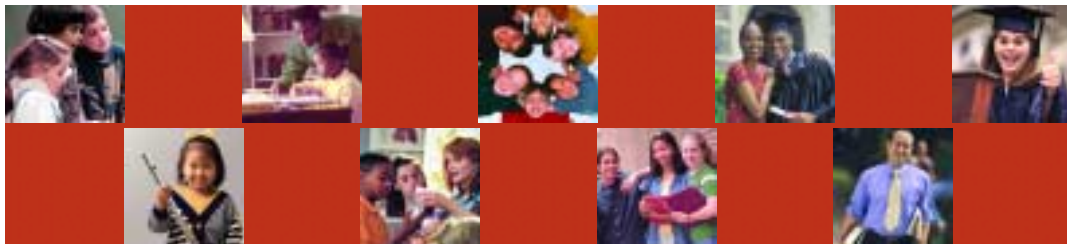


the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 13

Geography Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2003067>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education 2003*, NCES 2003-067, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2003.

Academic Outcomes

Geography Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

The performance of 4th- and 8th-graders in geography increased from 1994 to 2001, while no differences were detected in the performance of 12th-graders. In 2001, 21 percent of 4th-graders, 30 percent of 8th-graders, and 25 percent of 12th-graders were at or above the Proficient level.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessed 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-grade student performance in geography in 1994 and 2001. The average scale scores of 4th- and 8th-graders increased from 1994 to 2001 (from 206 to 209 and from 260 to 262, respectively), while there was no significant change in the scale score at grade 12 (see supplemental table 13-1).

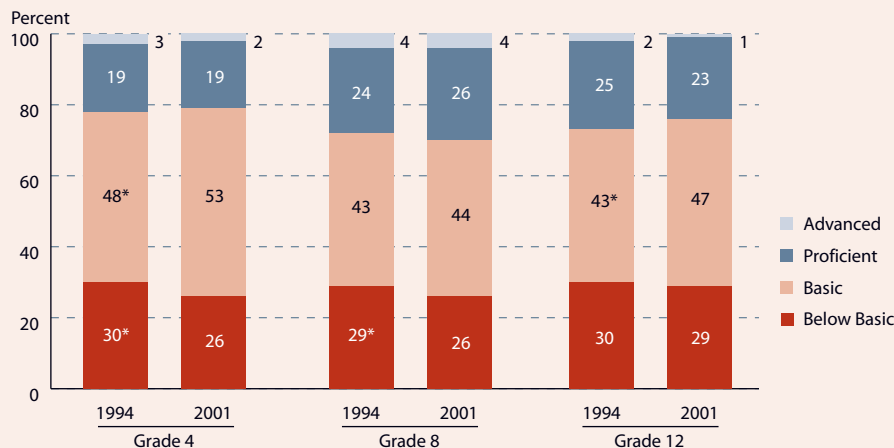
Achievement levels, which identify what students should know and be able to do in each grade, provide another measure of student performance. In 2001, 21 percent of 4th-graders, 30 percent of 8th-graders, and 25 percent of 12th-graders were at or above the *Proficient* level, which is defined as “solid academic performance for each grade assessed.” At grades 4 and 8, the percentage of students below *Basic* decreased from 1994 to 2001. At grade 12, no significant differences were detected in the percentages of students performing at any of the achievement levels.

Scores at the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th, and 90th percentiles reveal changes in scale scores for lower- and higher-performing students. Fourth- and 8th-graders at the two lowest percentiles scored higher

in 2001 than in 1994. At grade 12, there were no significant differences in scores at any of these percentile levels between 1994 and 2001.

Certain subgroups outperformed other subgroups in 2001. At all three grade levels, males had higher scores than females. At grade 4, White students had higher average scores than their peers from all other racial/ethnic groups, and Asian/Pacific Islander students outperformed Black, Hispanic, and American Indian students. At grade 8, White students had higher average scores than Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander students. In addition, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian students outperformed Black and Hispanic students. At grade 12, White, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian students had higher average scores than Black or Hispanic students. At all three grades, students in lower poverty schools outperformed students in higher poverty schools, as measured by the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. In addition, in grades 8 and 12, students whose parents had higher levels of education scored higher than their peers whose parents had less education (see supplemental table 13-2).

