

2018 NAEP Civics, U.S. History, and Geography Results at Grade 8

National Center for Education Statistics



Overview of civics, U.S. history, and geography at grade 8

- Administered in January–March 2018
- National sample of eighth-graders from 780 schools across the nation
 - ❖ 13,400 for civics
 - ❖ 16,400 for U.S. history
 - ❖ 12,900 for geography
- Transitioned to digital format in 2018

NAEP Civics



What NAEP civics measures



NAEP Proficient students can understand and explain

- Differences between government and civil society, and American ideals and reality
- Separation of powers among branches of government
- How citizens can influence government
- Events that have international consequences

How NAEP civics results are reported

- Overall composite scores (0-300 scale)
- NAEP achievement levels
 - *NAEP Basic*
 - *NAEP Proficient*
 - *NAEP Advanced*

Five civics content areas

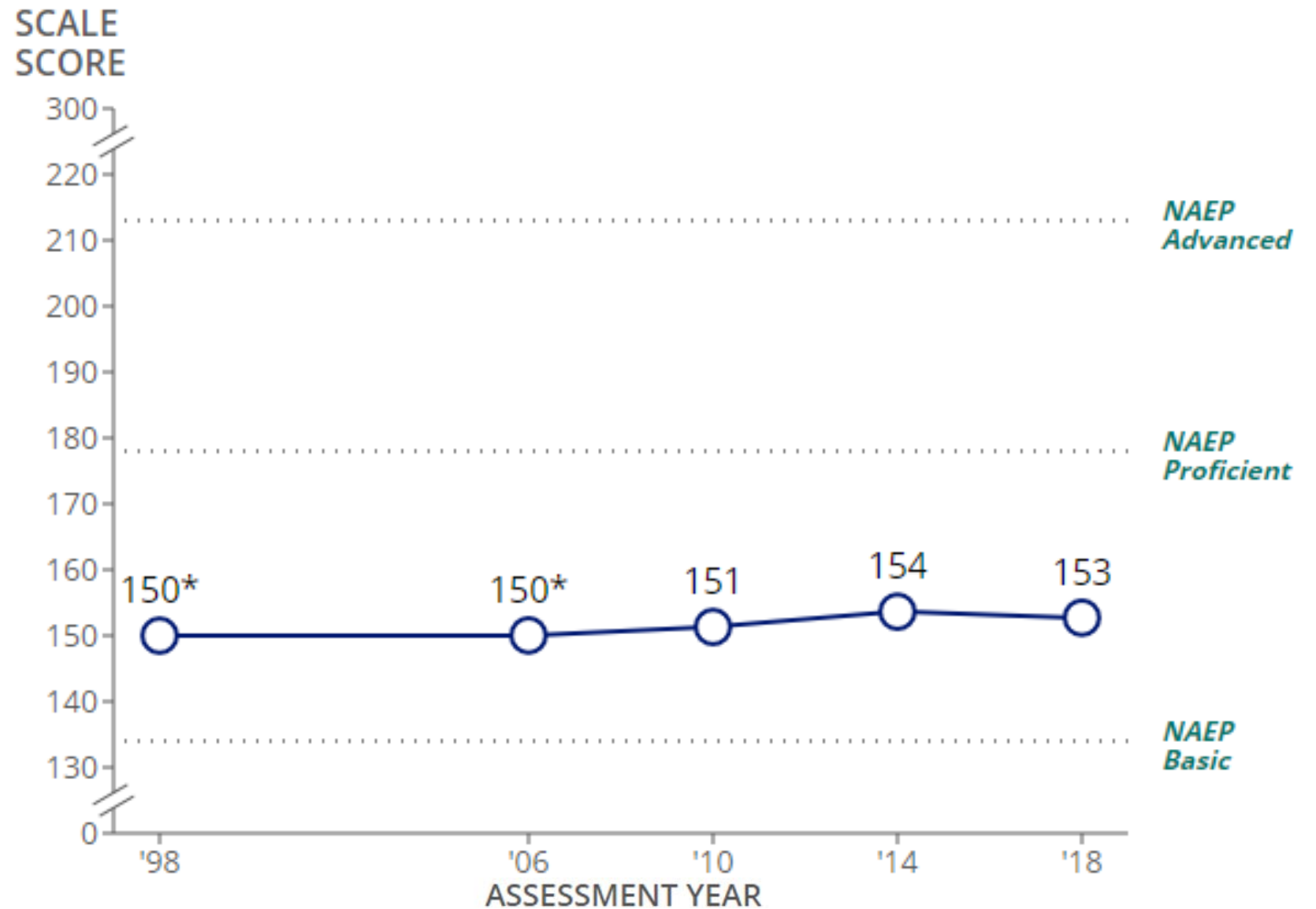
- Civic life, politics, and government
- Foundations of the American political system
- The purposes, values, and principles of American democracy
- Relationship of the United States to other nations
- Roles of citizens in American democracy

