

# National Assessment of Educational Progress

News about the National Assessment of Educational Progress, including commentary and archival articles published in The New York Times.

## Highlights From the Archives

### [Math Scores Rise, but Reading Is Mixed](#)

By SAM DILLON

The results also showed that the nation had made only incremental progress in narrowing historic gaps in achievement between white and minority students.

September 26, 2007 [EducationNews](#)

## ARTICLES ABOUT THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

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### [Mayor Bloomberg's Crib Sheet](#)

By DIANE RAVITCH

Before Albany votes on whether to eliminate mayoral control of New York City's public schools, the law should be redefined with a clear system of checks and balances.

April 10, 2009

[MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: MAYORS, STATE LEGISLATURES, EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, LAW AND LEGISLATION, NEW YORK STATE, NEW YORK CITY, BOARD OF EDUCATION, DUNCAN, ARNE, BLOOMBERG, MICHAEL R](#)

### [How Well Are They Really Doing?](#)

Lawmakers need to strengthen the requirement that states document student performance in yearly tests in exchange for federal aid.

August 12, 2008

[MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: GRADING OF STUDENTS, EDITORIALS, EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, FINANCES, NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT, LAW AND LEGISLATION, TESTS AND TESTING, BUDGETS AND BUDGETING, FEDERAL AID \(US\), UNITED STATES, SENATE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES](#)

### [LETTER; Basic Writing Skills](#)

Letter from Hugh Siegel on April 4 article on nationwide test results showing about one third of eighth-grade students and one fourth of high school seniors demonstrating proficient writing skills

April 9, 2008

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, TESTS AND TESTING, SIEGEL, HUGH

### **U.S. Students Achieve Mixed Results on Writing Test**

By SAM DILLON

About a third of the nation's eighth-grade students, and roughly a quarter of its high school seniors, are proficient writers, according to nationwide test results.

April 4, 2008

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: GRADING OF STUDENTS, EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, TESTS AND TESTING, UNITED STATES

### **Test and Switch**

Children will continue to be shortchanged until the country develops a rigorous national test keyed to national standards.

November 26, 2007

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: STATES (US), EDITORIALS, EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, TESTS AND TESTING

### **12th Graders Show Better Grasp of Market Forces Than Expected on U.S. Economics Test**

By SAM DILLON

The nation's high school seniors performed significantly better on the first nationwide economics test than they did on other recent national exams in history and science.

August 9, 2007

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, ECONOMICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HISTORY, TESTS AND TESTING, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



### **Potter Has Limited Effect on Reading Habits**

By MOTOKO RICH

The truth about Harry Potter and reading is not quite a straightforward success story.

July 11, 2007

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: CHILDREN AND YOUTH, BOOKS AND LITERATURE, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, INTERNATIONAL READING ASSN, ROWLING, J K

### **Standardizing the Standards**

By ANN HULBERT

A good nationwide test of students' abilities would a) help kids learn, b) encourage teachers to innovate, c) save money or d) all of the above.

May 27, 2007

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, TESTS AND TESTING, RAVITCH, DIANE

### **A Bad Report Card**

The news from American high schools is not good.

February 27, 2007

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: MATHEMATICS, EDITORIALS, EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, TEACHERS AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, LAW AND LEGISLATION, TESTS AND TESTING, UNITED STATES

### **Real Tests for Real Children**

Instead of moving toward the educational excellence that the country needs, many states have opted for dumbed-down tests and deliberate sleight of hand to create the fraudulent appearance of progress.

February 25, 2007

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: MATHEMATICS, STATES (US), EDITORIALS, EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, LAW AND LEGISLATION, TESTS AND TESTING, UNITED STATES

### **Grades Rise, but Reading Skills Do Not**

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

Two federal reports found that high school students nationwide are taking seemingly tougher courses and earning better grades, but their reading skills are not improving.

February 23, 2007

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: MATHEMATICS, GRADING OF STUDENTS, EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, TESTS AND TESTING, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

### **Jodi Rell's Startling Moves**

Connecticut has for years engaged in the genteel charade of wringing its hands over the disparities between rich and poor school districts while not moving forcefully to fix the problem. No longer.

February 11, 2007

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### **A New Year for School Reform**

While the achievement gains from the No Child Left Behind Act have fallen far short of what Congress hoped for when it passed the landmark federal law, there is encouraging news from a handful of states.

