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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Alaska Shows Progress for Grade 4 Reading, Nationally, Reading and Mathematics Assessments Show Decline

WASHINGTON— Results of the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)—also known as The Nation's Report Card—show that Alaska is among 13 states with increases in grade 4 reading. Two states show decreases in grade 4 reading. For grade 8 reading, one state shows an increase and eight states show decreases. For grade 4 mathematics, three states show increases and 16 states show decreases. For grade 8 mathematics, no states show increases and 22 states show decreases.

Nationally, public schools show declines among fourth and eighth grade students in mathematics, and among eighth grade students in reading, on the 2015 assessments.

Alaska's fourth graders show progress in reading from 2013 to 2015 on the latest Nation's Report Card, *2015 Mathematics and Reading*. Alaska students had no other statistically significant changes for grade-8 reading or for grade-4 and grade-8 mathematics.

The 2013 mathematics and reading assessments were given to fourth and eighth graders in public schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Department of Defense schools.

For the national public score, the grade-8 reading score decreased by 2 points, from 266 to 264 points. The grade-4 national public mathematics score decreased by one point from 241 to 240 and the grade-8 mathematics score decreased by 2 points from 284 to 281.

Alaska's grade-4 reading score increased by 3 points, from 209 to 213, but is not statistically significantly different from the 2003 score of 212, the first time the NAEP reading assessment was administered in Alaska. Alaska's lowest grade-4 reading score was 208 in 2011.

NAEP results are also measured at three achievement levels, *Basic*, *Proficient* and *Advanced*. *Basic* denotes partial mastery of the knowledge and skills needed for grade-appropriate work; *Proficient* denotes solid academic performance; and *Advanced* represents superior work.

- Grade 4 Reading
 - For the National Public, 35% of students are at or above Proficient.
 - For Alaska, 30% of students are at or above Proficient.
- Grade 8 Reading
 - For the National Public, 33% of students are at or above Proficient.
 - For Alaska, 31% of students are at or above Proficient.

- Grade 4 Mathematics
 - For the National Public, 39% of students are at or above Proficient.
 - For Alaska, 35% of students are at or above Proficient.
- Grade 8 Mathematics
 - For the National Public, 32% of students are at or above Proficient.
 - For Alaska, 32% of students are at or above Proficient

Results for *The Nation's Report Card: 2015 Mathematics and Reading* are available in an interactive online format at www.nationsreportcard.gov.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a congressionally authorized project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The National Center for Education Statistics, within the Institute of Education Sciences, administers NAEP. The Commissioner of Education Statistics is responsible by law for carrying out the NAEP project.

The National Assessment Governing Board is an independent, bipartisan board whose members include governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, educators, business representatives, and members of the general public. Congress created the 26-member Governing Board in 1988 to set policy for NAEP.