

Table 115. Average scale score in reading for 8th-graders in public schools, by locale and state or jurisdiction: 1998, 2002, 2003

State or jurisdiction	Average, 1998	2002				2003			
		Average	Locale			Average	Locale		
			Central city	Urban fringe/large town	Rural/small town		Central city	Urban fringe/large town	Rural/small town
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
United States¹	261 (0.8)	263 (0.5)	254 (0.7)	266 (0.8)	266 (0.6)	261 (0.2)	253 (0.5)	265 (0.5)	264 (0.4)
Alabama	255 (1.4)	253 (1.3)	241 (3.1)	259 (2.0)	254 (1.8)	253 (1.5)	246 (3.3)	262 (2.7)	251 (1.7)
Alaska	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	256 (1.1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Arizona	260 (1.1)	257 (1.3)	255 (1.5)	259 (3.3)	258 (2.7)	255 (1.4)	254 (1.8)	257 (2.4)	256 (3.7)
Arkansas	256 (1.3)	260 (1.1)	257 (3.3)	267 (2.8) !	259 (1.2)	258 (1.3)	257 (2.6)	263 (3.7)	257 (1.8)
California ^{2,3,4}	252 (1.6)	250 (1.8)	247 (2.7)	252 (2.3)	256 (7.5)	251 (1.3)	245 (2.2)	254 (1.8)	257 (3.4)
Colorado	264 (1.0)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	268 (1.2)	264 (2.6)	268 (2.0)	270 (1.7)
Connecticut	270 (1.0)	267 (1.2)	246 (2.1)	273 (1.5)	276 (2.0)	267 (1.1)	250 (1.7)	270 (1.6)	277 (1.7)
Delaware	254 (1.3)	267 (0.5)	264 (1.9)	268 (0.6)	266 (1.0)	265 (0.7)	259 (2.6)	265 (1.0)	266 (1.4)
District of Columbia	236 (2.1)	240 (0.9)	240 (0.9)	‡ (‡)	‡ (‡)	239 (0.8)	239 (0.8)	‡ (‡)	‡ (‡)
Florida	255 (1.4)	261 (1.6)	262 (3.5)	260 (2.1)	264 (2.4)	257 (1.3)	256 (2.7)	257 (1.8)	258 (2.7)
Georgia	257 (1.4)	258 (1.0)	254 (3.1)	259 (2.0)	258 (1.6)	258 (1.1)	242 (2.8)	259 (1.9)	259 (1.7)
Hawaii	249 (1.0)	252 (0.9)	258 (1.3)	246 (1.3)	253 (1.4)	251 (0.9)	260 (1.6)	249 (1.5)	249 (1.1)
Idaho	— (—)	266 (1.1)	270 (3.1)	264 (2.1)	270 (1.4)	264 (0.9)	265 (2.3)	260 (1.9)	265 (1.3)
Illinois	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	266 (1.0)	253 (1.8)	273 (1.6)	272 (1.8)
Indiana	— (—)	265 (1.3)	260 (2.5)	265 (1.7)	268 (2.0)	265 (1.0)	256 (2.0)	270 (1.7)	267 (1.6)
Iowa	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	268 (0.8)	261 (1.8)	275 (2.6)	268 (1.0)
Kansas ^{2,3,4}	268 (1.4)	269 (1.3)	259 (3.4)	277 (2.6)	271 (1.7)	266 (1.5)	253 (3.2)	273 (2.5)	270 (1.5)
Kentucky	262 (1.4)	265 (1.0)	267 (3.0)	267 (2.1)	264 (1.3)	266 (1.3)	268 (1.1)	264 (3.2)	267 (1.2)
Louisiana	252 (1.4)	256 (1.5)	251 (3.7)	259 (2.1)	258 (1.9)	253 (1.6)	247 (2.7)	258 (3.4)	256 (2.0)
Maine	271 (1.2)	270 (0.9)	267 (3.4)	274 (2.6)	269 (1.1)	268 (1.0)	264 (2.8)	274 (2.4)	268 (1.1)
Maryland ³	261 (1.8)	263 (1.7)	243 (3.0)	265 (2.1)	271 (2.4)	262 (1.4)	244 (3.8)	263 (1.6)	269 (4.0)
Massachusetts	269 (1.4)	271 (1.3)	253 (2.4)	276 (2.1)	281 (2.1)	273 (1.0)	256 (2.2)	279 (1.5)	279 (1.6)
Michigan	— (—)	265 (1.6)	246 (5.7)	270 (1.6)	268 (1.5)	264 (1.8)	253 (4.6)	266 (3.2)	269 (1.7)
Minnesota ^{7G52,3}	265 (1.4)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	268 (1.1)	257 (5.1)	273 (1.3)	266 (1.3)
Mississippi	251 (1.2)	255 (0.9)	252 (3.3)	262 (2.7)	253 (1.5)	255 (1.4)	249 (5.7)	260 (2.3)	255 (2.3)
Missouri	262 (1.3)	268 (1.0)	259 (3.5)	270 (1.7)	270 (1.3)	267 (1.0)	256 (3.1)	271 (1.7)	268 (1.6)
Montana ^{2,3}	271 (1.3)	270 (1.0)	271 (1.3)	273 (2.1) !	270 (1.3)	270 (1.0)	271 (1.8)	271 (3.1)	269 (1.3)
Nebraska	— (—)	270 (0.9)	265 (1.3)	271 (2.6) !	272 (1.3)	266 (0.9)	264 (1.8)	269 (2.0)	267 (1.2)
Nevada	258 (1.0)	251 (0.8)	251 (1.2)	250 (1.4)	255 (2.4)	252 (0.8)	250 (1.1)	254 (1.4)	255 (3.1)
New Hampshire	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	271 (0.9)	261 (3.1)	274 (1.2)	272 (1.3)
New Jersey	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	268 (1.2)	250 (4.0)	269 (1.4)	274 (2.5)
New Mexico	258 (1.2)	254 (1.0)	258 (2.2)	255 (1.7)	250 (1.4)	252 (0.9)	253 (1.8)	253 (1.7)	250 (1.6)
New York ^{2,3}	265 (1.5)	264 (1.5)	251 (2.2)	275 (1.9)	271 (3.6)	265 (1.3)	252 (1.8)	277 (2.1)	270 (3.2)
