What is The Nation’s Report Card™?

The Nation’s Report Card™ informs the public about the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. Report cards communicate the findings of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time.

Since 1969, NAEP assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and other subjects. NAEP collects and reports information on student performance at the national, state, and local levels, making the assessment an integral part of our nation’s evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only academic achievement data and related background information are collected. The privacy of individual students and their families is protected.

NAEP is a congressionally authorized project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education. The Commissioner of Education Statistics is responsible for carrying out the NAEP project. The National Assessment Governing Board oversees and sets policy for NAEP.

What is the High School Transcript Study?

The High School Transcript Study (HSTS) collects and analyzes transcripts from a representative sample of America’s public and private high school graduates. The study is designed to inform the public about the types of courses that graduates take during high school, how many credits they earn, and their grade point averages (GPAs). The HSTS also explores the relationship between course-taking patterns and student achievement, as measured by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). High school transcript studies have been conducted periodically for nearly two decades, permitting the reporting of trends in course-taking and GPA as well as providing information about recent high school graduates. In addition to collecting transcripts, the HSTS collects student information such as gender, graduation status, and race/ethnicity and information about the schools studied.
CONTENTS

Executive Summary ........................................... 1
Understanding the Results ................................. 3
Coursetaking .................................................. 5
NAEP .................................................................. 15
Gender ............................................................ 23
Race/Ethnicity .................................................. 31
A Closer Look ................................................... 43
Technical Notes ............................................... 56
References ...................................................... 58
Executive Summary

This report presents information about the types of courses that high school graduates in the class of 2009 took during high school, how many credits they earned, and the grades they received. Information on the relationships between high school coursetaking records and performance in mathematics and science on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is also included. Transcripts were collected from about 610 public schools and 130 private schools for the 2009 High School Transcript Study (HSTS). These transcripts constituted a nationally representative sample of 37,700 high school graduates, representing approximately 3 million 2009 high school graduates. The 2009 results are compared to the results of earlier transcript studies dating back to 1990, and differences among graduates by race/ethnicity, gender, and parent education are examined. Because the study is restricted to high school graduates, it contains no information about dropouts, who may differ from graduates. Graduates who receive a special education diploma or certificate of completion are also excluded from analyses in this report unless noted otherwise.

Graduates earn more credits and complete higher curriculum levels

- In 2009, graduates earned over three credits more than their 1990 counterparts, or about 420 additional hours of instruction during their high school careers.

- A greater percentage of 2009 graduates completed more challenging curriculum levels than 1990 or 2005 graduates.

- Nearly two-thirds of graduates who attained a rigorous curriculum took algebra I before high school.

Defining curriculum levels

Curriculum levels in this report are defined by the number of course credits earned by graduates in specified types of courses during high school, as follows:

- **Standard**: At least four credits of English and three each in social studies, mathematics, and science.

- **Midlevel**: In addition to standard requirements, geometry and algebra I or II; at least two courses in biology, chemistry, and physics; and at least one credit of a foreign language.

- **Rigorous**: In addition to midlevel requirements, an additional credit in mathematics including pre-calculus or higher; biology, chemistry, and physics; and at least three foreign language credits.
Graduates with stronger academic records earn higher NAEP scores

- Graduates who completed an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) mathematics or science course, a higher level mathematics or science course in ninth grade, or a rigorous curriculum had average NAEP scores at the Proficient level in both mathematics and science.

- Graduates who completed a midlevel or a standard curriculum had average NAEP scores at the Basic level.

Comparisons by gender

- Since 2005, male graduates have narrowed the gap with female graduates in credits earned in mathematics and science.

- A larger percentage of female graduates compared to male graduates completed a midlevel or rigorous curriculum in 2009.

- In 2009, male graduates generally had higher NAEP mathematics and science scores than female graduates completing the same curriculum level.

Comparisons by race/ethnicity

- Since 1990 more graduates from each racial/ethnic group completed a rigorous curriculum. The percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander graduates completing a rigorous curriculum in 2009, 29 percent, was greater than that of White, Black, or Hispanic graduates (14 percent, 6 percent, and 8 percent respectively).

- All four racial/ethnic groups on average earned more credits and higher grade point averages (GPAs) in 2009 than they did in 1990. The GPAs of White and Asian/Pacific Islander graduates increased between 2005 and 2009.

Other Topics

This report also takes a closer look at:

- Finding time to earn more credits, through summer learning, classes taken for high school credits in middle school, and online learning;

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) coursetaking; and

- Credits earned, GPAs, and curriculum levels of students with disabilities and English language learners.
Understanding The Results

**Overview of the High School Transcript Study**

This report presents information about the types of courses that graduates took during their years in high school, how many credits they earned, and the grades they received. Information on the relationships between high school records and performance in mathematics and science on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is also included. Transcripts were collected from approximately 610 public schools and 130 private schools for the 2009 High School Transcript Study (HSTS). These transcripts constituted a nationally representative sample of 37,700 public and private high school graduates, representing approximately 3 million 2009 high school graduates. The 2009 results are compared to the results of the 1990, 1994, 1998, 2000, and 2005 NAEP high school transcript studies, and differences among graduates by gender, race/ethnicity, and parent education are examined. However, the sample size was insufficient to permit reliable estimates for American Indian/Alaska Native graduates in 2009.

**Standardizing transcript information**

Not all high schools have the same standards for course titles, assigning credits, and grade scales. To allow comparisons, HSTS standardizes the transcript information. To control for the variation in course titles, a coding system called the Classification of Secondary School Courses (CSSC) is used for classifying courses on the basis of information available in school catalogs and other information sources. (For more information, see http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/hst/courses.asp.)

Course credits are converted to standardized Carnegie units of credit (or Carnegie credits), in which a single unit is equal to 120 hours of classroom time over the course of a year. Schools provided information on how many course credits represent a Carnegie credit at their school. The course credits recorded on the transcript were then converted (standardized) into Carnegie credits for the data analysis for this report.

Points are assigned to each letter grade as shown in the table to the left. The points are adjusted by the number of Carnegie credits earned, so that a course with 60 hours of instruction counts half as much as one with 120 hours. The average of the points earned for all the courses taken is the grade point average (GPA). Courses in which a graduate did not receive a grade, such as pass/fail and audited courses, do not factor into the GPA calculation. GPAs were not adjusted for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or other honors classes. This process does not standardize for differences in grading practices among schools and teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1 point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The NAEP connection
Approximately 30,100 of the graduates included in the transcript study also participated in the NAEP twelfth-grade mathematics or science assessments in 2009. Thus, findings of the HSTS can be linked with NAEP results, allowing a comparison of coursetaking patterns and educational achievement as measured by NAEP.

This report presents information on the 2005 and 2009 NAEP mathematics scores and on the 2009 NAEP science scores.

Each NAEP assessment is built around an organizing framework, which is the blueprint that guides the development of the assessment instrument and determines the content to be assessed. The National Assessment Governing Board develops the NAEP frameworks (http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/frameworks.asp).

For 2005, the Governing Board adopted a new mathematics framework for grade 12 to reflect changes in high school standards and coursework. This framework, which was also used in 2009, allows comparisons of 2005 and 2009 mathematics scores.

The 2005 and 2009 NAEP science scores cannot be compared because of the implementation of a new science framework in 2009.

Caution in interpreting results
The results presented in this report describe information from the collected transcripts. In reading the report, readers may find themselves asking questions about the causes for changes, whether increases or decreases, in the results. However, the HSTS cannot be used to determine the reasons behind these findings.”

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) uses widely accepted statistical standards in analyzing data. Unless otherwise noted, the text of this report discusses only findings that are significant at the .05 level. In the tables and charts of this report, the symbol (*) is used to indicate findings that are significantly different from one another. When statements about differences are made in the text, the differences are based on unrounded numbers and not the rounded numbers presented in the figures and tables. The results in this report are estimates based on samples of students and schools and are therefore subject to sampling and measurement errors.
The high school graduates of 2009 earned more credits and completed more challenging curriculum levels than earlier graduates. Even with these gains, one-quarter of 2009 graduates did not attain at least a standard curriculum level. After rising for more than a decade, overall GPAs for graduates did not change from 2005 to 2009.
Credits Earned Continue to Rise

Average credits earned by high school graduates increased from 26.8 credits in 2005 to 27.2 credits in 2009 (figure 1). Over the last 19 years, average credits earned by graduates increased by more than three credits, from 23.6 credits in 1990 to 27.2 in 2009. Each Carnegie credit represents 120 hours of classroom instruction. Thus, 2009 graduates received over 400 hours more of instructional time during their high school years compared to 1990 graduates. This increase in credits over time is consistent with earlier NCES transcript studies.

* Significantly different (p < .05) from 2009.

**FIGURE 1. Trend in average credits earned: 1990–2009**

Defining Curriculum Levels

In this report, three curriculum levels are discussed: standard, midlevel, and rigorous. Information is also shown for students who do not attain at least a standard curriculum level (below standard). The curriculum levels were developed for the NAEP HSTS studies and are based on the number of credits and types of courses graduates complete.

As shown in table 1, to attain a standard curriculum, a high school graduate must earn four credits in English, and three credits each in social studies, mathematics, and science. Graduates who do not meet these requirements complete a below standard curriculum.

To attain a midlevel curriculum, a high school graduate with a standard curriculum must meet three additional requirements. Mathematics credits earned must include algebra and geometry, science courses completed must cover two subjects among biology, chemistry, and physics, and one credit must be earned in foreign language courses.

To attain a rigorous curriculum, a high school graduate with a midlevel curriculum must meet three additional requirements. Four credits in mathematics must be earned, of which one course must be pre-calculus or a higher level. Science courses completed must cover all three subjects of biology, chemistry, and physics, and three credits must be earned in foreign language courses.

### TABLE 1. Course credit requirements to attain specified curriculum levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Midlevel</th>
<th>Rigorous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3 (including geometry and algebra I or II)</td>
<td>4 (including pre-calculus or higher)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3 (including at least two of biology, chemistry, and physics)</td>
<td>3 (including biology, chemistry, and physics)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**NOTE:** This is a modified version of curriculum levels used by Laura Horn and Lawrence K. Kojaku (2001). The standard curriculum level is equivalent to what Horn and Kojaku refer to as a core curriculum; the nomenclature used in this report is different to avoid confusion with core credits also discussed in this report. One difference between this report and the classification by Horn and Kojaku is that to be considered as having completed a rigorous curriculum, this report does not require graduates to have taken an AP or honors course. This modification was made to ensure that HSTS data for earlier years are consistent with data for 2009.
The rigor of graduates’ curriculum levels is associated with graduates’ entry and success in postsecondary education (Horn and Nuñez 2000; Horn and Kojaku 2001). Compared to 1990 graduates, a greater percentage of 2009 graduates completed midlevel or rigorous curriculum levels (figure 2). The percentage of graduates completing a midlevel curriculum increased from 26 percent in 1990 to 46 percent in 2009. The percentage completing a rigorous curriculum increased from 5 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 2009. During this same period, the percentage of graduates completing a below standard curriculum declined from 60 percent in 1990 to 25 percent in 2009.

### Figure 2. Trend in percentage of graduates completing each curriculum level: 1990–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>'90</th>
<th>'94</th>
<th>'98</th>
<th>'00</th>
<th>'05</th>
<th>'09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Standard</td>
<td>60*</td>
<td>49*</td>
<td>44*</td>
<td>41*</td>
<td>32*</td>
<td>25*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td>36*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlevel</td>
<td>9*</td>
<td>12*</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigorous</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>6*</td>
<td>9*</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent At or Above Standard</td>
<td>40*</td>
<td>51*</td>
<td>56*</td>
<td>59*</td>
<td>68*</td>
<td>75*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different ($p<0.05$) from 2009.

NOTE: Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

Some Graduates Do Not Reach at Least a Standard Curriculum Level

Even with the overall increase in curriculum levels completed, a quarter of 2009 graduates completed a curriculum level that is below standard (table 2).

Thirty-four percent of graduates with a parent who did not finish high school completed a below standard curriculum compared to 20 percent of graduates with a parent who graduated from college.

Sixty-three percent of English language learners (ELL) and 45 percent of students with disabilities (SD) completed a below standard curriculum compared with approximately 25 percent of non-ELL and non-SD graduates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected characteristics</th>
<th>Curriculum level</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Below standard</td>
<td>Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All graduates</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not finish high school</td>
<td>34*</td>
<td>17*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated high school</td>
<td>28*</td>
<td>19*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some education after high school</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>17*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduated college</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with disabilities (SD)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>45*</td>
<td>30*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language learners (ELL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>63*</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (p<.05) from contrast group (at least one parent graduated college, non-SD graduate, non-ELL graduates) within the same column.

NOTE: Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

Science Courses Key to Achieving Standard and Midlevel Curriculum Levels

Based on the HSTS 2009 results, many graduates lacked only the required science courses to reach the next highest curriculum level. For those graduates who did not complete a standard curriculum (25 percent), 39 percent lacked only the required three credits in science to attain a standard curriculum level (figure 3). Similarly, of the 16 percent of graduates who completed a standard curriculum, 35 percent lacked only the science coursework in two of the three major science subjects (biology, chemistry, and physics) required to attain a midlevel curriculum level (figure 4).

Other graduates were missing only the four credits in English required to reach a standard curriculum level (figure 3). One quarter of graduates who did not attain a standard curriculum level were missing multiple requirements.

Many graduates who completed a standard curriculum level did not meet the course requirements in a single subject area needed to earn a midlevel curriculum. In addition to the 35 percent who lacked only the science requirements, 19 percent lacked only the required mathematics coursework, and 17 percent were only missing the required one credit in foreign language courses (figure 4).

![Science Courses Key to Achieving Standard and Midlevel Curriculum Levels](image)

**Figure 3.** Percentage of graduates who did not attain a standard curriculum, by missing requirement: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Requirement</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science only</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics only</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English only</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies only</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** For definitions of curriculum levels, see table 1. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

A majority of graduates who completed a midlevel curriculum lacked two or more requirements to earn a rigorous curriculum. Approximately 36 percent lacked requirements in two of the three subject areas (science, mathematics, and foreign language), while 31 percent lacked requirements in all three subjects (figure 5). One-third of graduates who completed a midlevel curriculum lacked the requirements in just one of three subjects (science, mathematics, and foreign language) needed to complete a rigorous curriculum.

**NOTE:** For definitions of curriculum levels, see table 1. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

Graduates Earn More Credits in Academic Courses

Credits earned in core academic courses (English, mathematics, science, and social studies) and other academic courses (fine arts, foreign languages, and computer-related studies) have increased since 1990. In 1990, graduates earned 13.7 credits in core academic courses and 3.6 credits in other academic courses (figure 6). In 2009, graduates earned 16.0 credits in core academic courses and 5.3 credits in other academic courses. Credits earned in other courses decreased from 6.4 credits in 1990 to 6.0 credits in 2009.

Since 1990, graduates have increased average credits earned in each of the four core academic courses (figure 7). From 1990 to 2009, average credits earned in social studies, mathematics, and science increased more than average credits in English. Average credits earned in these three core academic courses increased by approximately 0.7 credits each from 1990 to 2009 compared with approximately 0.2 credits for English. Still, 2009 graduates earned almost a full credit more in English than they earned in science and a half credit more than in mathematics.

**FIGURE 6. Trend in average credits earned, by course type: 1990–2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Core Academic</th>
<th>Other Academic</th>
<th>Other Courses</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>13.7*</td>
<td>3.6*</td>
<td>6.4*</td>
<td>23.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>14.3*</td>
<td>4.0*</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>24.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>14.6*</td>
<td>4.5*</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>25.3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>15.0*</td>
<td>4.8*</td>
<td>6.3*</td>
<td>26.2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>15.6*</td>
<td>5.1*</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>26.8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different \((p<.05)\) from 2009.

NOTE: Numbers at end of bars represent total credits. Core academic courses are English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Other academic courses are fine arts, foreign languages, and computer-related studies. Other courses include courses such as vocational education, personal health, and physical education. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

Graduates’ Overall GPAs Unchanged From 2005 to 2009

Overall GPAs increased from 2.68 in 1990 to 3.00 in 2009 but did not increase from 2005 to 2009 (figure 8). Similarly, GPAs by course type were higher for core academic and other academic courses in 2009 than in 1990, but did not change significantly from 2005 to 2009. There was an increase in GPA for other courses from 2005 to 2009. On average, graduates earned the lowest overall GPAs in core academic courses and higher overall GPAs in both other academic and other courses.

Among the individual core academic courses, the only significant increase in graduates’ GPAs from 2005 to 2009 was in English, which increased from an average of 2.82 in 2005 to 2.85 in 2009 (figure 9). On average, graduates earned lower GPAs in mathematics and science than in English and social studies.
Figure 8. Trend in average GPA, overall and by course type: 1990–2009

*Significantly different (p<.05) from 2009.


Figure 9. Trend in average GPAs for core academic courses: 1990–2009

Other
Other Academic
Overall
Core Academic

Social Studies
English
Science
Mathematics
Average NAEP scores are highest for those graduates completing a rigorous curriculum and higher level mathematics and science courses. The average score for graduates who completed a rigorous curriculum was at the Proficient level. Graduates completing a midlevel or a standard curriculum scored, on average, at the Basic level.
Understanding NAEP Scores

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) achievement levels are performance standards showing what students should know and be able to do. Results are reported as scale scores and percentages of students performing at or above three achievement levels:

**Basic**
Denotes partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at a given grade.

**Proficient**
Represents solid academic performance. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter.

**Advanced**
Signifies superior achievement.

The National Assessment Governing Board sets specific achievement levels for each subject area and grade, based on recommendations from panels of educators and members of the public, to provide a context for interpreting student performance on NAEP. As provided by law, NCES, upon review of congressionally mandated evaluations of NAEP, has determined that achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted with caution. Even though they are still considered trial, the NAEP achievement levels have been widely used by national and state officials. Additional information about NAEP achievement levels can be found at [http://www.nagb.org/publications/achievement.htm](http://www.nagb.org/publications/achievement.htm).

In 2009, twelfth-grade students participating in NAEP were given assessments in mathematics and science. The NAEP twelfth-grade mathematics and science results are reported on a 0–300 scale. The ranges of scores that fall within each of the achievement levels are shown in table 4. Because NAEP scales are developed independently for each subject, scores cannot be used to make comparisons across subjects.
There can be many explanations for an association between NAEP scores and other variables (e.g., curriculum level, average GPA, and highest course taken). HSTS data do not support conclusions about cause and effect between variables. For example, graduates who completed a rigorous curriculum, on average, earned higher scores on NAEP assessments. This could be because taking a rigorous curriculum provided them with the information they needed to do well on NAEP, or it could be that the best prepared and most motivated students performed better on NAEP and chose to take more challenging curricula, or it could be a mixture of these and other influences.

Graduates Completing Higher Curriculum Levels Have Higher Average Grade 12 NAEP Scores

Graduates completing a rigorous curriculum earned the highest NAEP mathematics and science scores (figures 10 and 11). Graduates completing rigorous and midlevel curricula outperformed graduates who completed less challenging curricula. However, there were no significant differences in scores between graduates completing standard and below standard curricula.

The 2009 NAEP mathematics scores by curriculum level were not significantly higher than the 2005 scores. However, the average NAEP score for graduates completing a below standard curriculum moved from below the Basic achievement level in 2005 to Basic in 2009.

### Table 4. Grade 12 NAEP achievement levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>216 or higher</td>
<td>222 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficient</td>
<td>176–215</td>
<td>179–221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>141–175</td>
<td>142–178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cautions in Interpreting Results

Average NAEP scores are higher for graduates who completed more advanced mathematics and science courses in the ninth grade (figures 12 and 13). For example, graduates whose first high school mathematics course was geometry scored 55 points higher on the NAEP mathematics assessment than graduates who took a class below algebra I.

Higher Grade 12 NAEP Scores Associated with More Advanced Ninth-Grade Coursework

* Significantly different ($p < 0.05$) from next highest curriculum level.

Graduates who completed chemistry in ninth grade scored 27 points higher on NAEP science than graduates who took earth science. Graduates who completed geometry or algebra II as ninth graders earned an average NAEP mathematics score at the Proficient level.

*Significantly different (p<0.05) from next highest level course.

NOTE: The mathematics and science courses listed in figures 12 and 13 are not exhaustive.

Graduates with Higher GPAs Earn Higher NAEP Scores

Graduates earning higher GPAs in mathematics (2005 and 2009) and science (2009) attained higher average NAEP scores (figures 14 and 15). Graduates in the top, second-to-top, and second-to-bottom GPA quarters earned higher average scores than graduates in the lowest GPA quarters in both mathematics and science. Graduates in the top mathematics quarter earned an average NAEP mathematics score at the *Proficient* achievement level, while those in the top science quarter performed at the *Basic* level.

From 2005 to 2009, NAEP mathematics scores increased for graduates in the bottom, second-to-top, and in the top quarters.

*Significantly different (p<.05) from next highest quarter.

Average Grade 12 NAEP Performance

Average NAEP scores for graduates with different academic characteristics are presented in Table 5. For example, the average NAEP mathematics score for graduates with a 4.0 GPA in calculus is 201, which is in the Proficient range. No scores are shown in the Advanced achievement ranges for mathematics or science because, on average, graduates did not score in these ranges, though individual students did.

