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2013 Wyoming NAEP scores released

CHEYENNE - Wyoming's fourth and eighth grade students outperformed the national average in reading and math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), according to the Nations Report Card.

Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Director Richard Crandall announced the NAEP results today in Cheyenne.

"I, along with many parents and students, are grateful for Wyoming educators who continue to work hard to improve our academic results," said Crandall. "These NAEP scores are just another indication that we are headed in the right direction."

According to the NAEP results, Wyoming students outscored the national average in every grade level and subject tested, and increased their achievement in fourth grade mathematics from 2011. Wyoming did not post statistically reliable year-to-year gains from 2011 in eighth grade mathematics, fourth grade reading, or eighth grade reading.

Over the four-year reporting period from 2009 to 2013, Wyoming posted statistically reliable increases in reading and mathematics for both grades four and eight.

	<i>Wyoming</i>			<i>National Average, Public Schools</i>		
	2013	2011	2009	2013	2011	2009
4 th Grade Math	247	244	242	241	240	239
8 th Grade Math	288	288	286	284	283	282
4 th Grade Reading	226	224	223	221	220	220
8 th Grade Reading	271	270	268	266	264	262

In 2013, Wyoming retained some of the strongest academic equity results in the country as measured by the NAEP scores for high and low income students (i.e., income as indicated by students' eligibility for the National School Lunch Program or NSLP). The difference in average scores for Wyoming NSLP eligible and non-eligible students in fourth grade mathematics was 13 scale points. Only two states (Idaho and West Virginia) showed a comparably small disparity in fourth grade mathematics as those reported in Wyoming.

"One of the six pillars we focus on as part of our strategic plan is "Success for All". This year's NAEP scores demonstrate that we are starting to have success with students across the socioeconomic spectrum, at least

in those grades that were tested. We have a lot yet to do but it is nice to see that we are making some headway," added Crandall.

NAEP testing is part of the nation's No Child Left Behind legislation, and is administered to Wyoming's fourth and eighth grade students in reading and mathematics. All states and the District of Columbia and Department of Defense (DoD) schools are assessed every two years. A key role of NAEP under No Child Left Behind is to serve as an audit and external reference point-of-comparison for reviewing each state's educational program and achievement.

Results on the NAEP scale operate like an academic thermometer measuring student achievement, with scores ranging from 0 to 500 points. Unlike PAWS testing, NAEP is administered to a statistical sampling of students every two years and NAEP does *not* render individual student test results. Cut scores signify varying levels of academic performance on NAEP's measurement scale.

Associated with NAEP's scale are its achievement levels:

	Cut-Scores on NAEP's Measurement Scale		
	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
4 th Grade Math	214	249	282
8 th Grade Math	262	299	333
4 th Grade Reading	208	238	268
8 th Grade Reading	243	281	323

Wyoming's 2013 NAEP results mirrored national trends, as gains since 2011 are more plentiful or apparent in mathematics than in reading. National reading scores increased two points from 2013 in grade eight, but were statistically unchanged in fourth grade; in contrast, mathematics scores increased in both grades four and eight during the same period. Given the substantial number of students sampled across the country--nearly 189,600 fourth graders assessed in mathematics--the year-to-year changes at the national level reflect statistically significant or reliable increases.

Because NAEP is a product of sampling students and their responses, numerical differences in NAEP do not always convey or represent true or reliable statistical differences.

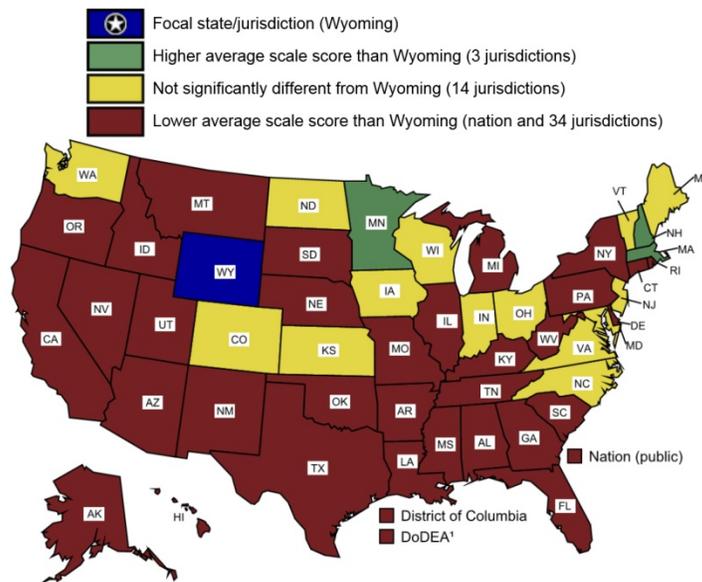
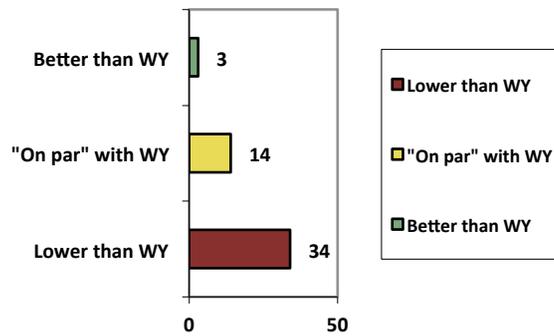
For full details on Wyoming's 2013 NAEP results, please direct your Internet web browser to http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/statewide_assessment_system/naep.aspx and then click the "2013 NAEP" button.

