



# The Washington State Board of Education

An education system where students are engaged in personalized education pathways that prepare them for civic engagement, careers, postsecondary education, and lifelong learning.

## NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS - 2019

Prepared for the November 2019 Board meeting

### Overview

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) was first administered in 1969, and is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what the nation's students know and can do in mathematics, reading, and other subjects. Standard administration practices are implemented to provide a common measure of student achievement. NAEP is given to a representative sample of students across the country. Results are reported for groups of students with similar characteristics (e.g., race/ethnicity and special education,), but scores for neither individual students nor schools are reported.

Between January and March of 2019, students who participated in NAEP were assessed in mathematics, reading, and science. Most students took the digital assessment on tablets, while a small subset of students took paper-and-pencil versions to help NAEP evaluate any differences in student performance between the two types of administration. All of the results can be accessed on the NAEP webpage (<https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/media.aspx>) and the key results for the nation are as follows:

Average reading scores at both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades were lower in 2019 as compared to 2017.

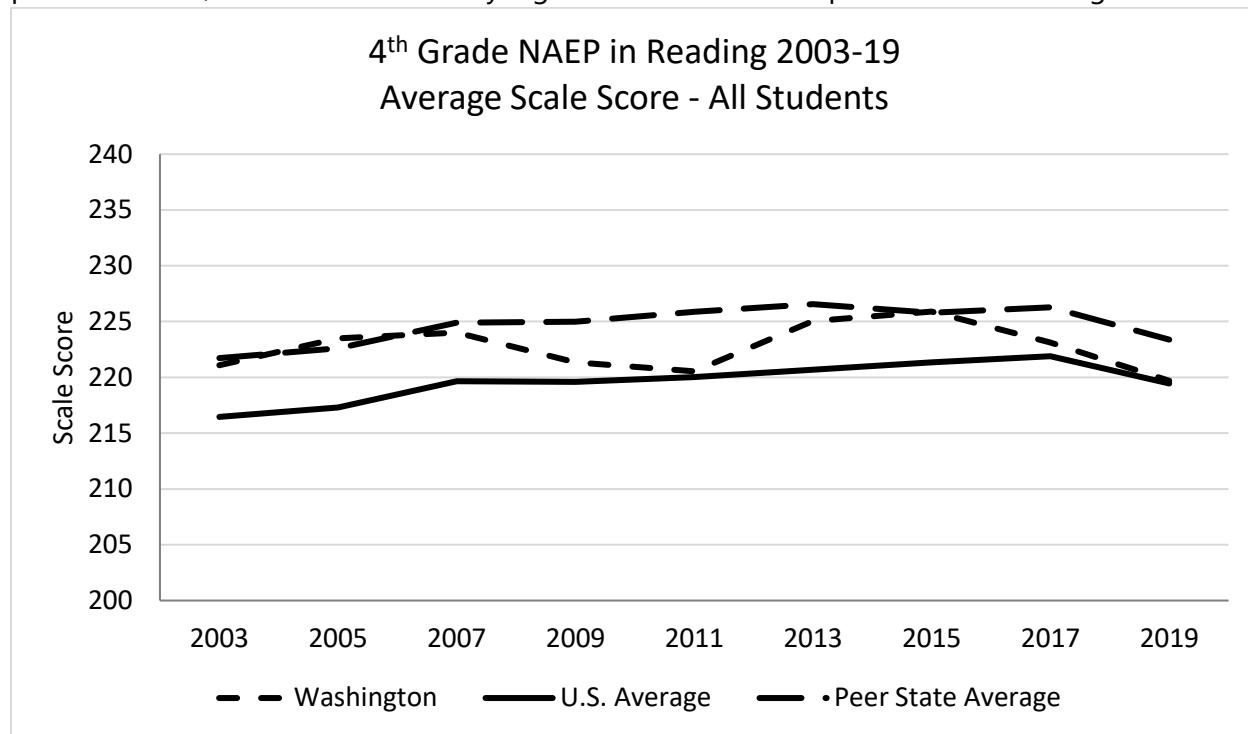
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in reading, 17 jurisdictions posted statistically significant lower scores in 2019 as compared to the 2017 scores. Washington's scale score decline of approximately 3.4 points was not a statistically significant change, meaning that Washington was one of 32 states with no significant change in score.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in reading, 31 states posted statistically significant lower scores in 2019 as compared to the 2017 scores. Washington's scale score decline of approximately 5.3 points was a statistically significant change.

