

Wyoming's National Rank: Quality Counts and NAEP

According to a national, impartial study that is recognized in all 50 states, Wyoming is the best in the west and **6th overall in the nation** based on performance in three educational categories: *instruction*, *funding*, and *outcomes*. Data for each of the three key categories come from indicators that are considered important components of a quality education system:

- **Chance for Success:** These rankings are divided into early foundations, school years, and adult outcomes. They look at factors like proficiency in reading and math for students in grades K-12 (based on NAEP), graduation rates, level of parents' education and rate of adult employment.
- **School Finance:** The school finance analysis examines two critical aspects of school spending: state spending and equity.
- **K-12 Achievement:** K-12 Achievement is based largely on the 2019 NAEP scores, in addition to high school graduation and success on Advanced Placement tests.

Performance on each of the three categories is publicly released as a three-part series. States' rankings on Chance for Success are published every January, School Finance in June, and K-12 Achievement in September. Additionally, a state's **overall** grade and ranking are published in September. The overall grade and ranking represent the average of scores earned on the three separate indices tracked for the final [Quality Counts report](#).

In 2017 and 2018, Wyoming ranked 7th overall in the nation based on its performance across all of these indicators. In 2019, Wyoming moved up to 6th in the nation. The most recent (2021) Quality Counts report shows that, even with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wyoming was able to maintain its lead among its contiguous states and hold its 6th place ranking nationally based on its performances across the aforementioned categories.

Overall Quality Counts Score				
Where does my state rank overall based on the three categories?				
Indicator	2018 Grade/Rank	2019 Grade/Rank	2020 Grade/Rank	2021 Grade/Rank
Wyoming's overall Quality Counts score	Grade: B- Rank: 7th	Grade: B- Rank: 6th	Grade: B- Rank: 5th	Grade: B- Rank: 6th
National Average	Grade: C	Grade: C	Grade: C	Grade: C
Contiguous States (Rank)	Colorado: 25th Idaho: 45th Montana: 28th Nebraska: 18th South Dakota: 37th Utah: 31st	Colorado: 23rd Idaho: 45th Montana: 29th Nebraska: 18th South Dakota: 35th Utah: 31st	Colorado: 24th Idaho: 38th Montana: 29th Nebraska: 20th South Dakota: 27th Utah: 26th	Colorado: 21st Idaho: 32nd Montana: 27th Nebraska: 19th South Dakota: 26th Utah: 22nd

[Click here](#) for a detailed report on Wyoming's performance compared to its six neighboring states.

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The Role of NAEP

As previously mentioned, the National Assessment of Education Progress, or NAEP, is a factor in two of the three categories for the Quality Counts rankings: **Chance for Success** and **K-12 Achievement**. The NAEP assessment is used to create *The Nation’s Report Card*, a congressionally mandated report on student achievement across the country. The report highlights the academic progress of students, state-by-state, in math and reading.

NAEP measures the academic performance of students in grades 4, 8, and 12 by assessing a representative sample of students across the United States. Results for NAEP are reported for groups of students with similar characteristics (e.g., gender, race and ethnicity, school location), not individual students. State rankings are based on the percentage of students who perform at or above three achievement levels: NAEP Basic, NAEP Proficient, and NAEP Advanced.

- [Click here](#) for details about NAEP achievement levels in **math**.
- [Click here](#) for details about NAEP achievement levels in **reading**.
- [Click here](#) for **sample questions** from the NAEP assessment.

[Wyoming](#) consistently performs well compared to the rest of the nation. Since 1992, only 6% of states performed significantly higher than Wyoming across 4th and 8th grade reading and math. **In 2022, Wyoming ranked 3rd in the nation on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Score State Rankings.**

STUDENT GROUP COMPARISONS

Several student groups in Wyoming outperformed their peers across the country, leading the state as a whole to perform well above the national public school average. The next four (4) tables below show instances where Wyoming’s scale scores were above the national average for the specified student group.

2022 4th Grade Math

Based on the NAEP average scale scores (only included for groups where minimum *n* was met)

	White	Hispanic	Lunch Program	Special Ed	ELL	City	Town	Rural
Wyoming	245	236	232	219	222	242	244	244
National Ave	245	224	223	211	215	229	232	238

2022 8th Grade Math

Based on the NAEP average scale scores (only included for groups where minimum *n* was met)

	White	Hispanic	Lunch Program	Special Ed	ELL	City	Town	Rural
Wyoming	284	269	269	248	N/A	275	283	283
National Ave	284	261	260	242		268	268	274

(Tables continue on next page)

2022 4th Grade Reading

Based on the NAEP average scale scores (only included for groups where minimum *n* was met)

	White	Hispanic	Lunch Program	Special Ed	ELL	City	Town	Rural
Wyoming	228	214	211	189	199	225	224	227
National Ave	226	204	203	183	190	210	211	218

2022 8th Grade Reading

Based on the NAEP average scale scores (only included for groups where minimum *n* was met)

	White	Hispanic	Lunch Program	Special Ed	ELL	City	Town	Rural
Wyoming	264	252	249	225	N/A	256	262	263
National Ave	267	250	248	228		255	255	259

REGIONAL COMPARISONS

Overall, Wyoming also performed better than other states in the region. The following table shows how Wyoming ranked in all categories in comparison to its six contiguous states.

2022 Border States Comparison

Rankings are based on the average scale scores of all U.S. states and the District of Columbia. All data comes from <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>

State	Math Grade 4	Math Grade 8	Reading Grade 4	Reading Grade 8	TOTAL	REGIONAL RANK
Wyoming	1	3	2	7	13	1
Colorado	8	9	3	5	25	6
Idaho	8	2	9	4	23	4
Montana	5	7	5	7	24	5
Nebraska	2	5	5	9	21	3
South Dakota	5	3	6	6	20	2
Utah	4	2	4	3	13	1

For more information about state-by-state performance on the NAEP assessment, [click here](#).