Intellectual and participatory skills

Civics dispositions

No
significant
change in
average
civics score
since 2014

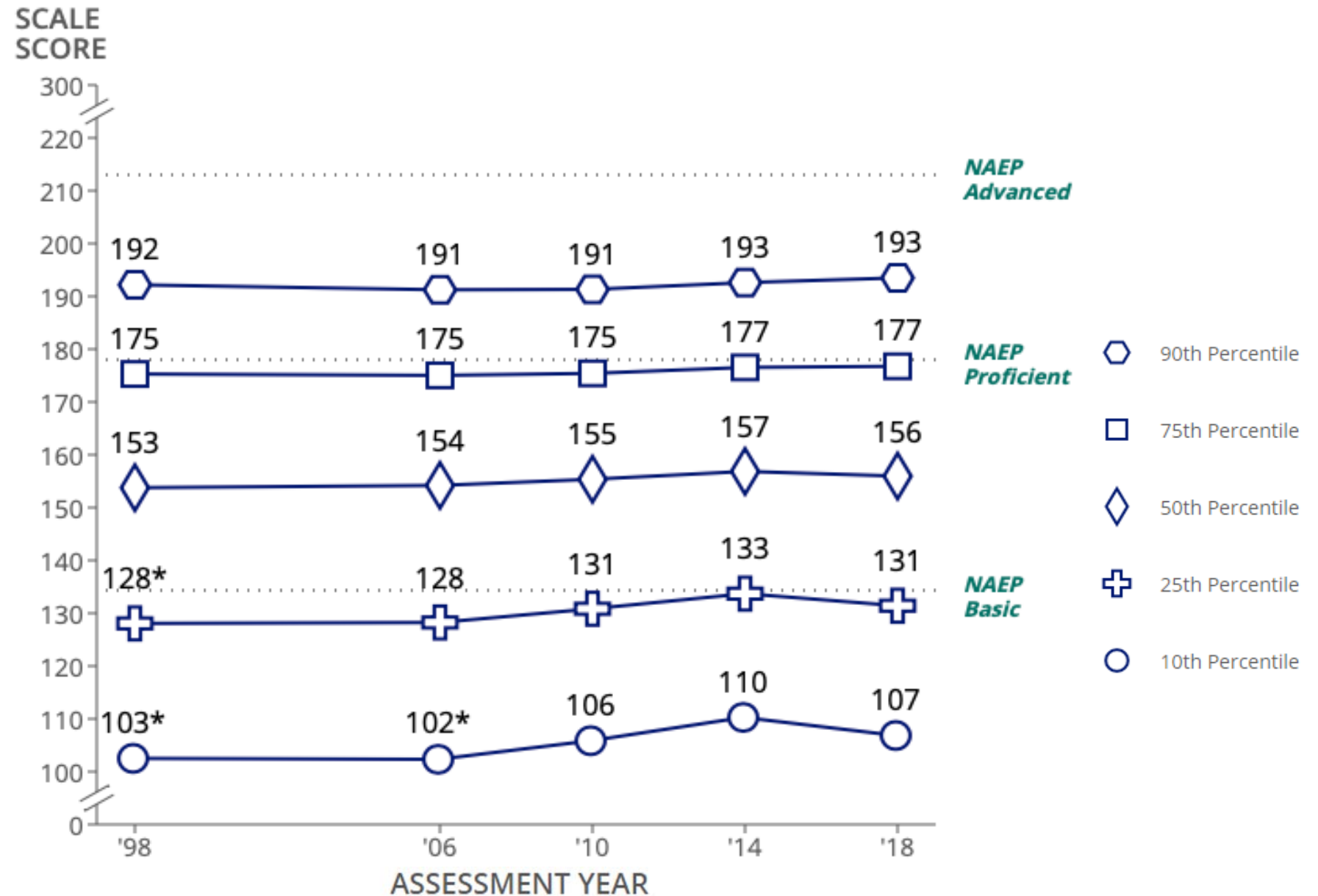
Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics average scores



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

No
significant
change
across the
performance
distribution
since 2014

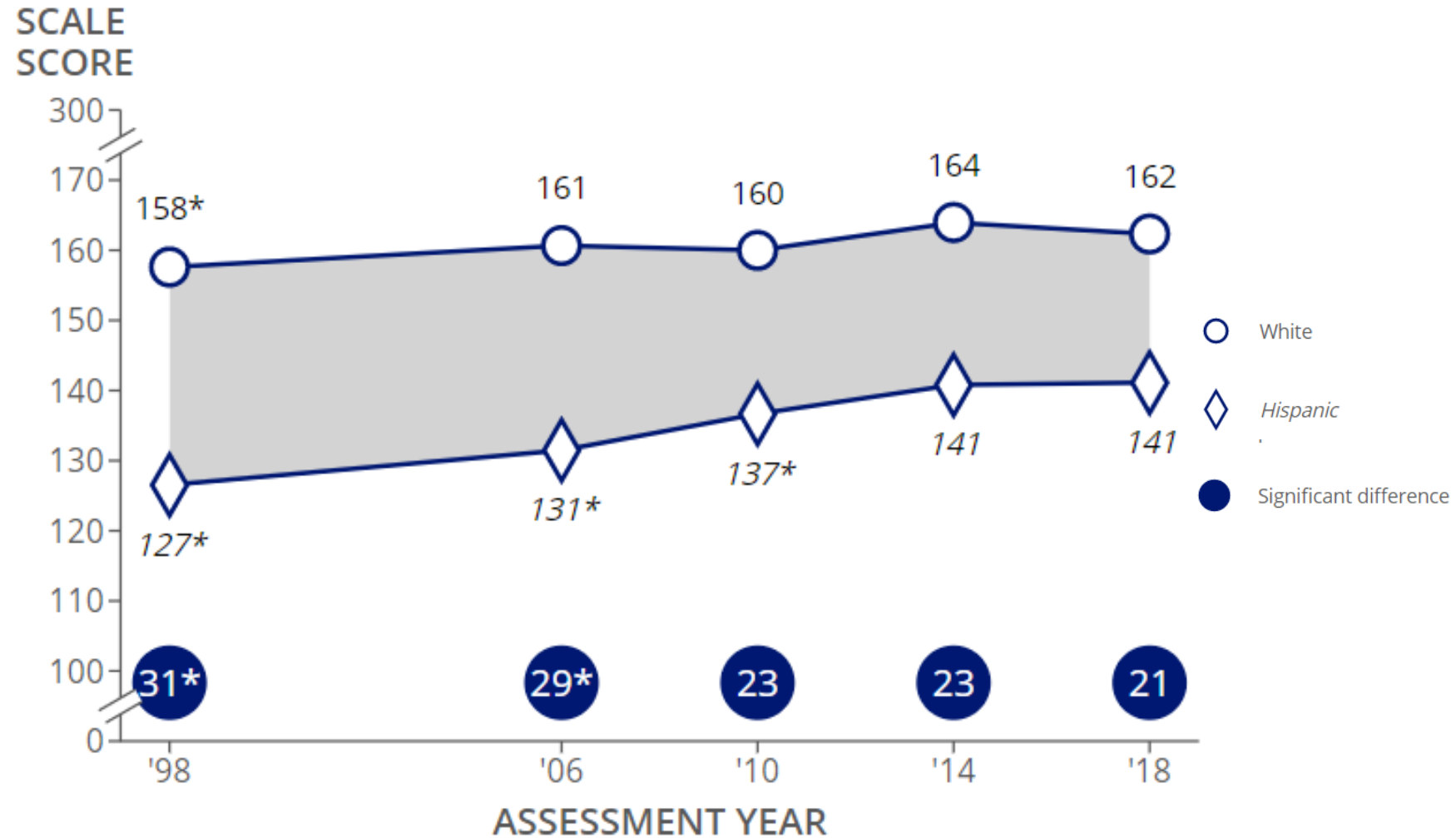
Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics scores at five selected percentiles



