

**2009 Science Assessment Content**

Guided by a new framework, the NAEP science assessment was updated in 2009 to keep the content current with key developments in science, curriculum standards, assessments, and research. The 2009 framework organizes science content into three broad content areas.

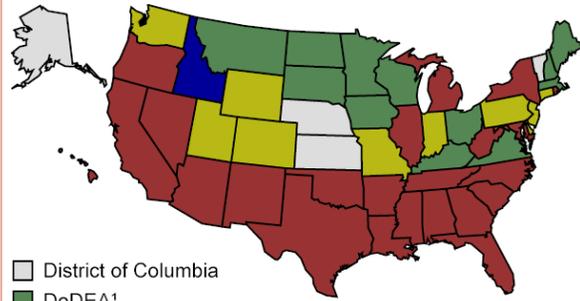
**Physical science** includes concepts related to properties and changes of matter, forms of energy, energy transfer and conservation, position and motion of objects, and forces affecting motion.

**Life science** includes concepts related to organization and development, matter and energy transformations, interdependence, heredity and reproduction, and evolution and diversity.

**Earth and space sciences** includes concepts related to objects in the universe, the history of the Earth, properties of Earth materials, tectonics, energy in Earth systems, climate and weather, and biogeochemical cycles.

The 2009 science assessment was composed of 143 questions at grade 4, 162 at grade 8, and 179 at grade 12. Students responded to only a portion of the questions, which included both multiple-choice questions and questions that required a written response.

**Compare the Average Score in 2009 to Other States/Jurisdictions**



□ District of Columbia  
■ DoDEA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools).

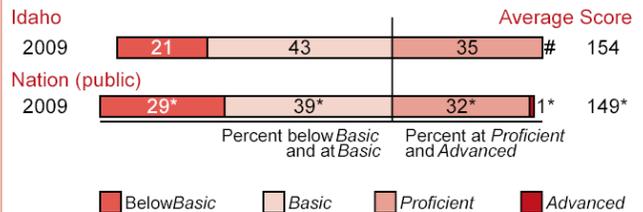
In 2009, the average score in Idaho was

- lower than those in 13 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 23 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 10 states/jurisdictions
- 5 states/jurisdictions did not participate

**Overall Results**

- In 2009, the average score of fourth-grade students in Idaho was 154. This was higher than the average score of 149 for public school students in the nation.
- The percentage of students in Idaho who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 35 percent in 2009. This percentage was greater than the nation (32 percent).
- The percentage of students in Idaho who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 79 percent in 2009. This percentage was greater than the nation (71 percent).

**Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results**



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from Idaho. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.  
# Rounds to zero.

NOTE: The percentage at *Advanced* was higher in the Nation (0.56) than in Idaho (0.22). Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

**Results for Student Groups in 2009**

Reporting Groups	Percent of students	Avg. score	Percentages at or above			Percent at Advanced
			Basic	Proficient	Advanced	
<b>Gender</b>						
Male	50	154	79	37	#	#
Female	50	153	78	34	#	#
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>						
White	82	159	84	40	#	#
Black	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Hispanic	14	128	47	10	#	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	156	77	39	3	3
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
<b>National School Lunch Program</b>						
Eligible	43	145	69	24	#	#
Not eligible	57	160	85	44	#	#

# Rounds to zero. ‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, and the "Unclassified" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed.

**Score Gaps for Student Groups**

- In 2009, male students in Idaho had an average score that was not significantly different from female students.
- Data are not reported for Black students in Idaho, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2009, Hispanic students had an average score that was 31 points lower than White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from the nation (32 points).
- In 2009, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 15 points lower than students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. This performance gap was narrower than the nation (29 points).