



NEWS RELEASE

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Mississippi Leads the Nation for 4th Grade Gains on National Assessment of Educational Progress

JACKSON, Miss. – Mississippi showed a significant increase in 4th grade math and reading on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), bucking the national trend of flat or declining performance.

Compared to 2013 scores, Mississippi was the only state that had a significant increase in 4th grade math, was one of 13 states that had a significant increase in 4th grade reading, and is the only state in that nation that saw significant increases in both subjects for 4th grade. Overall, 4th grade math proficiency rates rose from 26 to 30 percent, and reading proficiency increased from 21 to 26 percent. Mississippi is No. 1 for gains in the average scale score for 4th grade math.

“Mississippi is leading the nation in gains on the 4th grade NAEP assessment because of our schools’ commitment to higher academic standards, their intense focus on literacy and the hard work of students, teachers and administrators,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “These scores show we are making significant strides toward improving student outcomes.”



Chris Minnich, executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers, congratulated Mississippi for its NAEP results.

“I applaud teachers, parents and students across the state of Mississippi for these positive results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Students have made gains in mathematics and in reading this year,” Minnich said. “This year’s data shows that Mississippi is on the right track and moving in the right direction to better meet the needs of all students.”

2015 NAEP Proficiency Levels in Mississippi vs. United States:

Subject	Mississippi	2013-15 change	United States	2013-15 change
4 th grade reading	26 percent	+5	35 percent	+1
4 th grade math	30 percent	+4	39 percent	-1
8 th grade reading	20 percent	+0	33 percent	-1
8 th grade math	22 percent	+1	32 percent	-2

Mississippi NAEP Highlights 2005-2015:

- Mississippi No. 2 for increase in average 4th grade reading scale score
- Mississippi No. 8 for increase in average 4th grade math scale score
- Mississippi No. 7 for increase in average 8th grade math scale score

Known as the Nation’s Report Card, NAEP is the largest nationally representative assessment of what America’s students know and can do in various subject areas. NAEP assessments are administered every two years to a random sample of students. In 2015, Mississippi students in 108 districts and 219 schools participated in the NAEP assessment.

For more information about Mississippi’s NAEP results, visit: <http://bit.ly/1XyCS8L>

To view Mississippi’s NAEP results, visit: <http://bit.ly/1RebnNI>

To view all NAEP results, visit, www.nationsreportcard.gov

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