December 31, 2006

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### **Failing Science**

By ELLEN V. FUTTER

Cultural institutions can help schools reverse a bad trend.

November 26, 2006

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### **Most Students in Big Cities Lag Badly in Basic Science**

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

Student performance in urban public schools was not only poor but also far short of science scores in the nation as a whole, according to the results of a national test.

November 16, 2006

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TESTS AND TESTING, URBAN AREAS

## **Exploding the Charter School Myth**

Congress needs to grasp the obvious: the quality of the teacher corps is more crucial to school reform than anything else.

August 27, 2006

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## **Study of Test Scores Finds Charter Schools Lagging**

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

The report thrust the Education Department into the center of the heated national debate over school choice.

August 23, 2006

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## **Public vs. Private Schools**

American schoolchildren are performing at mediocre levels in reading, math and science wherever they attend school.

July 19, 2006

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## **The School Testing Dodge**

The United States must move away from a patchwork system of school testing based on weak standards and a frankly fraudulent system of student assessment.

July 2, 2006

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## **For School Equality, Try Mobility**

By ROD PAIGE

A good idea in education reform is "weighted student funding," in which a child receives financing that travels with him to the public school of his family's choice.

June 27, 2006

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: [PRINCIPALS \(SCHOOL\)](#), [EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES](#), [PRIVATE AND SECTARIAN SCHOOLS](#), [REFORM AND REORGANIZATION](#), [CHARTER SCHOOLS](#), [VOUCHERS](#), [EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS](#), [TEACHERS AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES](#)

## **How Schools Pay a (Very High) Price for Failing to Teach Reading Properly**

By BRENT STAPLES

Federal disability law offers public school systems a stark choice: The schools can properly educate learning-disabled children or they can fork over the money to let private schools do the job.

June 19, 2006

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## **Test Shows Drop in Science Achievement for 12th Graders**

By SAM DILLON

Scores rose among fourth graders and held steady among eighth graders, but the drop among high school seniors is likely to raise anxiety about America's academic competitiveness.

May 25, 2006

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: [EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS](#), [SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY](#), [TESTS AND TESTING](#), [EDUCATION DEPARTMENT](#)

## **Gains in City Schools**

Urban districts have a long way to go to catch up with their affluent suburban counterparts. But scores released by the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed heartening leaps ahead.

December 3, 2005

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## **Why the United States Should Look to Japan for Better Schools**

By BRENT STAPLES

The Japanese system of education has features that could be fruitfully imitated in the United States.

November 21, 2005

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### **Every State Left Behind**

By DIANE RAVITCH

In order for our students to compete on a global scale, Washington must take over school standards and testing.

November 7, 2005

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### **Failing to Teach in High School**

The Higher Education Act presents an excellent opportunity to give the states help and direction in improving teachers' training.

July 19, 2005

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### **Young Students Post Solid Gains in Federal Tests**

By SAM DILLON

Elementary school students made solid gains in both reading and mathematics in the first years of this decade, test results show.

July 15, 2005

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### **Meaning of 'Proficient' Varies for Schools Across Country**

By SUSAN SAULNY

Comparisons of performance on state tests versus national tests suggest how widely the definition of "proficient" varies from state to state.

January 19, 2005

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: MATHEMATICS, STATES (US), EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, LAW AND LEGISLATION, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, TESTS AND TESTING, NEW YORK STATE, SOUTHERN STATES (US), CONNECTICUT, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

### **Politics Aside, a School's Real Success**

By SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN

An elementary school in Georgia has made enough progress to be mentioned by President Bush during the Republican Convention.

September 29, 2004

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### **Study Says U.S. Should Set High-School Standards**

By KAREN W. ARENSON

Education policy organizations Achieve Inc, Education Trust and Thomas B Fordham Foundation call for rigorous national standards for high school diploma; hold patchwork of state standards is failing to produce graduates who are prepared for college or work; have consulted with higher education officials and business executives in five states to develop standards they say will ensure graduates are equipped to move into college-level work or decent jobs; recommend National Assessment of Education...

February 10, 2004

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### **New York and Houston Lead Urban School Districts in Study**

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

Fourth graders in New York City and Houston score as well as national average in writing and lead other urban districts in reading on National Assessment of Educational Progress test, but 53 percent still lack mastery of basic reading skills; nationally, whites did as well as their suburban counterparts in all cities but Los Angeles, but blacks were significantly behind in reading and writing of non-urban blacks except in New York and Houston; Hispanics attending urban schools are not significa...



