



## ▶ Maryland READS NAEP Statement

January 29, 2025

Today, Marylanders can be cautiously optimistic about the progress we are making as we work together to tackle our state's reading crisis. Maryland halted our decade-long decline in 4th-grade reading test scores and changed its downward trajectory. We are beginning to see early improvement in reading proficiency scores. This victory, though small, is a testament to our collective effort and a reason to take pride in how far we've come.

We are mindful that this is just the beginning - and that these test scores do not tell the whole story of Maryland's collective effort to tackle our reading crisis. Our mission is far from complete, as the continued decline in 8th-grade reading scores reminds us. We also have a long way to go to close the gaps that exist in student performance, including persistent low performance for many student groups. Our state and community leaders are taking bold action and operating with a sense of urgency to build an effective system of support.

We should not rest until Maryland children have the literacy skills they need to thrive in school and in life. With unwavering commitment and a clear vision, we know that 95% of students—regardless of background—are capable of success through structured literacy. The road ahead is long, but today, we take a step forward together, inspired by the progress we've made and determined to finish the work we've started.

While the NAEP scores are nowhere close to being acceptable, we must keep in mind that they are just a snapshot of reading proficiency rates at one point in time. As Maryland READS prepares to release **The State of Reading in Maryland 2025**, we are closely examining the work our state has undertaken in the last several years to close the literacy gap in Maryland schools, and we are encouraged by what we see. There is a committed state leadership team harnessing the momentum and determination from our communities to end the reading crisis.

From a foundational standpoint, we are moving in the right direction. State leaders have taken major steps to provide a system of support for our schools. They have implemented evidence-based policies that promote systemic change. State leaders have embraced the Science of Reading to improve instruction, developed a comprehensive statewide literacy policy, and are providing educator training and assessment and investing in coaching. At Maryland READS we are committed to advancing thriving reading ecosystems that provide opportunities for children and families to build skills, gain access to resources, and engage in reading activities outside of the classroom. As a state, we are well on our way.

The path ahead requires sustained dedication and hard work from everyone involved in our communities, not just educators. Closing the literacy gap will take coordinated, persistent effort from all of us - educators, administrators, policymakers, families, and community partners working together with clear purpose and determination.

Maryland can close the literacy gap. It is going to take hard work and we all have a role to play to ensure that Maryland reads.

##



# 4th Grade NAEP Reading Results for Maryland

## Maryland's State ranking increased:

In 2022, **40 states** ranked above MD, **12 states** ranked below MD.

In 2024, **20 states** rank above MD, **33 states** rank below MD.

## Maryland rose from *below* the national average to *above* the national average.

Note: We continue to monitor Mississippi's performance and note the increase in their score and ranking.

### 2022 4th Grade Reading Scores



JURISDICTION	AVERAGE SCORE	
DoDEA	235	1
Massachusetts	227	2
Wyoming	225	3
Florida	225	4
Colorado	223	5
New Jersey	223	6
New Hampshire	223	7
Utah	221	8
Connecticut	219	9
Pennsylvania	219	10
Hawaii	219	11
Montana	219	12
Nebraska	219	13
Ohio	219	14
South Dakota	218	15
Iowa	218	16
Illinois	218	17
North Dakota	218	18
Wisconsin	217	19
Indiana	217	20
Rhode Island	217	21
Mississippi	217	22
Vermont	217	23
Washington	217	24
Kentucky	217	25
South Carolina	216	26
North Carolina	216	27
<b>National public</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>†</b>
Georgia	216	28
Arizona	215	29
Minnesota	215	30
Idaho	215	31
Kansas	215	32
California	214	33
Texas	214	34
Virginia	214	35
Tennessee	214	36
New York	214	37
Missouri	213	38
Alabama	213	39
Maine	213	40
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>†</b>
Louisiana	212	41
Arkansas	212	42
Michigan	212	43
Nevada	212	44
Oregon	210	45
Delaware	208	46
Oklahoma	208	47
District of Columbia	207	48
West Virginia	205	49
Alaska	204	50
New Mexico	202	51
Puerto Rico	—	†



