



# 2022-2023 State of the Nation's Students

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National Conference of State Legislatures  
Education Chairs Retreat

June 22, 2023

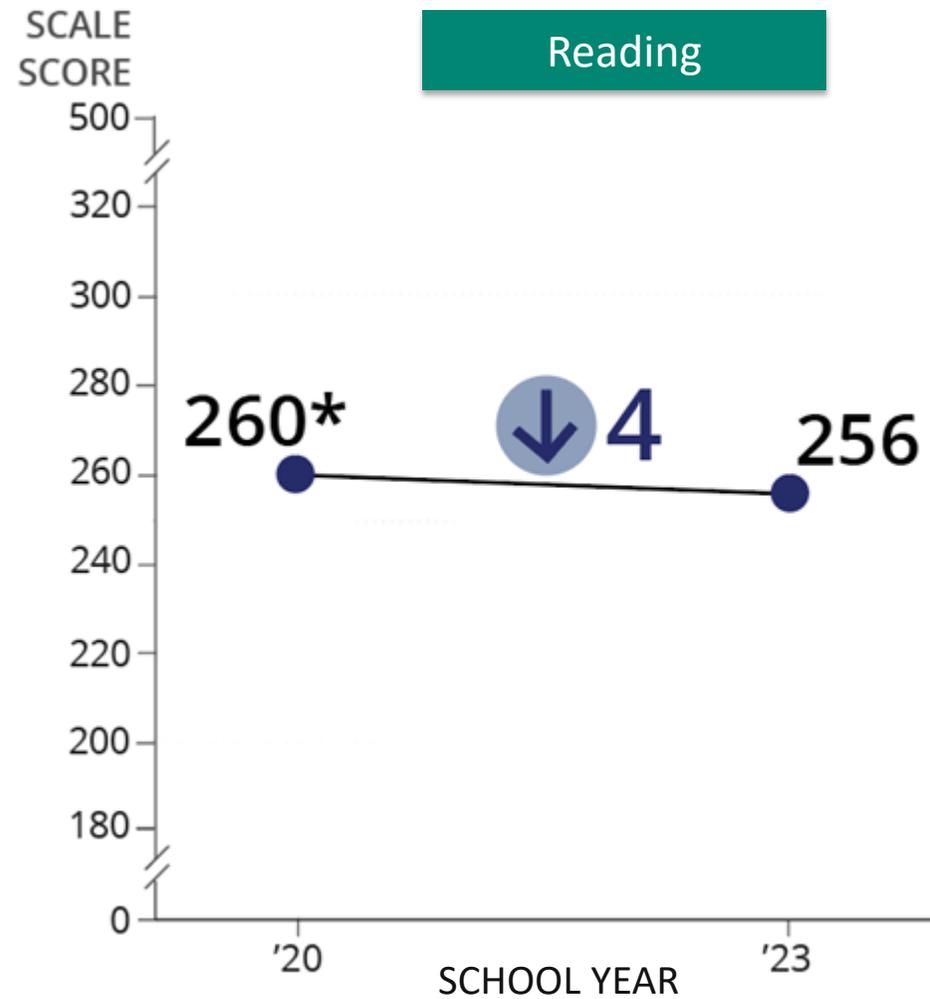
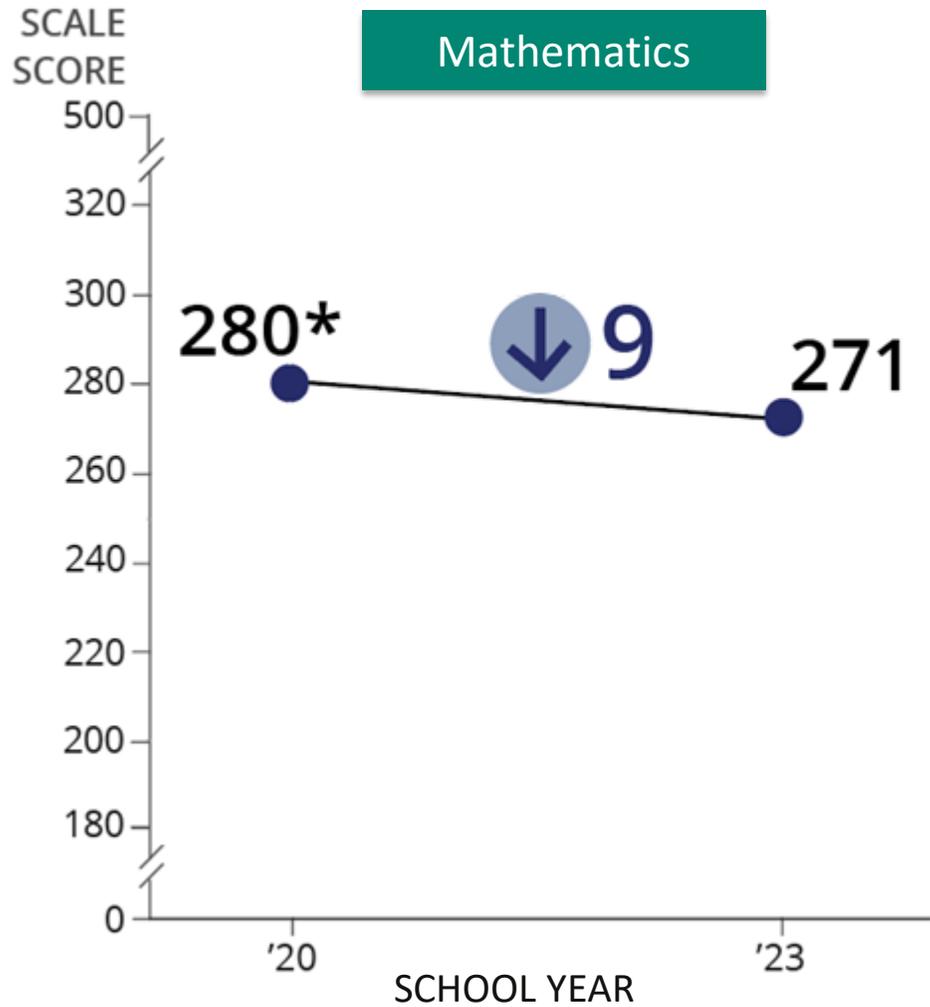
# Post-Pandemic NAEP Assessments



Assessment	Age/Grade	Test Dates	Last Tested
Long-Term Trend Reading and Math	Age 9	Jan-Mar 2022	2020
Main NAEP Reading and Math*	4 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Jan-Mar 2022	2019
U.S. History and Civics	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Jan-Mar 2022	2019
Long-Term Trend Reading and Math	Age 13	Oct-Dec 2022	2019

\* Includes State and Trial Urban District data

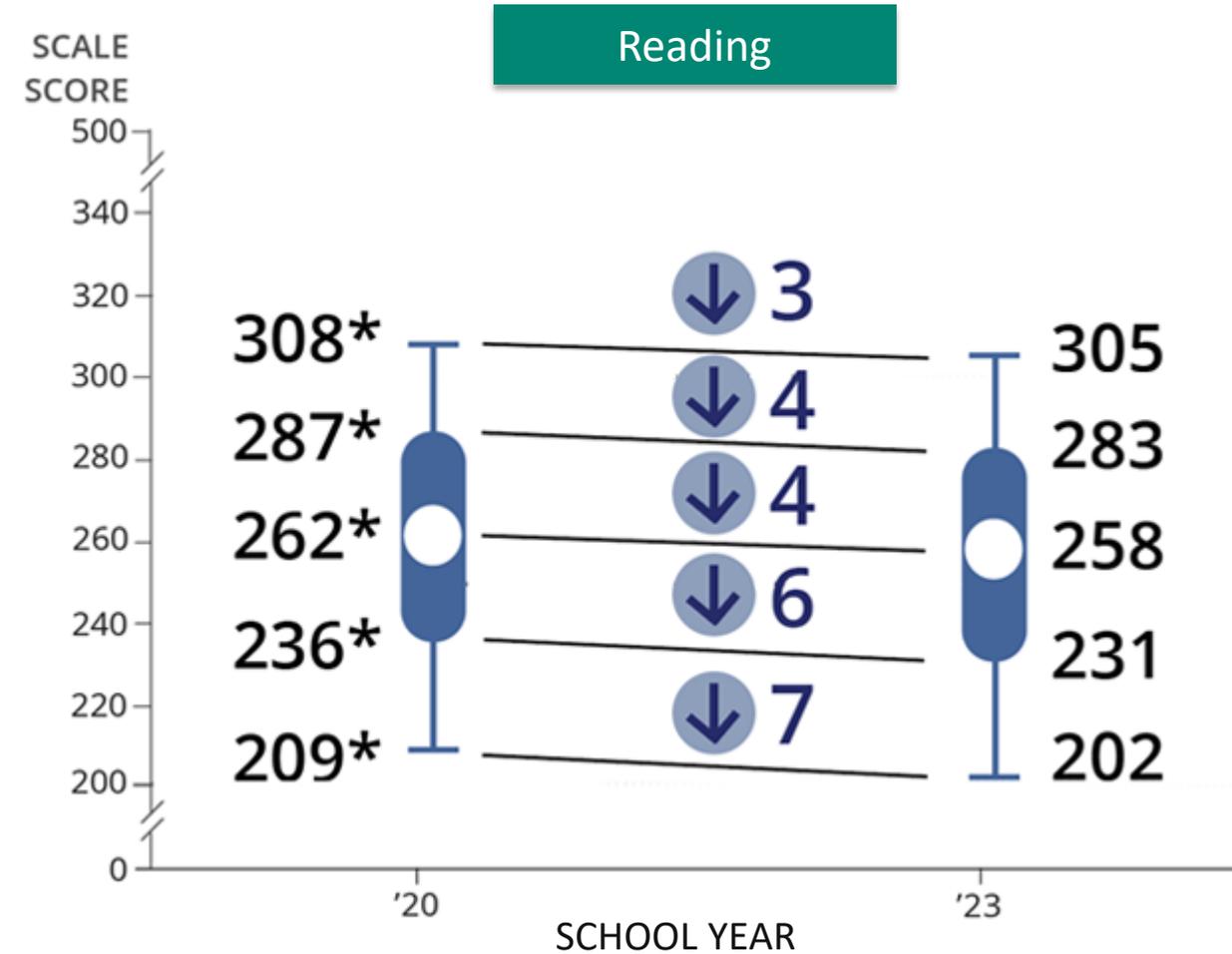
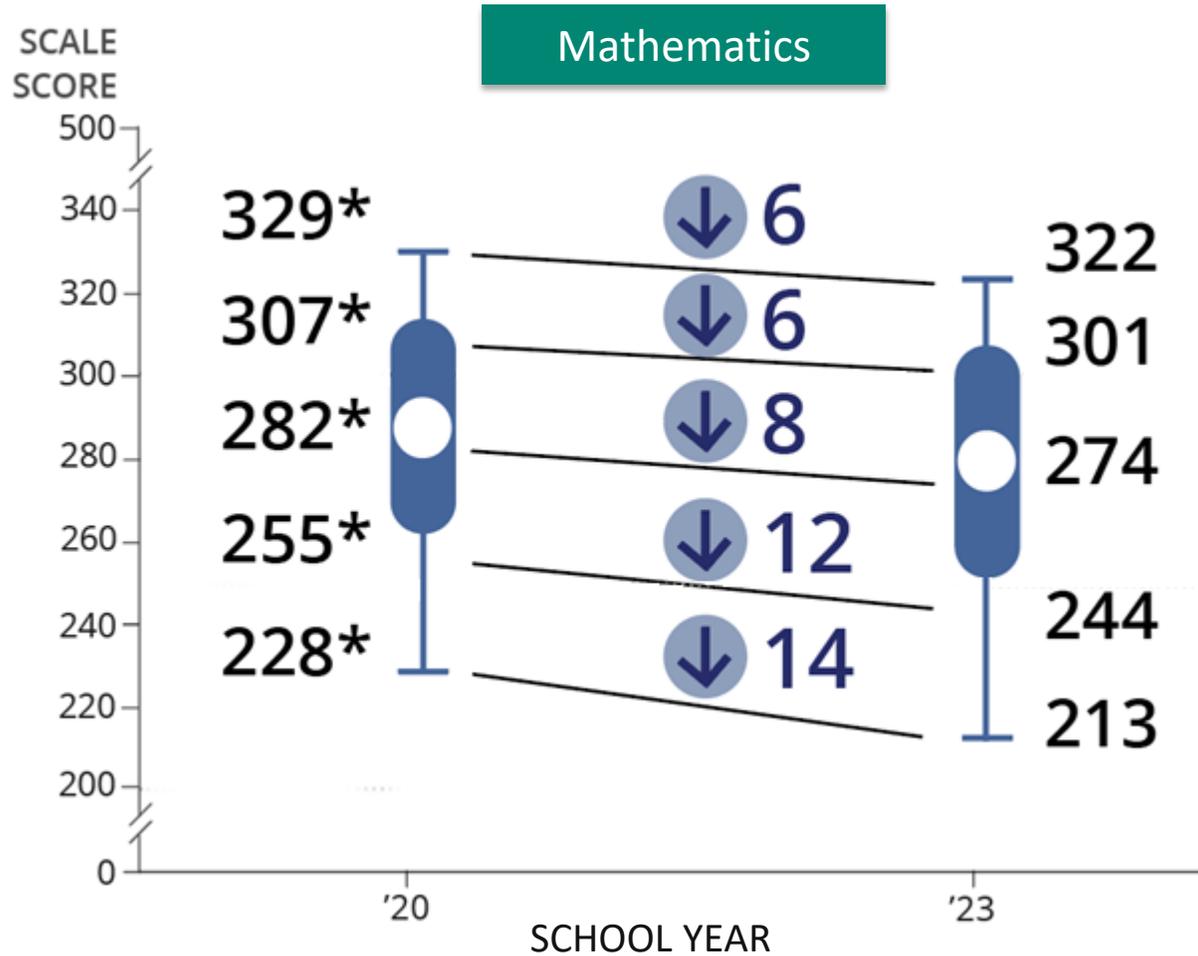
# Average scores lower than before pandemic