July 23, 2003

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### **New Report on Students' Skills Reinforces Good News and Bad**

By TAMAR LEWIN

National Assessment of Educational Progress' 2002 Writing Assessment finds fourth and eighth graders' writing has improved significantly since 1998, but proportion of twelfth-graders who did not reach even basic level rose to 26 percent, from 22 percent in 1998

July 11, 2003

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### **Reading Scores by Grade Show Widely Mixed Results**

By DIANA JEAN SCHEMO

National Assessment of Educational Progress finds that lowest-performing fourth graders showed progress during 1990's, while scores of high school seniors consistently declined; reading scores of lowest-performing eighth graders have improved since 1998, with 75 percent now mastering basics of reading; graph; data show serious problems at high school level in tests taken in Jan-Feb 2002, after Pres Bush signed No Child Left Behind legislation; Sec Rod Paige comments; graph

June 20, 2003

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: [EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, LAW AND LEGISLATION, READING AND WRITING SKILLS, TESTS AND TESTING, UNITED STATES, PAIGE, RODERICK R, BUSH, GEORGE W](#)

### **12th Graders' National Science Scores Slip**

By ABBY GOODNOUGH

Performance of US high school seniors on National Assessment of Education Progress has declined since 1996, despite emphasis on improving academic standards; only 18 percent of those tested last year showed proficiency; urgent need seen for more skilled teachers; New York State scores mirror national average, New Jersey did not participate; averages were highest in Mass, Maine, North Dakota, Iowa (4th grade) and Montana, Mass, Ohio, North Dakota, Vermont (8th grade)

November 21, 2001

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## **Test Results From States Reveal Gaps In Learning**

By KATE ZERNIKE

Test scores show most states improving performance of eighth graders in math but few gaining in fourth-grade reading and even fewer narrowing stubborn gaps between black or Hispanic students and white students, goal Pres Bush has said schools should have to meet to receive federal education aid; state-by-state analysis of scores from National Assessment of Educational Progress finds only two states, Georgia and Massachusetts, reduced gap between white students and black or Hispanic students in fo...

April 9, 2001

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## **Most Pupils Can't Write Well, Report on 3 Grade Levels Says**

By JODI WILGOREN

National Assessment of Educational Progress report concludes that only about one-quarter of American students can write at proficient level; officials say writing assessments given to 160,000 4th, 8th and 12th graders in 1998 are first of their kind and thus cannot be compared with previous writing tests

September 29, 1999

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## **New Test Finds 2 in 3 Know Basics of Science**

Test of fourth, eighth and 12th graders from across the country shows that 2 in 3 have basic understanding of science; results are part of National Assessment of Educational Progress, which administers tests in various subjects every year or two to students around country

October 22, 1997

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## **U.S. Pupils Score High on Science Facts but Falter on Reasoning**

By PETER APPLEBOME

National Assessment of Educational Progress, national test of science education, finds that American students have some understanding of basic scientific facts and principles, but their ability to apply scientific knowledge or clearly explain their reasoning is 'disappointing'

May 4, 1997

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: [EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TESTS AND TESTING](#)

## **National Tests Show Students Have Improved in Math**

By PETER APPLEBOME

Scores on National Assessment of Educational Progress test show that nation's fourth, eighth and 12th-grade students have made significant progress in mathematics; graph

February 28, 1997

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## **Survey of 9 Million Pupils Finds Lag in Education**

By KAREN DE WITT

LEAD: The Department of Education released a report yesterday that adds to the growing documentation of the mediocrity of American education.

September 27, 1990

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: [EDUCATION \(PRIMARY\), EDUCATION \(SECONDARY\), EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS, RESEARCH, UNITED STATES, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT](#)

## **Wider Race Gap in Writing Skill Is Found**

By JASON DEPARLE, SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

LEAD: The gap in writing ability between white and minority students is even greater than previously indicated, according to the results of a nationwide test released today.

June 8, 1990

MORE ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS AND: [ILLITERACY, BLACKS \(IN US\), MINORITIES \(ETHNIC, RACIAL, RELIGIOUS\), UNITED STATES](#)