

NAEP Mega-States Report

Analysis of Student Performance in Florida

In 2010, more than one-third of the nation's public school students attended school in California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Illinois. Because these states have the largest population, they are referred to as the "Mega-States" for the purpose of this report. The Mega-States now serve more than half of the nation's English language learners (ELLs), as well as some of the largest concentrations of children from lower-income families. As policymakers and educators look at the nation's changing demographics and explore ways to close achievement gaps, the educational progress of children in these five states is of interest far beyond their state borders.

California, Florida, New York, and Texas have participated in state-level NAEP since it was first offered in 1990. Illinois, however, did not participate or did not meet the minimum guidelines for reporting at the state level prior to 2003 for grades 4 and 8 NAEP Reading and, prior to 2000, for grade 4 NAEP Mathematics. Illinois participated in grade 8 NAEP Mathematics in 1990, but did not participate again until 2000, missing the 1992 and 1996 administrations.

Overview

- Overall, Florida has made some of the greatest learning gains in both mathematics and reading since the 1990s, especially when compared to the other four Mega-States and in regard to its Hispanic student population. Between 1992 and 2011,
 - Florida students posted the greatest gain on the grade 4 NAEP Reading assessment, gaining 16 average scale score points compared to the nation's 5-point gain. Florida's significant gain moved the state from scoring well below the national average in 1992 to just above in 2011.
 - Florida's average scale score increased 8 points on grade 8 NAEP Reading from 1998 to 2011; the nation gained 3 points. Florida's gain moved the state from scoring below the national average in 1998 to being on par with the national average in 2011.
 - Florida's grade 4 NAEP Mathematics average scale score increased by 26 points from 1992 to 2011, a greater gain than the nation's. Florida's gain moved the state from scoring below the national average in 1992 to at the national average in 2011.
 - Florida's grade 4 and 8 reading and grade 4 mathematics average scale score gains were all significantly greater than the nation's.
 - In 2011, 30% of Florida's grade 4 Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient* in NAEP Reading—the highest among the Mega-States and significantly higher than the nation.
 - In 2011, 23% of Florida's grade 4 Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient* in NAEP Science—the highest among the Mega-States and significantly higher than the nation.
 - Florida is still below the national average in grade 8 mathematics.

Context*

- Florida is fourth (2.6 million) in size of public school enrollment among the Mega-States, behind California (6.2 million), Texas (4.9 million), and New York (2.7 million).
 - Florida has the third-greatest number of English language learners (260,202) in the nation, behind California (1.4 million) and Texas (726,823).
 - Florida's student/teacher ratio was lower than the nation's; Florida had a ratio of 15.1 students to one teacher and the nation's ratio was 16 students to one teacher.
 - Florida had the highest percentage of students (56%) eligible for free/reduced-price lunch (FRPL) out of the five Mega-States. FRPL, also known as the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), is used as an indicator of socio-economic standing.

*Based on fiscal year 2009, school year 2009-2010, and school year 2010-2011.

Grade 4 Reading

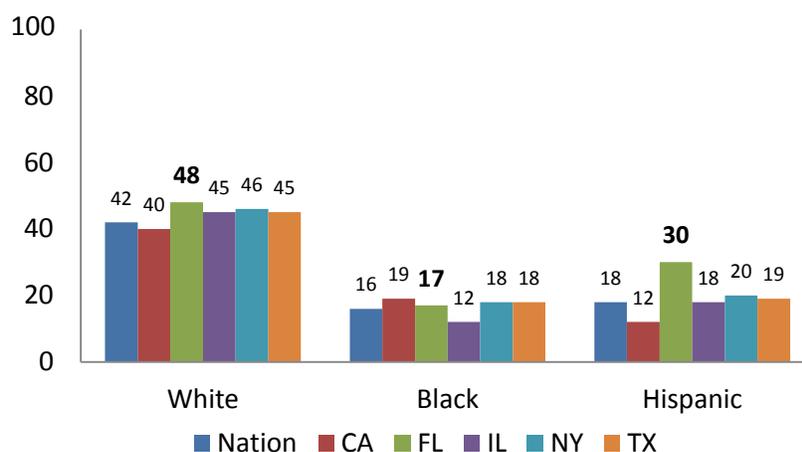
- In 2011, the reading average scale scores for Florida’s fourth-graders were significantly higher than the nation’s and all of the Mega-States, except New York.
- Florida’s 16-point gain between 1992 and 2011 was significantly greater than that of the other three Mega-States with reportable results and significantly greater than the national average.
- Florida’s grade 4 NAEP reading average scale score improved from below the national average in 1992 to above the national average in 2011.
- Four of Florida’s subgroups (Black and White students, Students with Disabilities [SD], and those eligible for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch [FRPL]), posted greater gains than the nation between 1998 and 2011.

