

**2009 Science Assessment Content**

Guided by a new framework, the NAEP science assessment was updated in 2009 to keep the content current with key developments in science, curriculum standards, assessments, and research. The 2009 framework organizes science content into three broad content areas.

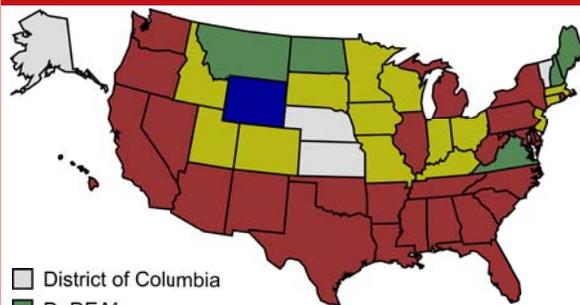
**Physical science** includes concepts related to properties and changes of matter, forms of energy, energy transfer and conservation, position and motion of objects, and forces affecting motion.

**Life science** includes concepts related to organization and development, matter and energy transformations, interdependence, heredity and reproduction, and evolution and diversity.

**Earth and space sciences** includes concepts related to objects in the universe, the history of the Earth, properties of Earth materials, tectonics, energy in Earth systems, climate and weather, and biogeochemical cycles.

The 2009 science assessment was composed of 143 questions at grade 4, 162 at grade 8, and 179 at grade 12. Students responded to only a portion of the questions, which included both multiple-choice questions and questions that required a written response.

**Compare at or above Basic to Other States/Jurisdictions**



□ District of Columbia  
■ DoDEA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

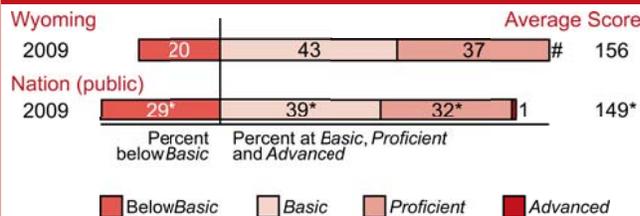
In 2009, the percentage at or above *Basic* in **Wyoming** was

- lower than those in 6 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 26 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 14 states/jurisdictions
- 5 states/jurisdictions did not participate

**Overall Results**

- In 2009, the average score of fourth-grade students in Wyoming was 156. This was higher than the average score of 149 for public school students in the nation.
- The percentage of students in Wyoming who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 37 percent in 2009. This percentage was greater than the nation (32 percent).
- The percentage of students in Wyoming who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 80 percent in 2009. This percentage was greater than the nation (71 percent).

**Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results**



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from Wyoming. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.  
# Rounds to zero.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

**Compare the Average Score in 2009 to Other States/Jurisdictions**



□ District of Columbia  
■ DoDEA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

In 2009, the average score in **Wyoming** was

- lower than those in 9 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 26 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 11 states/jurisdictions
- 5 states/jurisdictions did not participate

**Score Gaps for Student Groups**

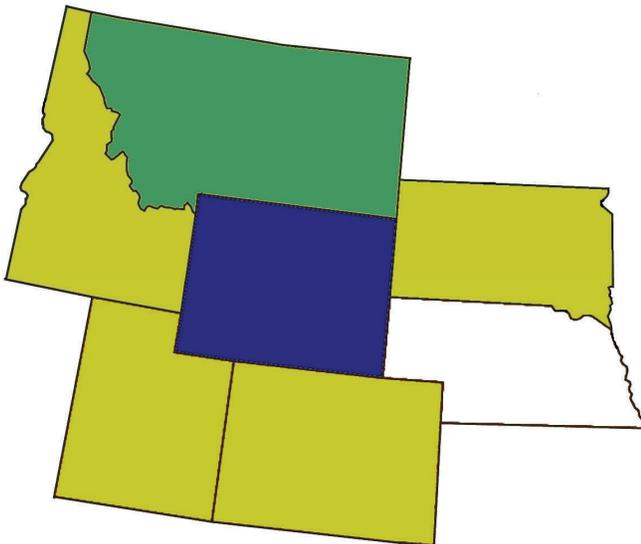
- In 2009, male students in Wyoming had an average score that was not significantly different from female students.
- Data are not reported for Black students in Wyoming, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2009, Hispanic students had an average score that was 19 points lower than White students. This performance gap was narrower than the nation (32 points).
- In 2009, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 16 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was narrower than the nation (29 points).