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In grade four mathematics the year-to-year results are as follows:

	2013	2011
NAEP Scale Score, grade 4 math	247	244

Three states or jurisdictions (i.e., the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools) performed higher than Wyoming, thirty-four performed lower than Wyoming, and fourteen were not reliably different from Wyoming in grade 4 math results.



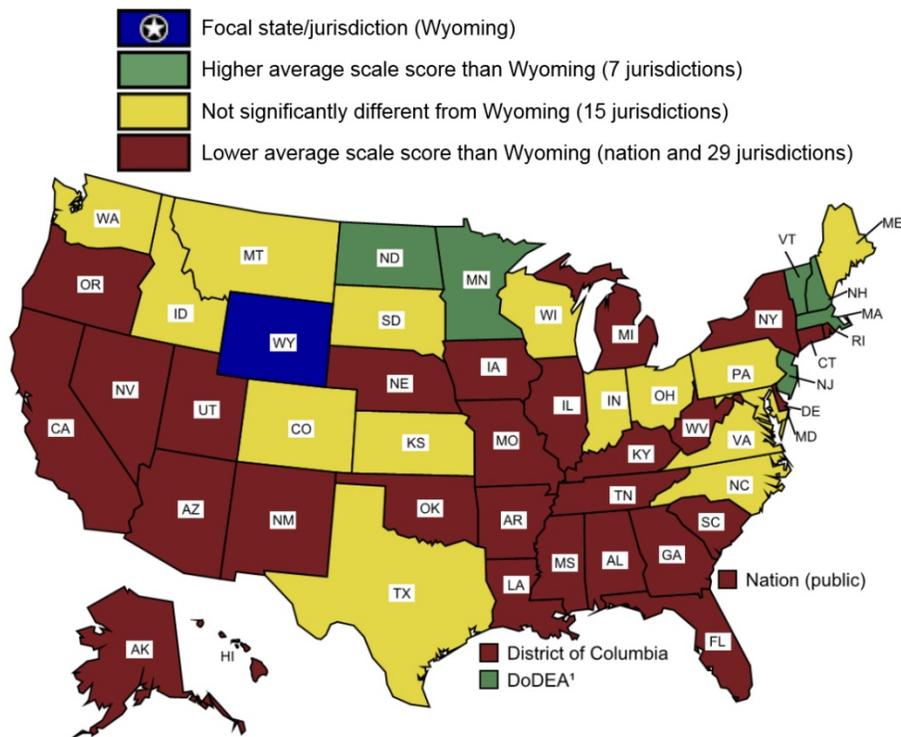
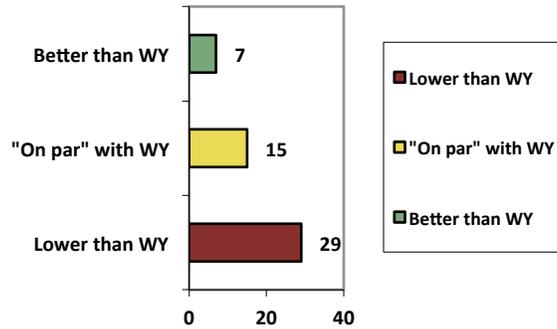
For fourth grade, the average score rose three scale points from 244 in 2011 to 247 this year.

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In grade eight mathematics the year-to-year results are as follows:

	2013	2011
NAEP Scale Score, grade 8 math	288	288

Seven states or jurisdictions (i.e., the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools) performed higher than Wyoming, twenty-nine performed lower than Wyoming, and fifteen were not reliably different from Wyoming in grade eight math results.



