



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Patricia A. Lambe

Voice: (703) 696-4234

email: plambe@hq.odedodea.edu

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EIGHTH GRADERS
TOP CHARTS ON NATIONAL EXAM**

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA - At 11:00 this morning, the National Center for Educational Statistics released the results of its latest test. On the test, the 1998 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on Writing, DoD students led the nation. Among the thirty-nine participating states and jurisdictions, no system scored significantly higher than the DoD domestic schools (DDESS), and only one state, Connecticut, scored significantly higher than DoDDS, the DoD overseas school system. In addition, DoD domestic schools had the highest percentage of students in the nation scoring in the "Advanced" category on the exam.

DoD minority students performed exceptionally well on the NAEP exam. Eighth-grade African-American students in DoD domestic schools ranked first, and DoDDS students second, when compared to their peers across the nation. Eighth-grade Hispanic students in DoDDS and DDESS achieved identical scores, to score first place when compared to their peers nationwide.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress is the only test of academic performance administered nationally, and this 1998 test is the first of its kind to assess writing ability. The test compares the performance of state or jurisdictional school systems rather than that of schools or individual students.

Department of Defense Education Activity students also took part in the 1998 NAEP test of Reading. Among the 43 states and jurisdictions participating in that test, DoDDS fourth graders ranked fifth and DDESS fourth graders ranked seventh. At the eighth-grade level, DoDDS and DDESS earned identical scores, placing them fourth in the nation.

On the 1998 NAEP Reading assessment, African-American and Hispanic students in DoDDS and DDESS ranked first and second respectively among their fourth-grade peers nationally.

MORE...

**1998 NAEP Writing
State Level
Rank Order - Grade 8**

Connecticut, DDESS	165, 160*
DoDDS	156
Maine, Massachusetts	155
Texas	154
Virginia, Wisconsin	153
Oklahoma	152
Colorado	151
Montana, North Carolina	150
Oregon	149
NATION	148
Minnesota, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington	148
Maryland	147
Georgia, Kentucky, New York, Wyoming	146
Alabama, Delaware, West Virginia	144
Arizona, Utah	143
Florida, Missouri	142
California, New Mexico	141
Nevada, South Carolina	140
Arkansas	137
Louisiana	136
Hawaii	135
Mississippi	134
District of Columbia	126
Virgin Islands	124

*There is no significant difference between the scores of DDESS and Connecticut or DoDDS and DDESS.
There is a significant difference between the scores of DoDDS and Connecticut.

MORE...

1998 NAEP Writing
State Level
Rank Order - Grade 8
African American

DDESS	150
DoDDS	148
TEXAS	146
WISCONSIN	141
VIRGINIA	140
WEST VIRGINIA	140
CONNECTICUT	139
MASSACHUSETTS	135
NORTH CAROLINA	134
OKLAHOMA	134
RHODE ISLAND	134
CALIFORNIA	133
NEW MEXICO	133
COLORADO	132
GEORGIA	132
NEVADA	132
NEW YORK	132
TENNESSEE	132
MARYLAND	131
WASHINGTON	131
NATION	130
ALABAMA	130
DELAWARE	130
KENTUCKY	129
SOUTH CAROLINA	128
FLORIDA	126
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	125
MISSISSIPPI	124
VIRGIN ISLANDS	124
HAWAII	123
LOUISIANA	123
MINNESOTA	123
MISSOURI	123
ARIZONA	122
ARKANSAS	121
MAINE	NA
MONTANA	NA
OREGON	NA
UTAH	NA
WYOMING	NA

MORE...

1998 NAEP Writing
State Level
Rank Order - Grade 8
Hispanics

DDESS	153
DoDDS	153
VIRGINIA	146
TEXAS	144
CONNECTICUT	139
NORTH CAROLINA	136
WISCONSIN	136
FLORIDA	135
NEW MEXICO	134
OKLAHOMA	134
MONTANA	133
OREGON	133
COLORADO	132
DELAWARE	132
WYOMING	131
ARIZONA	130
NATION	129
MARYLAND	127
NEW YORK	127
ALABAMA	125
GEORGIA	125
MASSACHUSETTS	125
CALIFORNIA	124
KENTUCKY	124
RHODE ISLAND	124
NEVADA	123
WASHINGTON	123
TENNESSEE	122
SOUTH CAROLINA	121
HAWAII	120
LOUISIANA	120
UTAH	120
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	120
MINNESOTA	119
VIRGIN ISLANDS	118
WEST VIRGINIA	117
ARKANSAS	116
MISSOURI	116
MISSISSIPPI	108
MAINE	NA

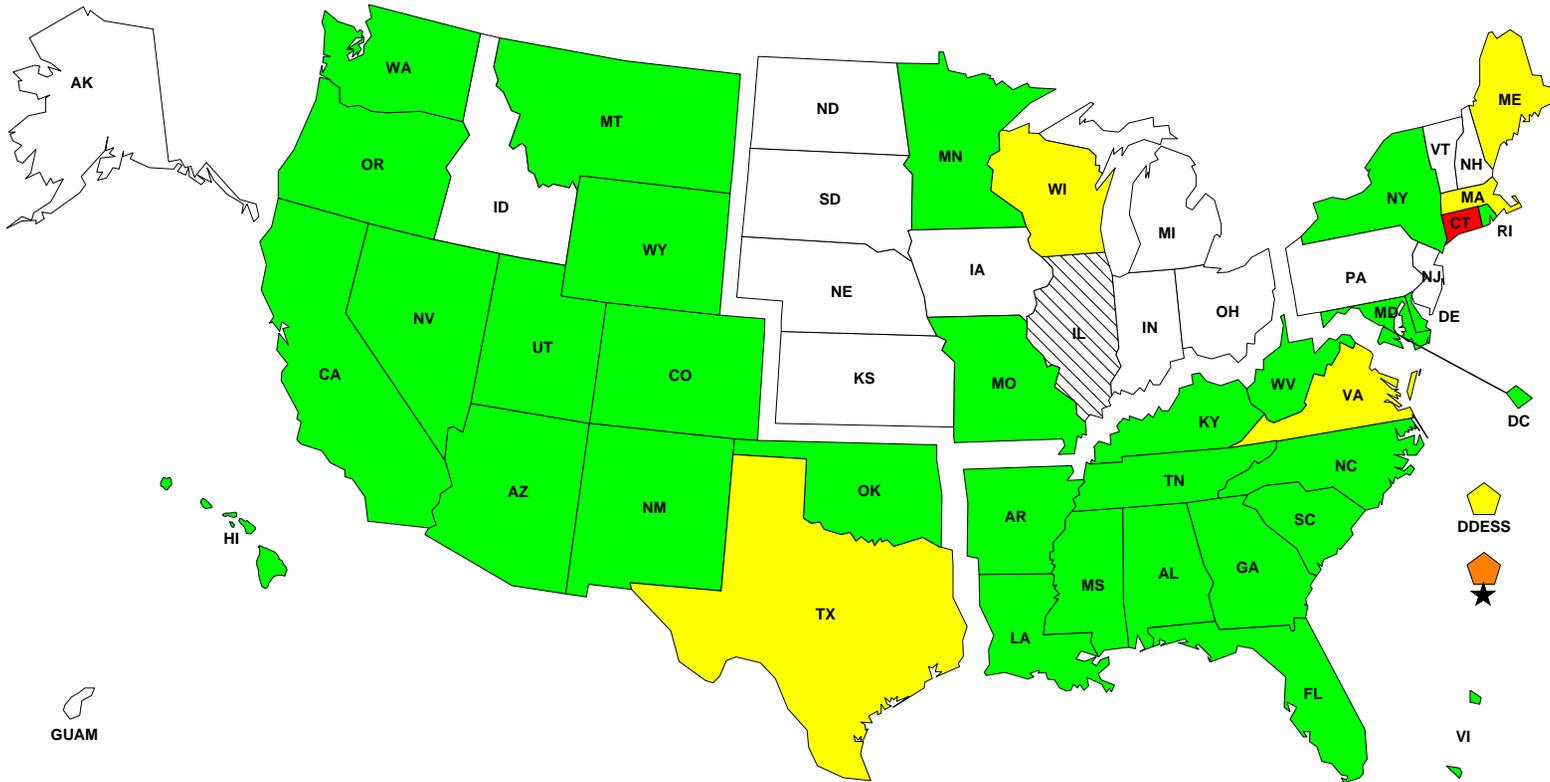
MORE...