### Table 5. Average mathematics and science NAEP scores, by academic characteristics: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced 216-300</strong></td>
<td><strong>Advanced 222-300</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proficient 176-215</strong></td>
<td>193 GPA in advanced science is 4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201 GPA in calculus is 4.0</td>
<td>178 Top science GPA quarter (3.26–4.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>194 Took AP/IB mathematics course</td>
<td>177 Physics: highest science course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193 Calculus: highest mathematics course</td>
<td>157 Second-to-top science GPA quarter (2.68–3.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188 Rigorous curriculum completed</td>
<td>153 Midlevel curriculum completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182 Top mathematics GPA quarter (3.23–4.00)</td>
<td>147 Did not take AP/IB science course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Basic 141-175</strong></td>
<td>144 Chemistry: highest science course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164 Advanced mathematics: highest mathematics course completed</td>
<td>142 Second-to-bottom science GPA quarter (2.14–2.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161 Second-to-top mathematics GPA quarter (2.63–3.22)</td>
<td>142 Standard curriculum completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>158 Midlevel curriculum completed</td>
<td><strong>Basic 142-178</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149 Did not take AP/IB mathematics course</td>
<td>137 Top science GPA quarter (3.14–3.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145 Second-to-bottom mathematics GPA quarter (2.01–2.62)</td>
<td>135 Physics: highest science course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143 Standard curriculum completed</td>
<td>134 Second-to-top science GPA quarter (2.68–3.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142 Algebra II: highest mathematics course</td>
<td>130 Midlevel curriculum completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142 Below standard curriculum completed</td>
<td><strong>Below Basic 0-140</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Below Basic 0-140</strong></td>
<td><strong>Below Basic 0-141</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132 Bottom mathematics GPA quarter (0.00–2.00)</td>
<td>141 Below standard curriculum completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127 Geometry: highest mathematics course</td>
<td>131 Biology: highest science course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114 Algebra I or below: highest mathematics course</td>
<td>131 Bottom science GPA quarter (0.00–2.13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Males and females differ in their academic records. While females complete more challenging curricula and earn higher GPAs, they do not perform as well on NAEP as males with similar academic records. Both male and female graduates continue to earn more credits.
Both Males and Females Earn More Credits

Both male and female graduates earned more credits in 2009 than in 2005. This continues the trend from 1990 (figure 16). The male-female gap in credits earned in 2009 is not significantly different from the gap in 1990. In 2009, females earned 27.3 credits compared to 27.0 credits earned by males. In 1990, females earned 23.8 credits and males earned 23.4 credits.

Both males and females also earned more mathematics and science credits in 2009 than in earlier graduation years (figure 17). The size of the male-female gaps in mathematics and science has varied over time. In 1990, male graduates earned more mathematics and science credits than female graduates; however, from 1998 to 2005, females earned more credits in these subjects than males. In 2009, males narrowed the gap from 2005 in credits earned for mathematics and science, with both males and females completing 7.4 credits.

---

*Significantly different (p<.05) from 2009.

**NOTE:** Credit gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average credits. Male-female credit gaps were found to be statistically significant in all years.

Although both male and female graduates completed more challenging curricula in 2009 than in 1990, a greater percentage of females than males completed a midlevel curriculum (figure 18). From 1990 to 2009, the percentage of females who completed a midlevel curriculum increased 22 percentage points, from 27 to 49 percent, while the percentage of males increased 19 percentage points, from 25 to 43 percent. The percentage of females who completed below a standard curriculum decreased 37 percentage points, from 61 percent in 1990 to 23 percent in 2009. The percentage of males who completed below a standard curriculum decreased 32 percentage points, from 60 percent in 1990 to 28 percent in 2009. (Differences in percentages are calculated based on unrounded numbers.)

**Males and Females Both Complete More Challenging Curricula**
More Females are Missing Science Requirements to Complete Midlevel or Rigorous Curricula

Among graduates who did not attain a standard curriculum, 9 percent of females compared to 7 percent of males were missing only the mathematics requirement (figure 19). There were no measureable differences between males and females in the percentage who lacked requirements in only science, English, or social studies, or who lacked more than one requirement. The requirement that both males and females most often lacked was science (39 percent of males and 40 percent of females).

Among graduates who completed a standard or midlevel curriculum, a greater percentage of females compared to males were missing only the science requirement to reach the next higher curriculum level. Forty-one percent of females, compared to 30 percent of males, completing a standard curriculum did not have the required science courses to attain a midlevel curriculum (figure 20). Fifteen percent of females, compared to 9 percent of males, completing a midlevel...
curriculum were missing only the
required science courses to attain a
rigorous curriculum (figure 21).

For graduates completing a standard
or midlevel curriculum, a greater
percentage of males compared
to females were missing only the
foreign language requirement to
reach the next higher curriculum
level. Twenty percent of males
completing a standard curriculum,
Female Graduates Continue to Have Higher Grade Point Averages

Female graduates continue to earn higher GPAs than male graduates. In 2009, female graduates had a GPA of 3.10 compared to 2.90 for male graduates (figure 22).

The gap between female and male GPAs was significantly smaller in 2009 than in 2005. The 2009 gap did not differ significantly from the gaps in earlier graduation years.

Compared to 14 percent of females, completing a rigorous curriculum, compared to 10 percent of females, were missing only the required foreign language credits to complete a rigorous curriculum (figure 21).

Fourteen percent of males completing a rigorous curriculum, compared to 10 percent of females, were missing only the foreign language credit needed to attain a midlevel curriculum (figure 20).
Males Generally Earn Higher Average NAEP Mathematics and Science Scores than Females Completing the Same Curriculum Level

Male graduates completing rigorous, midlevel, or below standard curricula earned higher average 2009 NAEP mathematics scores than females. There were no measureable differences in NAEP science scores between males and females completing a below standard curriculum.

Male and female graduates completing a rigorous curriculum earned an average NAEP mathematics score at the Proficient achievement level, while males and females in midlevel,
standard, and below standard curricula earned average scores at the Basic level.

At all curriculum levels, male graduates earned average scores at or above the Basic science achievement level, with the average score for males who completed a rigorous curriculum reaching the Proficient level. Female graduates completing rigorous or midlevel curricula earned average science scores at the Basic level.

**FIGURE 23.** Average NAEP mathematics and science scores, by curriculum level and gender: 2009

* Significantly different (p<.05) from males.

White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander graduates are completing higher curricula and earning more credits and higher GPAs than in 1990. From 2005 to 2009, White and Black graduates increased the credits they earned. White and Asian/Pacific Islander graduates earned higher GPAs.
From 1990 to 2009, credits earned by graduates have increased across all racial/ethnic groups (figure 24). In 2009, Black graduates earned 3.9 more credits than in 1990. White graduates completed 3.7 credits more in 2009 than in 1990, Asian/Pacific Islander graduates completed 2.9 more credits, and Hispanic graduates earned 2.6 credits more. (Differences in credits are calculated based on unrounded numbers.)

All racial/ethnic groups completed more challenging curriculum levels in 2009 than in 1990 (figure 25).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>1990 Credits</th>
<th>2005 Credits</th>
<th>2009 Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>23.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (p < 0.05) from 2009.

**FIGURE 25. Graduates of Each Racial/Ethnic Group Complete More Challenging Curricula**

The percentage of Black graduates who completed a below standard curriculum decreased from 60

*Significantly different (p<.05) from 2009.

NOTE: Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>'90</th>
<th>'05</th>
<th>'09</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rigorous</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Midlevel</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Standard</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Below Standard</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significantly different (p<.05) from 2009.

NOTE: Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 2009. White graduates completing a below standard curriculum decreased from 59 percent in 1990 to 25 percent in 2009. In 2009, a smaller percentage of Black graduates than White graduates completed a below standard curriculum.

From 1990 to 2009, the percentage of Black and Hispanic graduates attaining a rigorous curriculum level increased 4 percentage points and 6 percentage points, respectively. Asian/Pacific Islander graduates increased 16 percentage points and White graduates increased 9 percentage points at the rigorous curriculum level, widening the difference between Asian/Pacific Islander and White graduates from 8 percentage points in 1990 to 15 percentage points in 2009.

In 2009, there was not a significant difference between the percentage of Black and White graduates completing a curriculum at or above midlevel, while there was a 6 percentage point gap in 1990 (figure 26).

**Figure 26.** Trend in percentage of graduates completing at or above a midlevel curriculum and percent gaps, by selected racial/ethnic groups: 1990–2009

*Significantly different (p < 0.05) from 2009.