Average scale score changes for grade 4 public school students between 1992 and 2011	
State	Scale Score Change
Florida	16
California	9 <
New York	8 <
Texas	6 <
Nation	5 <

< = FL had a greater scale score change

Race/Ethnicity

Percentage of grade 4 public school students scoring at or above *Proficient* in NAEP Reading - 2011

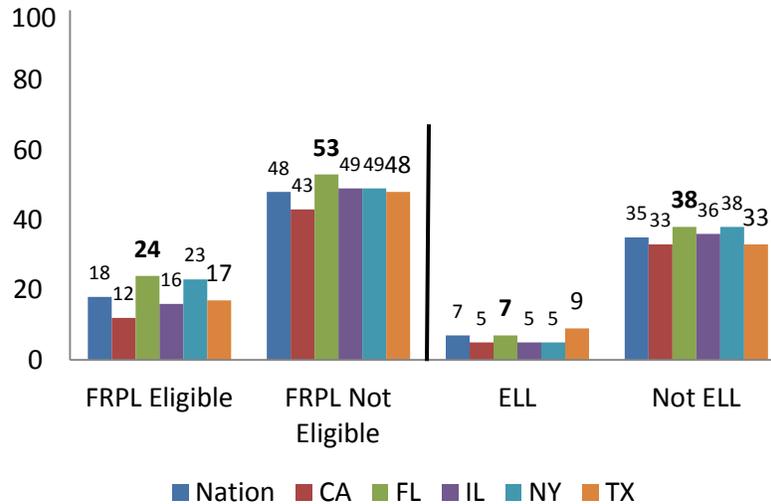


- In 2011, 30% of Florida’s grade 4 Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient*—the highest among the Mega-States and significantly higher than the nation.
- In 2011, 48% of Florida’s grade 4 White students scored at or above *Proficient*—similar to that of the four other Mega-States and significantly higher than the nation.
- In 2011, 17% of Florida’s grade 4 Black students scored at or above *Proficient*—similar to that of the four other Mega-States and the nation.

Grade 4 Reading

Eligibility for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) English Language Learners (ELLs)

Percentage of grade 4 public school students
scoring at or above *Proficient* in NAEP Reading - 2011



- In 2011, 24% of Florida's grade 4 students who were eligible for FRPL scored at or above *Proficient*; this percentage is significantly higher than the nation's and all the other Mega-States, except for New York.
- In 2011, 7% of Florida's grade 4 students who were classified as ELLs scored at or above *Proficient*, which was similar to the percentages of the other Mega-States and the nation.

Grade 4 Reading, Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic	FRPL	No FRPL	SD	ELL	City	Suburb
Nation	32	42*	16	18*	18*	48*	11	7	26	37
California	25*	40	19	12*	12*	43	11	5	24	25*
Florida	35	48	17	30	24	53	15	7	33	36
Illinois	33	45	12	18*	16*	49	13	5	27	37
New York	35	46	18	20*	23	49	10	5	26	46**
Texas	28*	45	18	19*	17*	48	10	9	24	32

*Florida scored significantly higher than

**Florida scored significantly lower than

Grade 4 Reading, Gain in Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 1992 - 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic
Nation	6*	9*	8	8*
California	5*	12	11	7*
Florida	14	20	10	16
New York	8*	10*	8	12
Texas	5*	11	10	7*