1998 NAEP READING
State Level
Rank Order - Grade 4

Connecticut	232
Montana, New Hampshire	226
Maine, Massachusetts	225
Wisconsin	224
DoDDS, Iowa	223
Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota	222
DDESS, Oklahoma	220
Wyoming	219
Kentucky, Rhode Island, Virginia	218
Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, Washington	217
Missouri, New York, West Virginia	216
NATION	215
Maryland, Utah	215
Oregon	214
Delaware, Tennessee	212
Alabama	211
Georgia, South Carolina	210
Arkansas	209
Nevada	208
Arizona, Florida	207
New Mexico	206
Louisiana, Mississippi	204
California	202
Hawaii	200
District of Columbia	182
Virgin Islands	178

MORE...

The DoDDS' 1998 average writing scale score compared to those for other participating jurisdictions for public school students at grade 8

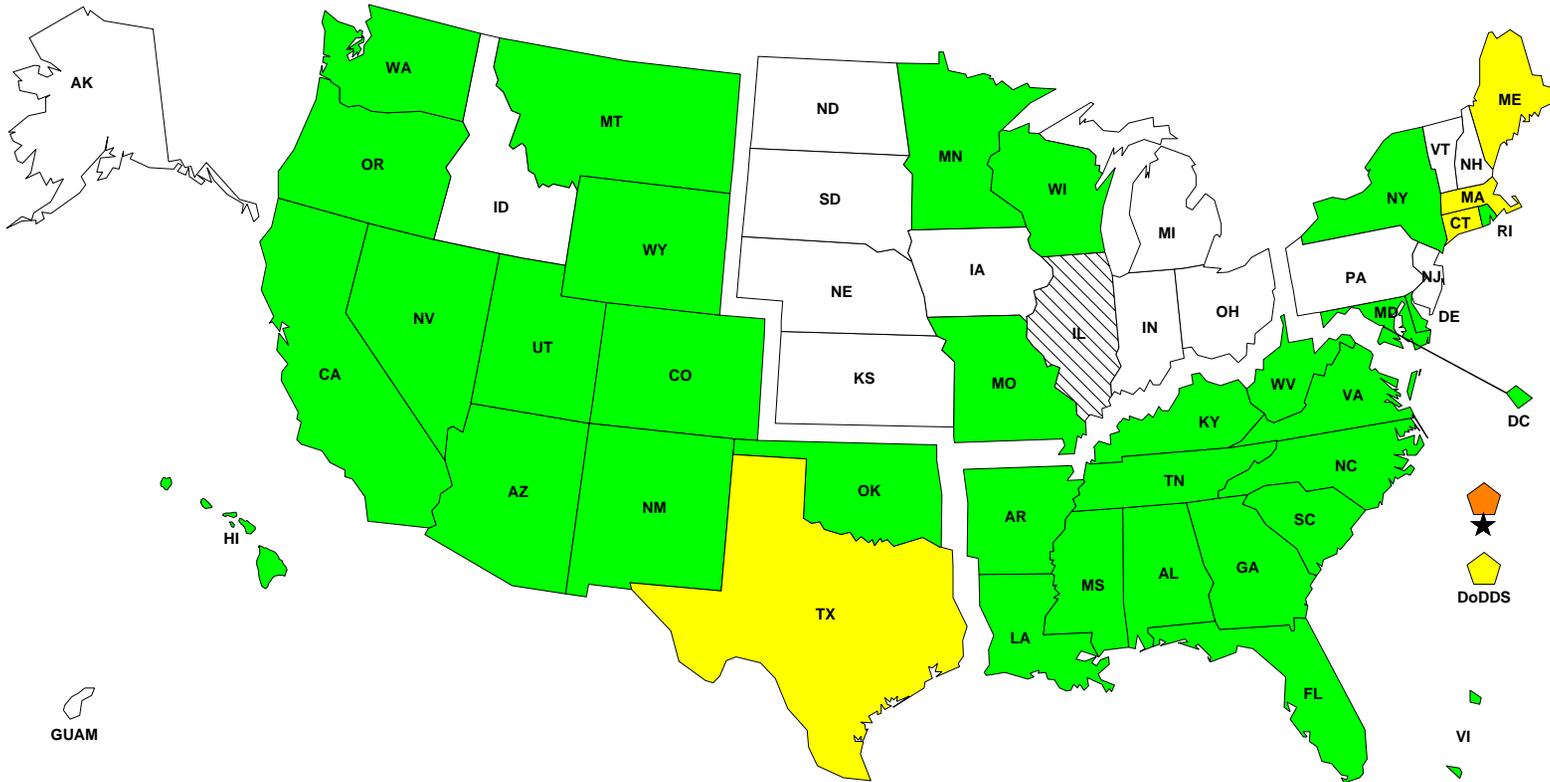


- ★ Target state
- Red State has higher average scale score than target state
- Yellow State is not significantly different from target state in average scale score
- Green State has lower average scale score than target state
- Hatched State did not meet minimum participation rate guidelines
- White State did not participate in the NAEP 1998 Writing State Assessment

Caution should be exercised when interpreting comparisons among states and other jurisdictions. NAEP proficiency estimates are not adjusted to account for the socioeconomic, demographic, or geographic differences among states and jurisdictions.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Writing Assessment.

The DDESS' 1998 average writing scale score compared to those for other participating jurisdictions for public school students at grade 8



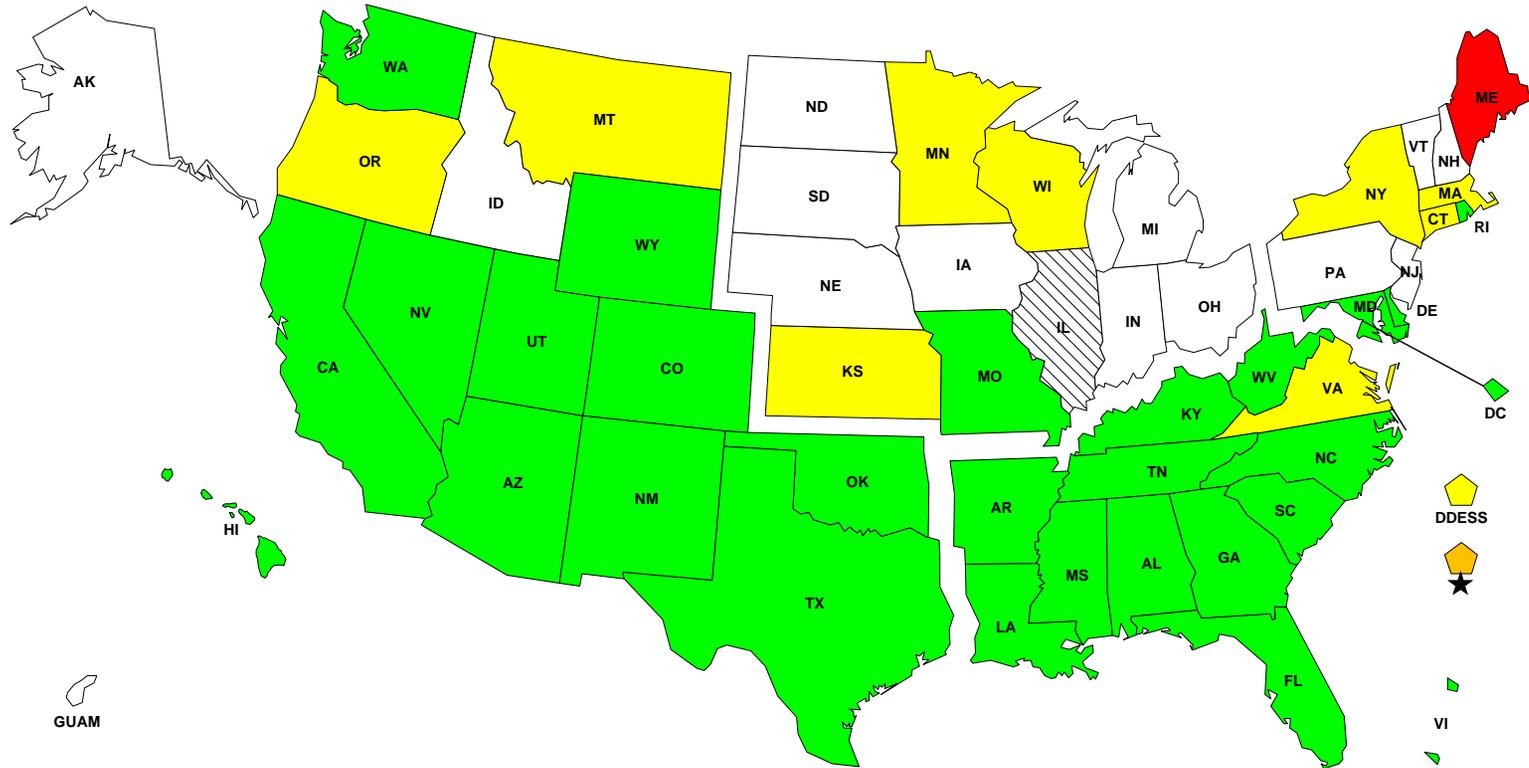
★ DoDDS

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SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Writing Assessment.

The DoDDS' 1998 average reading scale score compared to those for other participating jurisdictions for public school students at grade 8