↓ Decrease in 2023

\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2023.

# Greater declines for lower-performing students



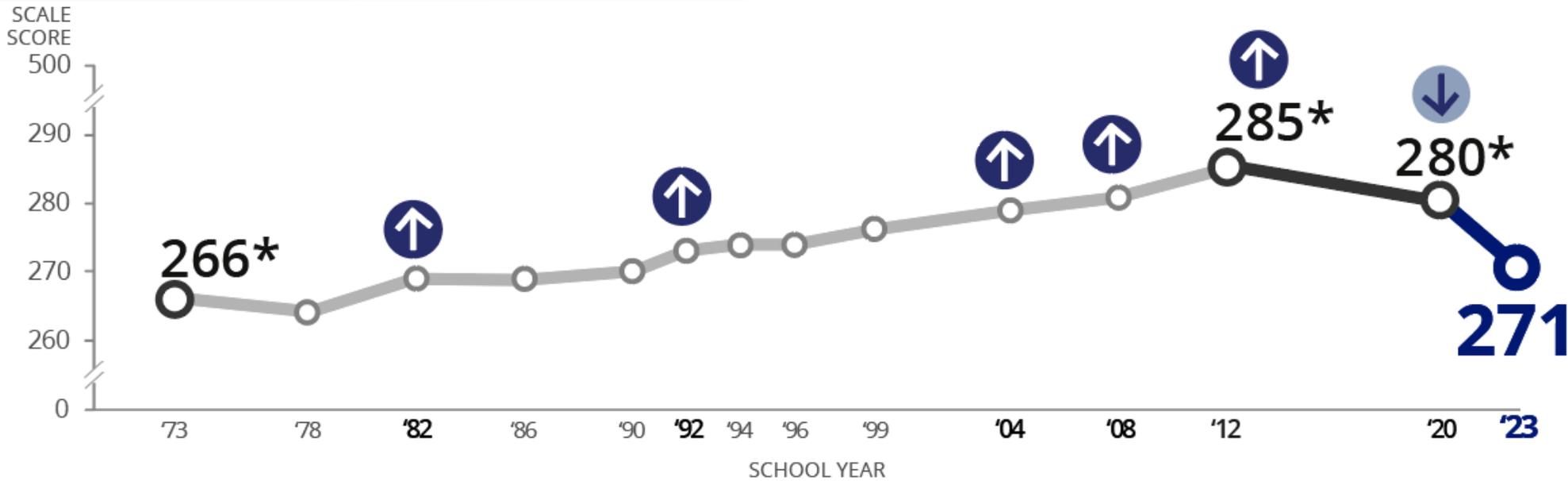
↓ Decrease in 2023 \* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2023.