*Florida's gain significantly greater than

Grade 8 Reading

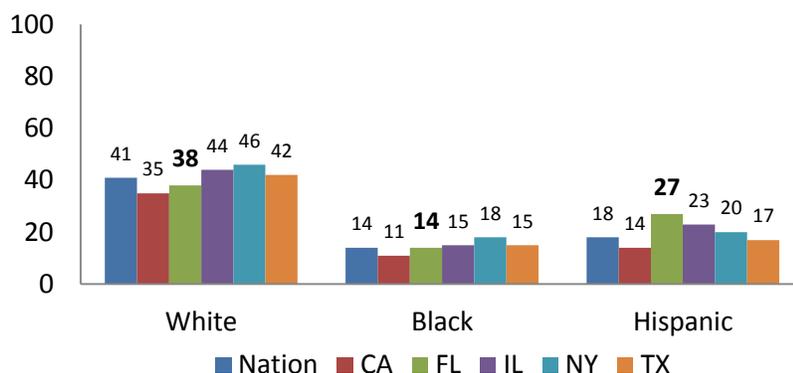
- The reading average scale score for eighth-graders in Florida increased from lower than the national average in 1998 to not significantly different from the nation in 2011. Florida, with an 8-point gain between 1998 and 2011, was the only state to experience a statistically significant gain amongst the Mega-States; however, the nation's gain was also significant.

Average scale score changes for grade 8 public school students between 1998 and 2011	
State	Scale Score Change
Florida	8
California	3
Nation	3 <
New York	1 <
Texas	0 <

< = FL had a greater scale score change

Race/Ethnicity

Percentage of grade 8 public school students scoring at or above *Proficient* in NAEP Reading - 2011



- In Florida, the reading average scale score gains for grade 8 Black students (12 points) between 1998 and 2011 and students identified as having a disability (13 points) between 2003 and 2011 were greater than the nation's gains for those student groups during those years.
- In 2011, 38% of Florida's grade 8 White students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the national average of 41%.
- In 2011, 27% of Florida's grade 8 Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than the national average of 18% and significantly higher than all the other Mega-States, except for Illinois.

Grade 8 Reading

Eligibility for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) and School Location*

- In 2011, 20% of Florida’s grade 8 students who were eligible for FRPL scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than California and Texas.
- In 2011, 30% of Florida’s grade 8 students enrolled in suburban schools scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly lower than Illinois, New York, and the nation.
- In 2011, 29% of Florida’s grade 8 students enrolled in city schools scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from California, New York, Texas, and the nation, and exactly the same as Illinois.

*City schools are located inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city. Suburban schools are located outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area.

Grade 8 Reading, Percentage Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic	FRPL	No FRPL	SD	ELL	City	Suburb
Nation	32	41	14	18*	18	44	7	3	26	36**
California	24*	35	11	14*	13*	36	3	3	22	24*
Florida	30	38	14	27	20	41	9	4	29	30
Illinois	34	44	15	23	19	48	8	2	29	38**
New York	35**	46	18	20*	24	47	8	1	26	43**
Texas	27	42	15	17*	16*	41	6	1	25	30

*Florida scored significantly higher than

**Florida scored significantly lower than

Grade 8 Reading, Gain in Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 1998 - 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic
Nation	2*	4	3	5
California	3	0	1	6
Florida	7	8	7	10
New York	3	2	8	10
Texas	-1*	4	3	4

