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
What NAEP civics measures

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

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
No significant change in average civics score since 2014

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.
No significant change across the performance distribution since 2014

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.
White—Hispanic score gap narrows compared to 1998

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.
24% of students perform at or above NAEP Proficient in 2018

Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics achievement-level results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>below</th>
<th>NAEP Basic</th>
<th>NAEP Proficient</th>
<th>NAEP Advanced</th>
<th>Percentage at or above NAEP Proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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

Four U.S. history themes
- Democracy
- Culture
- Technology
- World Role

Eight time periods

Cognitive domains
- Historical knowledge and perspective
- Historical analysis and interpretation

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

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

* Significantly different (p < .05) from 2018.
Scores decrease at all select percentiles except the 90th since 2014.
Scores lower across all four U.S. history themes since 2014.

Democracy:
- 4 pts compared to 2014
- 9 pts compared to 1994
- Score: 265

Technology:
- 4 pts compared to 2014
- 2 pts compared to 1994
- Score: 256

Culture:
- 6 pts compared to 2014
- No change compared to 1994
- Score: 263

World Role:
- 4 pts compared to 2014
- 8 pts compared to 1994
- Score: 266

* 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>below NAEP Basic</th>
<th>NAEP Basic</th>
<th>NAEP Proficient</th>
<th>NAEP Advanced</th>
<th>Percentage at or above NAEP Proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>29*</td>
<td>53*</td>
<td>17*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>31*</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>38*</td>
<td>46*</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001*</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>48*</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994*</td>
<td>39*</td>
<td>48*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

1 Accommodations not permitted.

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

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

Accommodations permitted

Accommodations not permitted

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.
Scores decrease for lower-performing students since 2014.
Scores lower in two of three geography content areas compared to 2014

- **Space and Place**:
  - '94: 259
  - '14: 262
  - '18: 259
  - 3 pts compared to 2014
  - No change compared to 1994

- **Environment and Society**:
  - '94: 263
  - '14: 263
  - '18: 258
  - 4 pts compared to 2014
  - 5 pts compared to 1994

- **Spatial Dynamics and Connections**:  
  - '94: 257
  - '14: 260
  - '18: 258
  - No change compared to 2014
  - No change compared to 1994

Accommodations permitted

Accommodations not permitted

* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2018.
Trend in eighth-grade NAEP geography achievement-level results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>below NAEP Basic</th>
<th>NAEP Basic</th>
<th>NAEP Proficient</th>
<th>NAEP Advanced</th>
<th>Percentage at or above NAEP Proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>26*</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>24*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>43*</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>29*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001¹</td>
<td>26*</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>26*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994¹</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>43*</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>28*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (p < .05) from 2018.
¹ Accommodations not permitted.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Score change</th>
<th>% at or above <em>NAEP Proficient</em> (2018)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civics</strong></td>
<td>• Long-term gain</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No recent gain or decline</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. history</strong></td>
<td>• Long-term gain</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Score declines between 2014 and 2018 overall and across most performance levels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
<td>• No long-term change</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Score declines between 2014 and 2018 overall and among lower-performing students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions?