

## Nationwide Trends in Reading Scores – State Data for Fourth-Grade Students

[States selected on the basis of population size and availability of published trend data; grade level differs in some cases]

State	Percentage of children at proficient or advanced level in reading, unless otherwise noted:							Trend
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
California <sup>1</sup>	40	41	45	47	36	39	40	↓
Colorado <sup>2</sup>	--	58	59	63	61	63	63	↓
Florida <sup>3</sup>	--	--	--	25	27	29	34	↓
Illinois <sup>4</sup>	--	--	--	62	62	62	65	↓
Iowa <sup>5</sup>	69	--	69	--	70	--	71	↓
Massachusetts <sup>6</sup>	--	--	--	62	67	63	64	↓
Michigan <sup>7</sup>	59	59	58	60	57	75	79	↓
Minnesota <sup>8</sup>	--	--	45	49	49	56	59	↓
Missouri <sup>9</sup>	--	--	32	32	35	34	35	↓

State	Percentage of children at proficient or advanced level in reading, unless otherwise noted:							Trend
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
<b>New York</b> <sup>10</sup>	49	52	64	65	66	70	68	
<b>Tennessee</b> <sup>11</sup>	55	53	--	52	56	56	--	]
<b>Texas</b> <sup>12</sup>	88	87	87	62	73	68 [41]	[39]	
<b>Virginia</b> <sup>13</sup>	55	61	61	65	72	72	--	]
<b>Washington</b> <sup>14</sup>	56	59	66	66	66	68	74	)
<b>Wisconsin</b> <sup>15</sup>	--	--	60	68	73	78	78	]

*Notes:* Large states and those with at least three comparable years of data were selected. Figures among states should not be compared, since states define 'proficient' and 'advanced' standards differently. Children typically sit for exams in the winter or spring of each year indicated. NAEP grade 4 reading data appear on: [nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/results2003/natachieve-g4.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/reading/results2003/natachieve-g4.asp). Pennsylvania has only published two years of data for grade 5 reading scores, showing a one percentage point gain in the share of children assessed as proficient or advanced, for 2002 to 2003. State data compiled by Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), an independent research center at the University of California, Berkeley and Davis, and Stanford University. October 2004.

<sup>1</sup> Figures for the 1998-2000 period are percentage of children performing above the national average on standardized reading test. The second series, 2002-2004, are percentage proficient or advanced in reading. The two series can not be compared. On the web: [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/)

<sup>2</sup> Figures for percentage of fourth graders assessed as proficient or advanced, excluding children taking the Spanish version of the CSAP. On the web: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/index\\_assess.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_assess.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Percentage of fourth graders at level 4 or 5, roughly corresponding to proficient or advanced. On the web: <http://fcat.fldoe.org/>

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<sup>4</sup> Percentage of third graders who meet or exceed state standard in reading on the ISAT. Inferred trend is level, given that the one-year gain was primarily among Latino children and not for other groups. On the web: [http://www.isbe.state.il.us/pdf/2004\\_assessment\\_results.pdf](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/pdf/2004_assessment_results.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Iowa has long reported ITBS test scores over an averaged two-year period, including fourth-grade reading comprehension scores. The state education department is continuing this practice under NCLB reporting requirements. On the web: <http://www.state.ia.us/educate/fis/pre/coer/doc/stu03.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Data are for grade 3 reading MCAS scores. English language arts trend is more flat: 51%, 54%, 56%, and 56% of children deemed proficient or advanced in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004, respectively. On the web: PDF report, <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/2004/results/summary.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> The first series, 1998-2002, is percentage of grade 4 students at 'satisfactory' levels of reading achievement on the MEAP. The most recent two years, 2003-2004, shifted scoring to percentage at level 1 ('exceeded standard') or level 2 ('met standard'). Most recent results on the web: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/2004\\_Main\\_Statewide\\_BW\\_90600\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/2004_Main_Statewide_BW_90600_7.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Third grade students at level 4 or level 5, roughly corresponding to proficient or advanced. On the web: [education.state.mn.us/CLASS](http://education.state.mn.us/CLASS).

<sup>9</sup> Missouri has assessed grade 3 children in 'communication arts' since 1999-2000. Percentage proficient or advanced reported. On the web: State PDF file, <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divimprove/assess/stateresults.html.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Figures exclude children with disabilities. See New York: The State of Learning, July 2003 (*Chapter 655 Report*). On the web: [www.emse.nysed.gov/irts/ela4and8/june2004/presentation\\_files/slide0050.htm](http://www.emse.nysed.gov/irts/ela4and8/june2004/presentation_files/slide0050.htm). 518-474-7965.

<sup>11</sup> Figures are percentages of fourth graders performing above the national average (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) in terms of reading comprehension. Disaggregated data by grade level not publishing for the 1999-2000 school year. On the web: <http://www.state.tn.us/education/mreport.htm>.

<sup>12</sup> First series, 1998-2000, is for percentage of third grade students 'meeting minimum expectations on the TAAS reading items. The more recent series, 2001-2004, is for percentage of grade 3 students at "intermediate" or "advanced" in reading on the TAKS. The percentage of grade 3 students who met the recommended reading standard fell from 41% in 2003 to 39% in 2004 [percentages in brackets]. On the web: [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/reporting/results/swresults/taks/2004/index.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/reporting/results/swresults/taks/2004/index.html).

<sup>13</sup> Virginia sets 'pass rates' on the state's Standards of Learning which roughly correspond to proficient and advanced levels under NCLB. On the web: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/src/index.shtml>. 804-225-2102.

<sup>14</sup> Percentage of fourth graders meeting state standard in reading. On the web: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/Reports/WASLTrend.aspx?&schoold=1&reportLevel=State>.

<sup>15</sup> Wisconsin also tests students at the third grade level. On the web: <http://data.dpi.state.wi.us/data/graphshell.asp?fullkey=ZZZZZZZZZZ&DN=None+Chosen&SN=None+Chosen &TYPECODE=0&ORGLLEVEL=ST&GRAPHFILE=GEDISA>.