# Scores similar to levels in 1990

Age  
**13**

## MATHEMATICS



Score change  
between  
2020 and 2023



The score in the indicated assessment year was higher than the score in the previous year.



The score in the indicated assessment year was lower than the score in the previous year.

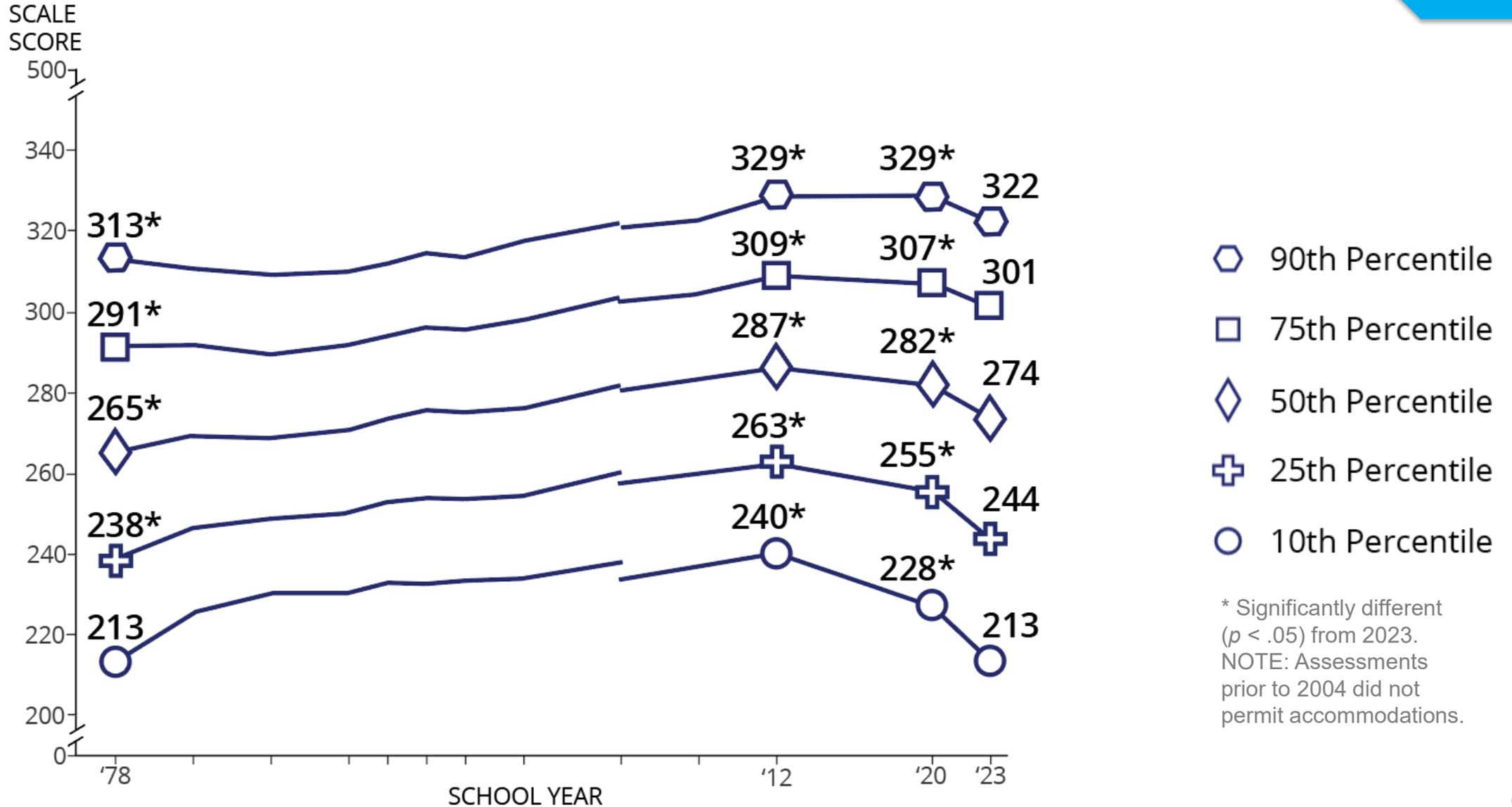
\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2023.

NOTE: Assessments prior to 2004 did not permit accommodations.



