

GOAL 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship

State Indicator 8b. Reading Achievement — 8th grade

The National Education Goals Panel has set its performance standard at the two highest levels of achievement — Proficient or Advanced — on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Have states¹ increased the percentages of public school 8th graders who score at or above Proficient in reading?

New

Improvement over time

Improvement over time cannot be determined yet because NAEP has assessed 8th grade reading only once at the state level. Reading will be assessed again in 2002.

Highest-performing states*

States with the highest percentages of public school 8th graders who scored at or above Proficient in reading:

	(1998)
Connecticut	42%
Maine	42%
Montana	38%
U.S.	33%**

* States that had a significantly higher percentage than the U.S. average.

** Percentage shown for the U.S. includes both public and nonpublic school data.

Most-improved states

States that made the greatest gains in the percentages of public school 8th graders who scored at or above Proficient in reading:

The states that made the greatest improvements over time cannot be identified yet because NAEP has assessed 8th grade reading only once at the state level. Reading will be assessed again in 2002.

¹ The term “state” is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas.