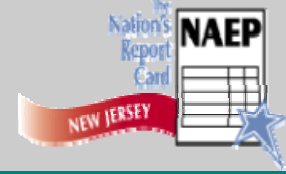


NAEP Achievement-Level Descriptions Mathematics Grade 8



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 8

Basic Level (262)	Eighth-grade students performing at the <i>Basic</i> level should exhibit evidence of conceptual and procedural understanding in the five NAEP content areas. This level of performance signifies an understanding of arithmetic operations—including estimation—on whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and percents.
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Eighth-graders performing at the *Basic* level should complete problems correctly with the help of structural prompts such as diagrams, charts, and graphs. They should be able to solve problems in all NAEP content areas through the appropriate selection and use of strategies and technological tools—including calculators, computers, and geometric shapes. Students at this level also should be able to use fundamental algebraic and informal geometric concepts in problem solving. As they approach the *Proficient* level, students at the *Basic* level should be able to determine which of the available data are necessary and sufficient for correct solutions and use them in problem solving. However, these eighth-graders show limited skill in communicating mathematically.

Proficient Level (299)	Eighth-grade students performing at the <i>Proficient</i> level should apply mathematical concepts and procedures consistently to complex problems in the five NAEP content areas.
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Eighth-graders performing at the *Proficient* level should be able to conjecture, defend their ideas, and give supporting examples. They should understand the connections among fractions, percents, decimals, and other mathematical topics such as algebra and functions. Students at this level are expected to have a thorough understanding of *Basic*-level arithmetic operations—an understanding sufficient for problem solving in practical situations. Quantity and spatial relationships in problem solving and reasoning should be familiar to them, and they should be able to convey underlying reasoning skills beyond the level of arithmetic. They should be able to compare and contrast mathematical ideas and generate their own examples. These students should make inferences from data and graphs, apply properties of informal geometry, and accurately use the tools of technology. Students at this level should understand the process of gathering and organizing data and be able to calculate, evaluate, and communicate results within the domain of statistics and probability.

Advanced Level (333)	Eighth-grade students performing at the <i>Advanced</i> level should be able to reach beyond the recognition, identification, and application of mathematical rules in order to generalize and synthesize concepts and principles in the five NAEP content areas.
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Eighth-graders performing at the *Advanced* level should be able to probe examples and counterexamples in order to shape generalizations from which they can develop models. Eighth-graders performing at the *Advanced* level should use number sense and geometric awareness to consider the reasonableness of an answer. They are expected to use abstract thinking to create unique problem-solving techniques and explain the reasoning processes underlying their conclusions.

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