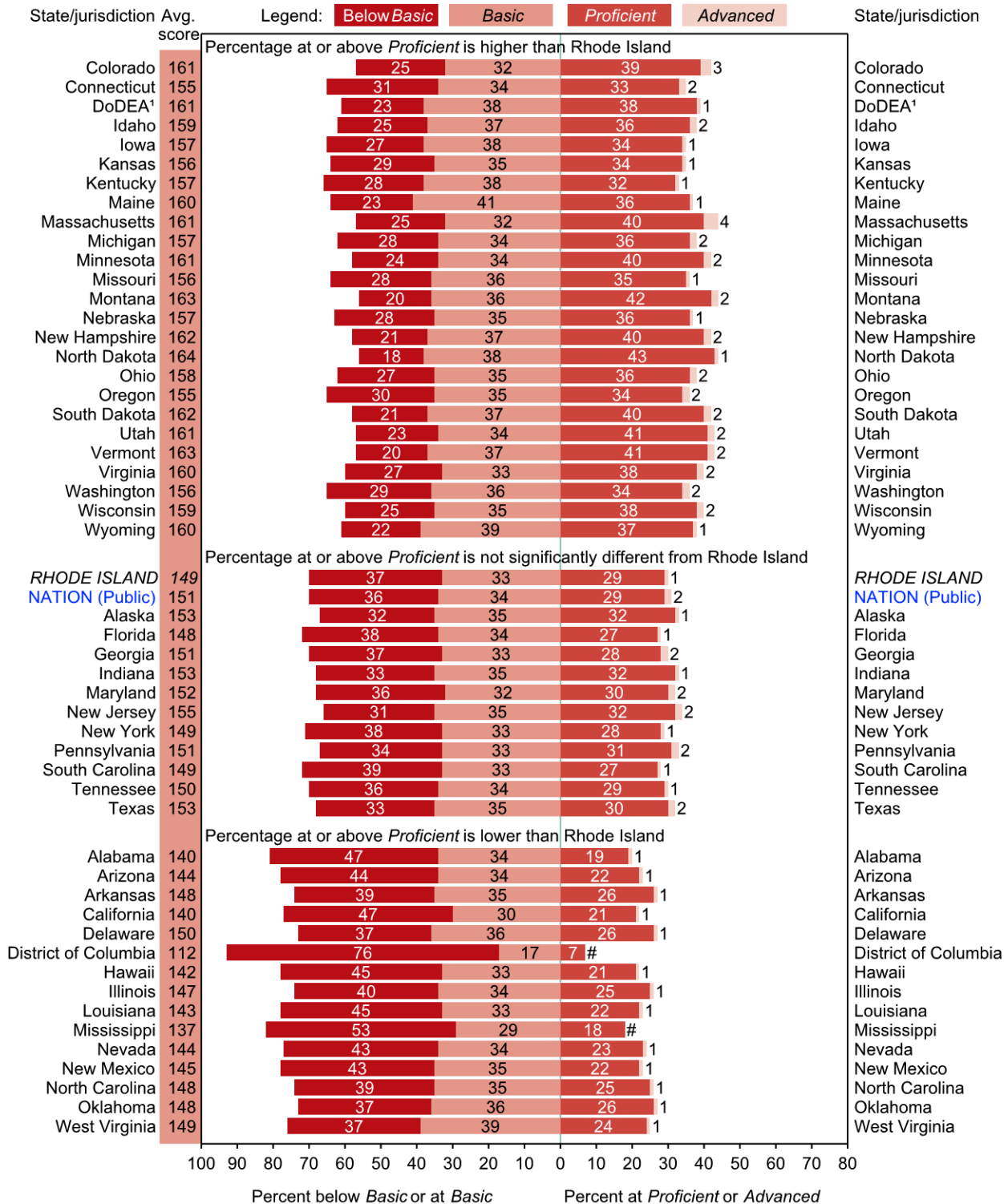
Grade 8 Achievement-Level Comparison Results

- The percentage of students performing at or above the *Proficient* level in Rhode Island was greater than the percentage in 15 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 11 jurisdictions, and smaller than those in 25 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students performing at or above the *Basic* level in Rhode Island was greater than the percentage in 9 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 15 jurisdictions, and smaller than those in 27 jurisdictions (data not shown).