Average math scores for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade were slightly higher nationally, and for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade the scores were mostly unchanged.

- On the 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in math, 40 states posted statistically significant similar scores in 2019 as compared to the 2017 scores. Washington's scale score decline of approximately 2.2 points was not a statistically significant change.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in math, 43 states posted statistically significant similar scores in 2019 as compared to the 2017 scores. Washington's scale score decline of approximately 3.3 points was not a statistically significant change.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington students fell approximately 3.4 scale score points to 219.7, which was fractionally higher than the national public schools average score.

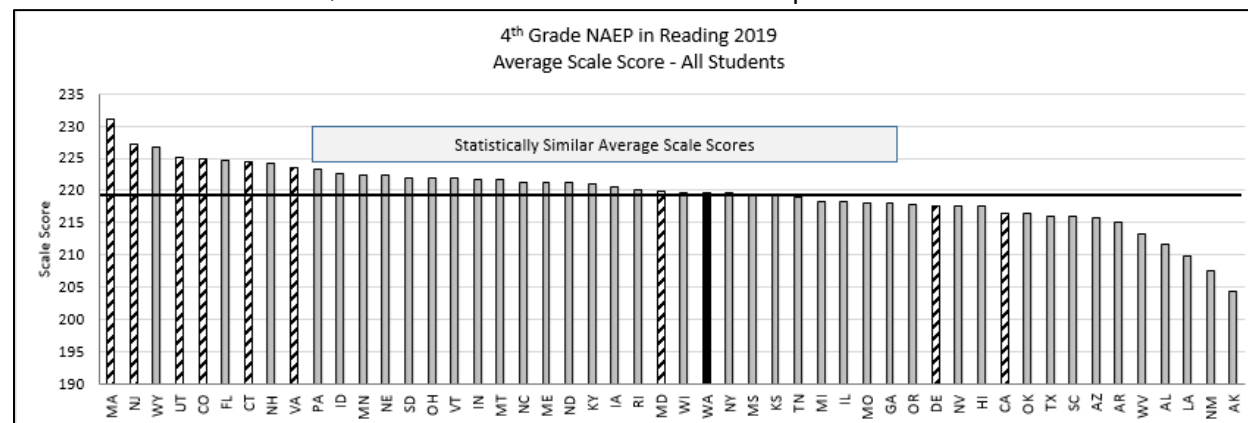


Average Scale scores for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in reading over the most recent administrations.

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
Washington	221.1	223.5	224.0	221.3	220.5	225.0	225.9	223.1	219.7
U.S. Ave.	216.5	217.3	219.7	219.6	220.0	220.7	221.4	221.9	219.4
Peer State* Ave.	221.7	222.6	224.9	225.0	225.9	226.6	225.8	226.3	223.4

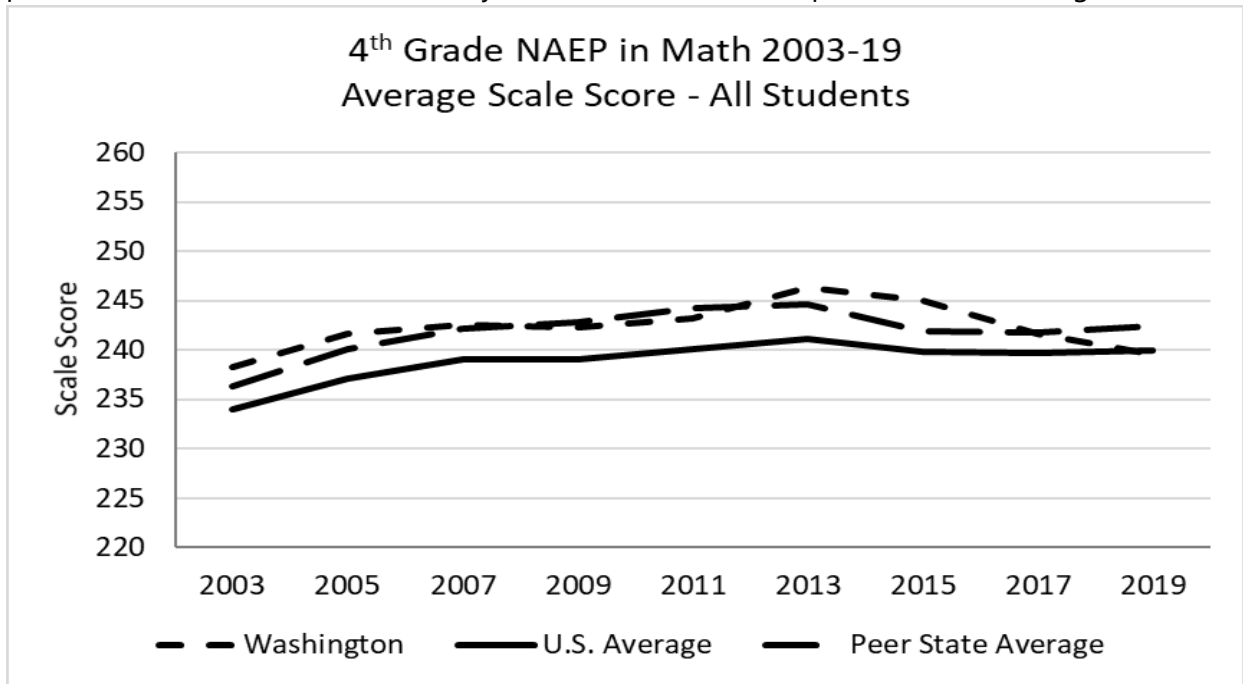
\*Note: learn more about the peer states from the [Educational System Health reports](#) to the legislature.

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington was statistically similar to the national average, similar to 25 other states, and similar to or better than three peer states.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington students fell approximately 2.2 scale score points to 239.5, which was fractionally lower than the national public schools average score.

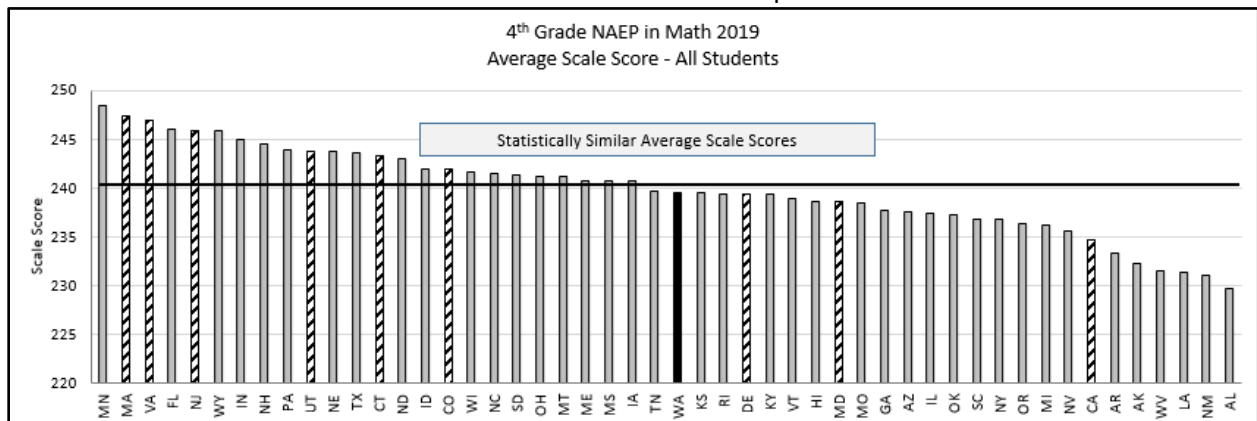


Average Scale scores for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in math over the most recent administrations.

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
Washington	238.3	241.7	242.5	242.3	243.2	246.3	245.0	241.7	239.5
U.S. Ave.	234.0	237.1	239.1	239.1	240.1	241.2	239.9	239.7	240.0
Peer State* Ave.	236.3	240.1	242.1	242.8	244.2	244.6	241.8	241.8	242.4

