

**TESTING BRIEF**  
**National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**  
**January 24 - March 4, 2005**

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The Nation's Report Card, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, history, geography, and other fields. By making objective information on student performance available to policymakers at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement is collected under this program. NAEP guarantees the privacy of individual students and their families. This report provides selected results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for Georgia's public school students in science at grades 4 and 8. Student performance is reported as an average score based on the NAEP science scale, which ranges from 0 to 300. Beginning in 1996, science has been assessed in three different years at the state level (at grade 8 in 1996, and at both grades 4 and 8 in 2000, and 2005).

**KEY FINDINGS IN SCIENCE**

**Grade 4**

- The average science score for students in Georgia was 148. This was higher than that in 2000 (142).
- Georgia's average score in 2005 (148) was not significantly different than that of the nation's public schools (149).
- The average science score for White students in Georgia was not significantly different in 2005 (161) from the score in 2000 (158). Black students' average score increased significantly from 2000 (122) to 2005 (131). Hispanic students' average score remained unchanged from 2000 (136) to 2005 (136).
- The average science score for students who were eligible for the National School Lunch Program in Georgia improved significantly from 2000 (123) to 2005 (135).
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Proficient* was 25 percent. This was not significantly different from that in 2000 (23 percent).
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Basic* was 63 percent. This was greater from that in 2000 (57 percent).

**Grade 8**

- The average science score for students in Georgia was 144. This was not significantly different from that in 1996 (142) and was not different from that in 2000 (142).
- Georgia's average score (144) was lower than that of the nation's public schools (147).
- The average science score for White students in Georgia increased significantly from 1996 (154) to 2005 (159). The increase for White students from 2000 (156) to 2005 (159) was not significant. The increase for Black students' average score was not significant from either 1996 (122) or 2000 (122) to 2005 (125). The samples size for Hispanic students was not sufficient in 1996 to provide comparisons. The average science score for Hispanic students remained unchanged from 2000 (127) to 2005 (127).
- The increase in average science scores for students who were eligible for the National School Lunch Program in Georgia was not significant from 1996 (124) to 2005 (127).
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Proficient* was 25 percent. This was significantly different from that in 1996 (21 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 2000 (23 percent).
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Basic* was 53 percent. This was not significantly different from 1996 (49 percent) or 2000 (52 percent).

Table 1  
 Average Scale Scores  
 Science 2000-2005  
 Grade 4

<b>Table 1: Average Scale Scores</b>			
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Change 2000-2005</b>
<b>All Students</b>	142	148	6
<b>White</b>	158	161	3
<b>Black</b>	122	131	9
<b>Hispanic</b>	136	136	0
<b>Asian</b>	154	162	8
<b>Male</b>	145	148	3
<b>Female</b>	139	147	8
<b>FRL (NSL)</b>	123	135	12
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	112	133	21
<b>English Language Learner</b>	NA	116	NA

NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

Graph 1  
 Average Scale Scores  
 Science 2000-2005  
 Grade 4

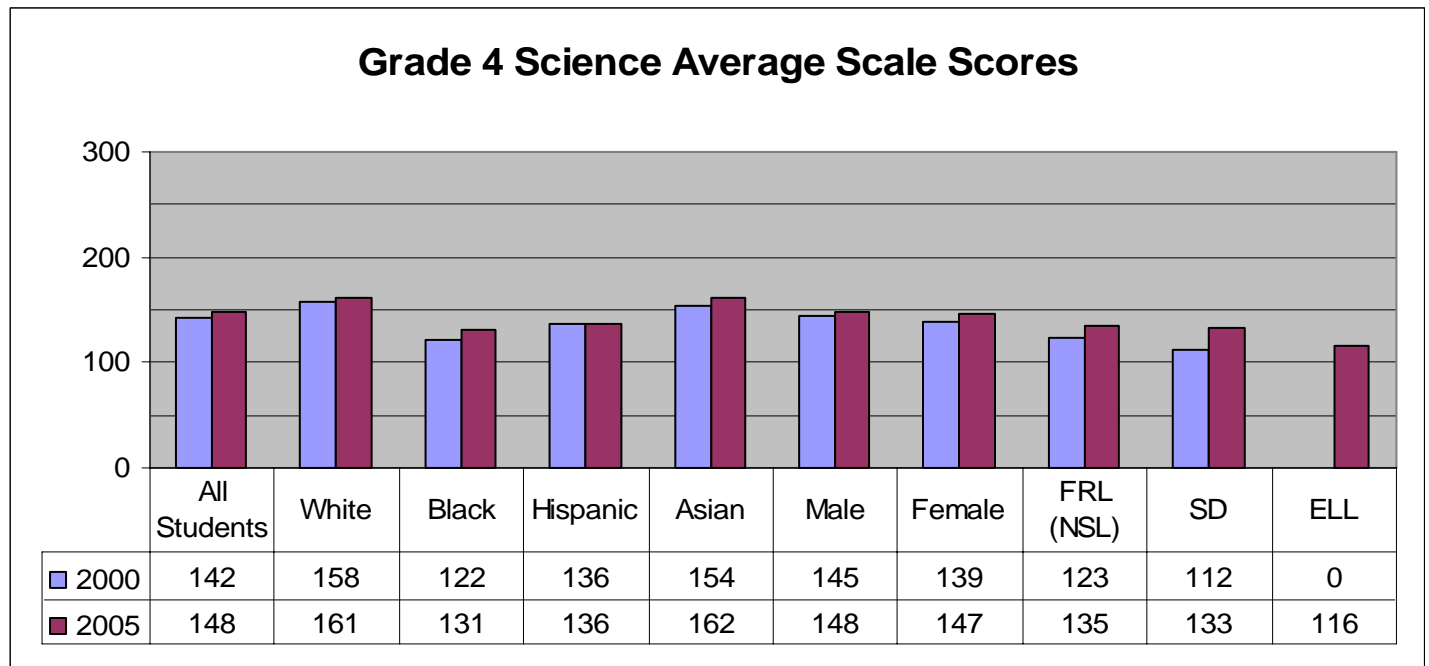


Table 2  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Basic  
 Science 2000-2005  
 Grade 4

<b>Table 2: Achievement Level –At or Above Basic</b>			
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>*Change 2000-2005</b>
<b>All Students</b>	57%	63%	6
<b>White</b>	77%	81%	4
<b>Black</b>	32%	42%	10
<b>Hispanic</b>	50%	48%	-2
<b>Asian</b>	73%	77%	4
<b>Male</b>	60%	63%	3
<b>Female</b>	54%	63%	9
<b>FRL (NSL)</b>	34%	47%	13
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	28%	43%	15
<b>English Language Learner</b>	NA	23%	NA

\* Indicates change in percentage score point  
 NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

Graph 2  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Basic  
 Science 2000-2005  
 Grade 4