The Nation's Report Card 2011 State Assessment

Figure 3

Average scale scores in NAEP science for eighth-grade public school students, percentage within each achievement level, and Rhode Island's percentage at or above *Proficient* compared with the nation and other participating states/jurisdictions: 2011



Rounds to zero.

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

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. The bars above contain percentages of students in each NAEP science achievement level. Achievement levels corresponding to each population of students are aligned at the point where the *Proficient* category begins, so that they may be compared at *Proficient* and above. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers. The shaded bars are graphed using unrounded numbers. Significance tests used a multiple-comparison procedure based on all jurisdictions that participated.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics,

Science Performance of Selected Student Groups

This section of the report presents trend results for public school students in Rhode Island and the nation by demographic characteristics. Student performance data are reported for

- race/ethnicity
- gender
- student eligibility for the National School Lunch Program
- type of location
- parents' highest level of education

Results for each of the variables are reported in tables that include the percentage of students in each group in the first column and the average scale score in the second column. The columns to the right show the percentage of students below *Basic* and at or above each achievement level.

Results by students' race/ethnicity and gender include statements about score point differences between student groups (e.g., between White and Black or White and Hispanic students, or between male and female students) in 2011 and in the first assessment year. Because these differences are calculated using unrounded values, they may differ slightly from what would be obtained by subtracting the rounded values that appear in the tables. Statements indicating a narrowing or widening of the gap in students' scores are only made if the change in the gap from the first assessment year to 2011 was found to be statistically significant.

The reader is cautioned against making causal inferences about group differences, as a complex mix of educational and socioeconomic factors may affect student performance. NAEP collects information on many additional variables, including school and home factors related to achievement. This information is in an interactive database available on the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>.

Race/Ethnicity

Prior to 2011, student race/ethnicity was obtained from school records and reported for the six mutually exclusive categories shown below:

- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Unclassified (not shown in tables)

Students who identified with more than one of the other five categories were classified as "Other" and were included as part of the "Unclassified" category along with students who had a background other than the ones listed or whose race/ethnicity could not be determined.

In compliance with new standards from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for collecting and reporting data on race/ethnicity, additional information was collected in 2011 so that results could be reported separately for Asian students, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students, and students identifying with two or more races. Beginning in 2011, all of the students participating in NAEP were identified as one of the seven racial/ethnic categories listed below:

- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- Asian
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- Two or more races

As in earlier years, students identified as Hispanic were classified as Hispanic in 2011 even if they were also identified with another racial/ethnic group. Students who identified with two or more of the other racial/ethnic groups (e.g., White and Black) would have been classified as "Other" and reported as part of the "Unclassified" category prior to 2011, and classified as "Two or more races" in 2011.

When comparing the results for racial/ethnic groups from 2011 to earlier assessment years, the 2011 data for Asian and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students were combined into a single Asian/Pacific Islander category.

Table 3 shows average scale scores and percentage of students by achievement-level data for public school students at grade 8 in Rhode Island and the nation, by race/ethnicity.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Race/Ethnicity

- In 2011, White students in Rhode Island had an average scale score that was higher than the average scores of Black and Hispanic students, but not significantly different from the average score of Asian/Pacific Islander students.
- In 2011, the average scale score of White students in Rhode Island was higher than their respective score in 2009.
- In 2011, the average scale scores of Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander students in Rhode Island were not significantly different from their respective score in 2009.
- In 2011, Black students in Rhode Island had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 39 points. In 2009, the average score for Black students was lower than that of White students by 30 points.
- In 2011, Hispanic students in Rhode Island had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 41 points. In 2009, the average score for Hispanic students was lower than that of White students by 36 points.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Race/Ethnicity

- In 2011 in Rhode Island, the percentage of White students performing at or above *Proficient* was greater than the corresponding percentages of Black and Hispanic students, but not significantly different from the percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander students.
- In 2011, the percentage of White students in Rhode Island performing at or above *Proficient* was greater than the percentage in 2009.
- In 2011, the percentages of Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander students in Rhode Island performing at or above *Proficient* were not significantly different from the percentage in 2009.

