



## Idaho Students Excel in Vocabulary

Idaho Students performed above the national average in vocabulary, according to the 2013 National Assessment of Educational Progress in Reading, the longest standing nationally representative measure of what American Students know and can do.

Beginning in 2009, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) integrated a measure of students' understanding of word meaning, or vocabulary, within the measurement of reading comprehension. For the NAEP meaning vocabulary assessment, students are asked to demonstrate their understanding of words as used in literary and informational texts that they read in the reading assessment.

### **Idaho Vocabulary Results**

The average scale score for Idaho's 4th graders was 220, higher than the national average of 218.

The average scale score for Idaho's 8th graders was 272, placing Idaho 8th graders among the top in the Nation, behind only Massachusetts and New Hampshire at 273 and above the national average scale score of 264.

Idaho's 12th graders average scale score is 301 – above the national average scale score of 293 and behind New Hampshire and Connecticut. Out of 13 states to have comparative data from 2009, Idaho was one of only 6 states to show an increase in Scale Score in 2013.

### **Vocabulary Scores Show Correlation to Reading Comprehension**

Both the NAEP reading comprehension and vocabulary scores are reported on 0–500 scales, but because the two scales were developed independently, the results cannot be directly compared. It is possible, however, to look at the vocabulary scores in relation to the performance of students in reading comprehension.

According to the National results, students who performed well on the vocabulary questions also performed well overall in reading comprehension. At all three grades, students who had the highest average vocabulary scores in 2013 were the students performing above the 75th percentile in reading comprehension; and students who had the lowest vocabulary scores were those students performing at or below the 25th percentile in reading comprehension.

For more information on the 2013 NAEP Vocabulary scores, please visit [the Nation's Report Card website](#).