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

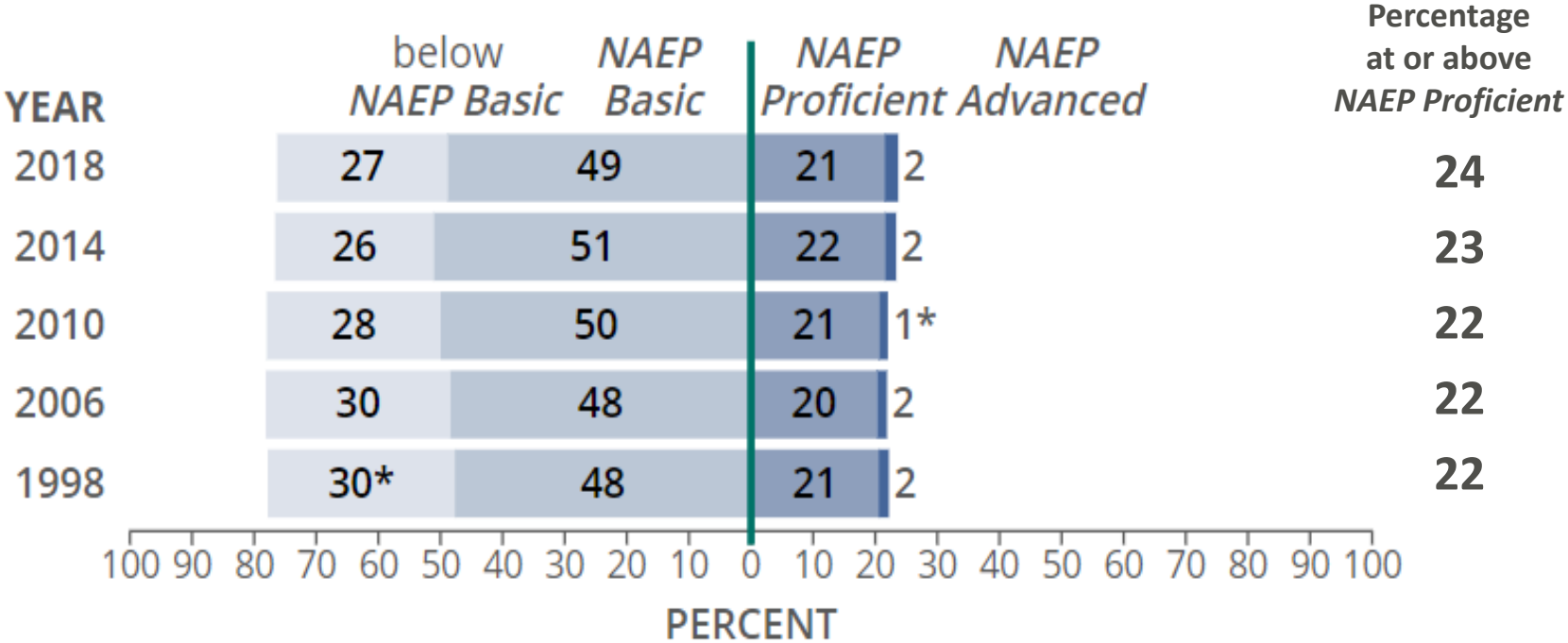
White— Hispanic score gap narrows compared to 1998

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics average scores and score gaps,
by selected race/ethnicity



24% of students perform at or above NAEP Proficient in 2018

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics achievement-level results



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.
NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

NAEP U.S. History



What NAEP U.S. history measures



NAEP Proficient students can explain, recognize, and understand

- The significance and connection of people, places, events, ideas, and documents
- Opportunities, perspectives, and challenges of a diverse cultural population
- Historical themes while citing evidence from primary and secondary sources to support conclusions

How NAEP U.S. history results are reported

- Overall composite scores (0-500 scale)
- Subscale scores by theme
- NAEP achievement levels
 - *NAEP Basic*
 - *NAEP Proficient*
 - *NAEP Advanced*

Four U.S. history themes

- Democracy
- Culture
- Technology
- World Role

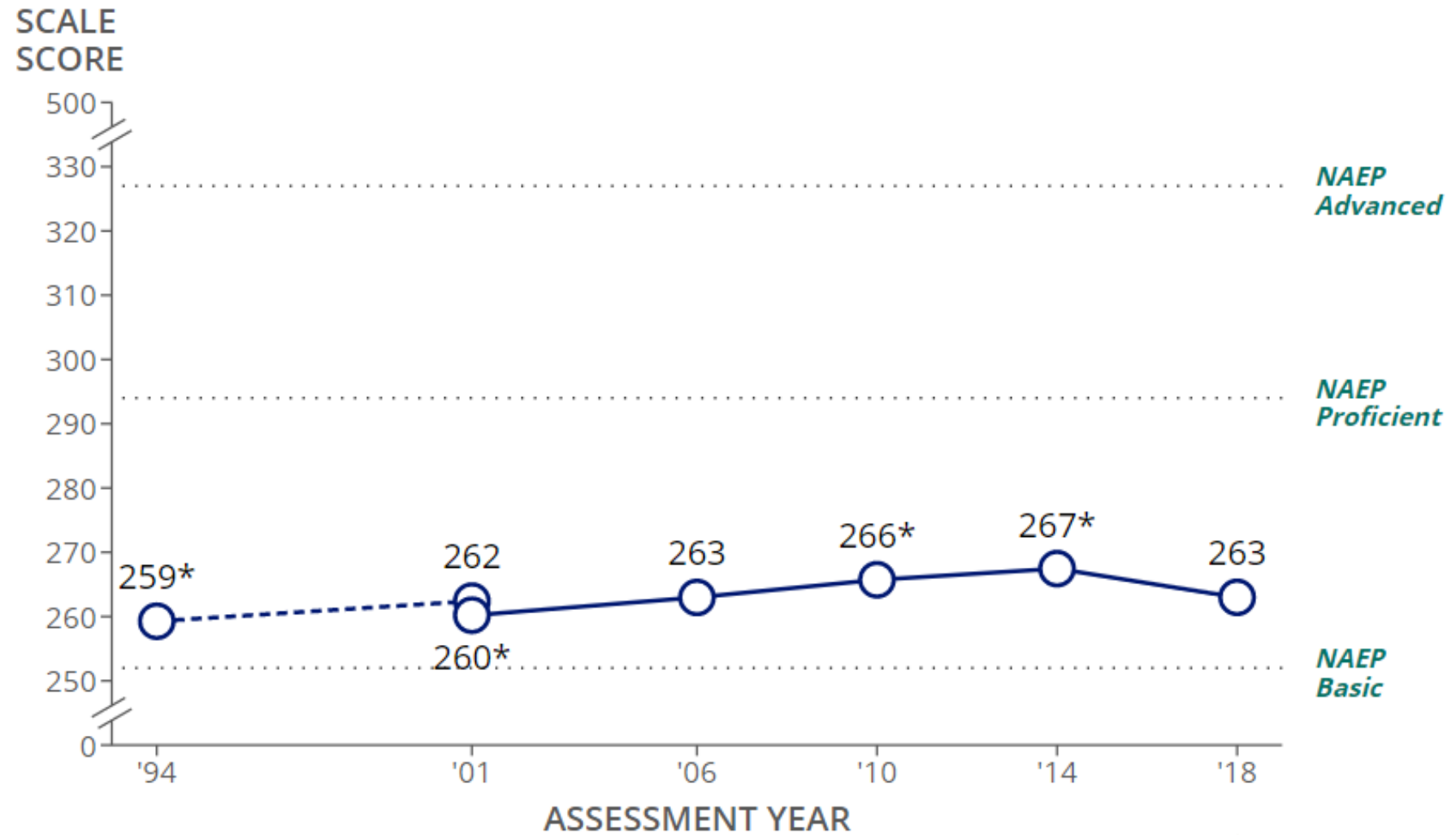
Eight time periods

Cognitive domains

- Historical knowledge and perspective
- Historical analysis and interpretation

Average U.S.
history score
drops four
points since
2014

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP U.S. history average scores



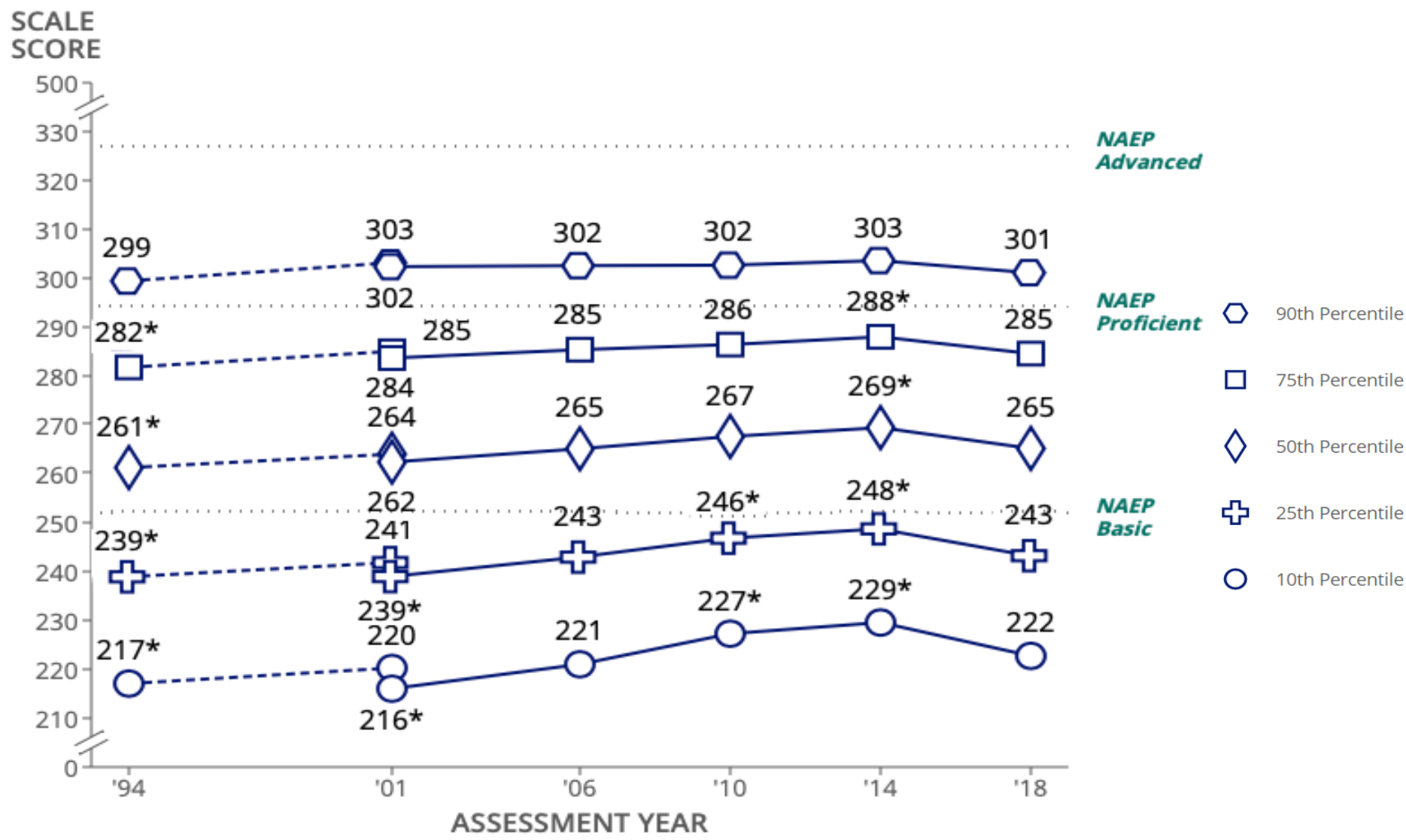
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— Accommodations permitted

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

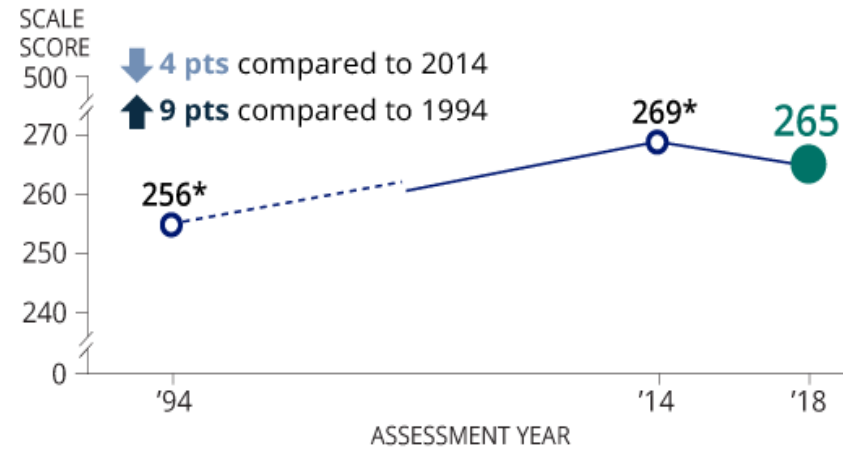
Scores decrease at all select percentiles except the 90th since 2014

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP U.S. history scores at five selected percentiles