NOTE: Percent point gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded numbers. White-Black gaps were found to be significant in 1990, 1994, and 1998.

Science Key to Attaining Standard and Midlevel Curricula for Black and Hispanic Graduates

Over 40 percent of White, Black, and Hispanic graduates and about one-third of Asian/Pacific Islander graduates completed either a below standard or a standard curriculum. In 2009, about half of Black graduates (52 percent) and 50 percent of Hispanic graduates who completed a below standard curriculum were missing only the science requirements needed to achieve a standard curriculum (figure 27). Among graduates completing a standard but not a midlevel curriculum, 39 percent of Black graduates and 46 percent of Hispanic graduates lacked only the science requirements needed to attain a midlevel curriculum (figure 28).

Thirty-four percent of White graduates completing a below standard but not a standard curriculum and 33 percent completing a standard but not a midlevel curriculum lacked only the science requirements necessary to achieve a standard curriculum. Among Asian/Pacific Islanders, 31 percent of those

---

**FIGURE 27.** Percentage of graduates who did not attain a standard curriculum, by missing requirement and race/ethnicity: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Requirement</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science only</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>50*</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics only</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English only</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13*</td>
<td>13*</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies only</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22*</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (*p < .05) from White graduates.

NOTE: For definitions of curriculum levels, see table 1. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

completing a below standard curriculum lacked only the science requirement needed to attain a standard curriculum and 27 percent completing a standard curriculum lacked only the science courses needed to attain a midlevel curriculum.

Many graduates were missing multiple requirements to attain either a standard or a midlevel curriculum. Among graduates completing a below standard curriculum, between 19 percent and 27 percent lacked more than one requirement to attain a standard curriculum. Among those completing a standard but not a midlevel curriculum, between 8 and 35 percent lacked multiple requirements needed to achieve a midlevel curriculum.

**FIGURE 28.** Percentage of graduates who attained a standard curriculum but did not attain a midlevel curriculum, by missing requirement and race/ethnicity: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Requirement</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Asian/Pacific Islander</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science only</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>39*</td>
<td>46*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics only</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Languages only</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12*</td>
<td>10*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23*</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (p<.05) from White graduates.

NOTE: For definitions of curriculum levels, see table 1. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

About two-thirds of White graduates and about three-quarters of Black and Hispanic graduates who had completed a midlevel curriculum needed to meet additional requirements in two or three subject areas to attain a rigorous curriculum (figure 29). However, among Asian/Pacific Islander graduates who had completed a midlevel curriculum, more than half (55 percent) needed only one additional requirement to reach a rigorous curriculum.

FIGURE 29. Percentage of graduates who attained a midlevel curriculum but did not attain a rigorous curriculum, by missing requirement and race/ethnicity: 2009

* Significantly different (p < .05) from White graduates.

NOTE: For definitions of curriculum levels, see table 1. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

White and Asian/Pacific Islander Graduates Earn Higher GPAs

Although the average GPA has increased for all racial/ethnic groups from 1990 to 2009, for Black and Hispanic graduates there was no significant change from 2005 to 2009 (figure 30). The average GPAs of Asian/Pacific Islander and White graduates increased from 2005 to 2009.

**FIGURE 30. Trend in average GPAs, by race/ethnicity: 1990–2009**

*Significantly different \( (p < 0.05) \) from 2009.

In All Racial/Ethnic Groups, Graduates Completing a Rigorous Curriculum Earn the Highest NAEP Scores

Average NAEP mathematics scores for racial/ethnic groups at each curriculum level were generally unchanged from 2005 to 2009 (figure 31). However, for Hispanic graduates completing a below standard curriculum or a standard curriculum, scores increased by 8 points and 12 points, respectively. For Asian/Pacific Islander graduates completing a midlevel curriculum, scores increased by 15 points. White-Black and White-Hispanic gaps in NAEP mathematics scores continued from 2005 to 2009. In 2009, the magnitude of the White-Hispanic gap for graduates who

* Significantly different ($p<.05$) from 2009.


### FIGURE 31. Average NAEP mathematics scores, by curriculum level and race/ethnicity: 2005 and 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Level</th>
<th>WHITE</th>
<th>BLACK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Standard</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlevel</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigorous</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average NAEP Mathematics Score**

- **Basic**
  - WHITE: 146, 148
  - BLACK: 119, 124
- **Proficient**
  - WHITE: 147, 149
  - BLACK: 121
- **Advanced**
  - WHITE: 190
  - BLACK: 168

[Graph showing average NAEP mathematics scores by curriculum level and race/ethnicity for 2005 and 2009]
completed a standard curriculum decreased by 10 points (figure 31). In 2005, there were no statistically significant differences between the measurable White and Asian/Pacific Islander average NAEP mathematics scores. However, in 2009 there were White-Asian/Pacific Islander gaps within each curriculum level. In 2009, across racial/ethnic groups, graduates completing a rigorous curriculum earned the highest average NAEP scores (figure 32). For example, Hispanic graduates completing a rigorous curriculum had an average NAEP mathematics score 27 points higher than Hispanic graduates completing a midlevel curriculum. The difference in the science scores of Hispanic graduates who completed a rigorous curriculum versus a midlevel curriculum was 19 points.

Graduates of all racial/ethnic groups completing a rigorous curriculum
earned average NAEP mathematics and science scores at the Basic or Proficient achievement levels. Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and White graduates completing a midlevel curriculum earned average mathematics and science scores at the Basic level. Asian/Pacific Islander and White graduates reached the Basic level regardless of curriculum level completed.

† Reporting standard not met.
* Significantly different (p < .05) from White graduates.

This section presents information about how graduates may be earning more credits; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) coursetaking by 2009 high school graduates; and credits earned, GPAs, and curriculum levels of students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL).
A Closer Look at How Graduates Find Time to Earn More Credits

Credits earned by graduating seniors have risen from 23.6 credits in 1990 to 27.2 credits in 2009 (see figure 1). The number of days in the school term and the length of the school day, however, have remained stable during this same period (Council of Chief State School Officers 1990, 2009). Educators may wonder where students are finding the time to earn the higher number of credits. Potential explanations that can be explored using HSTS data include earning additional credits during the summer, receiving high school credit for classes taken in middle school, and taking online courses.

One in five graduates attended summer school

Twenty-one percent of 2009 graduates were enrolled in summer school at some point during high school (table 6). A greater percentage of graduates who did not attain a standard curriculum (30 percent) took summer school classes, compared to graduates who completed a standard curriculum (18 percent).

* Significantly different (p<.05) from base groups (Male, White, Below Standard).


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student characteristics</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All graduates</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>21*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student race/ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>26*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>39*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>36*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below standard</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlevel</td>
<td>19*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigorous</td>
<td>16*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(18 percent), midlevel (19 percent), or rigorous curriculum (16 percent). Students who fail courses may be using summer school to make up credits rather than to earn additional credits. However, 19 percent of graduates completing a midlevel curriculum and 16 percent of graduates completing a rigorous curriculum also took summer school classes during high school.

High school graduates who took summer school classes earned fewer credits (26.2 credits) and a lower overall grade point average (2.82) than their peers who did not take summer school classes (27.4 credits and a 3.05 grade point average). These differences were evident across the four major racial/ethnic groups and all curriculum level subgroups (data not shown). Students who took summer school classes also earned lower NAEP mathematics and science scores (figure 33) than graduates who did not take summer school classes. Graduates who took summer classes in mathematics or science scored lower on the NAEP twelfth-grade mathematics and science assessments than graduates who did not take summer classes in these subjects (figure 34).

