

# NAEP 2009 Science Results

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Overall, Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students performed equal to or better than the nation on the NAEP 2009 Science assessment on all three primary measures: average scale scores, percent scoring at or above *Basic*, and percent scoring at or above *Proficient*.

### Scored Higher than or Equal to the Nation

Florida had a higher percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring at or above *Basic* (75% vs. 71%), but Florida's average scale score was not statistically different from the nation's.

Half of Florida's subgroups had average scale scores that were higher than the nation, and more than half of the subgroups had higher percentages of students scoring at or above the *Basic* achievement level (see chart attached).

Florida's achievement gap between White and Hispanic students is narrower than the nation for all three measures.

When looking at the percent scoring at or above *Proficient*, the only subgroups in Florida that performed better than the nation are Hispanic students and students eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch.

Florida's 4<sup>th</sup> grade students with disabilities not only participated at higher rates than the rest of the nation, but outperformed their peers.

### Achievement Gap Wider than the Nation

Florida had a wider achievement gap than the nation between Hispanic and African-American students. Even though Florida's gap is larger, this is because Florida's Hispanic students are doing very well on all three measures. In addition, Florida's African-American students outperformed other African-American students in the nation on average scores and the percent at or above *Basic*.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Overall, Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students performed below the nation on the NAEP 2009 Science assessment on all three primary measures: average scale scores, percent scoring at or above *Basic*, and percent scoring at or above *Proficient*.

### Scored Higher than the Nation

Florida's Hispanic students outperformed the nation's Hispanic students on all three measures, and Florida's students with disabilities outperformed the nation's students with disabilities on average scale scores.

The gap between Florida's White and Hispanic students is narrower than the nation on all three measures. For average scale scores, the gap between White and African-American students is also narrower than that of the nation.

Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with disabilities not only participated at higher rates than the rest of the nation, but outperformed their peers.

### Scored Lower than the Nation

Florida's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students performed lower than the nation overall on all three measures.

Of the 10 subgroups reported, almost half performed below the nation on all three measures (White, male, female, and students not eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch).