



# NEWS RELEASE

## Utah State Board of Education

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### Utah in Nation's Top Ten in Fourth, Eighth Grade Reading, Fourth Grade Math *Nation's Report Card Results Also Show Utah English Language Learners Improving in Reading*

SALT LAKE CITY – [Utah fourth and eighth grade students](#) now rank firmly in the nation's top ten states in reading and Utah fourth graders also claim that spot in mathematics achievement, according to data released to by the [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#), also known as the Nation's Report Card. Utah eighth graders slipped two spots from 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation to 16<sup>th</sup>, at the same time average eighth grade mathematics scores dipped, NAEP showed.

The gains came as Utah fourth and eighth grade reading and mathematics scores remained statistically unchanged in 2019 from 2017 while the nation's scores – with the exception of fourth grade mathematics – dipped on average over the same time period, according to NAEP.

“The Utah State Board of Education set our state's core subjects standards high and that is paying off for our students who will be facing competition from their peers nationally and internationally in the future,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sydnee Dickson. “We know that the hard work of meeting Utah's academic expectations is paying off relative to other states and for that we thank our teachers and congratulate our students.”

Among demographic subgroups, Utah's best news was seen in fourth grade reading where students identified as English language learners saw average reading scores jump from 179 to 195, between the two years. This means 38 percent of English language learners are now at or above a basic reading level in 2019 as opposed to just 21 percent in 2017. Nationally, 35 percent of students identified as English language learners are reading at or above the basic level.

The newly released NAEP data show:

### Fourth Grade Reading

	2017	2019
Utah Average Score	225	225
Utah Rank	10	4
National Average Score	221	219*

\* Statistically Significant

### Eighth Grade Reading

	2017	2019
Utah Average Score	269	267
Utah Rank	11	6
National Average Score	265	262*

\*Statistically Significant

### Fourth Grade Mathematics

	2017	2019
Utah Average Score	242	244
Utah Rank	12	9
National Average Score	239	240*

\*Statistically Significant

### Eighth Grade Mathematics

	2017	2019
Utah Average Score	287	285
Utah Rank	14	16
National Average Score	282	281*

\*Statistically Significant

NAEP tests in reading and mathematics are given to a statistical sampling of fourth and eighth grade students in all states every two years. In Utah, 2,400 students were tested in fourth grade reading and mathematics and in eighth grade reading; 2,500 students were tested in eighth grade mathematics. Because the tests involved statistical sampling, no individual district or school results are available. Statistical significance in growth or decline are related to the sampling size.

[Utah Fourth Grade Reading](#)

[Utah Eighth Grade Reading](#)

[Utah Fourth Grade Mathematics](#)

[Utah Eighth Grade Mathematics](#)

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