



NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



NATION'S REPORT CARD SHOWS CONTINUED PROGRESS

Achievement Gap Continues To Narrow As Student Population Becomes More Diverse

"These results, like the long-term July data, confirm that we are on the right track with No Child Left Behind, particularly with younger students who have benefited from the core principles of annual assessment and disaggregation of data. The results in fourth grade are particularly encouraging, and we are truly heartened by the continued narrowing of the achievement gap.

"It's notable that as our student population has become increasingly diverse, the scores have continued to rise, and it's no accident. It is a tribute to the hard work of classroom teachers, school principals and local policymakers. These results clearly show a need to apply principles of accountability in middle and high schools."

—Secretary Margaret Spellings

Newest Nation's Report Card Shows Steady Growth And Progress

- The latest Nation's Report Card, released today, shows steady growth and gains by America's schoolchildren, particularly among younger and minority students. The results, from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2005 benchmark exam of fourth- and eighth-graders, confirm that real progress is being made in helping to ensure that the promise of *No Child Left Behind* is realized for millions of young Americans.

Closing The Achievement Gap And Realizing The Promise Of NCLB

- Signed into law in 2002, the *No Child Left Behind Act* is working to bring all students up to grade level in reading and math, to close the nation's achievement gaps within a decade, and to hold schools accountable for results through annual assessments. Under NCLB, students in grades 3-8 are tested annually with one additional test administered in high school. The NAEP results show that achievement gaps continue to narrow even as student populations become more diverse.
- Highlights:
 - The achievement gap between white and Hispanic fourth-graders narrowed, reaching an all-time low in reading and matching its all-time low in math.
 - The achievement gaps in eighth-grade math between white and African American students, and between white and Hispanic students, narrowed to their lowest points since 1990.
 - The achievement gap between white and Hispanic students in eighth-grade reading narrowed to its lowest point since 1998.
 - In fourth-grade reading, more progress was made from 2000 to 2005 (up 6 points) than from 1992 to 2000 (down 4 points), driven by gains among Hispanic (up 13 points) and African American students (up 10 points).
 - In fourth-grade math, nearly as much progress was made from 2000 to 2005 (up 12 points) as from 1990 to 2000 (up 13 points), driven by gains among Hispanic (up 18 points) and African American students (up 17 points).
 - Since 2003, African American and Hispanic fourth-graders have made significant gains in both math (up 4 points each) and reading (up 2 points each).

For more information, visit www.ed.gov or call 1-800-USA-LEARN.

Continued Academic Progress

- The Nation's Report Card, with state-by-state data, echoes the positive results shown by NAEP's Long-Term Trend data, released in July 2005. The new results show across-the-board improvements in mathematics and in fourth-grade reading, with African American and Hispanic students posting all-time highs in a number of categories. Across the country, a majority of states improved academically or held steady.
- Highlights:
 - Overall fourth-grade and eighth-grade math scores rose to all-time highs.
 - Overall fourth-grade reading scores matched the all-time high.
 - African American fourth-graders posted the highest reading and math scores in the history of the test.
 - Hispanic fourth-graders posted the highest reading and math scores in the history of the test.
 - African American eighth-graders posted the highest math scores in the history of the test.
 - Hispanic eighth-graders posted the highest math scores in the history of the test.
 - In fourth- and eighth-grade math, higher percentages of white, African American, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander students performed at or above "proficient" levels as defined by NAEP than in any previous year.
 - Forty-three states and the District of Columbia either improved academically or held steady in all categories – fourth- and eighth-grade reading and fourth- and eighth-grade math.

More Work To Be Done

- The Nation's Report Card, with state-by-state data, shows across-the-board gains in mathematics and significant improvements in reading. However, the results suggest that more intensive instruction is needed to help older students stay on track. More work remains to be done. But thanks to *No Child Left Behind*, states and school districts now know what works and where to focus their efforts. We must now extend its high academic standards, accountability and assessments to every grade level so that *all* students can realize their full potential in high school and beyond.

About The Nation's Report Card

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), commonly known as the Nation's Report Card, is the yardstick used to measure learning in each state and across the country. By providing policymakers with data about what works, it helps them make informed decisions that will help more students learn. Through two components, the long-term trend assessment (released every five years) and the main and state-by-state assessment (now released every two years), the Nation's Report Card measures what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. The 2005 main assessment, released today, includes national and state-by-state scores for 338,000 fourth-graders and 321,000 eighth-graders tested in reading, mathematics, and other subjects. The NAEP is carried out by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences in the U.S. Department of Education. It is overseen by the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), a bipartisan group of governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, educators, business representatives, and members of the general public.

For More Information:

- Please visit <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>