

Table 114.—Student proficiency in reading, by age, amount of time spent on homework and reading habits: 1984, 1994, and 1996

Time spent on homework and reading habits	9-year-olds ¹			13-year-olds ¹			17-year-olds ¹		
	1984	1994	1996	1984	1994	1996	1984	1994	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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)	264 (1.4)	272 (3.2)	270 (3.3)	297 (1.5)	302 (4.2)	301 (5.2)
Weekly	212 (1.7)	214 (3.1)	212 (2.7)	255 (1.4)	255 (3.1)	259 (3.1)	290 (1.7)	286 (4.1)	292 (4.0)
Monthly	204 (3.3)	213 (5.8)	210 (5.2)	255 (2.1)	255 (5.7)	260 (4.5)	290 (1.8)	286 (4.5)	290 (5.6)
Yearly	197 (4.2)	— —	— —	252 (3.6)	252 (5.4)	— —	280 (2.7)	281 (8.2)	285 (5.6)
Never	198 (2.7)	193 (3.9)	199 (4.5)	239 (2.7)	237 (5.1)	238 (4.7)	269 (2.4)	258 (5.2)	269 (5.0)
Time spent on homework each day									
None	213 (0.9)	213 (2.0)	210 (2.0)	254 (0.8)	250 (1.7)	256 (1.3)	276 (0.7)	273 (2.3)	273 (1.9)
Didn't do assignment	199 (2.1)	200 (4.3)	195 (5.4)	247 (1.7)	243 (5.6)	251 (3.3)	287 (1.2)	285 (2.1)	281 (2.2)
Less than 1 hour	218 (0.7)	212 (1.4)	215 (1.0)	261 (0.6)	261 (1.3)	259 (1.6)	290 (0.8)	288 (1.6)	288 (1.5)
1 to 2 hours	216 (1.3)	214 (3.0)	220 (2.2)	266 (0.7)	268 (1.7)	267 (1.6)	296 (0.8)	297 (1.7)	295 (2.1)
More than 2 hours	201 (1.8)	193 (6.1)	198 (4.7)	265 (1.2)	270 (2.4)	269 (2.3)	303 (1.1)	306 (3.1)	307 (3.4)
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	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —
Daily	53 (1.0)	58 (1.6)	54 (1.9)	35 (1.0)	32 (1.8)	32 (1.9)	31 (0.8)	30 (2.6)	23 (2.0)
Weekly	28 (0.8)	25 (1.5)	27 (1.8)	35 (1.2)	32 (2.1)	31 (2.1)	34 (1.1)	31 (1.9)	32 (2.7)
Monthly	7 (0.6)	5 (0.6)	8 (1.0)	14 (0.8)	14 (1.7)	15 (1.4)	17 (0.5)	15 (1.5)	17 (1.5)
Yearly	3 (0.3)	3 (0.6)	3 (0.5)	7 (0.5)	10 (1.2)	9 (1.2)	10 (0.5)	12 (1.5)	12 (1.6)
Never	9 (0.5)	9 (0.8)	8 (0.8)	9 (0.6)	12 (1.7)	13 (1.5)	9 (0.6)	12 (1.4)	16 (2.1)
Time spent on homework each day	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —	100 —
None	36 (1.3)	32 (2.1)	26 (1.6)	23 (0.8)	23 (1.4)	22 (1.8)	22 (0.9)	23 (1.4)	23 (1.4)
Didn't do assignment	4 (0.3)	5 (0.4)	4 (0.3)	4 (0.2)	6 (0.6)	5 (0.5)	11 (0.3)	11 (0.6)	13 (0.6)
Less than 1 hour	42 (1.0)	48 (1.7)	53 (1.5)	36 (0.7)	34 (1.0)	37 (1.2)	26 (0.4)	27 (0.9)	28 (0.9)
1 to 2 hours	13 (0.5)	12 (0.7)	13 (0.7)	29 (0.5)	28 (1.0)	27 (1.2)	27 (0.5)	26 (1.2)	24 (1.0)
More than 2 hours	6 (0.2)	4 (0.4)	4 (0.3)	9 (0.3)	9 (0.7)	8 (0.9)	13 (0.6)	13 (0.9)	11 (0.7)

¹ Excludes persons not enrolled in school.
—Data not available.

NOTE.—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. Because of rounding, details may not add to totals. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, *NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress*, by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared May 1999.)