

NAEP 2013 Reading Grade 8

South Dakota still above national average

Reading Grade 8 Highlights:

- South Dakota's average scale score (268) remained **higher** than the national average (266) on the NAEP 8th grade reading assessment.
- South Dakota's average scale score (268) was **higher** than 16 other states, **lower** than 12 states and **not significantly different** from 21 states.
- 36% of South Dakota's students scored **at or above Proficient** in 2013, not significantly different from the national average of 34%.
- 64% of South Dakota's Native American students scored **at or above Basic** on NAEP in 2013. This was **higher** than the 52% who did so in 2011.
- The achievement gap between white and Native American students was **smaller** in 2013 (21 pts) than in 2011 (29 pts).

What is NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is administered in South Dakota every other year and measures what students know and can do in math and reading. From January to March 2013, approximately 3,000 South Dakota 8th graders in two-thirds of middle schools participated in NAEP in reading. Student performance is reported as an average scale score based on the NAEP reading scale, which ranges from 0 to 500.

How did we do in 2013?

South Dakota's 8th grade reading scores have been mostly flat since 2003, while the national average has been increasing. South Dakota, however, remains higher than the national average (**Figure 1**).

Although South Dakota's average scale score is higher than the national average, our ranking compared to other states has fallen since 2003. In 2013, South Dakota scored higher than 16 states, but in 2003, South Dakota scored higher than 37 states and lower than only one.

The achievement gap between Native American and white 8th graders on NAEP reading is the smallest it has ever been. Native American students scored seven points higher in 2013 (251) than in 2011 (244), while white 8th graders' scores remained flat. The gap in 2013 (21 points) is the smallest it has ever been.

NAEP reading scores for South Dakota 8th graders identified as having a disability have not changed in ten years. There was a 44-point achievement gap between those with a disability and those without.

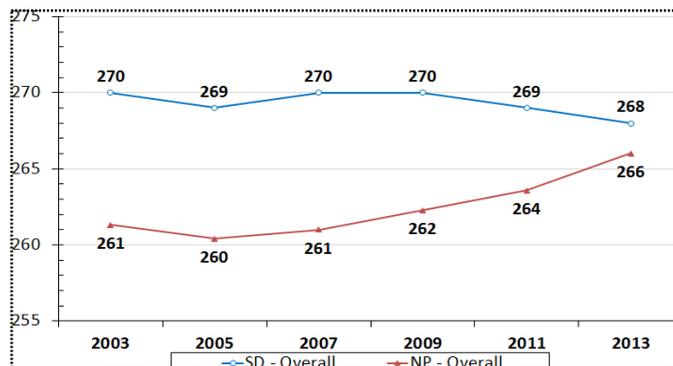


Figure 1:
Average scale scores across time for South Dakota and the national public

Students who were eligible for the National School Lunch Program, an indicator of family income, had an average scale score that was 15 points lower than students who were not eligible.

For more information, visit:

<http://doe.sd.gov/oats/NAEP.aspx>

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What is on the test?

Two types of texts:

- Informational: includes exposition, persuasive and procedural
- Literary: includes fiction, literary nonfiction and poetry

On the 8th grade reading assessment, 55 percent of the passages are informational and 45 percent are literary. Passages range from 400 to 1,000 words, with 40 percent of the questions being multiple choice and 60 percent constructed response (both short and extended).

What do informational texts look like?

Below is a selection from the 8th grade NAEP. The entire passage students read for the assessment was approximately 700 words long.

FUN by Suzanne Britt Jordan

I don't mean to put a damper on things. I just mean we ought to treat fun reverently. It is a mystery. It cannot be caught like an animal. The god of mirth is paying us back for all those years of thinking fun was everywhere by refusing to come to our party. I don't want to blaspheme fun anymore. When fun comes in on little dancing feet, you probably won't be expecting it. In fact, I bet it comes when you're doing your duty, your job, or your work. It may even come on Tuesday.

The following is a question based on this passage:

On page 4, when the author tells us to “treat fun **reverently**,” she is encouraging us to

- A. look forward to having fun
- B. have great respect for fun
- C. teach others how to have fun
- D. have fun less frequently

Forty-eight percent of South Dakota students answered this question correctly.

What do literary texts look like?

The following are sections from 8th grade reading passages on NAEP. In this selection, fiction was used together with nonfiction.

Meet the author: E. B. White

"I have a lot of the cat in me," said author E. B. White, "and cats are not joiners." Perhaps that is why White, one of the country's greatest writers, is so hard to label. His essays for *The New Yorker* appealed to an urbane crowd, but he is best remembered for his children's books. He loved the bustle of New York City, but was happy raising chickens on a Maine farm. And just when critics thought they had him pegged as a benign satirist, he'd write a biting condemnation of the dangers of technology.

Twins by E. B. White

On a warm, miserable morning last week we went up to the Bronx Zoo to see the moose calf and to break in a new pair of black shoes. We encountered better luck than we had bargained for. The cow moose and her young one were standing near the wall of the deer park below the monkey house, and in order to get a better view we strolled down to the lower end of the park, by the brook. The path there is not much traveled. As we approached the corner where the brook trickles under the wire fence, we noticed a red deer getting to her feet. Beside her, on legs that were just learning their business, was a spotted fawn, as small and perfect as a trinket seen through a reducing glass.

The following is a question based on these passages:

Explain what the essay “Twins” shows about E.B. White as a person. Support your answer with details from both the essay and the biographical sketch.

Constructed response items are graded using a rubric that focuses on the content of the answer, not spelling or grammar. Students can receive partial credit for responses.

Extensive

Responses scored at this level provide a generalization about White's character that could be inferred from the essay (e.g. White loved animals, observant), and use details from both passages that support the generalization.

Essential

Responses scored at this level explain what the essay shows about E.B. White as a person and support the answer with related details from the essay only.

Thirty-nine percent of South Dakota students' answers to this question were scored Extensive or Essential. The remainder were scored Partial or Unsatisfactory.

Where can I get more information?

These sites offer NAEP data analysis:

- [NAEP Data Explorer](#)
- [Nationsreportcard.gov](#)

Released questions can be viewed and turned into classroom tests with the [NAEP Questions Tool](#).

Contact Alan Haarstad at Alan.Haarstad@state.sd.us with questions about NAEP or these online tools.

Released NAEP items, as well as other state and teacher developed assessment resources, can also be found on the [South Dakota Assessment Portal](#).

For more information on the South Dakota Assessment Portal, contact Matt Gill at Matthew.Gill@state.sd.us