*Florida’s gain significantly greater than

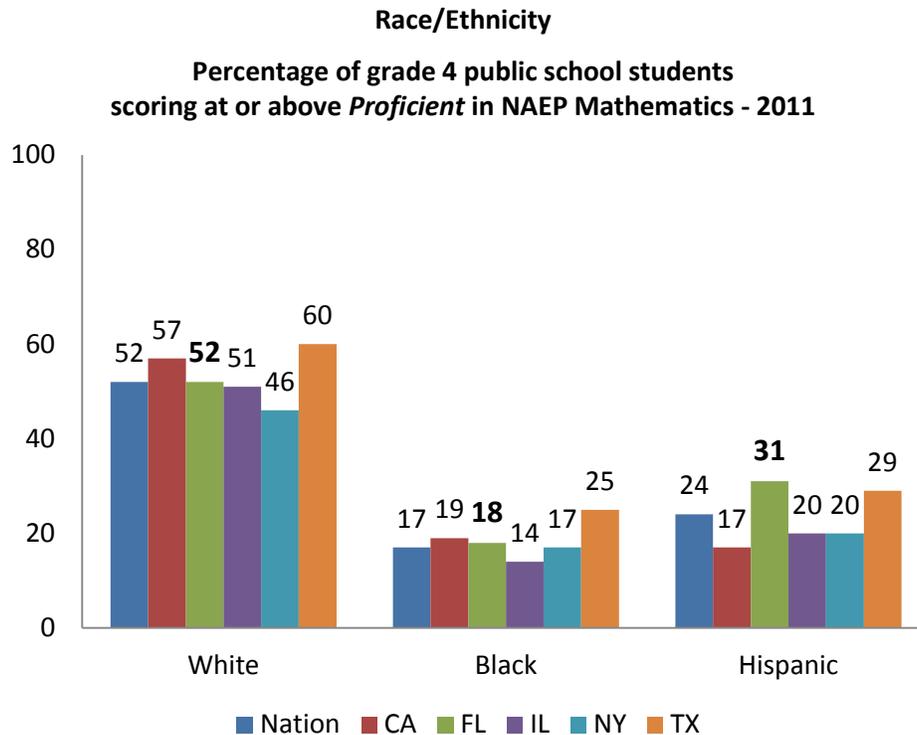
Grade 4 Mathematics

- The mathematics average scale score for fourth-graders in Florida increased from lower than the national average in 1992 to not significantly different from the nation in 2011. Florida’s 26-point gain was significantly greater than the 22-point gain for public school students nationally and the 19-point gain for New York’s public school students.

Average scale score changes for grade 4 public school students between 1992 and 2011	
State	Scale Score Change
Florida	26
California	26
Texas	23
Nation	22 <
New York	19 <

< = FL had a greater scale score change

Grade 4 Mathematics



- In 2011, 31% of Florida’s grade 4 Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than the nation and all the Mega-States, except for Texas.
- In 2011, 18% of Florida’s grade 4 Black students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the nation or the other Mega-States.
- In 2011, 52% of Florida’s grade 4 White students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the nation, California, Illinois, or Texas, and significantly higher than New York.

Students with Disabilities, Eligibility for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL), and School Location

- Between 2003 and 2011, Florida’s grade 4 students with disabilities increased their mathematics average scale score by 9 points. This was a significantly greater increase than the nation’s and all of the other Mega-States, except for Illinois, whose increase was not significantly different from Florida’s.
- In 2011, 26% of Florida’s grade 4 students who were eligible for FRPL scored at or above *Proficient*—a significantly higher percentage than California’s and Illinois’s.
- In 2011, 40% of Florida’s grade 4 students enrolled in suburban schools scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the other Mega-States, but lower than the nation.
- In 2011, 33% of Florida’s grade 4 students enrolled in city schools scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the other Mega-States and the nation.

Grade 4 Mathematics

Grade 4 Mathematics, Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic	FRPL	No FRPL	SD	ELL	City	Suburb
Nation	40	52	17	24*	24	57	17	14	33	45**
California	34	57	19	17*	18*	56	9*	11	32	35
Florida	37	52	18	31	26	56	18	13	33	40
Illinois	38	51	14	20*	20*	56	19	12	33	41
New York	36	46*	17	20*	25	49*	12*	8	29	46
Texas	39	60	25	29	28	59	19	20	35	43

*Florida scored significantly higher than

**Florida scored significantly lower than

Grade 4 Mathematics, Gain in Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 1992 - 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic
Nation	22	30	15	18
California	21	40	17	14*
Florida	24	34	16	24
New York	19*	24*	14	16*
Texas	24	36	21	23

*Florida's gain significantly greater than

Grade 8 Mathematics

- Florida's grade 8 mathematics average scale score increased by 23 points between 1990 and 2011, second only to Texas and not significantly different from Illinois, New York, or the nation. California's 16-point increase was significantly smaller than Florida's.

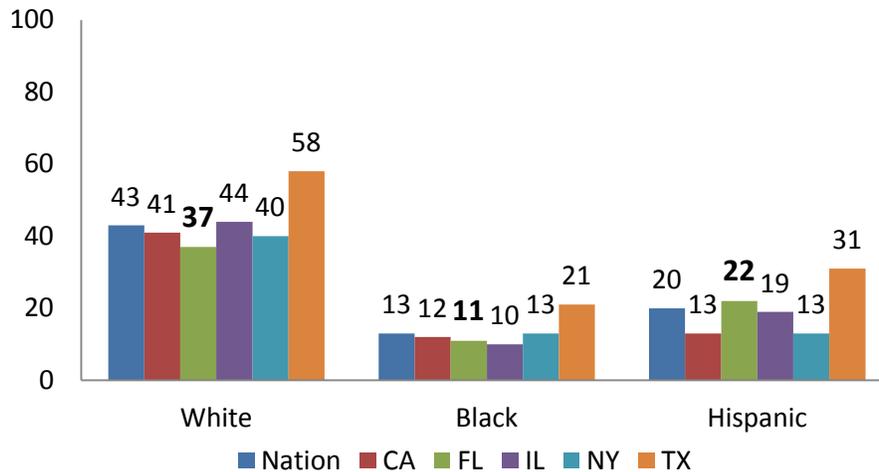
Average scale score changes for grade 8 public school students between 1990 and 2011	
State	Scale Score Change
Texas	32 >
Florida	23
Illinois	23
Nation	21
New York	20
California	16 <

< = FL had a greater scale score change.

> = FL had a smaller scale score change.

Grade 8 Mathematics

Race/Ethnicity
Percentage of grade 8 public school students
scoring at or above *Proficient* in NAEP Mathematics - 2011



- In 2011, 22% of Florida’s grade 8 Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than California and New York, not significantly different from Illinois or the nation, and significantly lower than Texas.
- In 2011, 11% of Florida’s grade 8 Black students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the nation or the other Mega-States, except for Texas.
- In 2011, 37% of Florida’s grade 8 White students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from California or New York but significantly lower than Illinois, Texas, and the nation.

Students with Disabilities, Eligibility for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL), and School Location

- Florida’s grade 8 students with disabilities increased their mathematics average scale score by 16 points from 2003 to 2011; this increase was significantly higher than California’s, New York’s, and the nation’s.
- In 2011, 16% of Florida’s grade 8 students who were eligible for FRPL scored at or above *Proficient*, which was not significantly different from California, Illinois, or New York.
- In 2011, 29% of Florida’s grade 8 students enrolled in suburban schools scored at or above *Proficient*—a percentage significantly lower than Illinois’s, Texas’s, and the nation’s.
- In 2011, 26% of Florida’s grade 8 students enrolled in city schools scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the nation or the other Mega-States, except for Texas.

Grade 8 Mathematics, Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic	FRPL	No FRPL	SD	ELL	City	Suburb
Nation	34**	43**	13	20	19**	47**	9	5	29	37**
California	25	41	12	13*	14	40	6	2	22	28
Florida	28	37	11	22	16	42	9	5	26	29
Illinois	33**	44**	10	19	17	47	10	4	28	36**
New York	30	40	13	13*	18	43	5	1	24	33
Texas	40**	58**	21**	31**	28**	58**	15	10	39**	41**

*Florida scored significantly higher than

**Florida scored significantly lower than

Grade 8 Mathematics

Grade 8 Mathematics, Gain in Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 1990 - 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic
Nation	18	25	8	13
California	13	22	10	10
Florida	16	21	8	15
Illinois	18	26	7	16
New York	15	19	10	8*
Texas	27**	37**	20**	27**

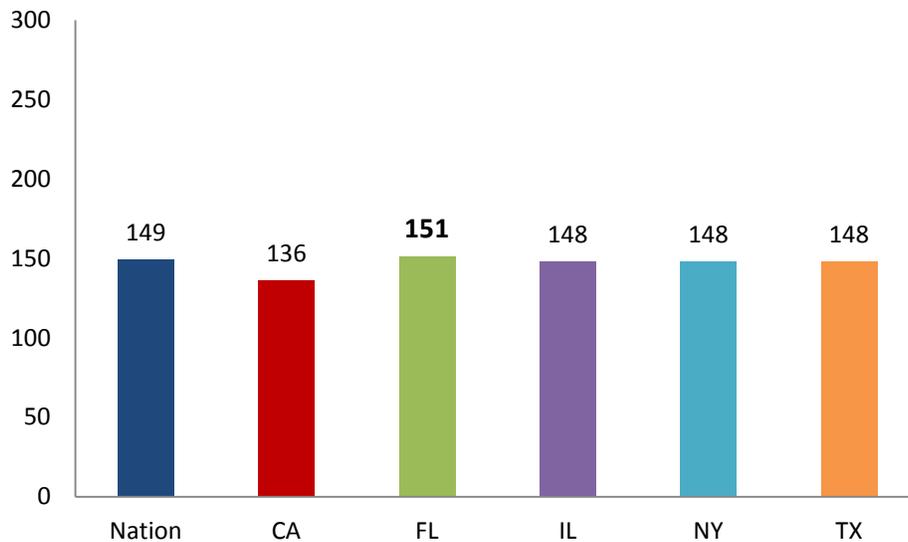
*Florida's gain significantly greater than

**Florida's gain significantly smaller than

Grade 4 Science

- In 2009, Florida's fourth-graders had a NAEP science average scale score significantly higher than California's and not significantly different from the nation's or the other Mega-States' scores.