### 2024 4th Grade Reading Scores

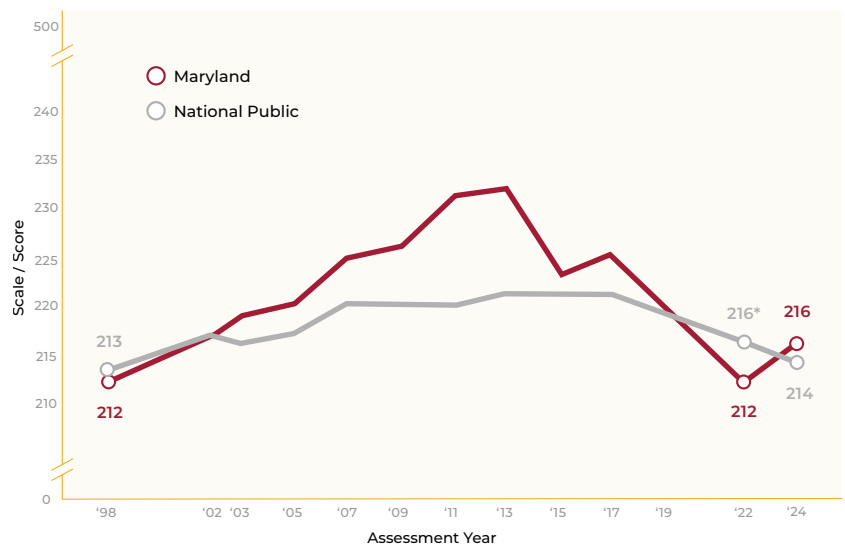


JURISDICTION	AVERAGE SCORE	
DoDEA	234	1
Massachusetts	225	2
Wyoming	222	3
New Jersey	222	4
New Hampshire	221	5
Colorado	221	6
Indiana	220	7
Utah	219	8
Connecticut	219	9
Mississippi	219	10
Florida	218	11
Kentucky	218	12
Montana	217	13
Rhode Island	216	14
Ohio	216	15
Louisiana	216	16
Hawaii	216	17
Pennsylvania	216	18
Washington	216	19
Idaho	216	20
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>†</b>
North Dakota	216	21
Wisconsin	215	22
Tennessee	215	23
South Carolina	215	24
New York	215	25
Iowa	215	26
Minnesota	214	27
Georgia	214	28
<b>National public</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>†</b>
Illinois	214	29
Virginia	214	30
South Dakota	214	31
North Carolina	213	32
Alabama	213	33
Nevada	213	34
Kansas	213	35
Vermont	213	36
Texas	212	37
Missouri	212	38
California	212	39
Nebraska	212	40
Arkansas	210	41
Maine	210	42
Delaware	210	43
District of Columbia	209	44
Michigan	209	45
Arizona	208	46
Oklahoma	207	47
Oregon	207	48
West Virginia	206	49
Alaska	202	50
New Mexico	201	51
Puerto Rico	—	†



## Maryland's 4th grade reading scores increased from **212** to **216**.

Chart to the right shows average scores for state/ jurisdiction and the nation.





# 8th Grade NAEP Reading Results for Maryland

## Maryland's State ranking increased:

In 2022, **25 states** ranked above MD, **27 states** ranked below MD.

In 2024, **21 states** rank above MD, **32 states** rank below MD.

## Maryland rose from *resting at* to *just above* the national average.

Note: We continue to monitor Mississippi's performance and note the increase in their score and ranking.

### 2022 8th Grade Reading Scores



JURISDICTION	AVERAGE SCORE	
DoDEA	282	1
New Jersey	270	2
Massachusetts	269	3
Utah	265	4
Connecticut	264	5
Vermont	264	6
Idaho	264	7
Colorado	263	8
New Hampshire	263	9
Wisconsin	262	10
Ohio	262	11
Illinois	262	12
South Dakota	262	13
New York	262	14
Washington	262	15
Montana	261	16
Wyoming	261	17
Indiana	261	18
Minnesota	260	19
Georgia	260	20
Iowa	260	21
Florida	260	22
Virginia	260	23
Rhode Island	259	24
Nebraska	259	25
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>National public</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>↑</b>
Pennsylvania	259	26
Hawaii	259	27
Nevada	259	28
California	259	29
Arizona	259	30
Michigan	259	31
Kentucky	258	32
North Dakota	258	33
Missouri	258	34
Tennessee	258	35
Oregon	257	36
Maine	257	37
Louisiana	257	38
Kansas	256	39
North Carolina	256	40
Texas	255	41
Arkansas	255	42
South Carolina	254	43
Delaware	253	44
Mississippi	253	45
Alaska	253	46
Oklahoma	251	47
Alabama	251	48
District of Columbia	250	49
West Virginia	249	50
New Mexico	248	51
Puerto Rico	—	↑



### 2022 8th Grade Reading Scores



JURISDICTION	AVERAGE SCORE	
DoDEA	282	1
New Jersey	270	2
Massachusetts	269	3
Utah	265	4
Connecticut	264	5
Vermont	264	6
Idaho	264	7
Colorado	263	8
New Hampshire	263	9
Wisconsin	262	10
Ohio	262	11
Illinois	262	12
South Dakota	262	13
New York	262	14
Washington	262	15
Montana	261	16
Wyoming	261	17
Indiana	261	18
Minnesota	260	19
Georgia	260	20
Iowa	260	21
Florida	260	22
Virginia	260	23
Rhode Island	259	24
Nebraska	259	25
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>National public</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>↑</b>
Pennsylvania	259	26
Hawaii	259	27
Nevada	259	28
California	259	29
Arizona	259	30
Michigan	259	31
Kentucky	258	32
North Dakota	258	33
Missouri	258	34
Tennessee	258	35
Oregon	257	36
Maine	257	37
Louisiana	257	38
Kansas	256	39
North Carolina	256	40
Texas	255	41
Arkansas	255	42
South Carolina	254	43
Delaware	253	44
Mississippi	253	45
Alaska	253	46
Oklahoma	251	47
Alabama	251	48
District of Columbia	250	49
West Virginia	249	50
New Mexico	248	51
Puerto Rico	—	↑



## Maryland's 8th grade reading scores decreased from **259** to **258**.

Chart to the right shows average scores for state/ jurisdiction and the nation.

**Our downward slide is slowing its pace.**

