

GOAL 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship

State Indicator 11. Science 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 science?

Improvement over time

Improvement over time cannot be determined yet because NAEP has assessed science only once at the state level. Science will be assessed again in 2000.

Highest-performing states*

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

	(1996)
Maine	41%
Montana	41%
North Dakota	41%
Wisconsin	39%
Massachusetts	37%
Minnesota	37%
Connecticut	36%
Iowa	36%
Nebraska	35%
Wyoming	34%

U.S. 29%**

* 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 science:

The states that made the greatest improvements over time cannot be identified yet because NAEP has assessed science only once at the state level. Science will be assessed again in 2000.

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