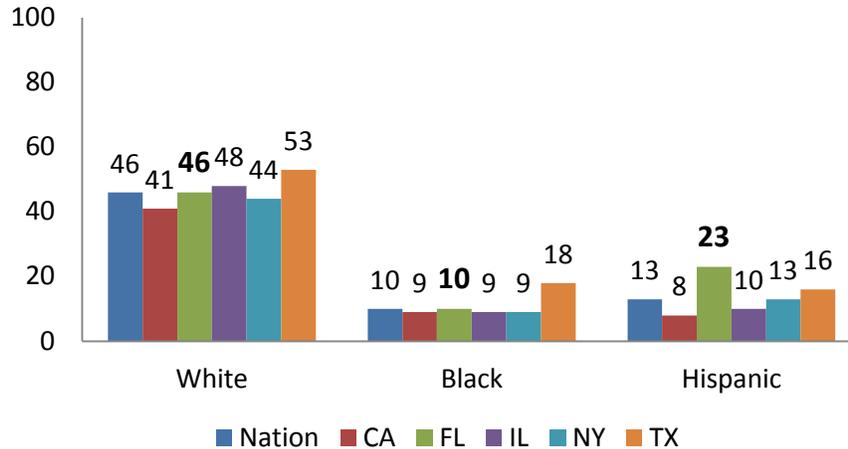
Average scale scores for grade 4 students in
NAEP Science 2009



Grade 4 Science

Race/Ethnicity

Percentage of grade 4 public school students scoring at or above *Proficient* in NAEP Science - 2009



- In 2009, 23% of Florida’s fourth-grade Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than the nation and the other Mega-States.
- In 2009, 10% of Florida’s fourth-grade Black students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the nation or the other Mega-States, except for Texas.
- In 2009, 46% of Florida’s fourth-grade White students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the nation or the other Mega-States.

Eligibility for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) and School Location

- In 2009, 20% of Florida’s grade 4 students who were eligible for FRPL scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than California, Illinois, and Texas, and not significantly different from New York or the nation.
- In 2009, 33% of Florida’s grade 4 students enrolled in suburban schools scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than California, not significantly different from Illinois, Texas, or the nation, and significantly lower than New York.
- In 2009, 29% of Florida’s grade 4 students enrolled in city schools scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the other Mega-States or the nation.

Grade 4 Science, Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 2009

	All	White	Black	Hispanic	FRPL	No FRPL	SD	ELL	City	Suburb
Nation	32	46	10	13*	16	48	16	5	24	36
California	22*	41	9	8*	10*	38*	11	3	22	23*
Florida	32	46	10	23	20	47	20	6	29	33
Illinois	32	48	9	10*	14*	48	16	5	20	35
New York	30	44	9	13*	17	45	12	5	18	40**
Texas	29	53	18**	16*	15*	51	13	6	27	33

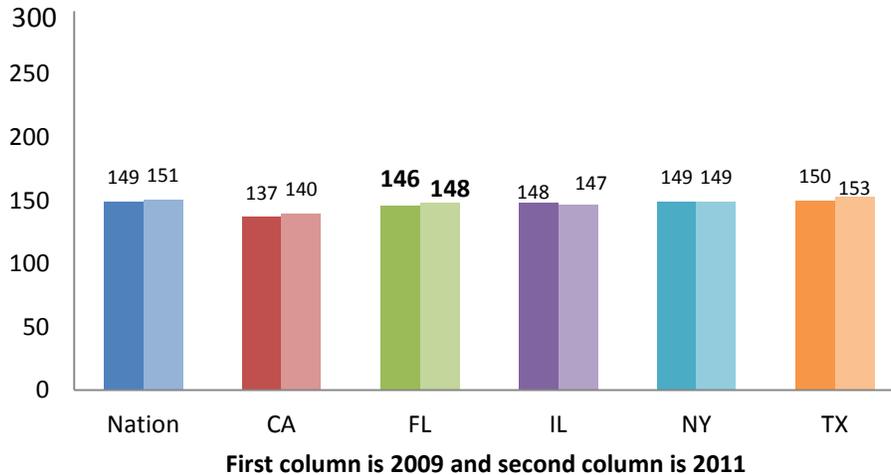
*Florida scored significantly higher than