Grade 4 Report

Regional Snapshot

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) uses both multiple choice and constructed-response test items to assess fourth graders' skills in three science areas: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science. Scale scores range from 0 to 300, wherein a 131 denotes NAEP's *Basic* achievement benchmark (i.e., approximately a "grade level" performance); 167 reflects *Proficient* results which means competency on challenging material, and 224 is considered to be *Advanced*.

Scale Scores

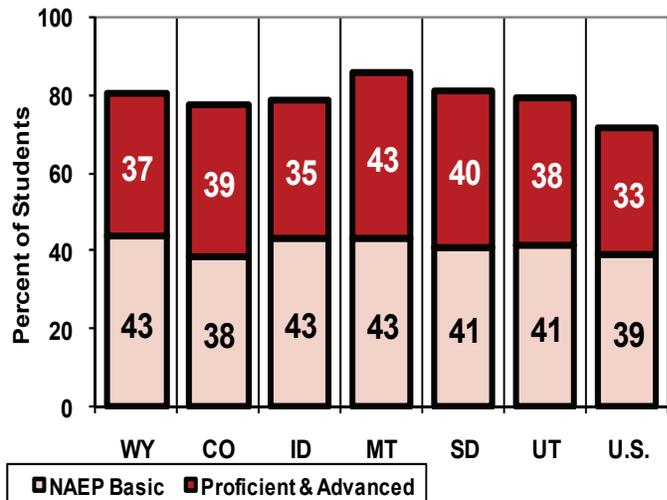


Legend: Wyoming (blue) is the focal state. States in green scored reliably higher than Wyoming. States in yellow were not statistically different from Wyoming. States in red scored reliably lower than Wyoming.

- ▶ In 2009, the average Wyoming scale score for 4th grade science was 156; this was reliably higher than the national average (149).
- ▶ Wyoming 4th graders had an average scale score in 2009 that was statistically lower from average science scores in Montana.
- ▶ Wyoming 4th graders had an average scale score in 2009 that was not statistically different from average science scores in Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah.
- ▶ Nebraska did not participate in the 2009 NAEP science assessment.

Achievement Levels

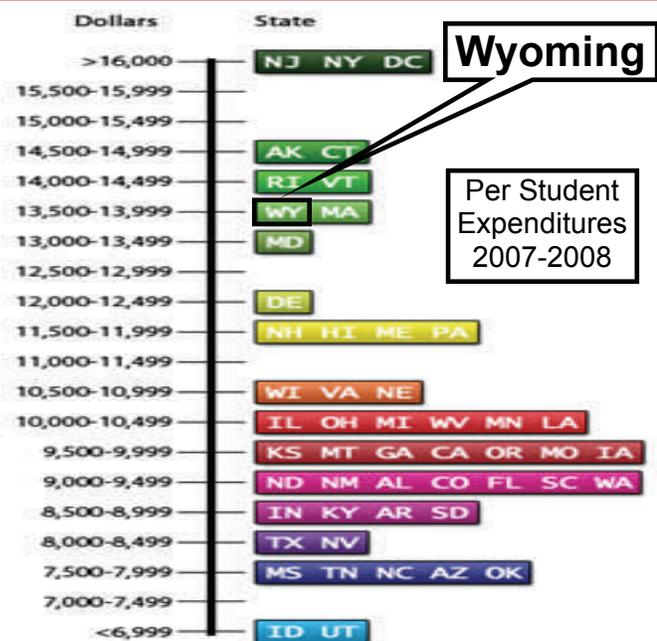
- ▶ Eighty (80) percent of Wyoming's 4th graders scored at or above *Basic* on the 2009 science assessment. This was higher than the nation's 71 percent.
- ▶ Wyoming had a higher percentage of 4th graders scoring at or above *Basic* on the 2009 science assessment than Colorado.
- ▶ The percentage of Wyoming's 4th graders scoring at or above *Basic* on science in 2009 was not statistically different from Idaho, South Dakota, or Utah.
- ▶ Wyoming at or above *Basic* results in 4th grade science were lower than Montana's.



