

At the request of the Secretary of Education, the National Center of Education Statistics provided information about the four states that are the top performers in making progress in closing the achievement gap.

Top 4 States in Closing Achievement Gaps (and Subgroup Score Increases)

Florida, Delaware, Illinois and New Jersey made the most progress in closing performance gaps between white and black and white and Hispanic students in fourth- and eighth-grade reading and math between 2003 and 2007. These improvements were accompanied by significant score increases for African American, Hispanic and low-income students.

Florida

Closing Achievement Gaps

- Florida was one of only five states that showed a significant narrowing of the White/African American gap between 2003 and 2007 in fourth grade reading.
- Florida is one of only two states where the gap between low and higher income fourth grade students decreased significantly in math between 2003 and 2007. Florida was also one of three states where the performance gap between low and higher income students decreased between 2003 and 2007 in fourth grade reading.
- Florida is one of only seven states where the gap between White and African American eighth grade students decreased significantly in eighth grade math.

African American Scores on the Rise

- Reading and math scores for fourth grade African American students significantly rose between 2003 and 2007.
- African American eighth grade students also showed a significant increase in math scores.

Hispanic Scores on the Rise

- Reading and math scores for fourth grade Hispanic students significantly rose between 2003 and 2007.
- Hispanic eighth grade students also showed a significant increase in math scores.

Scores for Students with Disabilities on the Rise

- Fourth grade students with disabilities had a significant increase in math and reading scores.
- Eighth grade students with disabilities had a significant increase in math scores between 2003 and 2007.

Scores for Low Income Students on the Rise

- Reading and math scores for low-income fourth grade students rose significantly.
- Math scores for low-income eighth grade students rose significantly.

* Florida was a top-gaining state in fourth grade math, with a score increase of 8 points between 2003 and 2007. Florida also was a top-gaining state in eighth grade reading, with a score increase of 2 points.

Delaware

Closing Achievement Gaps

- Delaware was one of only two jurisdictions that showed a significant narrowing of the White/Hispanic gap between 2003 and 2007 in fourth grade reading.

African American Scores on the Rise

- The math scores for fourth and eighth grade African American students rose significantly.

Hispanic Scores on the Rise

- The math scores for fourth and eighth grade Hispanic students rose significantly.

Scores for Students with Disabilities on the Rise

- Fourth and eighth grade students with disabilities had a significant increase in math scores between 2003 and 2007.

Scores for Low Income Students on the Rise

- Math scores for low income fourth and eighth graders significantly increased.

Illinois

Closing Achievement Gaps

- The performance gap between low and higher income students decreased between 2003 and 2007 in fourth grade reading. This was true of only three states.
- The performance gap between low and higher income students decreased between 2003 and 2007 in fourth grade math. This was true of only two states.

African American Scores on the Rise

- Fourth grade African American students had a significant increase in math and reading scores.

Hispanic Scores on the Rise

- Fourth grade Hispanic students had a significant increase in math and reading scores.
- Eighth grade Hispanic students also had a significant rise in math scores.

Scores for Students with Disabilities on the Rise

- Fourth grade students with disabilities had a significant increase in math and reading scores between 2003 and 2007.

Scores for Low Income Students on the Rise

- Math and reading scores for low income fourth graders significantly increased.
- Low income eighth graders also had a significant increase in math scores.

Scores for English Language Learners on the Rise

- Fourth and eighth graders who are English Language Learners had a significant increase in math scores between 2003 and 2007.

New Jersey

Closing Achievement Gaps

- New Jersey was one of only five states that showed a significant narrowing of the White/African American gap between 2003 and 2007 in fourth grade reading.
- New Jersey was one of only two states that showed a significant narrowing of the White/African American gap between 2003 and 2007 in fourth grade math.

African American Scores on the Rise

- Math and reading scores for fourth grade African American students rose significantly.
- Eighth grade African American students also had a significant increase in math scores.

Hispanic Scores on the Rise

- Fourth and eighth grade Hispanic students had a significant increase in math scores.

Scores for Students with Disabilities on the Rise

- Fourth grade students with disabilities had a significant increase in math scores between 2003 and 2007.

Scores for Low Income Students on the Rise

- The reading scores of low-income fourth grade students rose significantly.
- Low income fourth and eighth graders had a significant increase in math scores.

* New Jersey was a top-gaining state in fourth grade math, with a score increase of 10 points between 2003 and 2007.