

GOAL 3: Student Achievement and Citizenship

State Indicator 8a. Reading Achievement — 4th 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 4th graders who score at or above Proficient in reading?

↑	Better	8 states
↔	No Change	36 states and the U.S.
↓	Worse	0 states

Update

Improvement over time

Between 1992 and 1998, 8 states (out of 44) significantly increased the percentage of public school 4th graders who scored at or above Proficient in reading:

1. Colorado	3. Kentucky	5. Maryland	7. Mississippi
2. Connecticut	4. Louisiana	6. Minnesota	8. Virgin Islands

Highest-performing states*

States with the highest percentages of public school 4th graders who scored at or above Proficient in reading:

	(1998)
Connecticut	46%
New Hampshire	38%
Massachusetts	37%
U.S.	31%**

* 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 4th graders who scored at or above Proficient in reading:

	(1992)	(1998)	Change*
Connecticut	34%	46%	+12
Colorado	25%	34%	+9
Kentucky	23%	29%	+6
Maryland	24%	29%	+5
Minnesota	31%	36%	+5
Virgin Islands	3%	8%	+5

* Differences between the first two columns may differ slightly from the figures reported in the "change" column due to rounding.

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