

DC Shows Significant Gains on the Nation's Report Card in 2019

DC's Steady Progress Results in Approaching the National Average

The latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results were released showing that public school students in Washington, DC made significant gains outpacing the rest of the country in growth. DC was one of only two states to have statistically significant gains in three out of the four assessments in 2019 compared to 2017.¹ DC public school students made a 3 point scale score gain in grade 4 math, grade 8 math, and grade 8 reading.² The results in grade 4 reading were approximately the same as 2017. Other states had results that were either statistically no different from 2017 or students performed statistically lower.

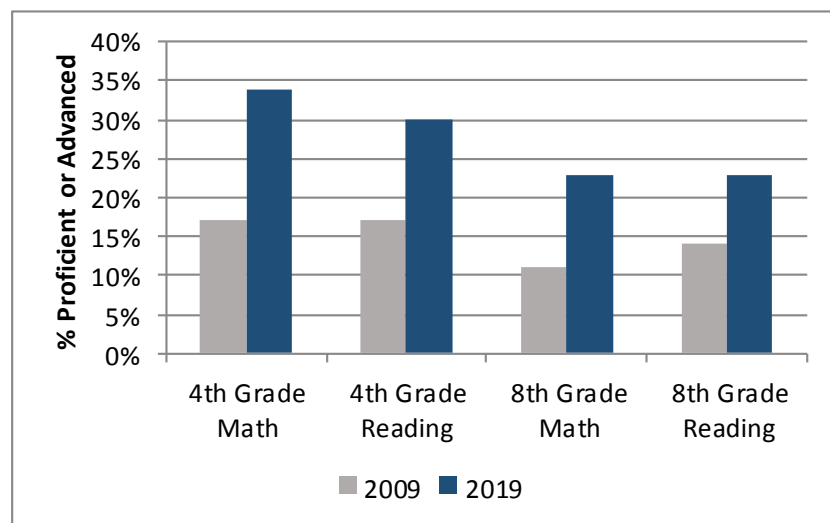
These gains translate into more public school students – both DCPS and public charter students – being assessed as proficient or

advanced in reading and math. For instance, in 2019 the following shares of students were assessed at these high levels: 34% of 4th graders in math, 30% of 4th graders in reading, 23% of 8th graders in math, and another 23% of 8th graders in reading. All four grades showed significant improvement over the proficiency shares reported in 2009 (see graphic below).

While we still have a ways to go in ensuring

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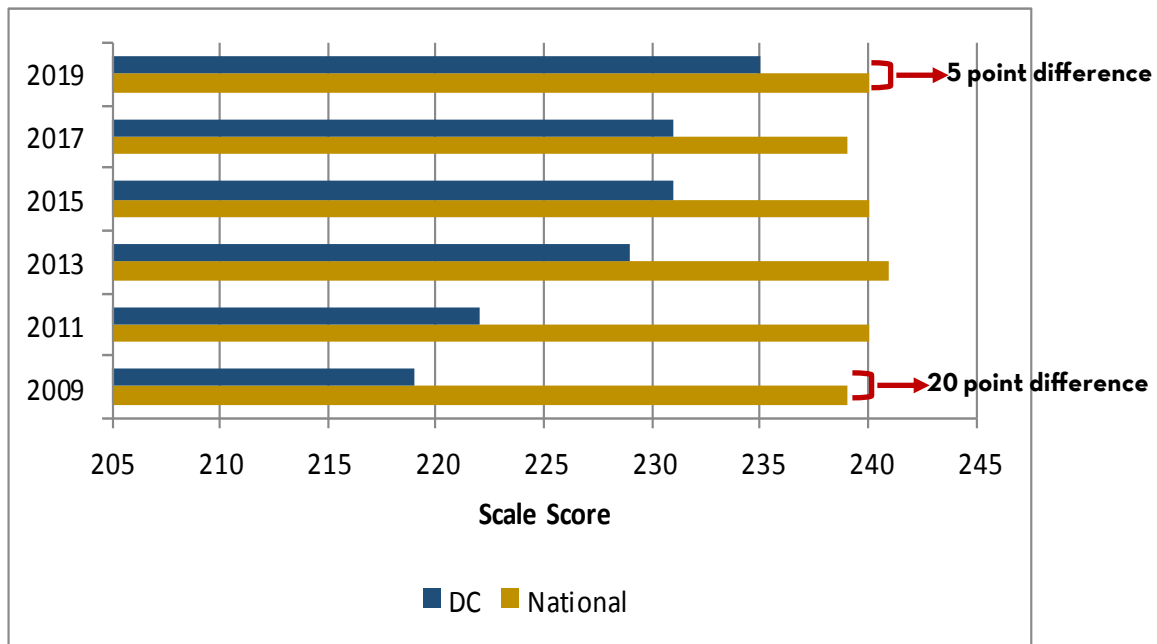
**Percent Proficient and Advanced in NAEP
Washington, DC 2009 and 2019**



¹NAEP is given to a representative sample of students across the country, and students participating in NAEP take a sample of questions in up to two subject areas. Therefore, the [National Center for Educational Statistics](#) statistically analyzes the results and reports on the differences between scores or percentages that are significant from a statistical perspective. Results presented here are all statistically significant.

²The scale point scores used to calculate the point gain between 2017 and 2019 include the hundredths decimal place, not whole values. They can be found on the [DC Complete Results table](#).

4th Grade Math Scale Score DC and National Public, 2009 – 2019



that all of our students are reaching proficiency, these gains show that we as a city are moving in the right direction.

District of Columbia Approaching the National Average

These substantial gains over time result in DC approaching the national average. For instance, in grade 4 math, the difference between the national and DC averages went from 20 points in 2009 to just 5 points in 2019 (see the above graphic). Grade 4 reading experienced a similar reduction: a 18 point difference between the national and DC scores in 2009 was reduced to a 5 point difference in 2019. The difference in the national and DC scores in grade 8 math was 28 points in 2009 that decreased to a 12 point

difference in 2019. And for grade 8 reading, the difference between the national and DC averages was 20 points in 2009 and shrunk to a 12 point difference in 2019.

About the Nation's Report Card

Every two years, the NAEP assessment is administered to 4th and 8th grade students in all 50 states and the District of Columbia in math and reading, commonly referred to as [The Nation's Report Card](#). This assessment is the largest nationally representative assessment of student performance across the country that is tracked over time. The DC NAEP results include public school students from the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) and public charter schools.

Sources: [NAEP District Profiles](#) and [NAEP Data Tools](#)

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