### Funding Snapshot

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) uses both multiple choice and constructed-response test items to assess fourth graders' skills in three science areas: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science. Scale scores range from 0 to 300, wherein a 131 denotes NAEP's *Basic* achievement benchmark (i.e., approximately a "grade level" performance); 167 reflects *Proficient* results which means competency on challenging material, and 224 is considered to be *Advanced*.

### Per Capita Student Expenditures During 2007-2008



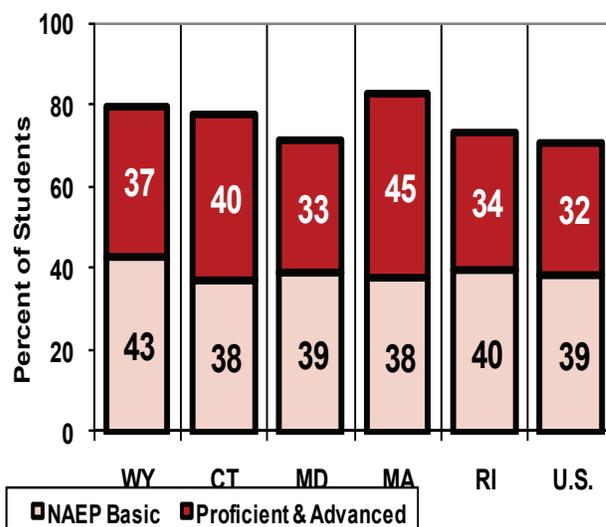
- Wyoming was among seven states reporting per student expenditures between \$13,000 and \$14,500 during school year 2007-2008 (most recent data available). The other states were Alaska, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

NOTE: The prekindergarten student membership was imputed for some states, affecting the total student count and per pupil expenditures calculation. Some values were affected by redistribution of reported expenditure values to correct for missing data items, and/or to distribute state direct support expenditures.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "National Public Education Financial Survey (NPEFS)," fiscal year 2008, Version 1a.

### Achievement Levels

- Eighty (80) percent of Wyoming 4th graders scored at or above *Basic* on the 2009 science assessment. This was higher than the nation's 71 percent.
- Wyoming also had a higher percentage of 4th graders scoring at or above *Basic* than Maryland and Rhode Island—states with similar per-student expenditures.
- The percentage of Wyoming 4th graders scoring at or above *Basic* was not reliably different from Connecticut and Massachusetts.
- Alaska and Vermont did not participate in the 2009 NAEP science assessment.

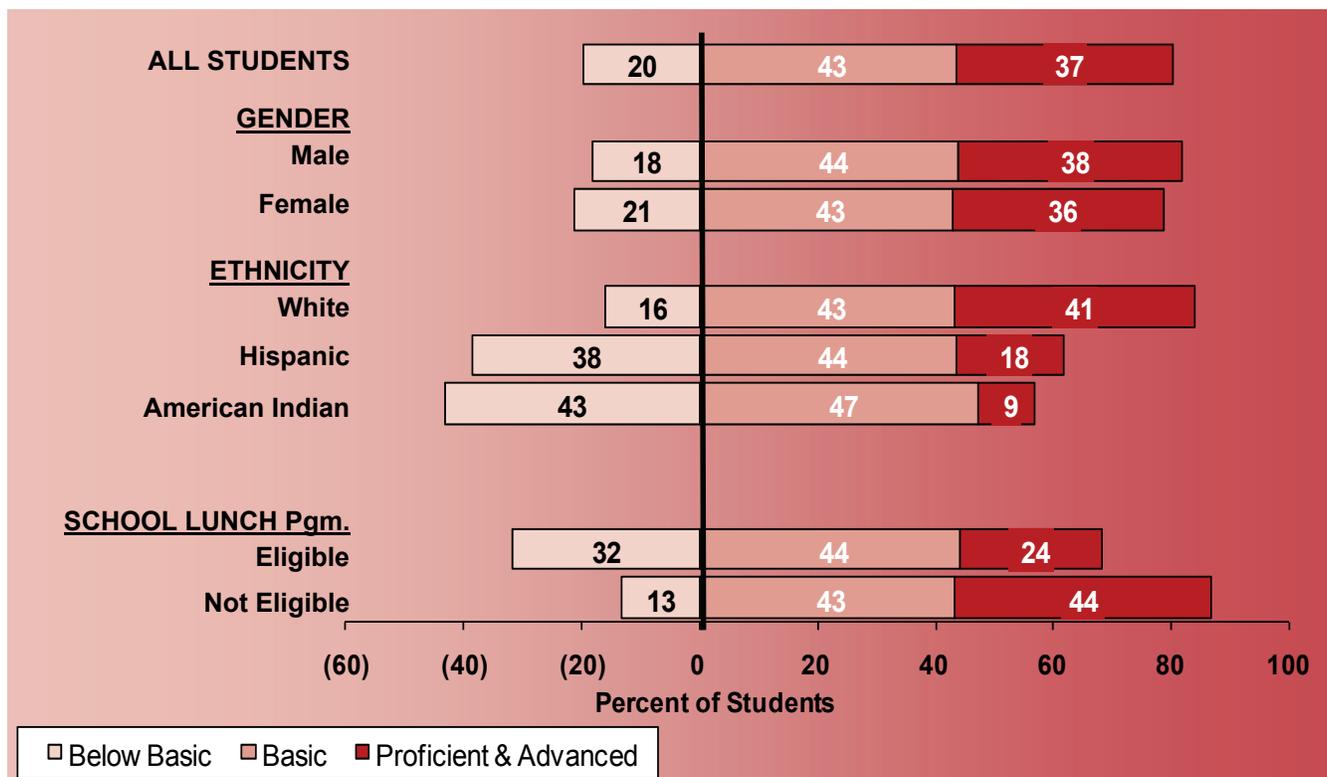


Grade 4 Report

Student Groups Snapshot

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) uses both multiple choice and constructed-response test items to assess fourth graders' skills in three science areas: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science. Scale scores range from 0 to 300, wherein a 131 denotes NAEP's *Basic* achievement benchmark (i.e., approximately a "grade level" performance); 167 reflects *Proficient* results which means competency on challenging material, and 224 is considered to be *Advanced*.