**FIGURE 33.** Average NAEP twelfth-grade mathematics and science scores of graduates, by summer school status: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Average NAEP Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer School</td>
<td>149, 148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Summer School</td>
<td>158*, 154*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significantly different (p<.05) from graduates who took a summer school class.

**FIGURE 34.** Average NAEP twelfth-grade mathematics and science scores of graduates, by whether graduates took a mathematics or science summer school class: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Average NAEP Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics/Science Summer Class</td>
<td>140, 137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Mathematics/Science Summer Class</td>
<td>157*, 153*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Significantly different (p<.05) from graduates who took a mathematics/science summer school class.

Some graduates earn high school credits in middle school
Another way to increase credits is to receive credits for courses taken before high school. Middle school courses that might receive high school credit include algebra I, geometry, Spanish I, and biology. Middle school courses taken for high school credit are not consistently identified on high school transcripts, so it can be challenging to identify them.

Algebra I, a common high school class in the past, is increasingly being taken in middle school. Described as the “gateway” mathematics course for high school students (Loveless 2008), school systems differ on whether students should be taking it in middle or high school. Table 7 shows the academic profiles of high school graduates who took algebra I before high school in 2005 and 2009.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20* percent of all graduates</td>
<td>26 percent of all graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20* percent of male graduates</td>
<td>25 percent of male graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20* percent of female graduates</td>
<td>27 percent of female graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23* percent of White graduates</td>
<td>29 percent of White graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8* percent of Black graduates</td>
<td>12 percent of Black graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10* percent of Hispanic graduates</td>
<td>17 percent of Hispanic graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30* percent of Asian/Pacific Islander graduates</td>
<td>48 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11* percent of below standard curriculum graduates</td>
<td>14 percent of below standard curriculum graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 percent of standard curriculum graduates</td>
<td>14 percent of standard curriculum graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20* percent of midlevel curriculum graduates</td>
<td>26 percent of midlevel curriculum graduates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56* percent of rigorous curriculum graduates</td>
<td>64 percent of rigorous curriculum graduates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (p<.05) from 2009.

From 2005 to 2009, there was an increase in the percentage of high school graduates who took algebra I before entering high school. In 2005, approximately one in five graduates took algebra I before high school; by 2009, it was about one in four graduates. The increase can be seen among both male and female graduates, as well as across all four major racial/ethnic groups.

There was no significant difference between males and females in 2005 in the percentage who took algebra I before high school. In 2009, however, a higher percentage of females than males took first-year algebra before high school (27 percent versus 25 percent).

Approximately 48 percent of 2009 Asian/Pacific Islander high school graduates took algebra I before high school, more than any other major racial/ethnic group. A greater percentage of White graduates (29 percent) took algebra I before high school than either Black (12 percent) or Hispanic (17 percent) graduates. However, the White-Black and White-Hispanic gaps in algebra I course-taking before high school did not significantly change from 2005 to 2009.

Nearly two-thirds of graduates who attained a rigorous curriculum in 2009 took first-year algebra before high school, an 8 percentage point increase over 2005. Graduates completing a midlevel curriculum also showed an increase, from 20 percent in 2005 to 26 percent in 2009.

Some graduates earn credits through online courses

There are growing trends among schools offering and students taking online courses. As of 2005, around 57 percent of public secondary schools “provided access to students for online learning” (Wells and Lewis 2006). Online courses serve two major purposes. First, they can help students graduate high school by offering credit recovery for courses they failed during the school year (Trotter 2008). Second, online courses can provide coursework that was not otherwise available to students, like Advanced Placement courses, foreign language courses, or other courses that schools with limited resources could not readily provide.

Transcripts indicate that approximately 5 percent of high school graduates in 2009 took an online course. However, this percentage is lower than the percentage of high school students who report taking online courses in the NAEP 2009 twelfth-grade assessments. Approximately 12 percent of students from the NAEP 2009 twelfth-grade reading assessment reported taking an online English / language arts course. Around 7 percent of students who participated in the twelfth-grade science assessment reported taking an online science course, and around 6 percent of students taking the twelfth-grade mathematics assessment reported taking an online mathematics course.
Although many HSTS sampled schools’ catalogs offered online courses, fewer schools actually identified what courses were taken online on their student transcripts.

Figure 35 displays the NAEP mathematics and science assessment scores earned by high school graduates based on whether they took an online mathematics or science course according to their transcripts.

High school graduates who took online mathematics courses did not perform as well on the NAEP 2009 twelfth-grade mathematics assessment as those graduates who did not take online mathematics courses. Graduates who took online mathematics courses had an average score of 141, or 15 points lower than the 156 average score earned by graduates who did not take online mathematics courses.

Those high school graduates who took an online science course earned an average score of 147 on the NAEP twelfth-grade science assessment, compared to the 152 average score of graduates who did not take an online science course. Despite the apparent difference in scores, there was no statistically significant difference in the science assessment performance between the two student groups.
To compete globally and keep up with expanding scientific and technical expertise, educators and policymakers have called for increasing emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) course-taking in our schools (President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology 2010).

The percentage of high school graduates who earned credits in advanced mathematics courses was greater in 2009 than in 2005, continuing the upward trend from 1990 (table 8). Seventy-six percent of graduates took algebra II in 2009 compared to 53 percent in 1990. The percentage of graduates who

### TABLE 8. Percentage of graduates earning credits in STEM courses, selected years: 1990–2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of graduation</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STEM course</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced mathematics</td>
<td>57*</td>
<td>74*</td>
<td>78*</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra II</td>
<td>53*</td>
<td>67*</td>
<td>70*</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other advanced mathematics</td>
<td>16*</td>
<td>20*</td>
<td>24*</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-calculus/analysis</td>
<td>14*</td>
<td>27*</td>
<td>30*</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>7*</td>
<td>13*</td>
<td>14*</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced science and engineering</td>
<td>61*</td>
<td>76*</td>
<td>77*</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced biology</td>
<td>28*</td>
<td>40*</td>
<td>40*</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>45*</td>
<td>57*</td>
<td>56*</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced environmental/earth science</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>6*</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>24*</td>
<td>34*</td>
<td>36*</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>#*</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>1*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STEM-related technical</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering/science technologies</td>
<td>2*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health science/technology</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>25*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Rounds to zero.
* Significantly different (p<.05) from 2009.

NOTE: “Other advanced mathematics” includes primarily trigonometry and statistics/probability courses. “Advanced biology” courses include AP/IB biology, physiology, anatomy, and genetics. “Advanced environmental and earth sciences” courses include AP/IB environmental science, college preparatory earth science, and various geology courses. “Engineering/science technologies” courses focus on instrumentation, equipment maintenance, and other technical tasks conducted in engineering and science-related occupations.

took pre-calculus/analysis in 2009 was 35 percent compared to 14 percent in 1990. Seventeen percent of graduates took calculus in 2009 compared to 7 percent in 1990. The percentage of graduates who earned credits in advanced science and engineering courses was also higher in 2009 than in 1990, with significant increases in each subject from 2005 to 2009.

The percentage of graduates who earned credits in the engineering/ science technologies and health science/technology courses was larger in 2009 than in 1990 but has not significantly changed since 2000. For the same time period, there was a decrease in the percentage of graduates who earned credits in computer science.