# Greater declines for lower-performing students

Age  
**13**

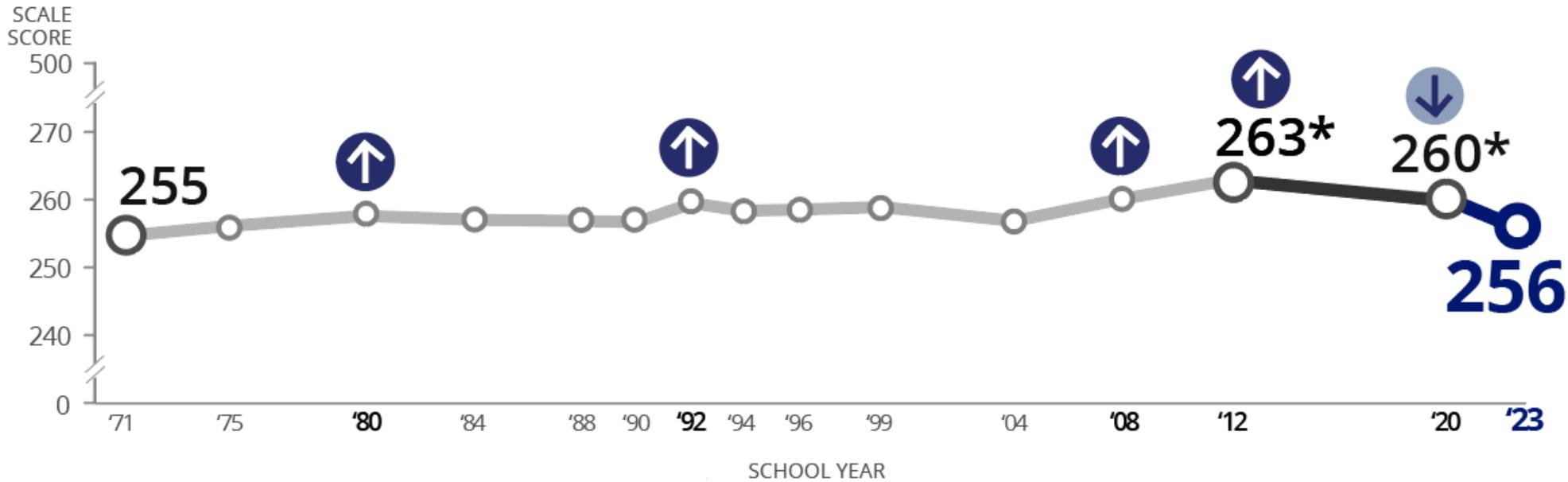




# Score not significantly different from 1971

Age  
**13**

## READING



Score change  
between  
2020 and 2023

**4**



The score in the indicated assessment year was higher than the score in the previous year.



The score in the indicated assessment year was lower than the score in the previous year.

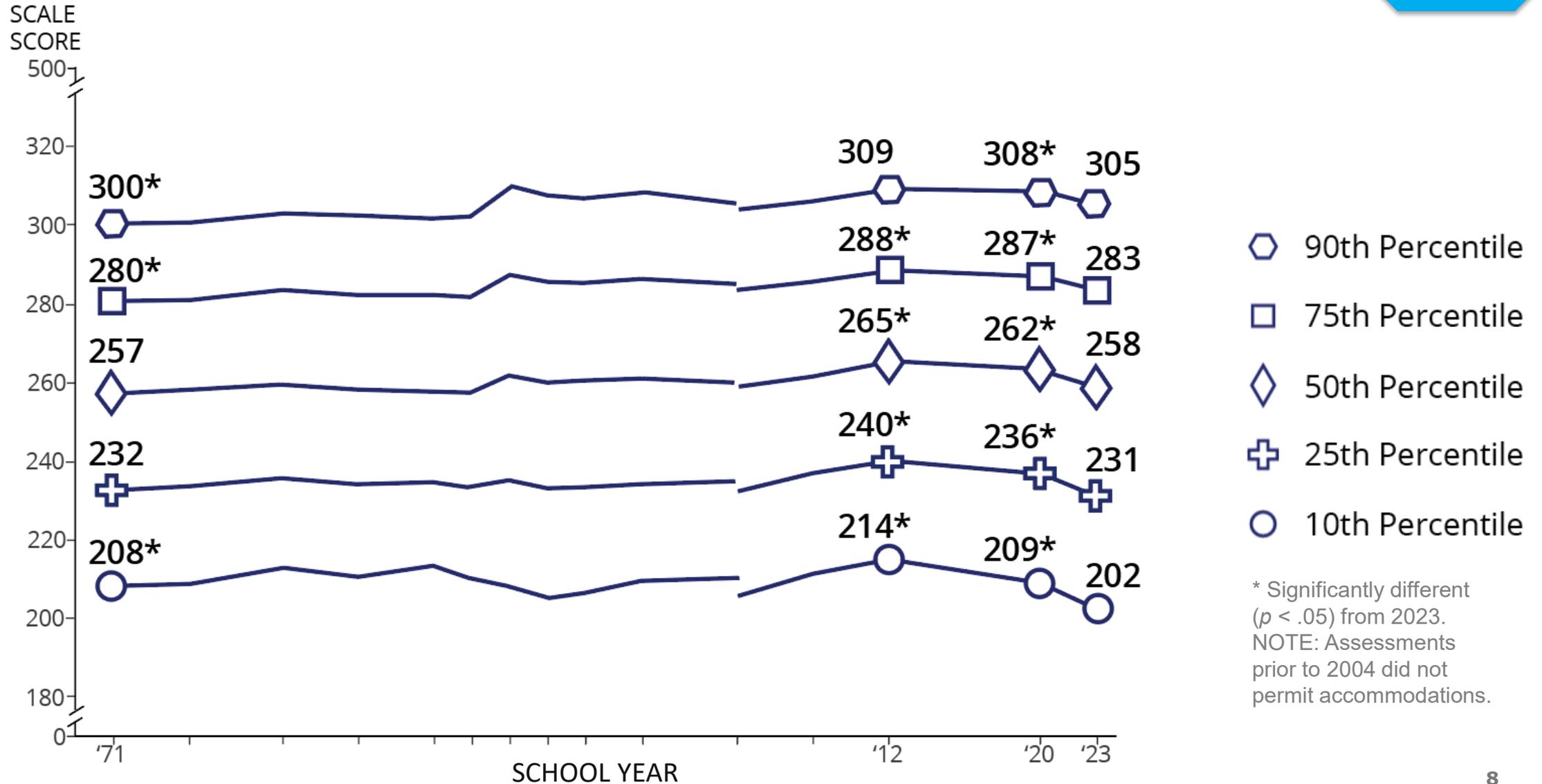
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NOTE: Assessments prior to 2004 did not permit accommodations.



