

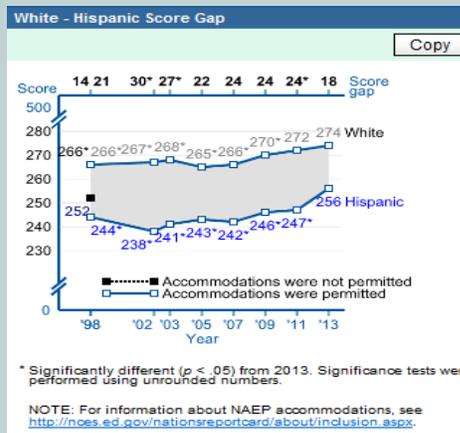


Utah Reducing Achievement Gap in Eighth Grade Reading

- Hispanic student scores increased from 247 to 256.
- Students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch scores increased from 254 to 260.
- Overall Utah scores in eighth grade reading rose from 267 to 270.
- These upward trends are consistent with the trends reflected in the 8th grade language arts CRTs.

Special points of interest:

- The NAEP 2013 assessment was conducted from January 28th-March 8th.
- 41% (106) schools participated at the 8th grade level in Utah. 15% (6,901) 8th grade students participated.
- Schools and students within those schools are randomly selected using a systematic sampling procedure by NAEP.
- NAEP assesses national standards determined by the federal government

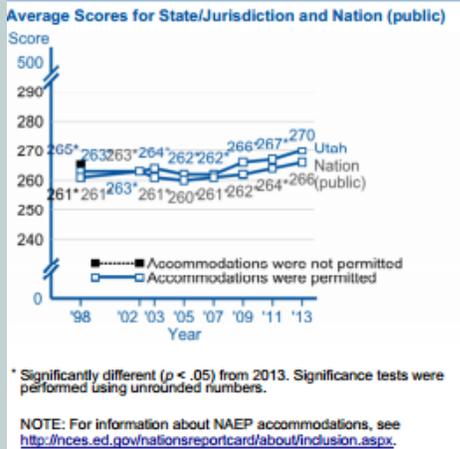


Utah 8th grade Hispanic students reduced the White-Hispanic gap from 25 to 18 points and increased their average scale scores by 9 points from 247 to 256 since 2011. There were notable increases in comparison to the Nation, where there was no significant gap change and a 4 point average scale score increase by 8th grade Hispanic students. Utah 8th grade students continue to outscore the Nation in reading average scale scores.

The NAEP score increases for Utah student populations identified as Hispanic and low income could be attributed to professional development in Utah schools and specifically in Salt Lake and Granite Districts which have the highest percentages of these student populations.

Potential Growth Attribution:

1. There has been a greater focus in professional development for Utah teachers. Utah teachers have been engaged in targeted professional development aimed at learning how to better use assessment data to meet student needs. The DIBELS assessment is now given three times per year which provides teachers access to student achievement at the beginning, middle and end of the year. This data can be used to determine which individual students require interventions to reach grade level.
2. ESL endorsements for educators are being highly encouraged in Salt Lake and Granite districts. The percentage of teachers in Salt Lake and Granite districts with ESL endorsements are currently at 63% and 40% respectively, compared to the statewide level of ESL endorsements at 32%. This endorsement gives teachers training in how to better teach



- diverse populations as well as differentiate between language problems and learning difficulties.
3. The Utah Core Standards provide a framework for teachers to help students read, apply, and understand reading objectives. The learning objectives are outlined with greater clarity in the new core standards, which encourages a consistent approach to reading development.

For a complete NAEP report: http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading_math_2013/#/