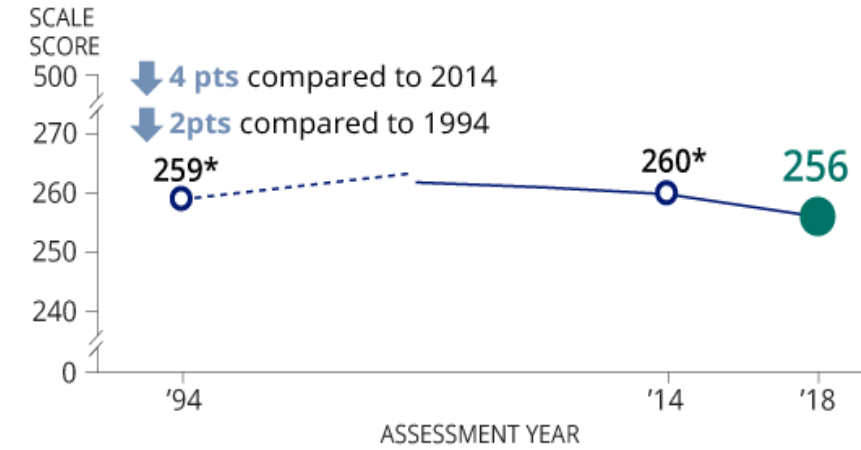


Scores lower across all four U.S. history themes since 2014

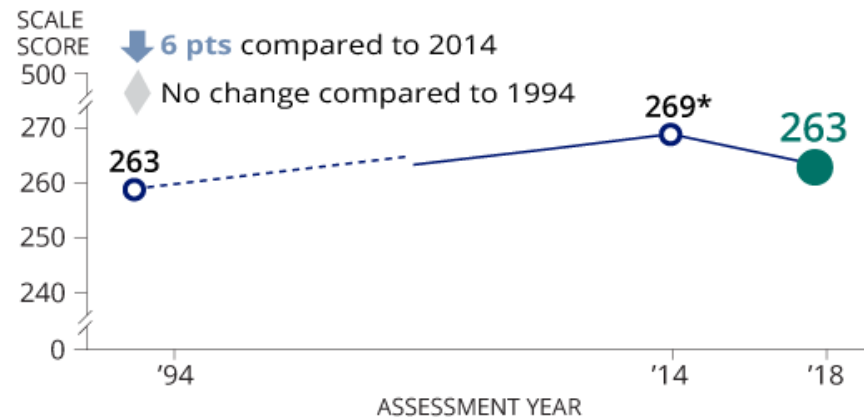
Democracy



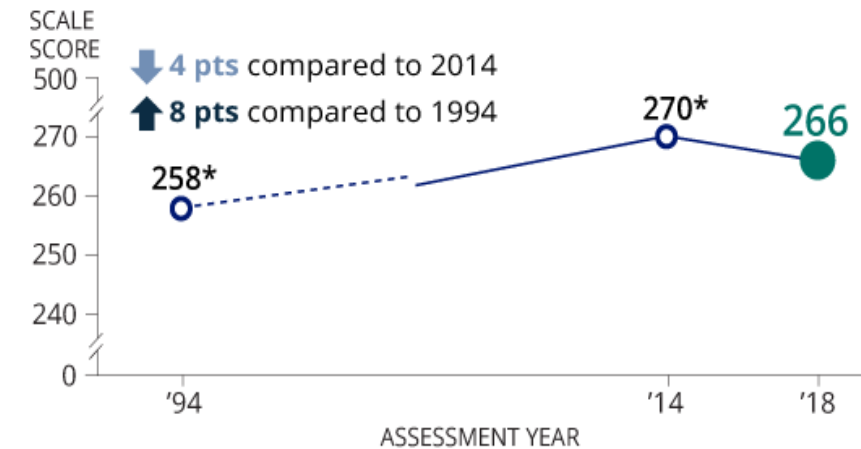
Technology



Culture



World Role



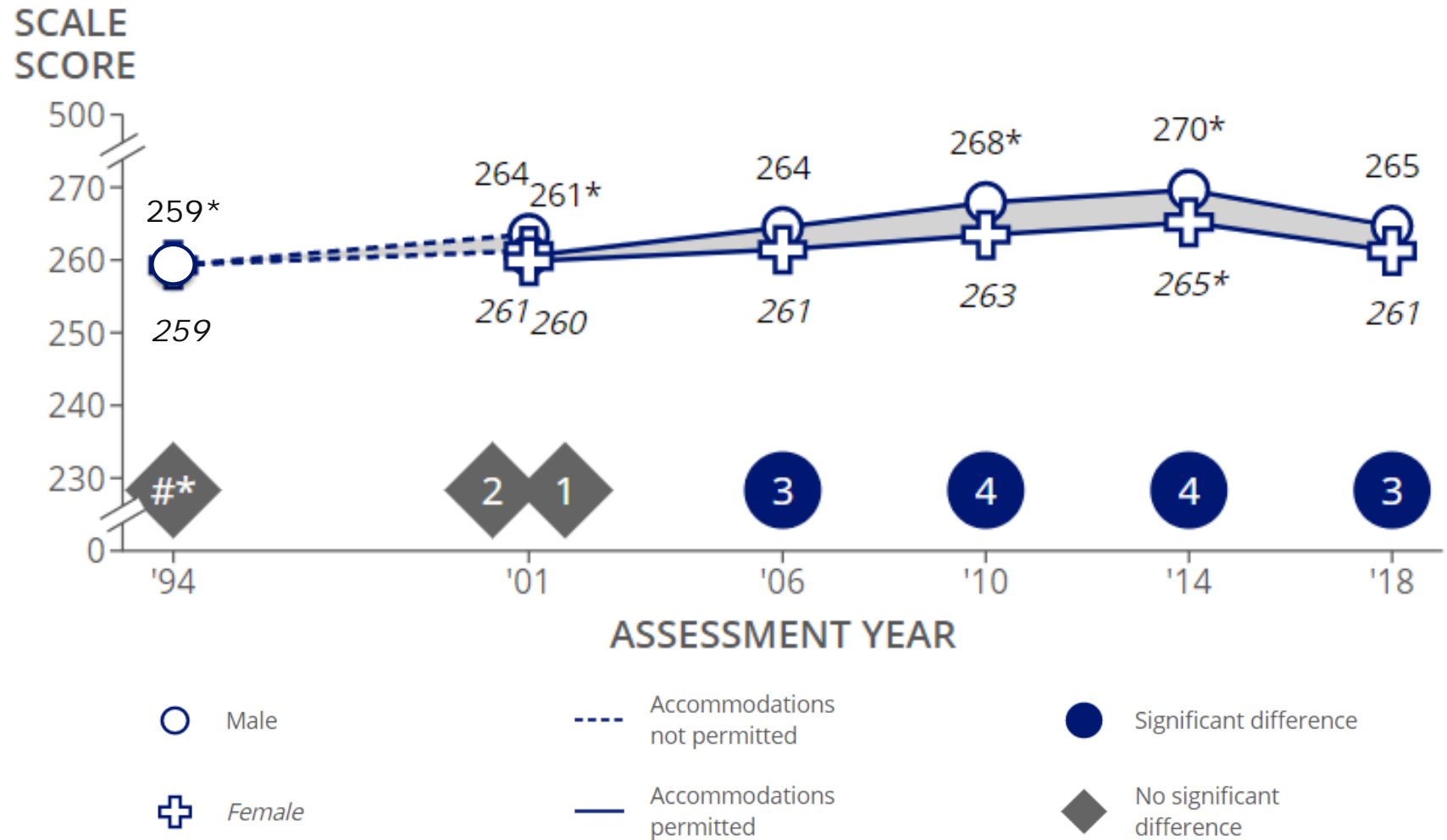
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* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

Male students outperform female students in 2018

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP U.S. history average scores and score gaps, by gender

