

Table 112.—Student proficiency in reading, by age, amount of time spent on homework, and reading habits: 1984, 1994, 1996, and 1999

Time spent on homework and reading habits	9-year-olds				13-year-olds				17-year-olds			
	1984	1994	1996	1999	1984	1994	1996	1999	1984	1994	1996	1999
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Average proficiency												
Materials read a few times a year or more												
Poems	211 (1.9)	210 (2.9)	—	—	260 (1.2)	261 (2.3)	—	—	290 (1.5)	293 (2.1)	—	—
Plays	211 (2.5)	207 (3.0)	—	—	260 (1.3)	263 (2.1)	—	—	290 (1.7)	294 (2.4)	—	—
Biographies	213 (2.4)	210 (3.4)	—	—	261 (1.3)	261 (2.1)	—	—	292 (1.4)	293 (2.4)	—	—
Science books	212 (1.6)	211 (2.6)	—	—	259 (1.2)	260 (2.1)	—	—	289 (1.4)	293 (2.4)	—	—
Books about other places	211 (1.7)	211 (2.6)	—	—	259 (1.1)	260 (2.2)	—	—	289 (1.4)	293 (2.3)	—	—
Frequency of reading for fun												
Daily	214 (1.1)	215 (2.3)	213 (2.1)	215 (2.4)	264 (1.4)	272 (3.2)	270 (3.3)	272 (3.2)	297 (1.5)	302 (4.2)	301 (5.2)	301 (4.9)
Weekly	212 (1.7)	214 (3.1)	212 (2.7)	215 (2.6)	255 (1.4)	255 (3.1)	259 (3.1)	263 (3.2)	290 (1.7)	286 (4.1)	292 (4.0)	289 (2.9)
Monthly	204 (3.3)	213 (5.8)	210 (5.2)	211 (4.2)	255 (2.1)	255 (5.7)	260 (4.5)	260 (3.7)	290 (1.8)	286 (4.5)	290 (5.6)	286 (4.8)
Yearly	197 (4.2)	—	—	—	252 (3.6)	252 (5.4)	—	253 (4.4)	280 (2.7)	281 (8.2)	285 (5.6)	283 (4.4)
Never	198 (2.7)	193 (3.9)	199 (4.5)	196 (3.3)	239 (2.7)	237 (5.1)	238 (4.7)	242 (5.3)	269 (2.4)	258 (5.2)	269 (5.0)	262 (5.0)
Time spent on homework each day												
None	213 (0.9)	213 (2.0)	210 (2.0)	210 (1.9)	254 (0.8)	250 (1.7)	256 (1.3)	251 (2.0)	276 (0.7)	273 (2.3)	273 (1.9)	275 (2.3)
Didn't do assignment	199 (2.1)	200 (4.3)	195 (5.4)	204 (4.4)	247 (1.7)	243 (5.6)	251 (3.3)	249 (4.2)	287 (1.2)	285 (2.1)	281 (2.2)	282 (3.1)
Less than 1 hour	218 (0.7)	212 (1.4)	215 (1.0)	214 (1.5)	261 (0.6)	261 (1.3)	259 (1.6)	262 (1.2)	290 (0.8)	288 (1.6)	288 (1.5)	291 (2.3)
1 to 2 hours	216 (1.3)	214 (3.0)	220 (2.2)	215 (3.2)	266 (0.7)	268 (1.7)	267 (1.6)	269 (1.6)	296 (0.8)	297 (1.7)	295 (2.1)	296 (2.0)
More than 2 hours	201 (1.8)	193 (6.1)	198 (4.7)	197 (3.5)	265 (1.2)	270 (2.4)	269 (2.3)	269 (3.0)	303 (1.1)	306 (3.1)	307 (3.4)	300 (2.8)
Percent												
Materials read a few times a year or more												
Poems	70 (1.5)	62 (2.3)	60 (1.9)	—	68 (1.3)	79 (1.4)	80 (1.9)	—	76 (1.1)	85 (2.2)	80 (1.8)	—
Plays	56 (1.4)	45 (2.2)	42 (2.3)	—	59 (1.4)	63 (2.3)	67 (2.1)	—	63 (1.0)	70 (2.1)	67 (1.6)	—
Biographies	45 (1.5)	47 (2.1)	46 (2.4)	—	62 (1.3)	68 (1.7)	65 (2.6)	—	59 (1.2)	69 (1.8)	66 (1.7)	—
Science books	84 (1.3)	87 (1.8)	83 (2.2)	—	90 (1.1)	92 (1.4)	90 (1.9)	—	70 (1.1)	84 (1.9)	82 (2.0)	—
Books about other places	79 (1.2)	79 (2.0)	78 (1.6)	—	83 (1.1)	83 (1.8)	84 (1.8)	—	81 (0.9)	82 (2.0)	81 (0.9)	—
Frequency of reading for fun												
Daily	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —
Weekly	53 (1.0)	58 (1.6)	54 (1.9)	54 (1.6)	35 (1.0)	32 (1.8)	32 (1.9)	28 (1.7)	31 (0.8)	30 (2.6)	23 (2.0)	25 (1.7)
Monthly	28 (0.8)	25 (1.5)	27 (1.8)	26 (1.5)	35 (1.2)	32 (2.1)	31 (2.1)	36 (1.7)	34 (1.1)	31 (1.9)	32 (2.7)	28 (2.7)
Yearly	7 (0.6)	5 (0.6)	8 (1.0)	6 (0.6)	14 (0.8)	14 (1.7)	15 (1.4)	17 (1.6)	17 (0.5)	15 (1.5)	17 (1.5)	19 (1.7)
Never	3 (0.3)	3 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	4 (0.7)	7 (0.5)	10 (1.2)	9 (1.2)	10 (1.2)	10 (0.5)	12 (1.5)	12 (1.6)	12 (1.4)
Time spent on homework each day												
None	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —
Didn't do assignment	36 (1.3)	32 (2.1)	26 (1.6)	26 (1.6)	23 (0.8)	23 (1.4)	22 (1.8)	24 (1.2)	22 (0.9)	23 (1.4)	23 (1.4)	26 (1.0)
Less than 1 hour	4 (0.3)	5 (0.4)	4 (0.3)	4 (0.3)	4 (0.2)	6 (0.6)	5 (0.5)	5 (0.4)	11 (0.3)	11 (0.6)	13 (0.6)	13 (0.7)
1 to 2 hours	42 (1.0)	48 (1.7)	53 (1.5)	53 (1.4)	36 (0.7)	34 (1.0)	37 (1.2)	37 (1.4)	26 (0.4)	27 (0.9)	28 (0.9)	26 (1.0)
More than 2 hours	13 (0.5)	12 (0.7)	13 (0.7)	12 (0.7)	29 (0.5)	28 (1.0)	27 (1.2)	26 (1.0)	27 (0.5)	26 (1.2)	24 (1.0)	23 (0.8)
	6 (0.2)	4 (0.4)	4 (0.3)	5 (0.5)	9 (0.3)	9 (0.7)	8 (0.9)	8 (0.8)	13 (0.6)	13 (0.9)	11 (0.7)	12 (0.9)

—Not available.

NOTE: All age groups exclude persons not enrolled in school. These test scores are from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP scores have been evaluated at certain performance levels. A score of 300 implies an ability to find, understand, summarize and explain relatively complicated literary and informational material. A score of 250 implies an ability to search for specific information, interrelate ideas, and make generalizations about literature, science, and social studies materials. A score of 200 implies an ability to understand, combine ideas, and make inferences

based on short uncomplicated passages about specific or sequentially related information. A score of 150 implies an ability to follow brief written directions and carry out simple, discrete reading tasks. Scale ranges from 0 to 500. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, *NAEP Trends in Academic Progress*, various years, by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared August 2000.)