**Table
3**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by race/ethnicity, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

Race/ethnicity, year, and jurisdiction	Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent				
			Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced	
White							
2009	Nation (public)	56*	161*	23*	77*	41*	2
	Rhode Island	71*	155*	30*	70*	33*	2
2011	Nation (public)	54	163	21	79	43	2
	Rhode Island	68	161	23	77	40	2
Black							
2009	Nation (public)	16	125*	68*	32*	8*	#
	Rhode Island	8*	125	68	32	8	#
2011	Nation (public)	16	128	64	36	9	#
	Rhode Island	7	122	67	33	10	#
Hispanic							
2009	Nation (public)	21*	131*	59*	41*	12*	#
	Rhode Island	17*	119	74	26	5	#
2011	Nation (public)	22	136	52	48	16	#
	Rhode Island	19	120	68	32	5	#
Asian/Pacific Islander							
2009	Nation (public)	5	159	28	72	40	3
	Rhode Island	3	146	41	59	21	2
2011	Nation (public)	5	159	26	74	41	3
	Rhode Island	3	151	38	62	35	3
American Indian/Alaska Native							
2009	Nation (public)	1	138	51	49	18	#
	Rhode Island	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
2011	Nation (public)	1	141	48	52	19	1
	Rhode Island	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction and student group in 2011.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, and Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

Table 4 shows average scale scores and percentage of students by achievement-level data for the seven racial/ethnic categories used in 2011: White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, and Two or more races at grade 8 in Rhode Island and the nation.

**Table
4**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by race/ethnicity, year, and jurisdiction: 2011

Race/ethnicity, year, and jurisdiction	Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent			
			Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced
White						
2011 Nation (public)	54 *	163 *	21	79	43	2
Rhode Island	68	161	23	77	40	2
Black						
2011 Nation (public)	16 *	128	64	36	9	#
Rhode Island	7	122	67	33	10	#
Hispanic						
2011 Nation (public)	22 *	136 *	52 *	48 *	16 *	#
Rhode Island	19	120	68	32	5	#
Asian						
2011 Nation (public)	5 *	160	25	75	42	3
Rhode Island	3	152	38	62	36	3
American Indian/Alaska Native						
2011 Nation (public)	1	141	48	52	19	1
Rhode Island	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander						
2011 Nation (public)	# *	138	49	51	17	#
Rhode Island	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races						
2011 Nation (public)	2 *	155	31	69	34	3
Rhode Island	2	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same group in Rhode Island.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2011 Science Assessment.

Gender

Information on student gender is reported by the student's school when rosters of the students eligible to be assessed are submitted to NAEP.

Table 5 shows average scores and achievement-level data for public school students at grade 8 in Rhode Island and the nation, by gender.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Gender

- In 2011, male students in Rhode Island had an average score in science (151) that was higher than that of female students (146). In 2009, male students in Rhode Island had an average score in science (149) that was higher than that of female students (143).
- In 2011, male students in Rhode Island had an average scale score in science (151) that was not significantly different from that of male students in public schools across the nation (153). Similarly, female students in Rhode Island had an average scale score (146) that was not significantly different from that of female students across the nation (148).
- In Rhode Island, the average scale score of male students in 2011 was not significantly different from the score of male students in 2009.
- In Rhode Island, the average scale score of female students in 2011 was not significantly different from the score of female students in 2009.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Gender