GEOGRAPHY PERFORMANCE: Percentage distribution of students performing at each geography achievement level, by grade: 1994 and 2001



*Significantly different from 2001.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. For more information, see supplemental note 4.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *The Nation's Report Card: Geography 2001* (NCES 2002-484), table B.3. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1994 and 2001 Geography Assessments.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 4
Supplemental Tables 13-1, 13-2



Geography Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

Table 13-1. Average geography scale score by percentile and percentage of students at or above each geography achievement level, by grade: 1994 and 2001

Percentile and achievement level	Grade 4		Grade 8		Grade 12	
	1994	2001	1994	2001	1994	2001
	Average scale score					
Total	206*	209	260*	262	285	285
Percentile						
10th	146*	158	213*	217	244	247
25th	179*	185	237*	241	265	267
50th	211	212	263	265	287	287
75th	237	236	285	286	306	305
90th	257	254	302	303	321	319
	Percentage at achievement level					
Below Basic	30*	26	29*	26	30	29
At or above Basic	70*	74	71*	74	70	71
At or above Proficient	22	21	28	30	27	25
At Advanced	3	2	4	4	2	1

*Significantly different from 2001.

NOTE: See *supplemental note 4* for more information on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *The Nation's Report Card: Geography 2001* (NCES 2002-484), tables B.1, B.2, and B.3. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1994 and 2001 Geography Assessments.

Geography Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

Table 13-2. Average geography scale score of 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-graders, by selected student and school characteristics: 2001

Student and school characteristics	Average scale score		
	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 12
Total	209	262	285
Sex			
Male	212	264	287
Female	207	260	282
Race/ethnicity ¹			
American Indian	199	261	288
Asian/Pacific Islander	212	266	286
Black	181	234	260
White	222	273	291
Hispanic	184	240	270
Parents' education			
Less than high school	—	241	269
High school diploma or equivalent	—	253	276
Some college, including vocational/technical	—	266	284
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	274	293
Control			
Public	207	261	284
Private	226	274	291
Location			
Central city	199	255	279
Urban fringe/large town	212	265	288
Rural/small town	215	265	284
Percent of students in school eligible for free or reduced-price lunch			
0–10	230	278	294
11–25	223	269	286
26–50	214	263	282
51–75	198	248	268
76–100	176	232	260

—Not available.

¹American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: See *supplemental note 4* for more information on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). See *supplemental note 1* for information on parents' education and location.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *The Nation's Report Card: Geography 2001* (NCES 2002–484), tables B.1, B.4, B.7, B.12, B.14, and B.16, and previously unpublished tabulation (October 2002). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2001 Geography Assessment.

Geography Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

Table S13. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of students performing at each geography achievement level, by grade: 1994 and 2001

Achievement level	Grade 4		Grade 8		Grade 12	
	1994	2001	1994	2001	1994	2001
Below Basic	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Basic	1.0	1.4	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9
Proficient	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.0
Advanced	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *The Nation's Report Card: Geography 2001* (NCES 2002-484), table B.3. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1994 and 2001 Geography Assessments.

Geography Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

Table S13-1. Standard errors for the average geography scale score by percentile and percentage of students at or above each geography achievement level, by grade: 1994 and 2001

Percentile and achievement level	Grade 4		Grade 8		Grade 12	
	1994	2001	1994	2001	1994	2001
	Average scale score					
Total	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.8
Percentile						
10th	1.9	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.7
25th	1.5	1.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.2
50th	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.9
75th	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9
90th	2.0	0.9	1.9	1.2	1.0	1.0
	Percentage at achievement level					
Below Basic	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
At or above Basic	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
At or above Proficient	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.1
At Advanced	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.3

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *The Nation's Report Card: Geography 2001* (NCES 2002-484), tables B.1, B.2, and B.3. Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1994 and 2001 Geography Assessments.

Geography Performance of Students in Grades 4, 8, and 12

Table S13-2. Standard errors for the average geography scale score of 4th-, 8th-, and 12th-graders, by selected student and school characteristics: 2001

Student and school characteristics	Average scale score		
	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 12
Total	1.0	0.9	0.8
Sex			
Male	1.1	1.0	0.9
Female	1.2	1.1	0.8
Race/ethnicity			
American Indian	3.6	5.8	3.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7	2.5	2.9
Black	1.8	1.7	1.4
White	1.0	1.0	0.9
Hispanic	2.8	1.7	1.5
Parents' education			
Less than high school	—	1.7	1.7
High school diploma or equivalent	—	1.2	0.9
Some college, including vocational/technical	—	1.0	0.9
Bachelor's degree or higher	—	0.9	1.1
Control			
Public	1.1	1.0	0.8
Private	2.2	2.5	2.3
Location			
Central city	2.3	2.0	1.6
Urban fringe/large town	2.1	1.6	1.6
Rural/small town	2.0	2.0	1.0
Percentage of students in school eligible for free or reduced-price lunch			
0–10	2.4	1.9	2.0
11–25	2.0	1.8	1.4
26–50	1.9	1.7	1.2
51–75	2.4	2.3	2.6
76–100	2.7	2.5	3.8

—Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2002). *The Nation's Report Card: Geography 2001* (NCES 2002–484), tables B.1, B.4, B.7, B.12, B.14, and B.16, and previously unpublished tabulation (October 2002). Data from U.S. Department of Education, NCES, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2001 Geography Assessment.