# Declines for lower- and higher-performing students

Age  
**13**



# Key Takeaways

1. Substantial, pervasive, and persistent declines in student achievement in the pandemic era
2. Lower-achieving students lost the most ground, extending a pre-pandemic trend
3. Many more students failing to achieve at NAEP Proficient and NAEP Basic levels across grades and subjects
4. Score declines matter for students' and states' long-term economic success

# Post-Pandemic NAEP Assessments

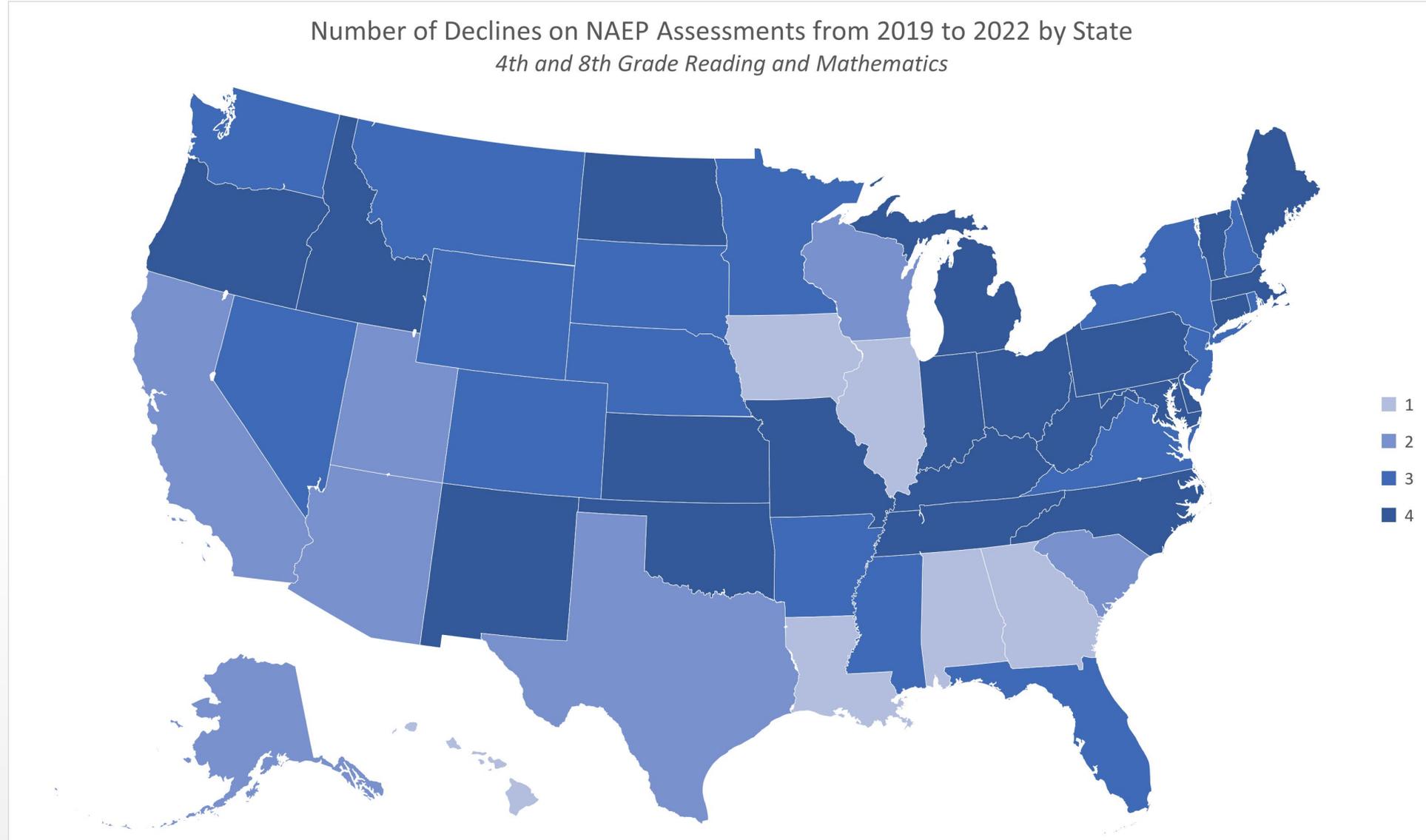


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# Declines in all 50 states

Number of Declines on NAEP Assessments from 2019 to 2022 by State  
*4th and 8th Grade Reading and Mathematics*

