

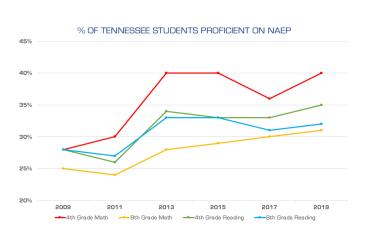
Tennessee's Scores on the Nation's Report Card

Every two years, the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) measures the knowledge of 4th and 8th grade students across the nation in both math and reading.

How Did We Do?

Tennessee's results on the 2019 Nation's Report Card show that while the rest of the nation declined slightly, our students held steady across multiple subjects tested and even saw a slight improvement statewide in 4th grade math.

When just a decade ago Tennessee ranked among the worst in the country, we can be proud that today our students are measuring at or near the national average in all tested subjects, despite the national downward trend.



However, proficiency rates for Tennessee students range between only 32% and 40%, depending on the subject.

NAEP also provides a city comparison, evaluating 27 large urban school districts, which included Shelby County Schools in Memphis. Memphis students, similar to the state, held the line in all subjects but made substantive gains in 8th grade math. Still, the district ranks in the bottom third of cities included in the comparison.

What Does This Mean?

Our students made tremendous academic gains between 2011 and 2013, when Tennessee was named fastest-improving state in the nation, but since then our progress has slowed.

The foundational reforms that sparked enormous growth ten years ago set high expectations of our students and teachers, ensured an aligned, annual assessment that accurately measures student learning, and established a framework to hold teachers, schools, and districts accountable for educating every student.

Some students have not yet benefitted from these commonsense policies. It's time to think differently about how we provide a great education for our children.

Where Do We Go from Here?

The 2019 NAEP results prove that Tennessee must move with **increased urgency** to be more innovative and **disrupt the status quo** in a child's educational experience to accelerate our progress and improve outcomes for all students.

State and local education policymakers should enact innovative education policies that ensure every child in Tennessee— no matter who they are, where they live, or what unique learning needs they may have— receives a high-quality education.