**Differences in STEM credits for males and females**

In 2009, differences between the percentage of male and female graduates earning credits in advanced science and engineering courses varied across the specific subject areas. As shown in figure 36, a larger percentage of males than females earned credits in physics (41 percent compared to 36 percent) and engineering (6 percent compared to 1 percent). However, more females than males earned credits in chemistry (72 percent compared to 67 percent) and advanced biology (50 percent compared to 39 percent).

---

**FIGURE 36. Percentage of graduates who earned credits in STEM advanced science and engineering courses, by gender: 2009**

*Significantly different ($p<.05$) from males.

NOTE: “Advanced biology” courses include AP/IB biology, physiology, anatomy, and genetics. “Advanced environmental/earth science” courses include AP/IB environmental science, college preparatory earth science, and various geology courses.

As shown in figure 37, a larger percentage of males than females earned credits in the engineering/science technologies (10 percent compared to 2 percent) and in computer science (24 percent compared to 14 percent). In health science/technology, however, more females than males earned credits (13 percent compared to 6 percent).

In advanced mathematics, as shown in figure 38, a greater percentage of females than males took algebra II (78 percent compared to 73 percent) and pre-calculus (37 percent compared to 34 percent). However, there were no measurable differences in the percentages of male and female graduates who took calculus or other advanced mathematics.

**NOTE:** “Engineering/science technologies” courses focus on instrumentation, equipment maintenance, and other technical tasks conducted in engineering and science-related occupations.

A Closer Look at Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners

This section presents information on credits earned, GPAs, and curriculum levels of students with disabilities and English language learners who received a standard or honors diploma.

**Students with disabilities**

In the HSTS, students with disabilities (SD) are defined as (1) students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for reasons other than being gifted and talented, or (2) students with 504 plans. Students with disabilities represented 8 percent of all graduates in 2009. Compared with students without disabilities, students with disabilities earned fewer credits overall (26.8 credits versus 27.2 credits), fewer credits in core academic courses (15.0 credits versus 16.0 credits), and fewer credits in other academic courses (3.7 credits versus 5.4 credits) (table 9). In other courses, students with disabilities earned more credits than students without disabilities (8.0 credits compared to 5.8 credits). Additionally, students with disabilities earned lower GPAs than students without disabilities (2.65 compared to 3.03).

As shown in figure 39, over half of students with disabilities completed at least a standard curriculum level in 2009, with nearly a quarter completing at least a midlevel curriculum level. However, 45 percent of students with disabilities completed a below standard curriculum. About three-quarters of students without disabilities completed at least a standard curriculum level, with more than half completing at least a midlevel curriculum level.

* Significantly different (p<0.05) from students without disabilities.

**NOTE:** Core academic courses are English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Other academic courses are fine arts, foreign languages, and computer-related studies. Other courses include courses such as vocational education, personal health, and physical education. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

**TABLE 9.** Average credits earned and average GPAs, by student disability status and course type: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course type</th>
<th>Students with disabilities</th>
<th>Students without disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>26.8*</td>
<td>2.65*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core academic</td>
<td>15.0*</td>
<td>2.43*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other academic</td>
<td>3.7*</td>
<td>2.74*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8.0*</td>
<td>3.02*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the 45 percent of students with disabilities who did not complete at least a standard curriculum, 45 percent lacked only the science requirements needed to attain a standard curriculum compared with 38 percent of students without disabilities (figure 40). Ten percent of students with disabilities lacked only the English requirement needed to attain a standard curriculum compared with 25 percent of students without disabilities. Over a third of students with disabilities (37 percent) were missing more than one requirement for a standard curriculum compared to 23 percent for students without disabilities.

NOTE: Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

**Figure 39.** Percentage of graduates completing each curriculum level, by student disability status: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Level</th>
<th>Students with disabilities</th>
<th>Students without disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below Standard</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>45*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlevel</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigorous</td>
<td>3*</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different \((p<0.05)\) from students without disabilities.

**Figure 40.** Percentage of graduates who did not attain a standard curriculum, by missing requirement and student disability status: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Requirement</th>
<th>Students with disabilities</th>
<th>Students without disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science only</td>
<td>45*</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics only</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English only</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies only</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>3*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>37*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different \((p<0.05)\) from students without disabilities.

NOTE: For definitions of curriculum levels, see table 1. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.

**English Language Learners**

English language learners (ELL) represented 2 percent of all graduates in 2009. ELL graduates earned fewer credits overall, fewer credits in core academic courses, and lower GPAs than non-ELL graduates (table 10). In other academic courses, such as fine arts, foreign languages, and computer-related studies, ELL graduates earned more credits compared to non-ELL graduates.

### TABLE 10. Average credits earned and GPAs, English language learner status and course type: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course type</th>
<th>English language learners</th>
<th>Non-English language learners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>26.3*</td>
<td>2.75*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core academic</td>
<td>14.4*</td>
<td>2.52*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other academic</td>
<td>6.1*</td>
<td>2.91*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>3.10*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significantly different (< .05) from non-English language learners.

NOTE: Core academic courses are English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Other academic courses are fine arts, foreign languages, and computer-related studies. Other courses include courses such as vocational education, personal health, and physical education. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.


Sixty-three percent of ELL graduates completed a below standard curriculum compared to one-quarter of non-ELL graduates (figure 41). To meet the requirements of a standard level curriculum as defined in HSTS, a graduate must earn four credits in English. ELL graduates earned, on average, 3.8 credits in English and 2.0 credits in English as a Second Language (ESL) (data not shown). As defined in the HSTS, ESL courses are counted as foreign language courses and not English.

ELL and non-ELL graduates who completed a below standard curriculum level differed in the requirements they lacked to attain a standard curriculum level. Nearly a third of ELL graduates (32 percent) were missing only the required number of English credits to reach a standard curriculum (figure 42). Another 29 percent of ELL graduates lacked only the science requirements necessary to reach a standard curriculum. Among non-ELL graduates, 40 percent lacked only
the science requirements needed to reach a standard curriculum level, and 22 percent lacked only the English requirement. Over a third of ELL graduates (35 percent) were missing more than one requirement for a standard curriculum compared with 25 percent of non-ELL graduates.

**FIGURE 41. **Percentage of graduates completing each curriculum level, by English language learner status: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Level</th>
<th>Below Standard</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Midlevel</th>
<th>Rigorous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>63*</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21*</td>
<td>4*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Reporting standard not met.
* Significantly different (p < .05) from non-English language learners.

**NOTE:** For definitions of curriculum levels, see table 1. Details may not sum to total because of rounding.


**FIGURE 42. **Percentage of graduates who did not attain a standard curriculum, by missing requirement and English language learner status: 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Missing Requirement</th>
<th>Science only</th>
<th>Mathematics only</th>
<th>English only</th>
<th>Social Studies only</th>
<th>More than one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>29*</td>
<td>4*</td>
<td>32*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>35*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sampling and weighting

The sample design for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2009 High School Transcript Study (HSTS) was designed to achieve a nationally representative sample of public and private high school graduates from the “Class of 2009.” For public schools, the HSTS sample was a subset of the NAEP 2009 twelfth-grade public school sample for the 2009 NAEP mathematics and science assessments. The HSTS sample eliminated the NAEP oversample of public school students. There was no oversample of the private school students.

For NAEP-participating schools, only schools that assessed students in the main NAEP study mathematics or science tests were eligible for HSTS. Not all students in the HSTS sample participated in the NAEP assessment due to absence or exclusion though they still participated in HSTS. Over 80 percent of the participating HSTS students also participated in NAEP. Not all of the students selected for the HSTS sample participated in HSTS. Students were excluded if they did not graduate in 2009 or if the school did not provide a complete eligible transcript of the graduate. More information on sampling can be found at http://nationsreportcard.gov/hsts_2009.

