



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **DoDEA 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Top Nation in NAEP 2017 Reading Assessments; DoDEA 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Tie for Top in Nation in NAEP 2017 Mathematics Assessments**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA** — Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) eighth grade students lead the nation in their scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2017 Reading Assessment and DoDEA fourth grade students are tied with their counterparts in Massachusetts for the top score in the nation on the NAEP 2017 Mathematics Assessment.

In addition to strong performances on the NAEP 2017 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Assessments, DoDEA’s fourth grade students scored second in the nation on the NAEP 2017 Reading Assessment and DoDEA’s eighth grade students tied for third in the nation on the NAEP 2017 Mathematics Assessments. This year’s fourth and eighth grade student performance continues DoDEA’s overall strong performance on the NAEP Reading and Mathematics Assessments.

DoDEA Director, Thomas M. Brady, recognized this strong performance and DoDEA’s efforts to narrow achievement gaps.

“We are extremely proud of our students’ performance on the NAEP 2017 Reading and Mathematics Assessments,” Mr. Brady said. “Our students led the nation in sustained student performance excellence. DoDEA’s 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students scored best in the nation in Reading; our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students were tied for first in the nation in Mathematics; our 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students scored second best in the nation in Reading; and our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students were tied for third highest in the nation in Mathematics. Overall, our 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students scored significantly higher than the national average,” said Mr. Brady.

“Our students’ strong performance was especially significant in light of the fact that this was the first year of digitally-based administration of the NAEP assessments in our schools,” he continued. “We’re also proud of the fact that our achievement gaps continue to narrow in comparison with the national average and we are looking for ways to decrease those gaps even further.”

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## DoDEA NAEP 2017/2-2-2

For the first time, the NAEP Reading and Mathematics Assessments were administered using digital-based assessments (DBA) to fourth and eighth grade students in the nation's public schools. The new DBA NAEP assessments allow all students to access universal design features using a computer tablet. This transition to online assessments provide dynamic and innovative technologies for a more engaging assessment experience and access to more meaningful data about students' skills and knowledge.

The NAEP Reading and Mathematics ranges from 0 to 500. Achievement levels are performance standards that indicate what students should know and be able to do. NAEP results are reported in terms of three achievement levels – *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced* – and are expressed in terms of the percentage of students who attained each level. DoDEA participated in the NAEP reading assessment for the first time in 1998 and in mathematics in 2000.

NAEP continues to evolve in a manner that addresses the challenging educational landscape by moving from paper-based assessments (PBA) to digital-based assessments (DBA). For more information about NAEP digital-based assessments, please visit <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/dba/>.

### DoDEA 2017 NAEP READING RESULTS

In 2017, the average score for DoDEA fourth grade students on the NAEP Reading Assessment was 234, while the average score for public school students was 221. The DoDEA average score in 2017 (234) was not significantly higher than the average score in 2015 (234) and was higher than their average score in 1998 (220). The percentage of students in DoDEA who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 48 percent and this was greater than the national average (35 percent). This percentage was greater than that in 2015 (47 percent) and in 1998 (32 percent) when the NAEP reading assessment was administered for the first time in DoDEA.

The DoDEA average score on the eighth grade NAEP Reading Assessment was 280 while the average score for public school students was 265. The DoDEA average score on the 2017 NAEP Reading assessment was higher than the average score of 277 in 2015 and was higher than their average score in 1998 (269). The percentage of students in DoDEA who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 51 percent and this was greater than the national average (35 percent). This percentage was significantly higher from that in 2015 (47 percent) and was greater than that in 1998 (37 percent). Table 1 shows a comparison of reading performance scores of DoDEA students and those in national public schools.

**Table 1. Historical Performance of DoDEA students on the NAEP Reading Assessment**

ASSESSMENT			AVERAGE SCORE		ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS		
Subject	Grade	Year	Score	Difference from National public (NP)	At or above <i>Basic</i>	At or above <i>Proficient</i>	At <i>Advanced</i>
Reading	4	2017	234	+14 ▲	84	48	11
Reading	4	2015	234	+12 ▲	83	47	9
Reading	8	2017	280	+15 ▲	91	51	5
Reading	8	2015	277	+13 ▲	90	47	3

**DoDEA 2017 NAEP MATHEMATICS RESULTS**

In 2017, the DoDEA average score on the fourth grade NAEP Mathematics Assessment was 249, while the average score for public school students was 239. The DoDEA average score of 249 on the 2017 NAEP Mathematics Assessment was higher than the DoDEA average score of 248 in 2015 and in 2000 (227) when the test was first administered. The percentage of students in DoDEA who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 51 percent and this was greater than the national average (40 percent). This percentage was greater from that in 2015 (49 percent) and in 2000 (21 percent) when the NAEP mathematics assessment was administered for the first time in DoDEA.