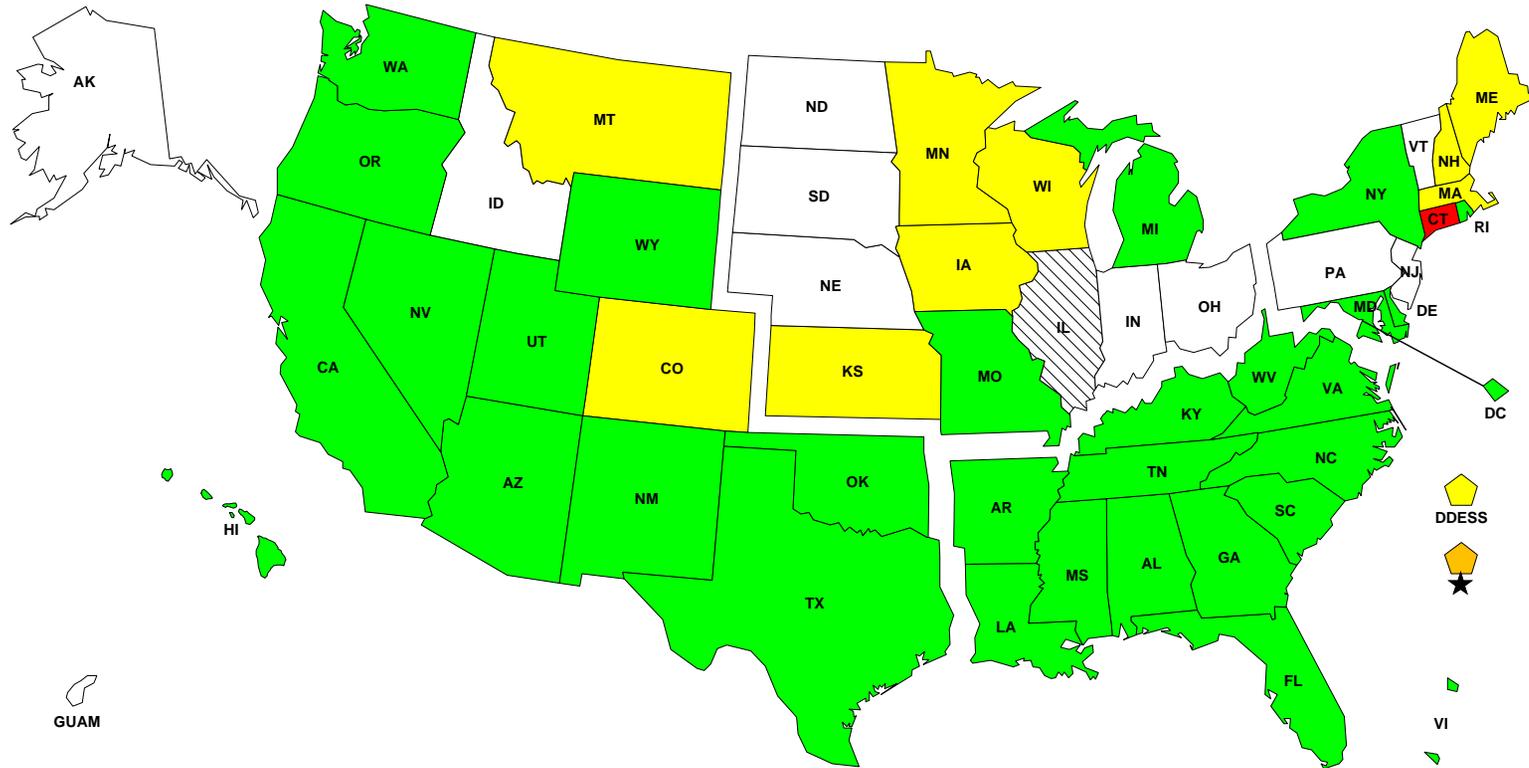


- ★ Target state
- Red pentagon State has higher average scale score than target state
- Yellow pentagon State is not significantly different from target state in average scale score
- Green pentagon State has lower average scale score than target state
- Hatched pentagon State did not meet minimum participation rate guidelines
- White pentagon State did not participate in the NAEP 1998 Reading State Assessment

Differences between states and other jurisdictions may be partially explained by other factors not included in this figure.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Reading Assessment.

The DoDDS' 1998 average reading scale score compared to those for other participating jurisdictions for public school students at grade 4



 DDESS

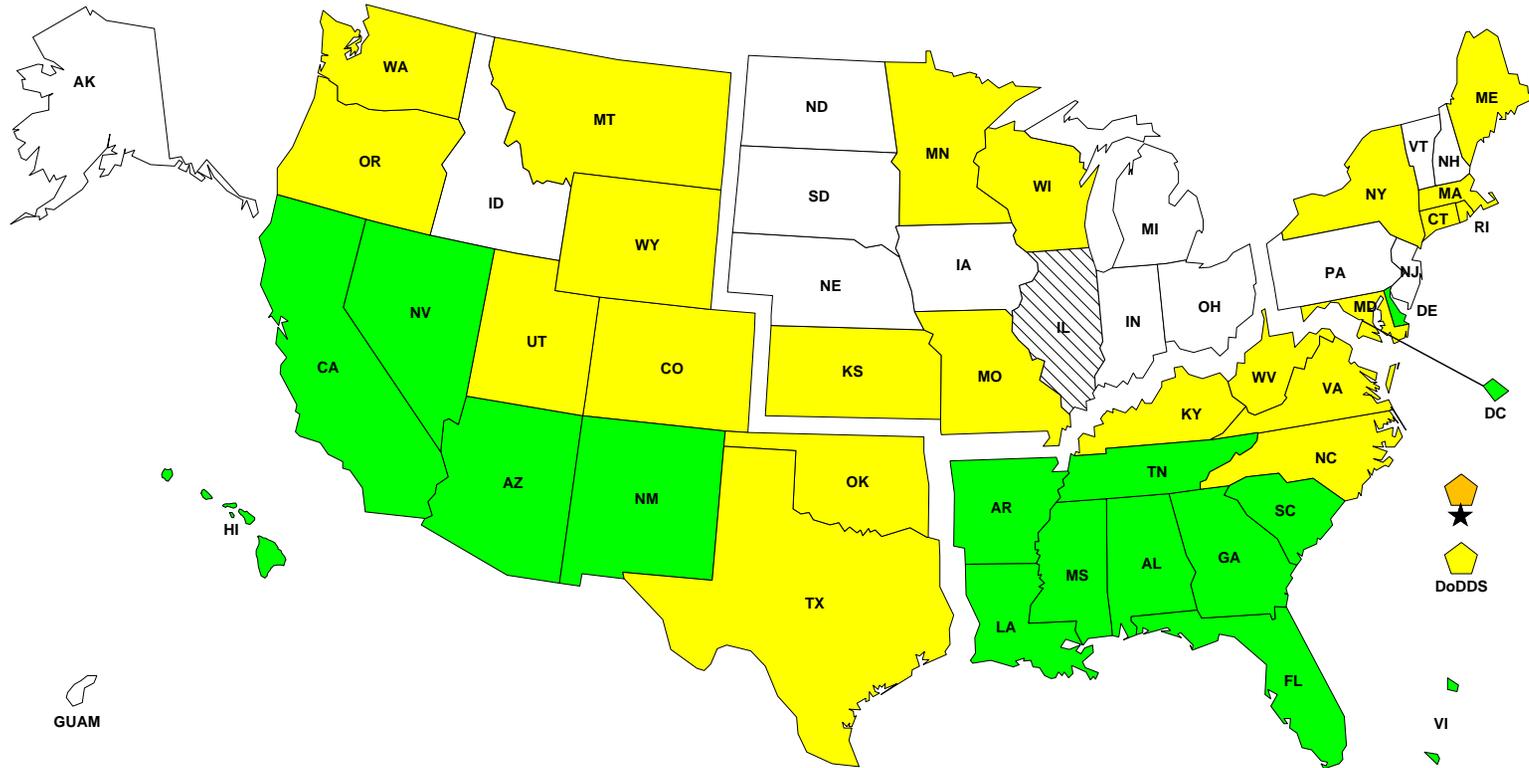


-  Target state
-  State has higher average scale score than target state
-  State is not significantly different from target state in average scale score
-  State has lower average scale score than target state
-  State did not meet minimum participation rate guidelines
-  State did not participate in the NAEP 1998 Reading State Assessment

Differences between states and other jurisdictions may be partially explained by other factors not included in this figure.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Reading Assessment.

The DDESS' 1998 average reading scale score compared to those for other participating jurisdictions for public school students at grade 8



 DoDDS

-  Target state
-  State has higher average scale score than target state
-  State is not significantly different from target state in average scale score
-  State has lower average scale score than target state
-  State did not meet minimum participation rate guidelines
-  State did not participate in the NAEP 1998 Reading State Assessment

Differences between states and other jurisdictions may be partially explained by other factors not included in this figure.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 1998 Reading Assessment.