All estimates were weighted using sampling weights to provide unbiased estimates of the national population. Two types of HSTS weights, NAEP-linked weights and HSTS sample weights were used in the analysis of these data. NAEP-linked weights were designed for analyses involving NAEP assessment scores or NAEP-based data such as student questionnaire data. These analyses only included transcripts from graduates who participated in a mathematics or science assessment. HSTS sample weights were designed for all aggregations that did not rely on NAEP-based data, and they encompassed all of the transcripts in the study.

School and student participation rates

To ensure unbiased samples, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) established participation rate standards for national studies that must be met in order for the results to be reported without a nonresponse bias analysis. Participation rates for the original sample needed to be at least 85 percent for schools and graduates. The NAEP HSTS study exceeded this requirement. The weighted graduate within-school response rate was about 99.3 percent while the school response rate was 94.8 percent. However, the private school response rate was 81.2 percent.

Therefore, a nonresponse bias analysis was conducted on private schools to determine whether the school characteristics from nonresponding schools showed significant differences from the responding schools. The analysis of private schools included school type (i.e., Catholic, conservative Christian, Lutheran, nonreligious private, other private). Among private schools, significant differences were found in school type. Nonresponse weighting adjustments were used to correct for these differences. Although the differences found between respondents and nonrespondents for private schools are small, it is unlikely that nonresponse weighting adjustments completely accounted for the differences (Nord et al. 2011).

Target population

The target population for the 2009 national assessments included all students in public and private schools in the United States who were enrolled in twelfth-grade in 2008–09. The source of information in this report is the 2009 NAEP High School Transcript Study (HSTS) which collected a nationally representative sample of around 38,000 transcripts (from over 41,000 students in the sample), representing approximately 3 million of the 2009 high school graduates.

Analytical sample

To be consistent with previously published analyses of the NAEP HSTS data, all of the analyses presented in this report only included graduates with regular or honors diplomas. Graduates who received a special education diploma or certificate of completion (or attendance) were not included in this report. Students who did not graduate or had less than 3 years of transcript data were excluded from all of the analyses. The criteria for inclusion in the analyses for this report were established to ensure that the transcripts were complete and valid. The analyses were also restricted to those high school graduates with 16 or more earned Carnegie credits and a nonzero number of English Carnegie credits. All of the inclusion/exclusion criteria for analyses are consistent with previous reports. Some of the analyses in the report focused on NAEP and high school achievement. These analyses were conducted on subsets of the sample. They were limited to eligible graduates of HSTS who had also participated in the NAEP assessments (approximately 30,000 of the graduates in the HSTS sample). Curriculum-level analyses and analyses of the highest mathematics and science courses taken in the freshman year were limited to graduates with transcript data in all 4 years.
**Variance estimation**

Graduate estimates based on HSTS were subject to sampling error because they were derived from a sample, rather than from the whole population. Sampling error was measured by the sampling variance, which indicates how much the population estimate for a given statistic was likely to change if it had been based on another equivalent sample of individuals drawn in exactly the same manner as the actual sample. Since HSTS uses a complex sample design with two-stage sampling and unequal selection probabilities along with complex weighting procedures, standard textbook formulas could not be used for estimating variances. Instead, variances were estimated using jackknife replication methods (Krewski and Rao 1981). This estimation involved constructing a number of subsamples (replicates) from the full sample and computing the statistic of interest for each replicate. Measuring the variability among the replicates leads to an accurate estimate of variance for the full sample.

**Interpreting statistical significance**

In conducting the statistical significance tests used in this report, no adjustments were made for multiple comparisons. Comparisons over time or between groups are based on statistical tests that consider both the estimated size of the difference and the standard error of that estimated difference. When a difference, such as the difference between the average scores of two groups, has a large standard error, a numerical difference that seems large may not be statistically significant (i.e., a null hypothesis of no difference cannot be rejected with sufficient confidence). Differences of the same estimated size may be statistically significant in some cases but not others, depending on the sizes of the standard errors involved.

In the tables and charts of this report, the symbol (*) is used to indicate that a score or percentage in a previous assessment year is significantly different from the comparable measure in 2009 or to indicate that within the current year differences between groups (such as scores of White and Black graduates) are significantly different. Any differences between scores or percentages discussed in this report are statistically significant at the .05 level.

**Nonsampling error**

As in any statistical study, the HSTS estimates are subject to nonsampling errors as well as sampling errors. Nonsampling errors include, for example, errors due to electronic transcript transmission, incorrect completion of the School Information Form, and human error during catalog and transcript coding. Quality control procedures and processes are conducted during data collection and coding to minimize nonsampling error.
References


The National Assessment of Educational Progress is a congressionally mandated project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The National Center for Education Statistics, a department within the Institute of Education Sciences, administers NAEP. The Commissioner of Education Statistics is responsible by law for carrying out the NAEP project.

**SUGGESTED CITATION**

**CONTENT CONTACT**
Janis Brown, 202-502-7482, Janis.Brown@ed.gov

**THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT GOVERNING BOARD**

In 1988, Congress created the National Assessment Governing Board to set policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress, commonly known as The Nation's Report Card. The Governing Board is an independent, bipartisan group whose members include governors, state legislators, local and state school officials, educators, business representatives, and members of the general public.

Honorable David P. Driscoll, Chair
Former Commissioner of Education
Melrose, Massachusetts

Mary Frances Toymans, Vice Chair
Sisters of Notre Dame
National Educational Office
Bethesda, Maryland

David J. Alukonis
Former Chairman
Hudson School Board
Hudson, New Hampshire

Louis M. Fabrizio
Director, Accountability Policy and Communications
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Raleigh, North Carolina

Honorable Anitere Flores
Senator
Florida State Senate
Miami, Florida

Alan J. Friedman
Consultant
Museum Development and Science Communication
New York, New York

Shannon Garrison
Fourth-Grade Teacher
Solano Avenue Elementary School
Los Angeles, California

David W. Gordon
County Superintendent of Schools
Sacramento County Office of Education
Sacramento, California

Doris R. Hicks
Principal and Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School for Science and Technology
New Orleans, Louisiana

Brent Houston
Principal
Shawnee Middle School
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Hector Ibarra
Middle School Science Teacher
Belin-Blank International Center and Talent Development
Iowa City, Iowa

Kathi M. King
Twelfth-Grade Teacher
Messalonskee High School
Oakland, Maine

Henry Kranendonk
Mathematics Consultant
Milwaukee Public Schools
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Tom Luna
Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction
Boise, Idaho

Honorable Jack Markell
Governor of Delaware
Wilmington, Delaware

Tonya Miles
General Public Representative
Mitchellville, Maryland

Honorable Steven L. Poine
Former State Superintendent of Schools
West Virginia Department of Education
Charleston, West Virginia

Honorable Sonny Perdue
Former Governor of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Susan Pimentel
Educational Consultant
Hanover, New Hampshire

W. James Popham
Professor Emeritus
Graduate School of Education and Information Studies
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, California

Andrew C. Porter
Dean
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Warren T. Smith Sr.
Vice President
Washington State Board of Education
Olympia, Washington

Blair Taylor
President and CEO
Los Angeles Urban League
Los Angeles, California

Honorable Leticia Van de Putte
Senator
Texas State Senate
San Antonio, Texas

Eileen Weiser
General Public Representative
Ann Arbor, Michigan

John Q. Easton (Ex officio)
Director
Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C.

Cornelia S. Orr
Executive Director
National Assessment Governing Board
Washington, D.C.