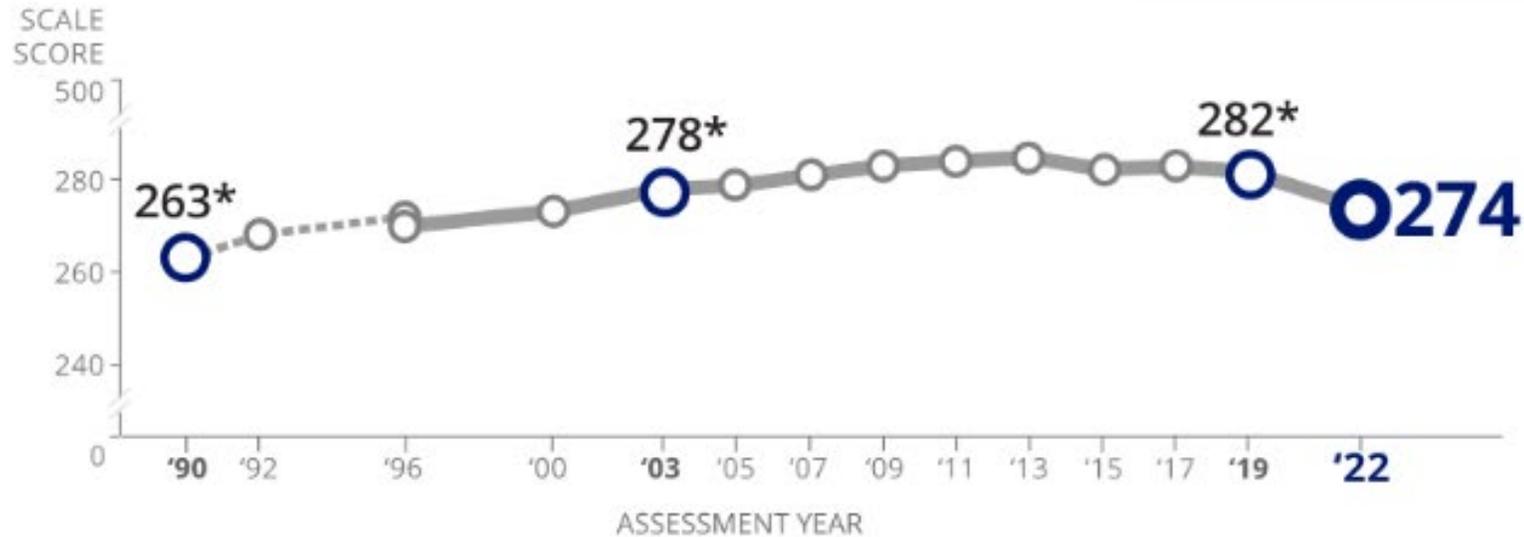




# First ever math score decline



## GRADE 8



↑ 12pts  
compared to 1990

↓ 8pts  
compared to 2019

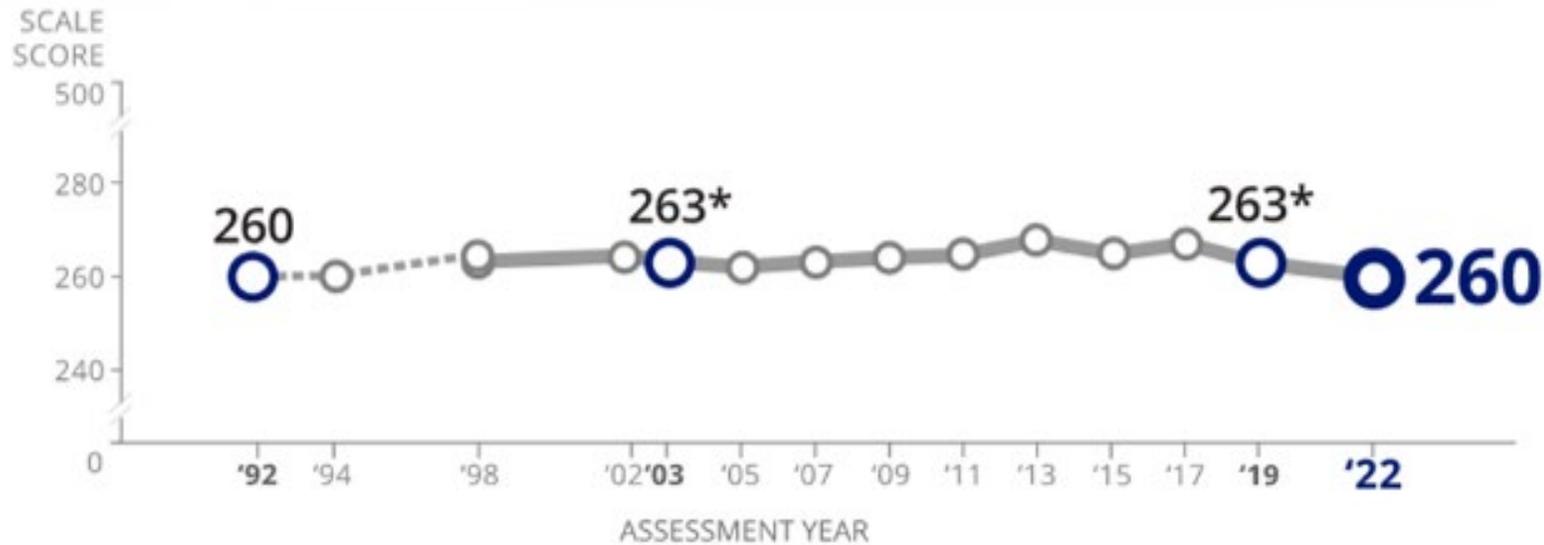
\*Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2022.