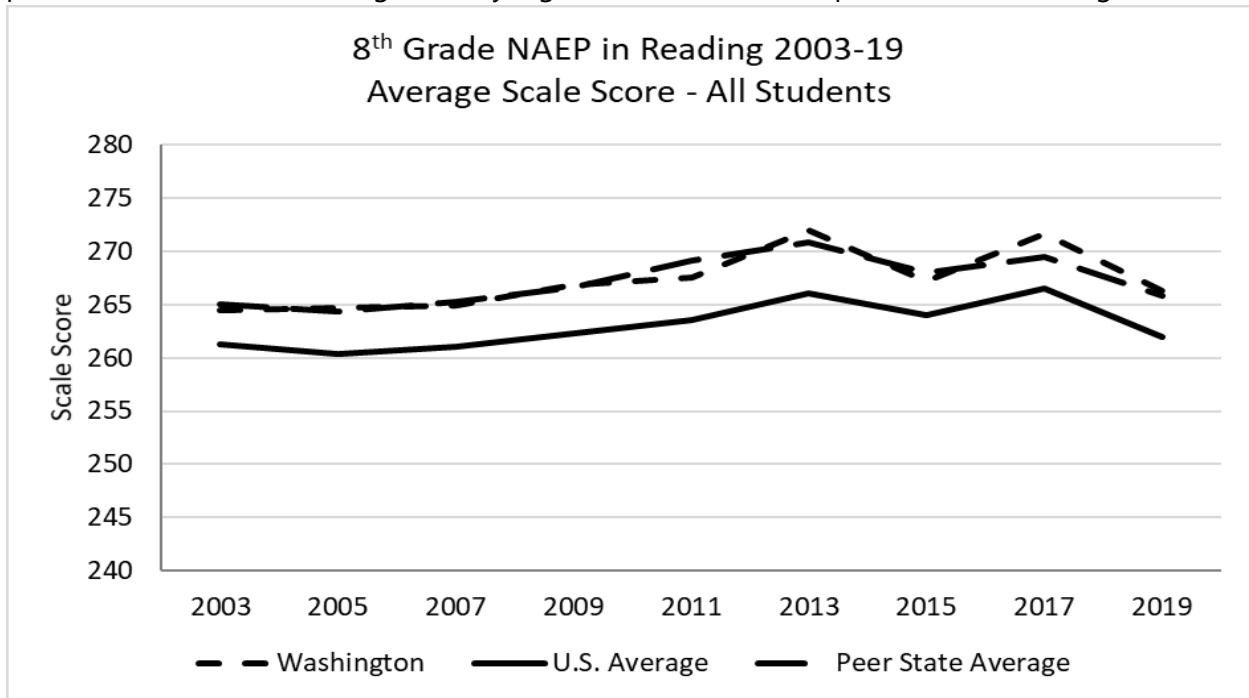
\*Note: learn more about the peer states from the [Educational System Health reports](#) to the legislature.

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington was statistically similar to the national average, similar to 19 other states, and similar to or better than four peer states.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington students fell approximately 5.3 scale score points to 266.3, which was significantly higher than the national public schools average score.

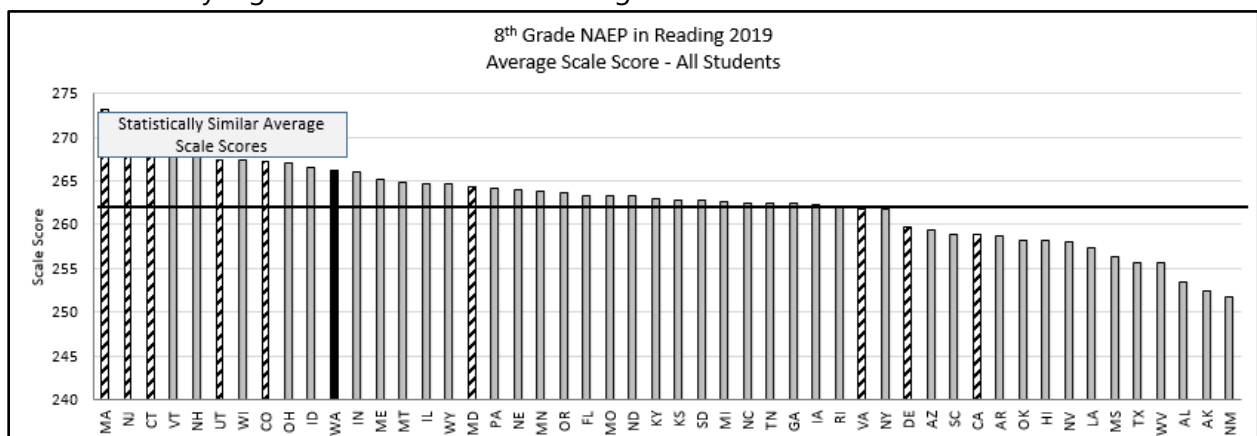


Average Scale scores for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in reading over the most recent administrations.