North Carolina	262 (1.1)	265 (1.1)	264 (2.3)	265 (2.3)	265 (1.5)	262 (1.0)	265 (1.8)	262 (2.2)	260 (1.7)
North Dakota ³	— (—)	268 (0.8)	264 (1.8)	264 (2.5) !	271 (1.1)	270 (0.8)	270 (2.0)	266 (2.1)	271 (0.9)
Ohio	— (—)	268 (1.6)	255 (4.6)	273 (1.6)	271 (1.7)	267 (1.3)	250 (1.9)	272 (2.3)	267 (1.8)
Oklahoma	265 (1.2)	262 (0.8)	258 (1.7)	265 (1.9)	262 (1.4)	262 (0.9)	257 (2.4)	267 (1.7)	261 (1.2)
Oregon ³	266 (1.5)	268 (1.3)	268 (2.8)	270 (2.4)	266 (1.8)	264 (1.2)	260 (2.9)	268 (1.9)	263 (1.9)
Pennsylvania	— (—)	265 (1.0)	243 (2.8)	273 (1.2)	269 (1.6)	264 (1.2)	246 (4.0)	270 (1.3)	266 (2.1)
Rhode Island	264 (0.9)	262 (0.8)	249 (1.1)	269 (1.1)	269 (2.0)	261 (0.7)	247 (1.3)	268 (1.2)	269 (1.7)
South Carolina	255 (1.1)	258 (1.1)	257 (2.3)	264 (1.6)	254 (1.7)	258 (1.3)	258 (2.5)	263 (2.0)	254 (1.8)
South Dakota	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	270 (0.8)	269 (1.1)	268 (2.6)	270 (1.1)
Tennessee ³	258 (1.2)	260 (1.4)	251 (2.8)	268 (2.2)	262 (1.5)	258 (1.2)	250 (2.3)	265 (1.8)	260 (1.4)
Texas	261 (1.4)	262 (1.4)	256 (2.5)	268 (2.1)	266 (3.0)	259 (1.1)	255 (1.7)	264 (1.8)	258 (2.6)
Utah	263 (1.0)	263 (1.1)	262 (2.2)	264 (1.3)	261 (3.4)	264 (0.8)	263 (2.3)	266 (0.9)	261 (1.9)
Vermont	— (—)	272 (0.9)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	271 (0.8)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Virginia	266 (1.1)	269 (1.0)	261 (2.3)	275 (1.5)	267 (1.9)	268 (1.1)	260 (1.4)	274 (1.3)	267 (2.2)
Washington ³	264 (1.2)	268 (1.2)	264 (2.4)	270 (1.9)	268 (2.2)	264 (0.9)	265 (1.7)	267 (0.9)	261 (2.0)
West Virginia	262 (1.0)	264 (1.0)	261 (2.3)	265 (2.2)	264 (1.4)	260 (1.0)	261 (2.7)	260 (2.1)	259 (1.4)
Wisconsin ^{2,3}	265 (1.8)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	266 (1.3)	255 (3.2)	275 (1.9)	268 (1.5)
Wyoming	263 (1.3)	265 (0.7)	265 (1.6)	261 (4.2)	265 (0.6)	267 (0.5)	264 (1.1)	274 (2.9)	268 (0.8)
Department of Defense dependents schools:									
Domestic schools	268 (4.5)	272 (1.0)	269 (2.3)	273 (2.3)	271 (2.4)	269 (1.4)	265 (3.6)	274 (1.9)	270 (3.3)
Overseas schools	269 1.0	273 (0.6)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	273 (0.7)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Outlying areas									
American Samoa	— (—)	198 (1.7)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Guam	— (—)	240 (1.2)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Virgin Islands	231 (2.1)	241 (1.3)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)

— Jurisdiction did not participate.

! Interpret data with caution.

‡ Sample size is insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

¹ Based on nationally representative sample. Forty-four jurisdictions (state, District of Columbia, territory, and Department of Defense overseas schools) participated in 1998; 50 jurisdictions participated in 2002; and 53 participated in 2003.

² Did not satisfy one or more of the guidelines for school sample participation rates in 1998. Data are subject to appreciable nonresponse bias.

³ Did not satisfy one or more of the guidelines for school sample participation rates in 2002. Data are subject to appreciable nonresponse bias.

⁴ Did not satisfy one or more of the guidelines for school sample participation rates in 2003. Data are subject to appreciable nonresponse bias.

NOTE: These test scores are from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Excludes persons not enrolled in school and those who were unable to be tested due to limited proficiency in English or due to a disability. Scale ranges from 0 to 500. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *National Assessment of Educational Progress, NAEP 2002 and 2003 Reading Report Cards for the Nation and the States*, prepared by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared August 2004.)