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NAEP scores at or above national average

PIERRE, S.D. –Fourth grade and eighth grade scores for math and reading on the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress are mostly steady in South Dakota and remain at or above the national average. Across the country, scores were mostly down.

Often called “the Nation’s Report Card,” the National Assessment of Educational Progress, or NAEP, is based on a scale of 0 to 500. A representative sample of students in grades four and eight in all 50 states and the District of Columbia take this test every other year.

South Dakota’s eighth grade math and reading scores on the 2015 NAEP remain above the national average. The state’s average math score at eighth grade was 285, compared to a national average of 281. The state’s math score has gone down slightly from 287 in 2013, but is unchanged from 2003, the first year NAEP was administered in South Dakota.

The state’s average reading score at eighth grade was 267, which is higher than the national average of 264. South Dakota’s reading score at eighth grade was 268 in 2013, but the difference between the 2013 and 2015 scores is not considered statistically significant.

South Dakota’s scores in fourth grade reading and math are the same as national averages. State and national average NAEP scores for math are 240. In 2013, South Dakota’s fourth grade reading score was 241, but the one-point difference between 2013 and 2015 scores is not statistically significant. The state’s fourth grade reading score is 220. While this score is one point lower than the national average of 221, the difference between the two scores is not statistically significant.

National Assessment of Educational Progress

	SD 2013	SD 2015	National 2015
Grade 4 math	241	240*	240
Grade 4 reading	218	220*	221**
Grade 8 math	287	285	281
Grade 8 reading	268	267*	264

*Not a statistically significant change from SD 2013

**Not a statistically significant difference from SD 2015