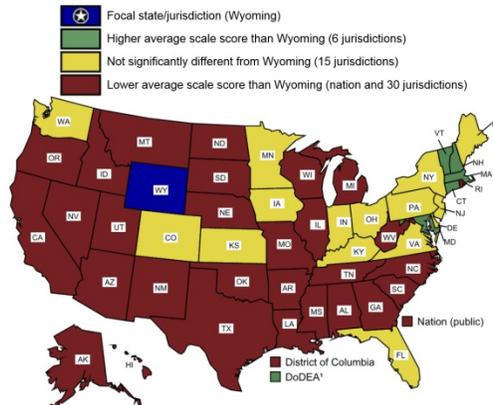
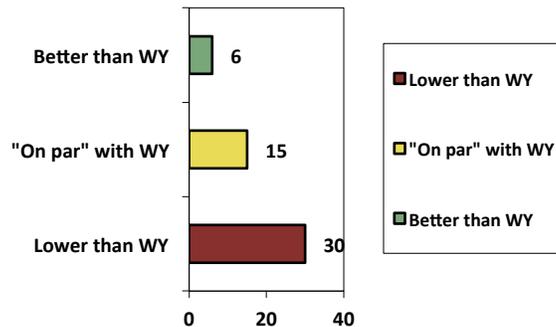
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In grade four reading the year-to-year results were as follows:

	2013	2011
NAEP Scale Score, grade 4 reading	226	224

For fourth grade, Wyoming’s estimated average reading scale score was 226 this year compared to 224 in 2011. The two-point change in scores was not a statistically reliable difference.

Six states or jurisdictions (i.e., the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools) performed higher than Wyoming, thirty performed lower than Wyoming, and fifteen were not reliably different from Wyoming in grade four reading.



Although there is a cross-year numerical increase—224 to 226—scores were statistically unchanged in fourth grade from the previous assessment in 2011. In this respect, NAEP works like a survey or poll. The two-point difference in year-to-year results reported since 2011 is not statistically significant, i.e., it falls within the variability of student sampling or NAEP’s margin-of-error for each year.

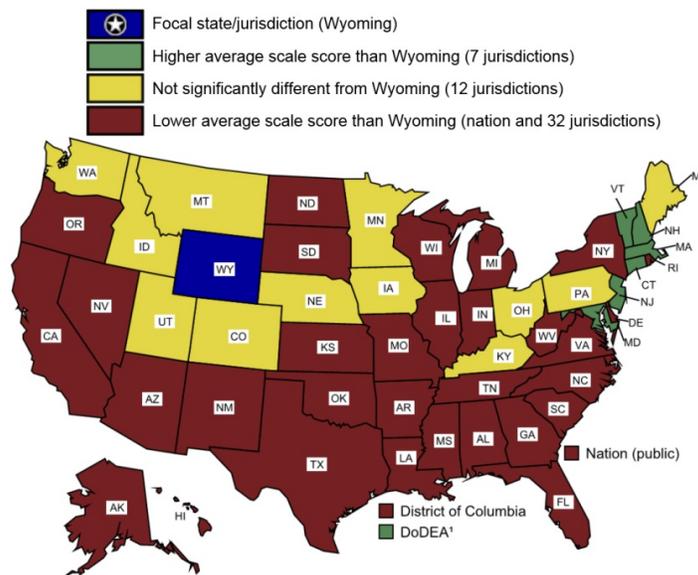
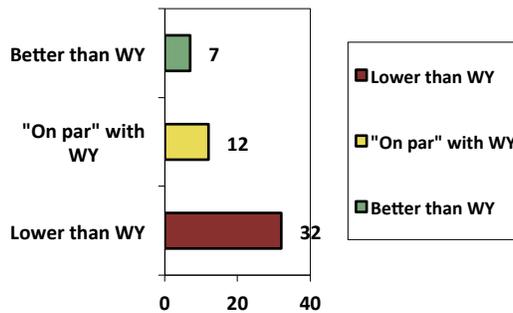
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In grade eight reading the year-to-year results were as follows:

	2013	2011
NAEP Scale Score, grade 8 reading	271	270

Like the grade 4 reading results just discussed, the difference in scores across years is not statistically significant.

Seven states or jurisdictions (i.e., the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools) performed higher than Wyoming, thirty-two performed lower than Wyoming, and twelve were not reliably different from Wyoming in grade eight reading.



For more information on NAEP, contact Tom Lacock at 307-777-5399 or tom.lacock@wyo.gov.