

GOAL 5: Mathematics and Science

State Indicator 17b. International Science Achievement — 8th grade

Have states¹ improved their international standing in 8th grade science achievement?

Improvement over time

Improvement over time cannot be determined yet because a research study designed to predict state performance on international science assessments has been conducted only once. The Goals Panel will report changes in standing in science achievement when new results become available from international assessments conducted in 1999.

Highest-performing states*

States that would be expected to score as well as, or better than, 40 out of 41 nations^o in 8th grade science in 1995-1996:

Colorado
Connecticut
Iowa
Maine
Massachusetts
Minnesota[†]
Missouri[†]
Montana
Nebraska
North Dakota
Oregon[†]
Utah
Vermont
Wisconsin
Wyoming

The U.S. scored as well as, or better than, 31 out of 40 nations in 8th grade science.

^o *Only Singapore would be expected to outperform these 15 states in 8th grade science.*

[†] *Results for Minnesota, Missouri, and Oregon are based on actual scores, not estimated scores. See Appendix B.*

* *Top 15 states.*

Most-improved states

States that made the greatest reductions in the numbers of countries that would be expected to outperform them on international 8th grade science assessments:

The states that made the greatest improvements over time cannot be identified yet, because a research study designed to predict state performance on international science assessments has been conducted only once. The Goals Panel will recognize the most-improved states when new results become available from international science assessments conducted in 1999.

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