- In the 2011 assessment, 34 percent of male students and 27 percent of female students performed at or above *Proficient* in Rhode Island. The difference between these percentages was statistically significant.
- The percentage of male students in Rhode Island's public schools who were at or above *Proficient* in 2011 (34 percent) was not significantly different from that of male students in the nation (34 percent).
- The percentage of female students in Rhode Island's public schools who were at or above *Proficient* in 2011 (27 percent) was not significantly different from that of female students in the nation (27 percent).
- In Rhode Island, the percentage of male students performing at or above *Proficient* in 2011 was greater than the percentage of students in 2009.
- In Rhode Island, the percentage of female students performing at or above *Proficient* in 2011 was greater than the percentage of students in 2009.

**Table
5**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by gender, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

Gender, year, and jurisdiction		Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent			
				Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced
Male							
2009	Nation (public)	51	151 *	36 *	64 *	32 *	2
	Rhode Island	51	149	38	62	30 *	1
2011	Nation (public)	51	153	34	66	34	2
	Rhode Island	52	151	34	66	34	2
Female							
2009	Nation (public)	49	147 *	40 *	60 *	26 *	1
	Rhode Island	49	143	45	55	22 *	1
2011	Nation (public)	49	148	38	62	27	1
	Rhode Island	48	146	39	61	27	1

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction and student group in 2011.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

Student Eligibility for the National School Lunch Program

NAEP collects data on eligibility for the federal program providing free or reduced-price school lunches. The free/reduced-price lunch component of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is designed to ensure that children near or below the poverty line receive nourishing meals. Eligibility is determined through the USDA's Income Eligibility Guidelines, and results for this category of students are included as an indicator of lower family income.

Table 6 shows average scores and achievement-level data for public school students at grade 8 in Rhode Island and the nation, by student eligibility for the NSLP.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Free/Reduced-Price School Lunch Eligibility

- In 2011, students in Rhode Island eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average science scale score of 131. This was lower than that of students in Rhode Island not eligible for this program (162).
- In 2011, students in Rhode Island who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible by 31 points. In 2009, the average score for students in Rhode Island who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch was lower than the score of those not eligible by 31 points.
- Students in Rhode Island eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average scale score (131) in 2011 that was lower than that of students in the nation who were eligible (137).
- In Rhode Island, students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch had an average science scale score in 2011 that was higher than that of eligible students in 2009.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Free/Reduced-Price School Lunch Eligibility

- In Rhode Island, 14 percent of students who were eligible for free/reduced-price lunch and 43 percent of those who were not eligible for this program performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011. These percentages were significantly different from one another.
- For students in Rhode Island in 2011 who were eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, the percentage at or above *Proficient* (14 percent) was smaller than the corresponding percentage for their counterparts around the nation (16 percent).
- In Rhode Island, the percentage of students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 was greater than the percentage in 2009.

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**Table
6**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by National School Lunch Program eligibility status, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

Eligibility status, year, and jurisdiction	Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent				
			Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced	
Eligible							
2009	Nation (public)	43 *	133 *	57 *	43 *	14 *	#
	Rhode Island	37 *	127 *	64 *	36 *	9 *	#
2011	Nation (public)	48	137	52	48	16	#
	Rhode Island	41	131	57	43	14	#
Not eligible							
2009	Nation (public)	56 *	161 *	24 *	76 *	41 *	2
	Rhode Island	63 *	157 *	27 *	73 *	36 *	2
2011	Nation (public)	52	164	20	80	44	3
	Rhode Island	59	162	22	78	43	2

See notes at end of table.

**Table
6**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by National School Lunch Program eligibility status, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011—Continued

Eligibility status, year, and jurisdiction	Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent				
			Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced	
Information not available							
2009	Nation (public)	1 *	150	36	64	32	1
	Rhode Island	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
2011	Nation (public)	#	143	46	54	22	1
	Rhode Island	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction and student group in 2011.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

Type of Location

Schools that participated in the assessment were classified as being located in four mutually exclusive types of communities: city, suburb, town, and rural. These categories indicate the geographic locations of schools. "City" is a geographical term meaning the principal city of a U.S. Census Bureau-defined Core-Based Statistical Area and is not synonymous with "inner city." More detail on the classification of type of location is available at http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/Rural_Locales.asp.

Table 7 shows average scores and achievement-level data for public school students at grade 8 in Rhode Island and the nation, by type of location.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Type of Location

- In 2011, the average scale score of students in Rhode Island attending public schools in city locations was lower than the scores of students in suburban and rural schools.
- In 2011, students attending public schools in rural locations in Rhode Island had an average scale score that was higher than the average scale score of students in rural locations in the nation.
- In 2011, students attending public schools in city locations in Rhode Island had an average scale score that was lower than the average scale score of students in city locations in the nation.
- In 2011, students attending public schools in suburban locations in Rhode Island had an average scale score that was not significantly different from the average scale score of students in suburban locations in the nation.
- In 2011, students attending public schools in suburban locations in Rhode Island had an average scale score that was higher than the average scale score of students in suburban locations in 2009 in Rhode Island.
- In 2011, students attending public schools in city and rural locations in Rhode Island had average scale scores that were not significantly different from the average scale scores of students in city and rural locations in 2009 in Rhode Island.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Type of Location

- In 2011, the percentage of students in Rhode Island's public schools in city locations who performed at or above *Proficient* was smaller than the corresponding percentages of students in suburban and rural schools.
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island's public schools in city locations who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 was smaller than those of students in city locations in the nation.
- The percentages of students in Rhode Island's public schools in suburban and rural locations who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 were not significantly different from those of students in suburban and rural locations in the nation.
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island's public schools in suburban locations who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 was greater than that of students in suburban locations in 2009 in Rhode Island.
- The percentages of students in Rhode Island's public schools in city and rural locations who performed at or above *Proficient* in 2011 were not significantly different from those of students in city and rural locations in 2009 in Rhode Island.

**Table
7**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by type of location, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

Type of location, year, and jurisdiction	Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent				
			Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced	
City							
2009	Nation (public)	27*	139*	50*	50*	21	1
	Rhode Island	30	133	57	43	16	#
2011	Nation (public)	29	142	47	53	23	1
	Rhode Island	30	133	53	47	17	#
Suburb							
2009	Nation (public)	37	152*	34*	66*	33	2
	Rhode Island	46*	148*	40*	60*	27*	2
2011	Nation (public)	36	155	31	69	35	2
	Rhode Island	53	154	32	68	36	2
Town							
2009	Nation (public)	14	149*	37*	63*	28	1
	Rhode Island	3	163	17	83	46	#
2011	Nation (public)	13	152	34	66	30	1
	Rhode Island	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Rural							
2009	Nation (public)	23	154*	31*	69*	33	1
	Rhode Island	21*	159	24	76	37	2
2011	Nation (public)	23	156	29	71	35	1
	Rhode Island	17	161	23	77	38	1

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction and student group in 2011.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

Parents' Highest Level of Education

Eighth-grade students who participated in the 2011 NAEP assessment were asked to indicate the highest level of education they thought their father and their mother had completed. Five response options—did not finish high school, graduated from high school, some education after high school, graduated from college, and "I don't know"—were offered. The highest level of education reported for either parent was used in the analysis.

The results by highest level of parental education are shown in table 8.

Grade 8 Scale Score Results by Parents' Highest Level of Education

- In 2011, students in Rhode Island who reported that a parent had graduated from college had an average scale score that was higher than the average scores of students with a parent in any of the following education categories: some education after high school, graduated from high school, and did not finish high school.
- In 2011, the average scale score for students in Rhode Island who reported that a parent had some education after high school was lower than the score of students in the nation.
- In 2011, the average scale scores for students in Rhode Island who reported that a parent had graduated from college, had graduated from high school, or had not finished high school were not significantly different from the corresponding scores of students in the nation.
- In 2011, the average scale scores for students in Rhode Island who reported that a parent had graduated from college or had graduated from high school were higher than the corresponding scores of students in 2009.
- In 2011, the average scale scores for students in Rhode Island who reported that a parent had some education after high school or had not finished high school were not significantly different from the corresponding scores of students in 2009.