**Florida scored significantly lower than

Grade 8 Science

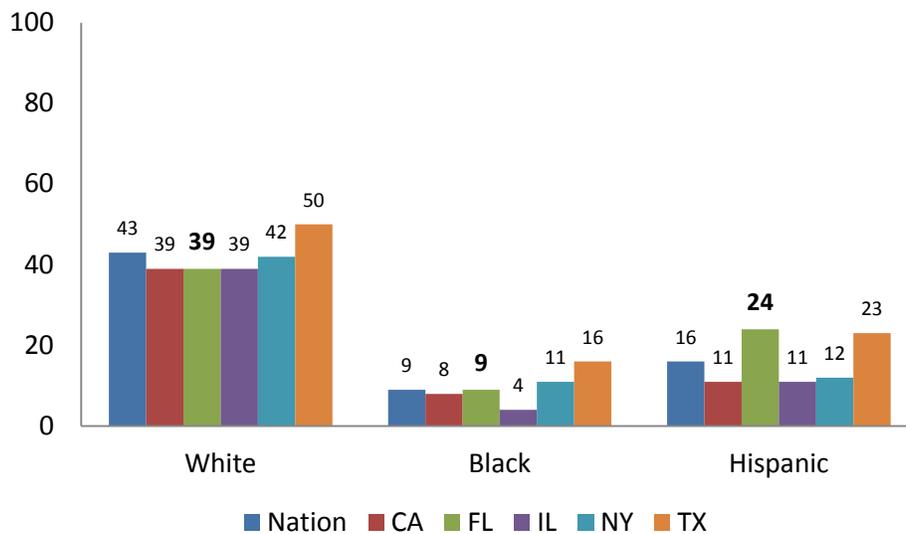
- In 2011, Florida eighth-graders' science average scale score was significantly higher than California's, not significantly different from Illinois and New York, and significantly lower than Texas and the nation.

**Average scale scores for grade 8 students in
NAEP Science - 2009 and 2011**



Race/Ethnicity

**Percentage of grade 8 public school students
scoring at or above Proficient in NAEP Science - 2011**



- In 2011, 24% of Florida's eighth-grade Hispanic students scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than the nation and the other Mega-States, except for Texas.
- In 2011, 9% of Florida's eighth-grade Black students scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than Illinois, and not significantly different from California, New York, Texas, and the nation.
- In 2011, 39% of Florida's eighth-grade White students scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from the nation or all the other Mega-States, except for Texas. Florida's grade 8 White students scored significantly lower than Texas's.

Grade 8 Science

Eligibility for Free/Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) and School Location

- In 2011, 18% of Florida’s grade 8 students who were eligible for FRPL scored at or above *Proficient*—significantly higher than California and Illinois, and not significantly different from New York, Texas, or the nation.
- In 2011, 30% of Florida’s grade 8 students enrolled in suburban schools scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from California, Illinois, or New York, but significantly lower than Texas and the nation.
- In 2011, 26% of Florida’s grade 8 students enrolled in city schools scored at or above *Proficient*—not significantly different from any of the other Mega-States or the nation.

Grade 8 Science, Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic	FRPL	No FRPL	SD	ELL	City	Suburb
Nation	31	43	9	16*	16	44	11	2	23	35**
California	22*	39	8	11*	10*	38	5	1	18	26
Florida	28	39	9	24	18	41	15	2	26	30
Illinois	26	39	4*	11*	10*	41	10	1	17	29
New York	29	42	11	12*	14	45	8	1	16	38
Texas	32	50**	16	23	20	50**	9	3	28	38**

*Florida scored significantly higher than

**Florida scored significantly lower than

Grade 8 Science, Gain in Percent Scoring at or above *Proficient*, 2009 - 2011

	All	White	Black	Hispanic
Nation	2	2	2	4
California	3	1	0	4
Florida	4	3	1	7
Illinois	-3*	-2	0	1
New York	-2*	-2	4	1
Texas	3	2	3	6

*Florida’s gain significantly greater than