



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2007-103

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

CONTACT: Patrick Gasper, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Wisconsin overall scores exceed national averages
on NAEP mathematics and reading tests

MADISON—In the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), Wisconsin’s overall scale scores exceeded national averages on mathematics and reading tests. State students posted overall increases in mathematics and fourth-grade reading.

“This year’s NAEP assessment shows overall gains in mathematics and fourth-grade reading. The NAEP assessments provide a snap shot of student achievement with 5 percent of fourth-graders and 4 percent of eighth-graders tested,”

said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “While our overall results exceed national averages, our bottom line must be to raise the level of achievement for all Wisconsin students while closing the achievement gap.”

The Wisconsin fourth-grade mathematics scale score was 244, up three points from 2005. Nationally, fourth-graders scored 239, up two points from the last assessment. At eighth grade, Wisconsin students scored 286 on the NAEP mathematics test, up one point from 2005 and six points higher than the national average (280).

On the NAEP reading test, Wisconsin fourth-graders had an average scale score of 223, up two points from 2005. Nationally, fourth-graders had an average scale score of 220. The average eighth grade reading scale score for Wisconsin was 264, a two-point drop from 2005 and three points ahead of the national average scale score (261).

National Assessment of Educational Progress

Overview Public Schools	Grade 4			
	State		Nation	
	2005	2007	2005	2007
Mathematics	241	244	237	239
Reading	221	223	217	220
Overview Public Schools	Grade 8			
	State		Nation	
	2005	2007	2005	2007
Mathematics	285	286	278	280
Reading	266	264	260	261

(more)

Wisconsin students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals averaged about 25 scale score points lower than students who are not economically disadvantaged, an achievement gap that is similar to the nation. By racial/ethnic group, achievement gaps for Wisconsin also are apparent.

“Wisconsin continues to see significant increases in poverty rates, including child poverty, which negatively impacts students’ lives and learning,” Burmaster said. “On a statewide basis, 32 percent of our students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The growth of poverty is occurring in schools across our state from Bayfield, at 69 percent, to Beloit, at 71 percent, and in our largest city, Milwaukee, at more than 79 percent.

“We must continue efforts to provide the very best education for children, especially those in our highest needs schools. That includes support for established programs such as 4-year-old kindergarten and class-size reduction through the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education and the Preschool to Grade 5 programs. We also are pursuing initiatives around adolescent literacy and reviewing our English language arts and mathematics standards to ensure the rigor and relevance needed to prepare our students for today’s and tomorrow’s world. I encourage the governor and the Legislature to support these programs and find a way to provide grants that put our very best teachers into our highest poverty schools as I proposed in my education budget,” Burmaster added.

On the mathematics assessment, 3,231 Wisconsin fourth-graders out of 59,350 students took the test. At eighth grade, 2,564 students out of 65,582 took the mathematics assessment. In reading, 3,164 fourth-graders and 2,670 eighth-graders were tested. Because of the breadth of the content covered in the NAEP mathematics assessment, each participating student took just a portion of the test, consisting of two 25-minute sections. Testing time was divided evenly between multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The reading assessment consisted of two 25-minute sections or one 50-minute section, with students taking just a portion of the assessment. Each section contained reading passages that are typically available to students and both multiple-choice and open-ended questions. The NAEP mathematics and reading assessments were administered between January and March.

###

NOTES: Tables with additional information about Wisconsin’s achievement on the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress mathematics and reading tests follow. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2007_103.pdf.

2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress

Public School Scale Scores

	Mathematics			
	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
Overall	244	239	286	280
African-American	212	222	247	259
American Indian	--	229	--	265
Asian	245	254	290	296
Hispanic	229	227	268	264
White	250	248	292	290
Disadvantaged	228	227	266	265
Not Disadvantaged	252	249	293	291
	Reading			
	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
Overall	223	220	264	261
African-American	191	203	231	244
American Indian	--	206	--	248
Asian	222	231	264	269
Hispanic	208	204	247	246
White	229	230	270	270
Disadvantaged	205	205	246	247
Not Disadvantaged	232	232	272	271

-- Sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

	Mathematics			
	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
Students with Disabilities	223	220	249	246
Nondisabled	247	241	290	284
English-Language Learners	227	217	260	245
Non-ELL	245	242	287	282
	Reading			
	Grade 4		Grade 8	
	State	Nation	State	Nation
Students with Disabilities	191	190	221	226
Nondisabled	227	223	269	265
English-Language Learners	201	188	243	222
Non-ELL	225	223	265	263