Student Groups in Wyoming



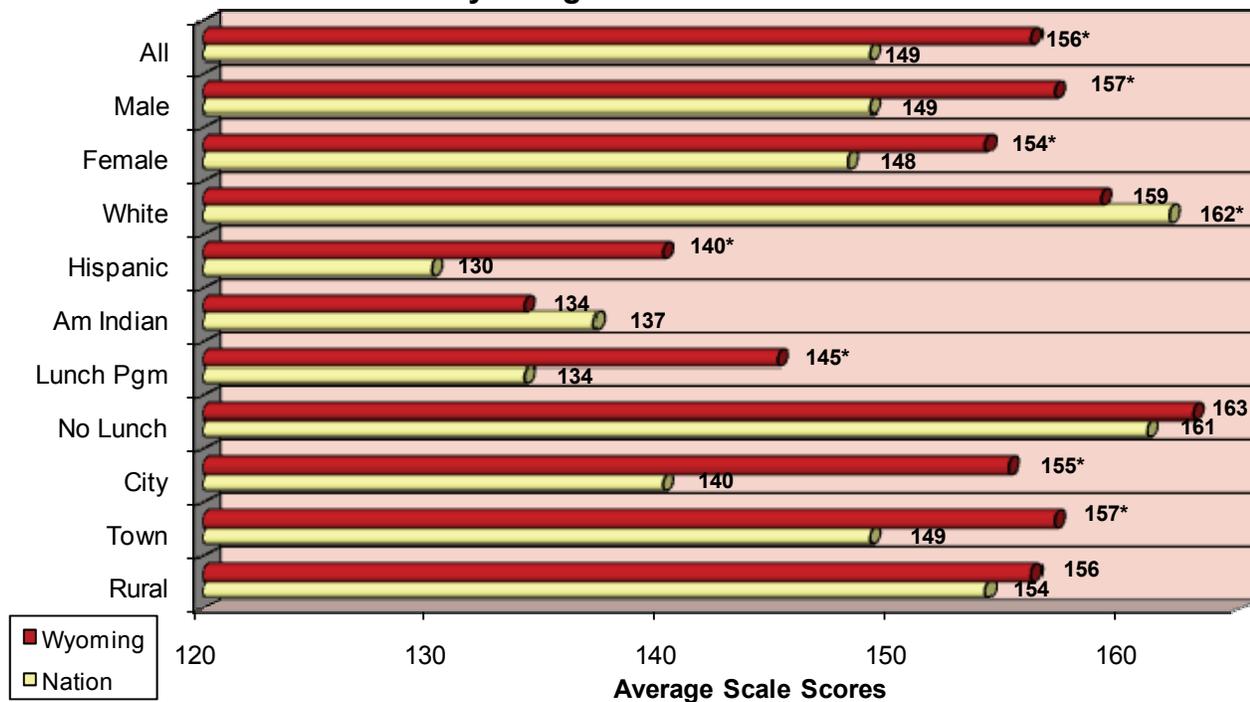
- ▶ On the NAEP 2009 science assessment, the proportion of fourth grade male students in Wyoming scoring at or above *Basic* (82 percent) was higher than female students (79 percent).
- ▶ The proportion of White fourth graders in Wyoming scoring at or above *Basic* (84 percent) was higher than Hispanic students (62 percent) and American Indian students (57 percent). Student sampling in Wyoming was not sufficient to permit reporting of science performance for fourth grade Black, and Asian students.
- ▶ Wyoming fourth graders qualifying for free or reduced price meals in the National School Lunch Program and scoring at or above *Basic* (68 percent) was lower than students not eligible for the program (87 percent).

WY-US Student Gaps Snapshot

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) uses both multiple choice and constructed-response test items to assess fourth graders' skills in three science areas: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science. Scale scores range from 0 to 300, wherein a 131 denotes NAEP's *Basic* achievement benchmark (i.e., approximately a "grade level" performance); 167 reflects *Proficient* results which means competency on challenging material, and 224 is considered to be *Advanced*.

Student Group Comparisons

Wyoming and National Results

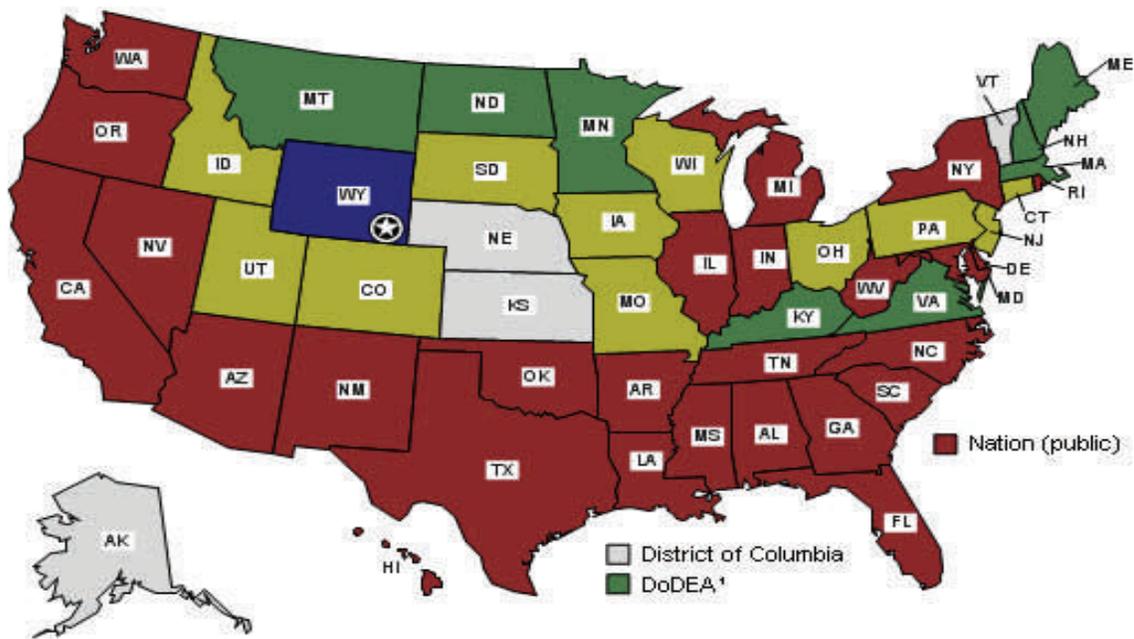
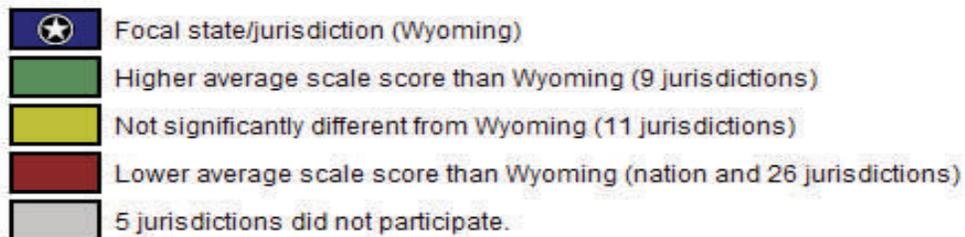


- ▶ In 2009, Wyoming's fourth graders' average scale score in science was higher than students nationally; Wyoming also had higher results in six student groups: male and female students, Hispanic students, students in city and town schools (as specified by the US Census Bureau) and students from low income families (i.e., students qualifying for free or reduced price meals from the National School Lunch Program), .
- ▶ Wyoming's fourth graders in rural schools, more affluent students (i.e., students *Not* qualifying for free or reduced price meals from the National School Lunch Program—65% of Wyoming's 4th graders) and American Indian student had average scale scores in science that were not reliably different from their national peers.
- ▶ Wyoming average scale scores were lower than the rest of the nation in the State's largest student group: White students (83% of Wyoming's 4th graders).

National Snapshot

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) uses both multiple choice and constructed-response test items to assess fourth graders' skills in three science areas: Physical Science, Life Science, Earth and Space Science. Scale scores range from 0 to 300, wherein a 131 denotes NAEP's *Basic* achievement benchmark (i.e., approximately a "grade level" performance); 167 reflects *Proficient* results which means competency on challenging material, and 224 is considered to be *Advanced*.

Wyoming and the Nation — Grade 4 Science Scale Scores



- ▶ On the 2009 science assessment, Wyoming 4th graders had an average scale score that was reliably higher than students in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and West Virginia. They also scored reliably higher than the national average.
- ▶ Wyoming 4th graders had an average scale score that was not statistically different from students in Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, and Wisconsin.
- ▶ Wyoming 4th graders had an average scale score that was reliably lower than students in Department of Defense Schools, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Virginia.