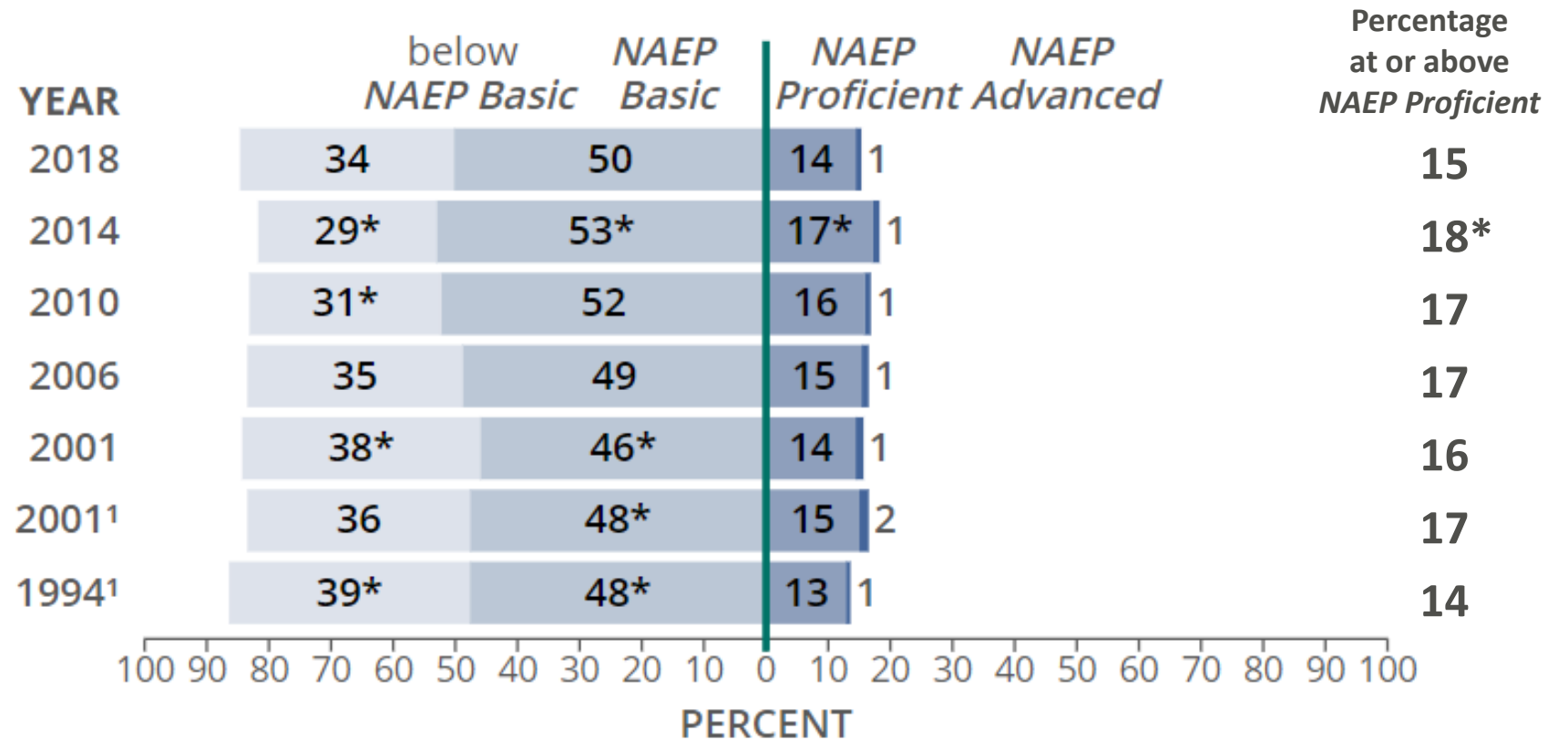


Rounds to zero.

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

15% of students perform at or above *NAEP Proficient* in U.S. history

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP U.S. history achievement-level results



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

¹ Accommodations not permitted.

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

NAEP Geography



What NAEP geography measures



Three Content Areas

- Space and place
- Environment and society
- Spatial dynamics and connections

Cognitive Areas

- Knowing
- Understanding
- Applying

NAEP Proficient students can understand, describe, and explain

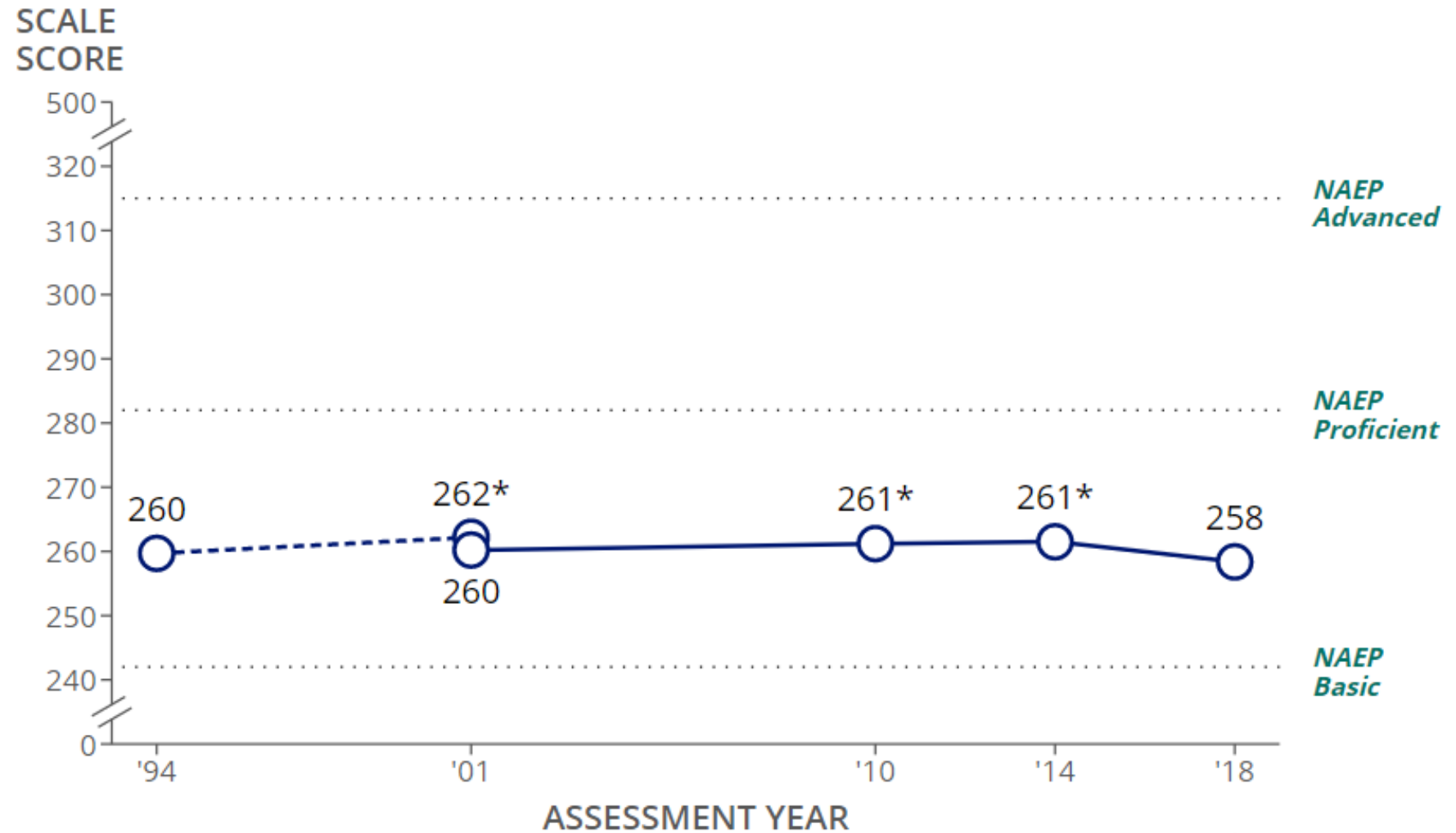
- Fundamental vocabulary, analytical concepts, physical and cultural features, and regional patterns
- Locational questions requiring integration of two or more geographic sources
- Case studies about how regions influence trade and migration patterns, and cultural and political interaction

How NAEP geography results are reported

- Overall composite scores (0-500 scale)
- Subscale scores by content area
- NAEP achievement levels
 - *NAEP Basic*
 - *NAEP Proficient*
 - *NAEP Advanced*

Three-point
decline in
geography
average score
since 2014

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP geography average scores



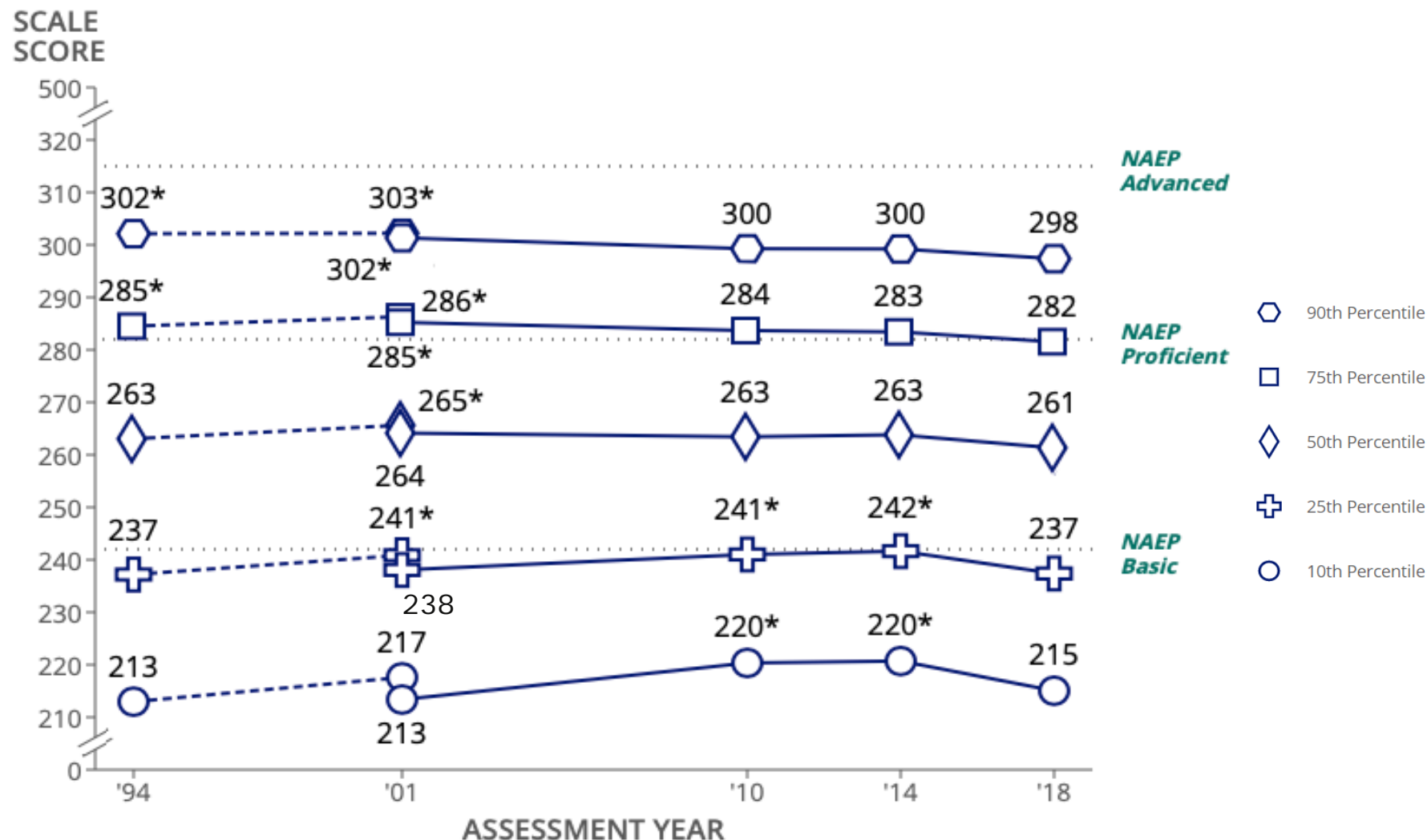
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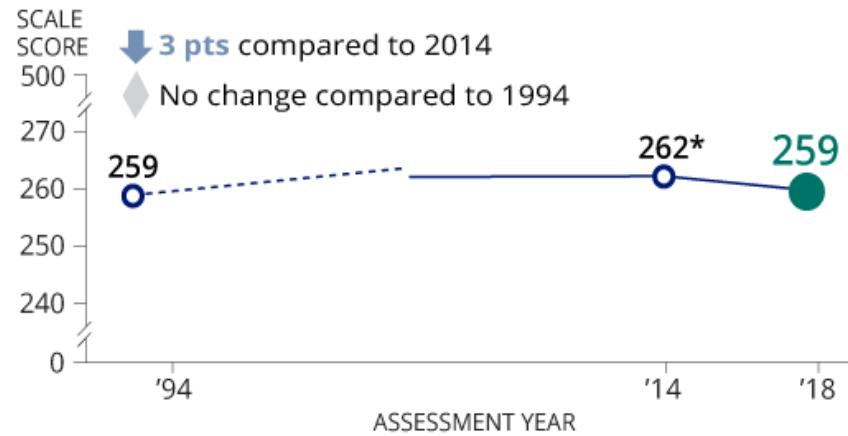
Scores
decrease for
lower-
performing
students
since 2014

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP geography scores at five selected percentiles