Grade 8 Achievement-Level Results by Parents' Highest Level of Education

- In 2011, the percentage of students performing at or above *Proficient* in Rhode Island who reported that a parent had graduated from college was greater than the percentage for students whose parents' highest level of education was in any of the following education categories: some education after high school, graduated from high school, and did not finish high school.
- In 2011, the percentages of students in Rhode Island reporting that a parent had graduated from college, had some education after high school, had graduated from high school, or had not finished high school and who performed at or above *Proficient* were not significantly different from the corresponding percentages of students in the nation.
- In 2011 in Rhode Island, the respective percentages of students reporting that a parent had graduated from college, had some education after high school, had graduated from high school, or had not finished high school and who performed at or above *Proficient* were not significantly different from the corresponding percentages of students in 2009.

**Table
8**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by highest parental education level, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

Highest parental education level, year, and jurisdiction	Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent				
			Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced	
Did not finish high school							
2009	Nation (public)	8	131*	59	41	11	#
	Rhode Island	8	125	69	31	7	#
2011	Nation (public)	8	133	57	43	12	#
	Rhode Island	8	128	61	39	9	#
Graduated from high school							
2009	Nation (public)	17	139*	50	50	17	#
	Rhode Island	15	135*	54	46	14	#
2011	Nation (public)	17	140	48	52	18	#
	Rhode Island	17	141	45	55	20	#
Some education after high school							
2009	Nation (public)	17*	151*	34*	66*	29	1
	Rhode Island	16	148	38	62	25	1
2011	Nation (public)	16	153	31	69	30	1
	Rhode Island	15	148	37	63	28	#
Graduated from college							
2009	Nation (public)	47	160*	26*	74*	41*	3
	Rhode Island	50	157*	28	72	37	2
2011	Nation (public)	48	162	23	77	43	3
	Rhode Island	49	161	24	76	43	2
Unknown							
2009	Nation (public)	11	129*	61*	39*	12*	#
	Rhode Island	11	127	64	36	10	#
2011	Nation (public)	11	132	58	42	14	#
	Rhode Island	11	126	60	40	12	#

Rounds to zero.

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction and student group in 2011.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

A More Inclusive NAEP: Students With Disabilities and English Language Learners

To ensure that the samples are representative, NAEP has established policies and procedures to maximize the inclusion of all students in its assessments. Every effort is made to ensure that all selected students who are capable of participating meaningfully in an assessment are assessed. While some students with disabilities (SD) and/or English language learners (ELL) can be assessed without any special procedures, others require accommodations to participate in NAEP. Still other SD and/or ELL students selected by NAEP may not be able to participate. Providing appropriate testing accommodations (e.g., providing extended time for some SD and/or ELL students to take the assessment) removes barriers that would otherwise prevent them from demonstrating their knowledge and skills. Local school staff who are familiar with these students are asked a series of questions to help them decide whether each student should participate in the assessment and whether the student needs accommodations.

In March 2010, the Governing Board adopted a new policy, NAEP Testing and Reporting on Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners. The policy defines specific inclusion goals for NAEP samples. At the national, state, and district levels, the goal is to include 95 percent of all students selected for the NAEP samples, and 85 percent of those in the NAEP sample who are identified as SD or ELL. See the National Assessment Governing Board's policy on NAEP Testing and Reporting on Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners at [http://www.nagb.org/policies/PoliciesPDFs/Reporting and Dissemination/naep_testandreport_studentswithdisabilities.pdf](http://www.nagb.org/policies/PoliciesPDFs/Reporting%20and%20Dissemination/naep_testandreport_studentswithdisabilities.pdf).

