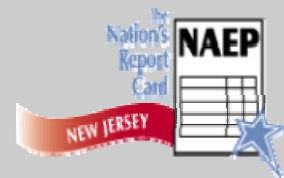


NAEP Achievement-Level Descriptions Mathematics Grade 4



The definitions for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) achievement levels are as follows:

- **Basic** -- partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work.
- **Proficient** -- solid academic performance. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.
- **Advanced** -- superior performance.

(Note: NAEP does not provide a definition for or description of student performance at the *Below Basic* achievement level.)

NAEP Mathematics Achievement Levels, Grade 4

Basic Level (214)	Fourth-grade students performing at the <i>Basic</i> level should show some evidence of understanding the mathematical concepts and procedures in the five NAEP content areas.
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Fourth-graders performing at the *Basic* level should be able to estimate and use basic facts to perform simple computations with whole numbers, show some understanding of fractions and decimals, and solve some simple real-world problems in all NAEP content areas. Students at this level should be able to use—though not always accurately—four-function calculators, rulers, and geometric shapes. Their written responses are often minimal and presented without supporting information.

Proficient Level (249)	Fourth-grade students performing at the <i>Proficient</i> level should consistently apply integrated procedural knowledge and conceptual understanding to problem solving in the five NAEP content areas.
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Fourth-graders performing at the *Proficient* level should be able to use whole numbers to estimate, compute, and determine whether results are reasonable. They should have a conceptual understanding of fractions and decimals; be able to solve real-world problems in all NAEP content areas; and use four-function calculators, rulers, and geometric shapes appropriately. Students performing at the *Proficient* level should employ problem-solving strategies such as identifying and using appropriate information. Their written solutions should be organized and presented both with supporting information and explanations of how they were achieved.

Advanced Level (282)	Fourth-grade students performing at the <i>Advanced</i> level should apply integrated procedural knowledge and conceptual understanding to complex and nonroutine real-world problem solving in the five NAEP content areas.
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Fourth-graders performing at the *Advanced* level should be able to solve complex and nonroutine real-world problems in all NAEP content areas. They should display mastery in the use of four-function calculators, rulers, and geometric shapes. The students are expected to draw logical conclusions and justify answers and solution processes by explaining why, as well as how, they were achieved. They should go beyond the obvious in their interpretations and be able to communicate their thoughts clearly and concisely.

SOURCE: National Assessment Governing Board. (2004). *Mathematics Framework for the 2005 National Assessment of Educational Progress*. Washington, DC: Author. ¶