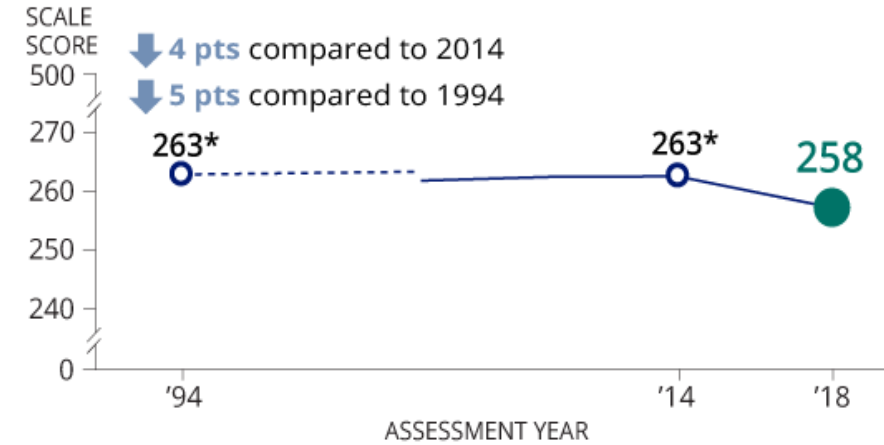


Scores lower
in two of
three
geography
content areas
compared
to 2014

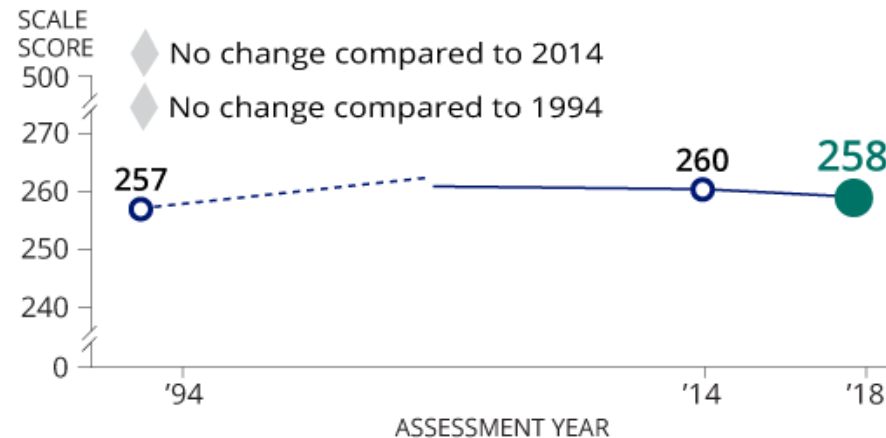
Space and Place



Environment and Society



Spatial Dynamics and Connections



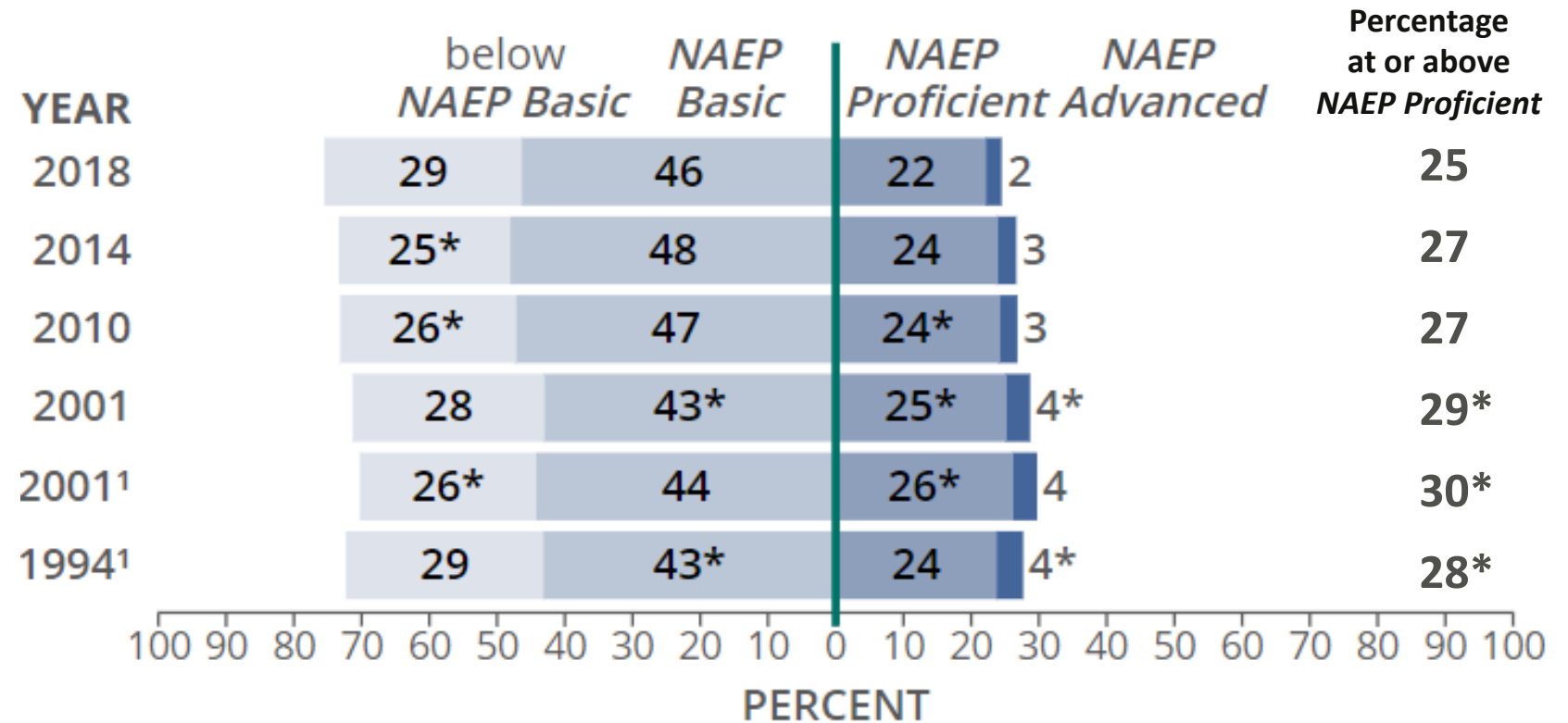
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* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

25% of students perform at or above *NAEP Proficient* in 2018




Trend in eighth-grade NAEP geography achievement-level results



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.

¹ Accommodations not permitted.

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

Subject	Score change	% at or above <i>NAEP Proficient</i> (2018)
Civics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term gain • No recent gain or decline 	24%
U.S. history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term gain • Score declines between 2014 and 2018 overall and across most performance levels 	15%
Geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No long-term change • Score declines between 2014 and 2018 overall and among lower-performing students 	25%

Questions?

