
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: NAEP 2002 READING SCORES TO BE RELEASED AT 9:30 (EST) ON THURSDAY, JUNE 19
DATE 6/18/03
CC: MAYO, SEWELL, FILE

The 2002 reading NAEP assessment results are being released tomorrow morning at 9:30 EST. Here are a few highlights from the report in case we get any phone calls from the press. The following information is embargoed until 9:30 EST tomorrow:

National Results

- The 4th grade average score of 219 in 2002 was higher than in 1994, 1998 and 2000, but was not found to be significantly different from 1992.
- The 8th grade average score of 264 in 2002 was higher than in 1992 or 1994, but the same as 1998.
- 12th grade scores decreased from 291 in 1998 to 287 in 2002.
- At 4th grade, both white and black students had higher average reading scores in 2002 than in any previous assessment year. At 8th grade, average reading scores in 2002 were higher than those in 1992 and 1994 for white, black and Hispanic students.
- This was the most comprehensive NAEP assessment ever. Over 270,000 students in grades 4,8 and 12 participated. 46 states participated. Approximately 5,000 4th and 8th grade schools participated, as well as about 700 12th grade schools.
- Significant increases were seen in the number of 4th and 8th graders at or above the basic reading level.

Mississippi Results (NOTE: MS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT SCORES IN THE 8TH GRADE READING RESULTS. WE NEED TO HIGHLIGHT THESE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT INCREASES, AS WELL AS INCREASES IN OUR 4TH GRADE SCORES, ALTHOUGH 4TH GRADE WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT. WE ALSO NEED TO HIGHLIGHT INCREASES OF 4TH GRADE BLACKS AND 8TH GRADE WHITES.)

- Mississippi's 4th grade average scale score has increased from 199 in 1992 to 203 in 2002.
- Mississippi's 8th grade average scale score was significantly different. 8th graders scored 251 in 1998 and they increased to 255 in 2002.
- The percentage of 4th graders *below basic* has decreased from 59% in 1992 to 55% in 2002, while the percentage of 4th graders *at or above basic* has increased from 41% in 1992 to 45% in 2002. Likewise, the percentage of 4th graders *at or above proficient* increased from 14% in 1992 to 16% in 2002.
- The percentage of 8th graders *below basic* has decreased from 38% in 1998 to 33% in 2002, while the percentage of 8th graders *at or above basic* has increased from 62% in 1998 to 67% in 2002. (NOTE: BOTH OF THESE WERE SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT INCREASES.) Likewise, the percentage of 8th graders *at or above proficient* increased from 19% in 1998 to 20% in 2002.
- Although we've demonstrated increases, we still have a lot of work to do in meeting or exceeding the national average. 42 states' percentage of 4th graders *at or above proficient* is higher than Mississippi's percentage of 4th graders *at or above proficient*. Likewise, 38 states' percentage of 8th graders *at or above proficient* is higher than Mississippi's percentage of 8th graders *at or above proficient*. So, we're still near the bottom, but we are improving.
- In the 4th grade, we are seeing larger increases by black students. The average scale score of white 4th graders increased only 1 point from 217 in 1992 to 218 in 2002. However, the average scale score of black 4th graders increased by 3 points from 186 in 1992 to 189 in 2002.
- 63% of white 4th grade students were *at or above basic* reading level in 1992. This increased to 64% in 2002. Black 4th graders increased from 25% *at or above basic* in 1992 to 28% in 2002.
- The average scale score of white 8th graders was significantly different from 1998 (average scale score of 263) to 2002 (average scale score of 268). The average scale score of black 8th graders increased from 237 in 1998 to 240 in 2002.
- 77% of white 8th grade students were *at or above basic* reading level in 1998. This increased to 83% (significantly different) in 2002. Black 8th graders increased from 43% *at or above basic* in 1998 to 48% in 2002.
- 4th graders eligible for free and reduced lunch in Mississippi had an average scale score of 195 in 2002, while 4th graders not eligible for free and reduced lunch had an average scale score of 221. This score of 195 in 2002 for those eligible was only a minor increase of those eligible in 1998's score of 194. The national scale score for 4th graders eligible for free and reduced lunch was 202.

- 8th graders eligible for free and reduced lunch in Mississippi had an average scale score of 246 in 2002, while 4th graders not eligible for free and reduced lunch had an average scale score of 268. This score of 246 in 2002 for those eligible was higher than those eligible in 1998's score of 241. The national scale score for 4th graders eligible for free and reduced lunch was 249.