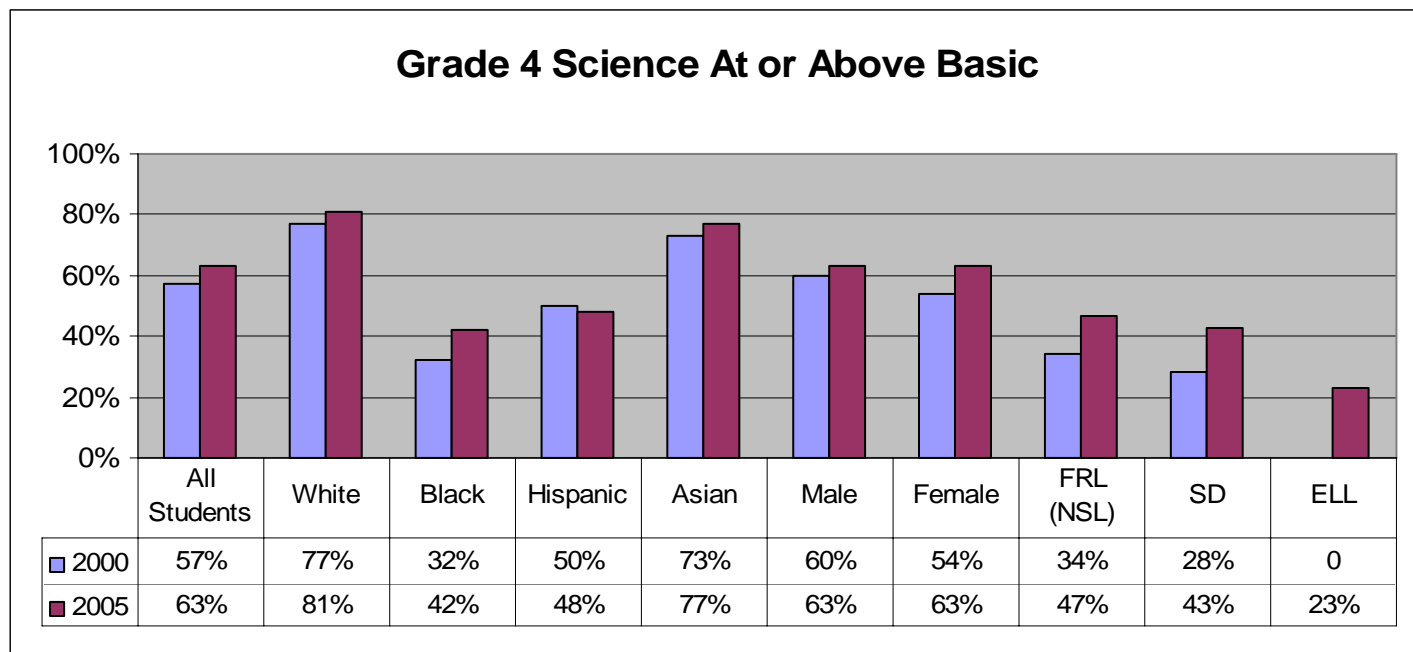


Table 3  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient  
 Science 2000-2005  
 Grade 4

<b>Table 3: Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient</b>			
	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>*Change 2000-2005</b>
<b>All Students</b>	23%	25%	2
<b>White</b>	36%	39%	3
<b>Black</b>	6%	8%	2
<b>Hispanic</b>	13%	14%	1
<b>Asian</b>	35%	46%	11
<b>Male</b>	25%	27%	2
<b>Female</b>	19%	23%	4
<b>FRL (NSL)</b>	7%	12%	5
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	7%	14%	7
<b>English Language Learner</b>	NA	2%	NA

\* Indicates change in percentage score point  
 NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

Graph 3  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient  
 Science 2000-2005  
 Grade 4

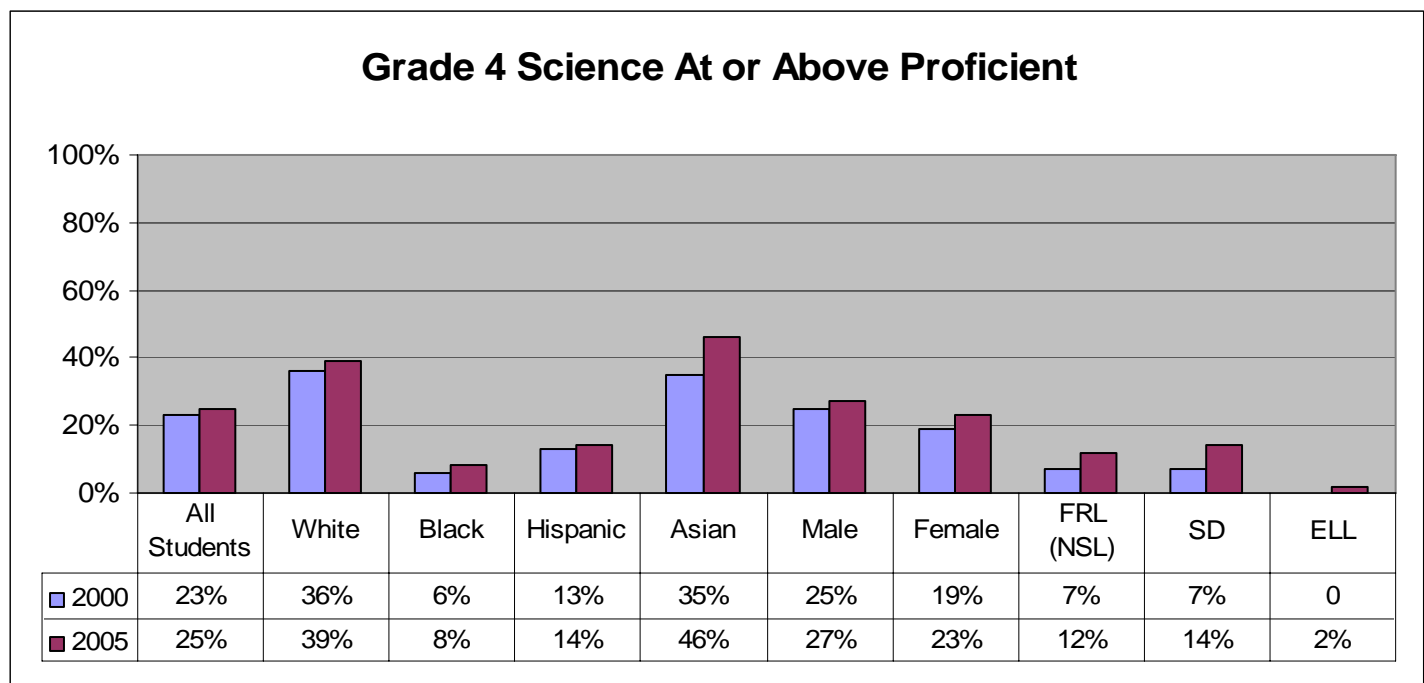


Table 4  
 Average Scale Scores  
 Science 1996-2005  
 Grade 8

<b>Table 4: Average Scale Scores</b>				
	<b>1996</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>*Change 2000-2005</b>
<b>All Students</b>	142	142	144	2
<b>White</b>	154	156	159	3
<b>Black</b>	122	122	125	3
<b>Hispanic</b>	NA	127	127	0
<b>Asian</b>	NA	NA	163	NA
<b>Male</b>	144	144	145	1
<b>Female</b>	139	140	142	2
<b>FRL (NSL)</b>	124	123	127	4
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	NA	109	112	3
<b>English Language Learner</b>	NA	NA	102	NA

NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

Graph 4  
 Average Scale Scores  
 Science 1996-2005  
 Grade 8

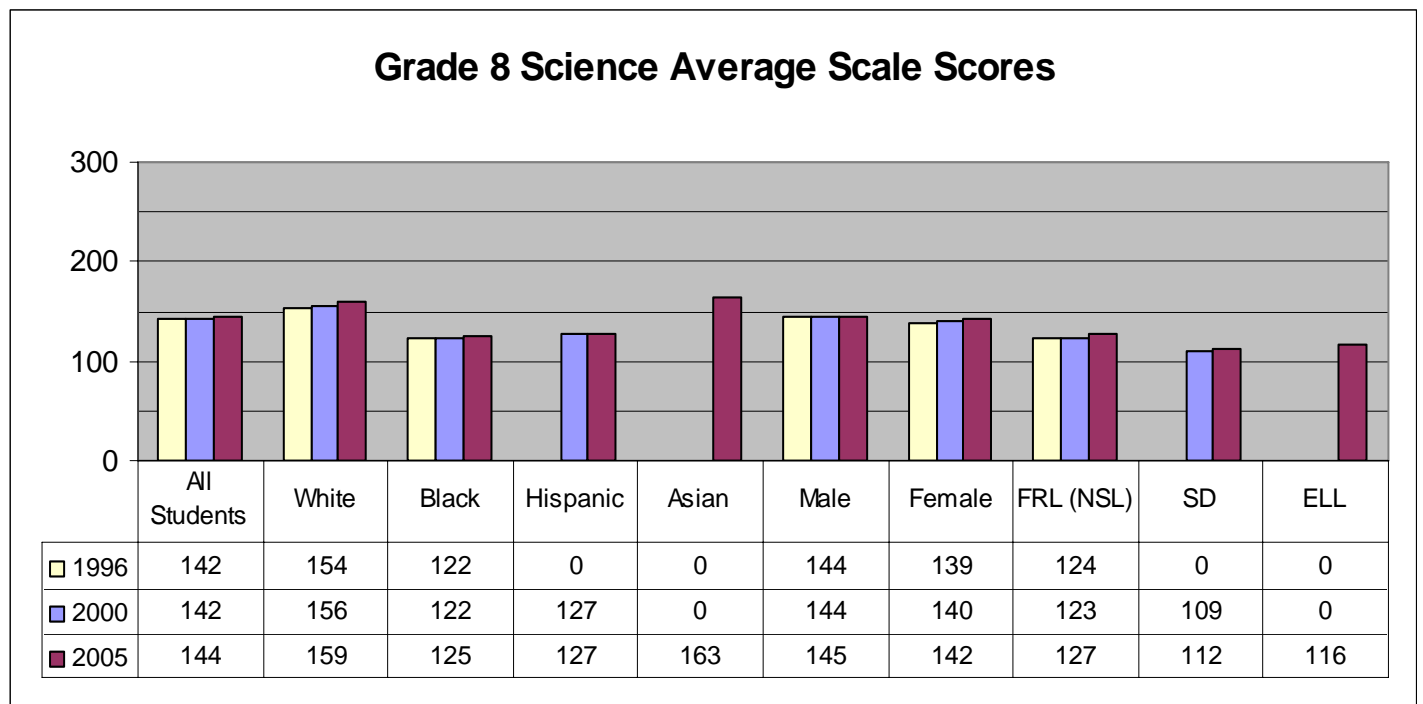


Table 5  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Basic  
 Science 1996-2005  
 Grade 8

<b>Table 5: Achievement Level – At or Above Basic</b>				
	<b>1996</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>*Change 2000-2005</b>
<b>All Students</b>	49%	52%	53%	1
<b>White</b>	66%	69%	72%	3
<b>Black</b>	24%	27%	29%	2
<b>Hispanic</b>	NA	32%	35%	3
<b>Asian</b>	NA	NA	71%	NA
<b>Male</b>	51%	54%	55%	1
<b>Female</b>	48%	49%	51%	2
<b>FRL (NSL)</b>	27%	29%	33%	4
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	NA	28%	22%	-6
<b>English Language Learner</b>	NA	NA	14%	NA

\* Indicates change in percentage score point  
 NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

Graph 5  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Basic  
 Science 1996-2005  
 Grade 8

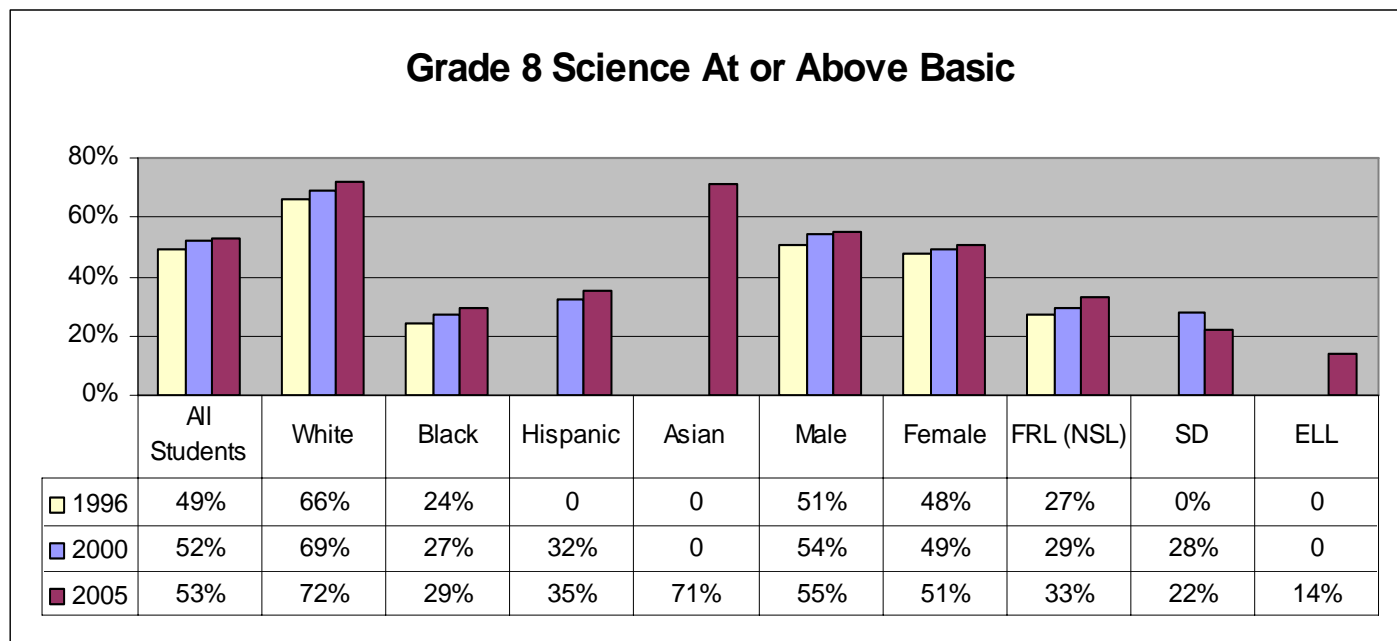


Table 6  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient  
 Science 1996-2005  
 Grade 8

<b>Table 6: Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient</b>				
	<b>1996</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>*Change 2000-2005</b>
<b>All Students</b>	21%	23%	25%	2
<b>White</b>	31%	34%	38%	4
<b>Black</b>	6%	6%	8%	2
<b>Hispanic</b>	NA	10%	15%	5
<b>Asian</b>	NA	NA	50%	NA
<b>Male</b>	24%	26%	28%	2
<b>Female</b>	17%	19%	23%	4
<b>FRL (NSL)</b>	6%	8%	10%	2
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	NA	7%	7%	0
<b>English Language Learner</b>	NA	NA	4%	NA

\* Indicates change in percentage score point  
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Graph 6  
 Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient  
 Science 1996-2005  
 Grade 8

