

# Guide to Reading the U.S. Scorecard

- 5**
- Children's Health Index:** Has the U.S. reduced the percentage of infants born with 1 or more of 4 health risks? (1990 vs. 1997)
  - Reading Achievement:** Has the U.S. increased the percentage of students scoring at or above Proficient in reading? (1992 vs. 1998)
    - Grade 4
    - Grade 8
    - Grade 12
  - Writing Achievement:** Has the U.S. increased the percentage of students scoring at or above Proficient in writing? (1998)
    - Grade 4
    - Grade 8
    - Grade 12

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Progress?</b>
	37%	33%	↑
	29%	31% <sup>ns</sup>	↔
	29%	33%	↑
	40%	40%	↔
	23%	—	
	27%	—	
	22%	—	

- Data in this column represent our starting points. Baselines were established as close as possible to 1990, the year that the National Education Goals were adopted.
- Data in this column represent our current level of performance and are the most recent data available.
- Progress represents progress from the baseline year to the most recent update year.
- Progress is shown by an arrow. Arrows that point upward indicate that we have made progress. Arrows that point downward indicate that we have fallen further behind. Horizontal arrows indicate that performance has not changed or that the change was not statistically significant. (See Appendix A for an explanation of statistical significance.)

- The source of the data and any technical notes for each national indicator are referenced by this number in Appendix A.
- The date(s) in parentheses indicates the year(s) in which data were collected for the national indicator. If there are two dates, the first indicates the baseline year and the second indicates the most recent year in which data were collected.
- ns means that a change from the baseline year to the most recent year was not statistically significant. (See Appendix A for an explanation of statistical significance.)
- means data not available.