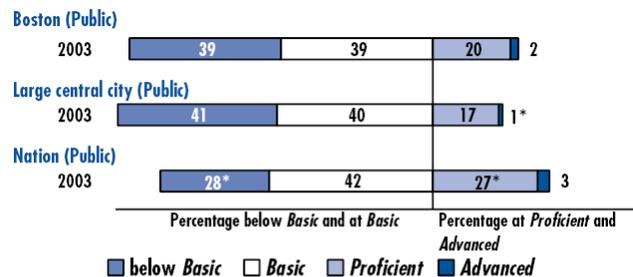


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses reading on a 0-500 point scale. In 2003, Boston School District was one of nine urban districts that voluntarily participated in the NAEP reading assessment on a trial basis.

Overall Reading Results for Boston

- In 2003, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Boston was 252. This was lower¹ than that of the nation's public schools (261).
- Boston's average score (252) in 2003 was higher than that of public schools in large central cities² (249), and lower than that of Massachusetts (273).
- The percentage of students in Boston who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 22 percent in 2003. The percentage of students in Boston who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 61 percent.

Student Percentage at NAEP Achievement Levels



NOTE: The NAEP reading scale ranges from 0 to 500, with the achievement levels corresponding to the following points: *Below Basic*, 242 or lower; *Basic*, 243-280; *Proficient*, 281-322; *Advanced*, 323 or above.

Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Boston

Reporting groups	Percentage of students ³	Average Score	Percentage of students at			
			Below <i>Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Male	47 ↓	246 ↓	46 ↑	37 ↓	16 ↓	1
Female	53 ↑	258 ↓	33 ↑	41	23 ↓	3
White	16 ↓	273	21	35	37	7
Black	47 ↑	245	47	40	13	1
Hispanic	25 ↑	245	46	40	13	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	11 ↑	274	17	39	39	5
American Indian/Alaska Native	# ↓	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-price school lunch						
Eligible	70 ↑	247	44	40	15	1
Not eligible	9 ↓	265	26	40	30	4

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2003, male students in Boston had an average score that was lower than that of female students (12 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (11 points).
- In 2003, White students had an average score that was higher than that of Black students (28 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (27 points).
- In 2003, White students had an average score that was higher than that of Hispanic students (28 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (27 points).
- In 2003, students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was higher than that of students who were eligible (18 points). This performance gap was narrower than that of the Nation (25 points).

Reading Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
Boston	229 ↓	253 ↓	278 ↓
Large central city (Public)	226 ↓	251 ↓	274 ↓
Nation (Public)	240	264	286

An examination of scores at different percentiles on the 0-500 NAEP reading scale at each grade indicates how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed. For example, the data above show that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 286, and 75 percent of students in Boston scored below 278.

The estimate rounds to zero.

--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

* Significantly different from Boston.

↑ Significantly higher than, ↓ lower than appropriate subgroup in the nation (public).

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance. Performance comparisons may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities and limited-English-proficient students in the NAEP samples and changes in sample sizes. NAEP sample sizes have increased since 2002 compared to previous years, resulting in smaller detectable differences than in previous assessments.

² "Large central city" includes nationally representative public schools located in large central cities within metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget. It is not synonymous with "inner city."

³ For comparison, minority students comprised 77 percent of students in large central city public schools and 39 percent in public schools nationally. Also, students eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch comprised 60 percent of students in large central city public schools and 36 percent in public schools nationally.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for Free/reduced-price lunch is not displayed. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Trial Urban District Reading Assessment.