The DoDEA average score on the eighth grade NAEP Mathematics Assessment was 293, while the average score for public school students was 282. The DoDEA average score of 293 on the 2017 NAEP Mathematics Assessment was significantly higher than the DoDEA average score of 291 in 2015 and was higher than their average score in 2000 (277). The percentage of students in DoDEA who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 41 percent and this was greater than the national average (34 percent). This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2015 (40 percent) and was greater than that in 2000 (26 percent). Table 2 shows a comparison of mathematics performance scores of DoDEA students and those in national public schools.

**Table 2. Historical Performance of DoDEA students on the NAEP Mathematics Assessment**

ASSESSMENT			AVERAGE SCORE		ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS		
Subject	Grade	Year	Score	Difference from National public (NP)	At or above Basic	At or above Proficient	At Advanced
Mathematics	4	2017	249	+9 ▲	91	51	9
Mathematics	4	2015	248	+8 ▲	90	49	8
Mathematics	8	2017	293	+11 ▲	83	42	11
Mathematics	8	2015	291	+9 ▲	83	40	9

**DoDEA 2017 NAEP PERFORMANCE OF SELECTED STUDENT GROUPS**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Assessments are conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, economics, geography, and U.S. history. NAEP does not provide scores for individual students or schools; instead, it offers results regarding subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., fourth graders) and groups within those populations (e.g., Hispanic students). NAEP results are based on a sample of student populations of interest.

## DoDEA NAEP 2017/4-4-4

### DoDEA 2017 NAEP Reading Results by Student Groups

Table 3 shows the average NAEP 2017 reading scores of DoDEA students by ethnicity. With respect to fourth grade reading, White students in DoDEA had an average score that was higher than the average scores of Blacks and Hispanic students, but not significantly different from the average score of Asian students. The percentage of White students performing at or above *Proficient* was greater than corresponding Black and Hispanic students, but not significantly different from the percentage of Asian students.

With respect to eighth grade reading, White students in DoDEA had an average score that was higher than the average scores of Black, Hispanic, and Asian students. The percentage of White students performing at or above *Proficient* was greater than corresponding percentages of Black and Hispanic students, but not significantly different from the percentage of Asian students.

**Table 3. NAEP 2017 Reading Performance by Ethnicity**

Reporting Groups	Fourth Grade Reading			Eighth Grade Reading		
	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percent at or above <i>Proficient</i>	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percent at or above <i>Proficient</i>
White	46	240	56	45	284	57
Black	13	226	34	14	268	32
Hispanic	22	229	42	20	277	48
Asian	5	233	47	7	285	56
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	#	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	‡	‡	2	‡	‡
Two or more races	12	235	48	12	285	57

# Rounds to Zero

‡ Reporting standards not met

In 2017, the performance gap between White students and Black students in DoDEA was narrower 14 points in fourth grade and 16 points in eighth grade than in 1998 (18 points in fourth grade and 22 points in eighth grade). The performance gap between White students and Hispanic students was not significantly different in 2017, 10 points in fourth grade and 7 points in eighth grade than in than in 1998 (15 points in fourth grade and 7 points in eighth grade).

### DoDEA 2017 NAEP Mathematics Results by Student Groups

Table 4 shows the average NAEP 2017 mathematics scores of DoDEA students by ethnicity. With respect to fourth grade mathematics, White students in DoDEA had an average score that was significantly higher than the average scores of Blacks and Hispanic students, but was not significantly different than that of Asian students. With respect eighth grade mathematics, White students in DoDEA had an average score that was significantly higher than the average scores of Blacks and Hispanic students, but was significantly lower than that of Asian students.

For fourth grade mathematics, the percentage of White students performing at or above *Proficient* was significant higher than corresponding Black and Hispanic students, but not significantly different than that of Asian students. For eighth grade mathematics, the percentage of White students performing at or above *Proficient* was significant higher than corresponding Black and Hispanic students, but was significantly lower than that of Asian students.

**Table 4. NAEP 2017 Mathematics Performance by Ethnicity**

Reporting Groups	Fourth Grade Mathematics			Eighth Grade Mathematics		
	Percentage of Students	Average Score	Percentage at or above <i>Proficient</i>	Percentage of Students	Average Score	Percentage at or above <i>Proficient</i>
White	46	252	56	45	298	48
Black	13	239	36	14	277	22
Hispanic	21	244	41	21	287	32
Asian	6	256	61	6	307	65
American Indian/Alaskan Native	#	‡	‡	#	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	‡	‡	1	‡	‡
Two or more races	12	251	57	12	296	47

# Rounds to Zero

‡ Reporting standards not met

In 2017, the performance gap between White students and Black students in DoDEA was narrower 13 points in fourth grade and 21 points in eighth grade than in 1998 (20 points in fourth grade and 27 points in eighth grade). The performance gap between White students and Hispanic students was narrower in 2017, 9 points in fourth grade and 11 points in eighth grade than in than in 1998 (14 points in fourth grade and 19 points in eighth grade).

**Additional Information**

Detailed information on the 2017 NAEP Reading and Mathematics assessment and all other NAEP assessments can be found on the web at: <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>.