



The Nation's Report Card

Trends in Academic Progress

ABSTRACT

Report 2012

NAEP 2012 Trends in Academic Progress: Reading 1971-2012/Mathematics 1973-2012

The NAEP *Trends in Academic Progress 2012* reports on assessment results of a nationally representative sample of students aged 9, 13, and 17 from public and private schools. Designed to study long-term trends, the reading assessment measured students' reading comprehension skills using an array of passages that included expository texts, narrative pieces, poems, advertisements, and schedules. The report compared results from 1971 and 2012 assessments. The mathematics assessment measured students' knowledge of mathematical facts, their understanding of basic measurement formulas in geometry, their ability to use pencil and paper for computation, and their ability to apply mathematics to daily living as with time and money. The report compared results from 1973 and 2012 assessments.

Highlights for 2012 reading results show improvement in the reading skills of 9- and 13-year-olds compared to students their age in 1971, but no significant change in the performance of 17-year-olds. The report describes a pattern across all three age groups of long-term gains for lower-performing students.

Similar to the reading assessment, the 2012 mathematics results show improvement in the mathematics knowledge and skills demonstrated by 9- and 13-year-olds compared to students their age in 1973, but no significant change in the overall performance of 17-year-olds. Although results differ by age group, there is a common pattern of improvement for lower-performing students. In some cases, these improvements have led to a narrowing of the racial and ethnic score gaps.



READING 1971-2012
MATHEMATICS 1973-2012