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
Washington	264.5	264.7	264.9	266.9	267.6	272.0	267.3	271.6	266.3
U.S. Ave.	261.3	260.4	261.0	262.3	263.6	266.0	264.0	266.6	262.0
Peer State* Ave.	265.0	264.3	265.2	266.7	269.1	270.9	268.0	269.5	265.8

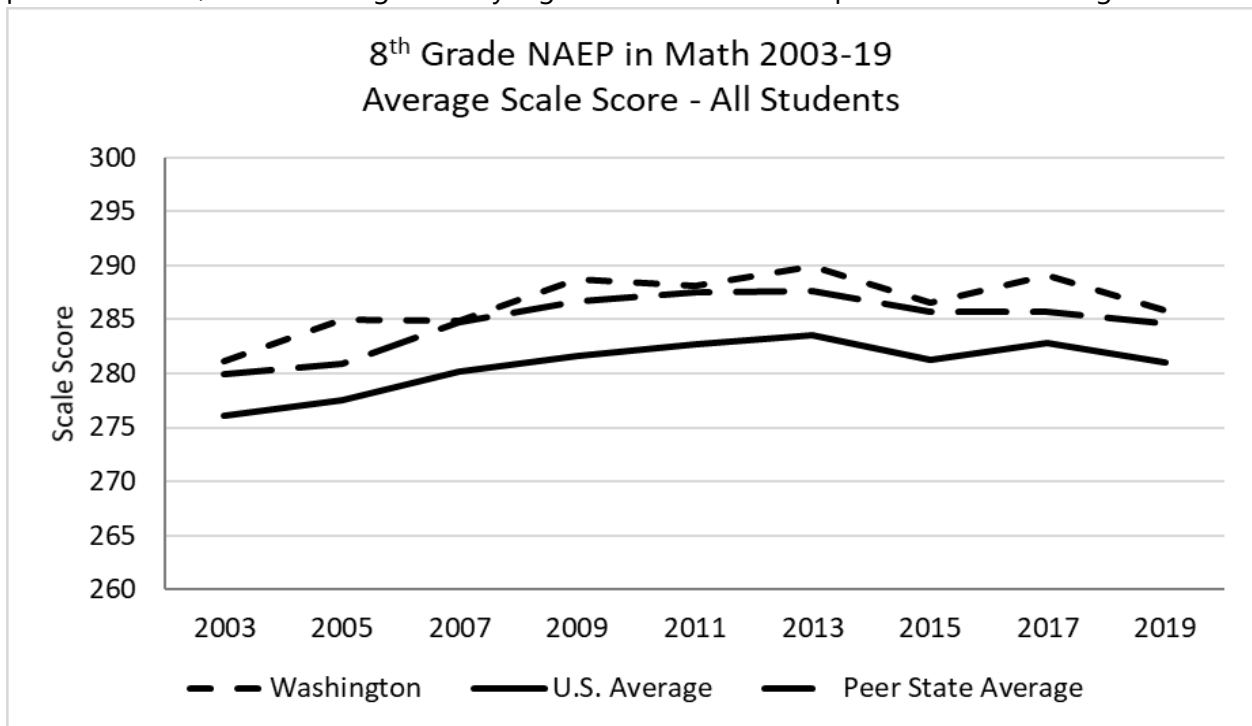
\*Note: learn more about the peer states from the [Educational System Health reports](#) to the legislature.

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington students was one of 11 states' scores which were statistically higher than the national average and 39 other states.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington students fell approximately 3.3 scale score points to 285.8, which was significantly higher than the national public schools average score.



Average Scale scores for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP in math over time.

	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
Washington	281.2	285.1	284.9	288.7	288.1	290.0	286.5	289.1	285.8
U.S. Ave.	276.1	277.5	280.2	281.7	282.7	283.6	281.3	282.8	281.0
Peer State* Ave.	279.9	280.9	284.8	286.7	287.5	287.7	285.8	285.7	284.6

\*Note: learn more about the peer states from the [Educational System Health reports](#) to the legislature.

In 2019, the average scale score for Washington students was one of 18 states' scores which were statistically higher than the national average and 32 other states.