Table 9 displays data for eighth-grade students in Rhode Island who were identified as SD and/or ELL, by whether they were excluded, assessed with accommodations, or assessed under standard conditions, as a percent of all eighth-grade students in the state.

Table 10 shows the percentages of students assessed in Rhode Island by disability status and their performance on the NAEP assessment in terms of average scores and percentages performing below *Basic*, at or above *Basic*, at or above *Proficient*, and at *Advanced* for grade 8.

Table 11 presents the percentages of students assessed in Rhode Island by ELL status, their average scores, and their performance in terms of the percentages below *Basic*, at or above *Basic*, at or above *Proficient*, and at *Advanced* for grade 8.

Table 12 presents the total number of grade 8 students assessed in each of the participating states and the percentage of students sampled who were excluded.

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**Table
9**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students identified as students with disabilities (SD) and/or English language learners (ELL) excluded and assessed in NAEP science as a percentage of all students, by assessment year and testing status: 2009 and 2011

Year and testing status		SD and/or ELL		SD		ELL	
		Rhode Island	Nation (public)	Rhode Island	Nation (public)	Rhode Island	Nation (public)
2009	Identified	21	18	18	13	3	6
	Excluded	3	2	2	2	1	1
	Assessed without accommodations	4	5	4	2	1	3
	Assessed with accommodations	14	10	12	9	1	2
2011	Identified	19	18	16	13	3	6
	Excluded	1	2	#	2	#	#
	Assessed without accommodations	4	5	3	2	1	3
	Assessed with accommodations	14	11	13	9	2	2

Rounds to zero.

NOTE: Students identified as both SD and ELL were counted only once under the combined SD and/or ELL category, but were counted separately under the SD and ELL categories. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

**Table
10**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by students with disabilities (SD) status, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

SD status, year, and jurisdiction		Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent			
				Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced
SD							
2009	Nation (public)	11	122	67	33	11	#
	Rhode Island	16	117*	73	27	7	#
2011	Nation (public)	11	124	66	34	11	#
	Rhode Island	16	124	66	34	10	#
Not SD							
2009	Nation (public)	89	152*	34*	66*	31*	2
	Rhode Island	84	152	35	65	30*	1
2011	Nation (public)	89	154	32	68	33	2
	Rhode Island	84	154	31	69	35	2

Rounds to zero.

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction and student group in 2011.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities in the NAEP samples and by differences in sample sizes. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

**Table
11**

Percentage of eighth-grade public school students, average scale score, and achievement-level results in NAEP science, by English language learner (ELL) status, year, and jurisdiction: 2009 and 2011

ELL status, year, and jurisdiction		Percentage of students	Average scale score	Percent			
				Below Basic	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced
ELL							
2009	Nation (public)	5	103	86	14	2	#
	Rhode Island	2*	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
2011	Nation (public)	6	106	83	17	2	#
	Rhode Island	3	75	97	3	#	#
Not ELL							
2009	Nation (public)	95	151*	35*	65*	31*	1
	Rhode Island	98*	147*	40*	60*	26*	1
2011	Nation (public)	94	153	33	67	33	2
	Rhode Island	97	151	35	65	32	1

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Value is significantly different ($p < .05$) from the value for the same jurisdiction and student group in 2011.

NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 science scale ranges from 0 to 300. Achievement levels correspond to the following points on the NAEP science scales: below *Basic*, 140 or lower; *Basic*, 141–169; *Proficient*, 170–214; and *Advanced*, 215 and above. At or above *Basic* includes *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. At or above *Proficient* includes *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for English language learners in the NAEP samples and by differences in sample sizes. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. All differences were calculated and tested using unrounded numbers.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Science Assessments.

**Table
12**

Number of eighth-grade public school students assessed in NAEP science and weighted percentage excluded, by state/jurisdiction: 2011

State/jurisdiction	Number assessed	Weighted percentage excluded
Nation (public)	119,600	2
Alabama	2,300	1
Alaska	2,100	1
Arizona	2,300	1
Arkansas	2,300	1
California	2,500	2
Colorado	1,900	1
Connecticut	2,200	1
Delaware	2,300	2
Florida	2,300	1
Georgia	2,400	2
Hawaii	2,400	2
Idaho	2,400	1
Illinois	3,500	1
Indiana	2,300	1
Iowa	2,200	1
Kansas	2,300	1
Kentucky	3,200	3
Louisiana	2,200	1
Maine	2,200	2
Maryland	2,300	2
Massachusetts	2,300	3
Michigan	2,200	3
Minnesota	2,500	2
Mississippi	2,100	1
Missouri	2,100	1
Montana	2,200	2
Nebraska	2,200	1
Nevada	2,300	1
New Hampshire	2,200	2
New Jersey	2,200	1
New Mexico	2,800	2
New York	3,400	1
North Carolina	2,600	2
North Dakota	1,900	3
Ohio	2,300	2
Oklahoma	2,100	3
Oregon	2,400	2
Pennsylvania	2,300	1
Rhode Island	2,300	1
South Carolina	2,300	1
South Dakota	2,600	1
Tennessee	2,400	1
Texas	2,700	2
Utah	2,400	2
Vermont	1,800	1
Virginia	2,300	3
Washington	2,600	2
West Virginia	2,300	2
Wisconsin	2,100	2
Wyoming	1,800	1
Other jurisdictions		
District of Columbia	2,500	1
DoDEA ¹	1,400	1

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

NOTE: The number of students assessed is rounded to the nearest hundred.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2011 Science Assessment.

Where to Find More Information

The NAEP Science Assessment

The latest news about the NAEP 2011 science assessment and the national results can be found on the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/science>. The individual snapshot reports for each participating state and other jurisdictions are also available in the state results section of the website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>.

The Nation's Report Card: Science 2011 may be ordered or downloaded at the NAEP website.

The *Science Framework for the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress*, on which this assessment is based, is available at the National Assessment Governing Board website at <http://www.nagb.org/publications/frameworks/science-2011.pdf>.

The NAEP Data Explorer (NDE)

The interactive database at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/> includes student, teacher, and school variables for all participating states and other jurisdictions, the nation, and the other four regions. Data tables are also available for each jurisdiction, with all background questions cross-tabulated with the major demographic variables. Users can design and create tables and can perform tests of statistical significance at this website.

Technical Documentation on the Web (TDW)

The Technical documentation section of the NAEP website <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tdw/> contains information about the technical procedures and methods of NAEP. The TDW site is organized by topic (from Item Development through Analysis and Scaling) with subtopics, including information specific to a particular assessment. The content is written for researchers and assumes knowledge of educational measurement and testing.

Publications on the inclusion of students with disabilities and English language learners

References for a variety of research publications related to the assessment of students with special needs may be found at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/inclusion.asp#research>.

To order publications

Recent NAEP publications related to science are listed on the science page of the NAEP website and are available electronically. Publications can also be ordered from

Education Publications Center (ED Pubs)
U.S. Department of Education
P.O. Box 22207
Alexandria, VA 22304

Call toll free: 1-877-4ED-Pubs (1-877-433-7827)
TTY/TDD: 1-877-576-7734
FAX: 1-301-470-1244
Order online at: <http://www.edpubs.gov>.

The NAEP State Report Generator was developed for the NAEP 2011 reports by Phillip Leung, Bobby Rampey, Rebecca Moran, Shu-Kang Chen, Rick Hasney, and Ming Kuang.

What is the Nation's Report Card™?

The Nation's Report Card™ informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. NAEP collects and reports information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, making the assessment an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only academic achievement data and related background information are collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected.

NAEP is a congressionally authorized project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. The Commissioner of Education Statistics is responsible for carrying out the NAEP project. The National Assessment Governing Board oversees and sets policy for NAEP.

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