Slide from the National Center for Education Statistics 2022 NAEP Mathematics Results at Grades 4 and 8 presentation.



# First ever reading score decline

## GRADE 8

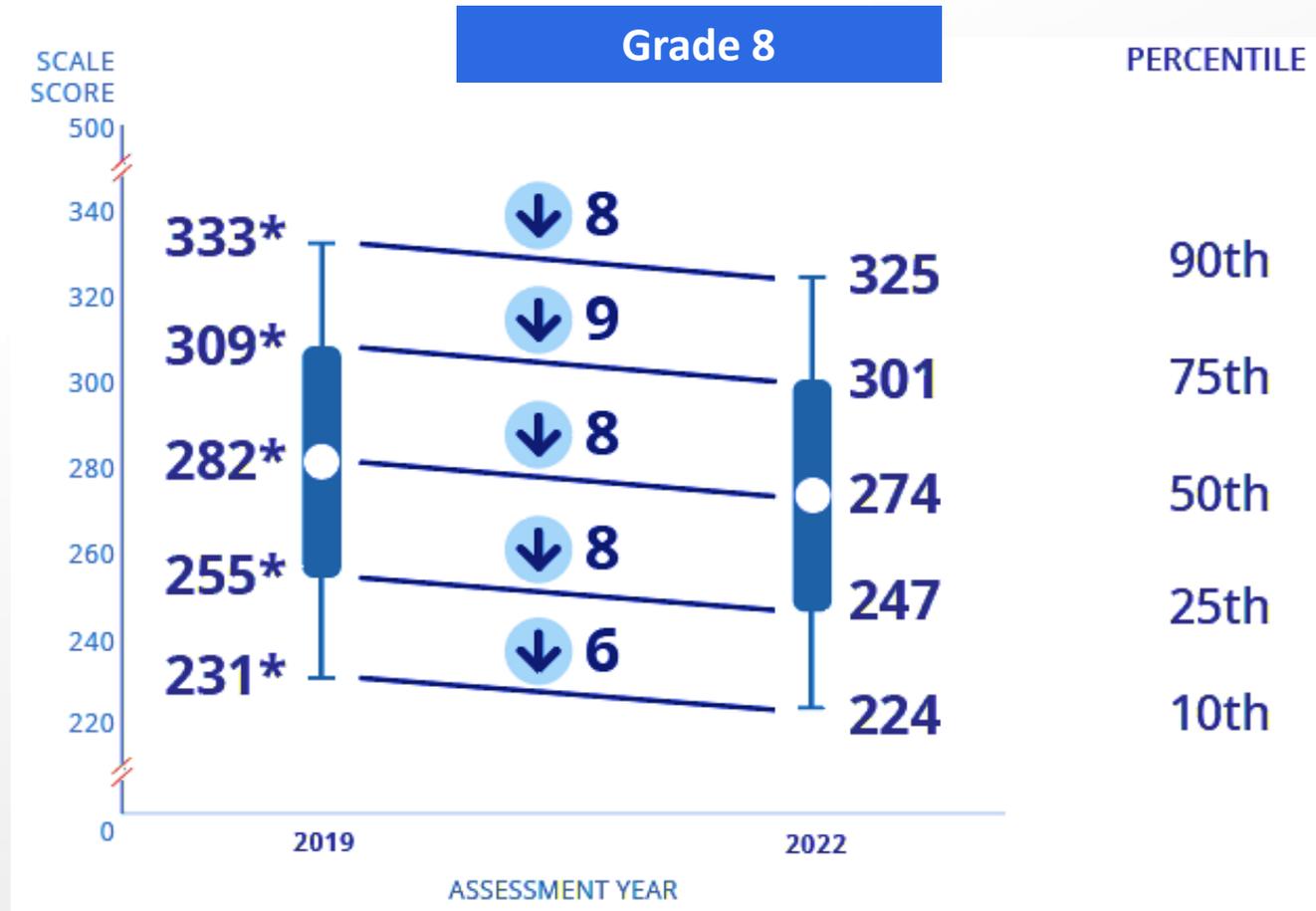


◊ No significant score change compared to 1992

↓ **3pts** compared to 2019

\*Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2022. NOTE: Arrow indicates significant difference ( $p < .05$ ) in 2022. Slide from the National Center for Education Statistics 2022 NAEP Mathematics Results at Grades 4 and 8 presentation.

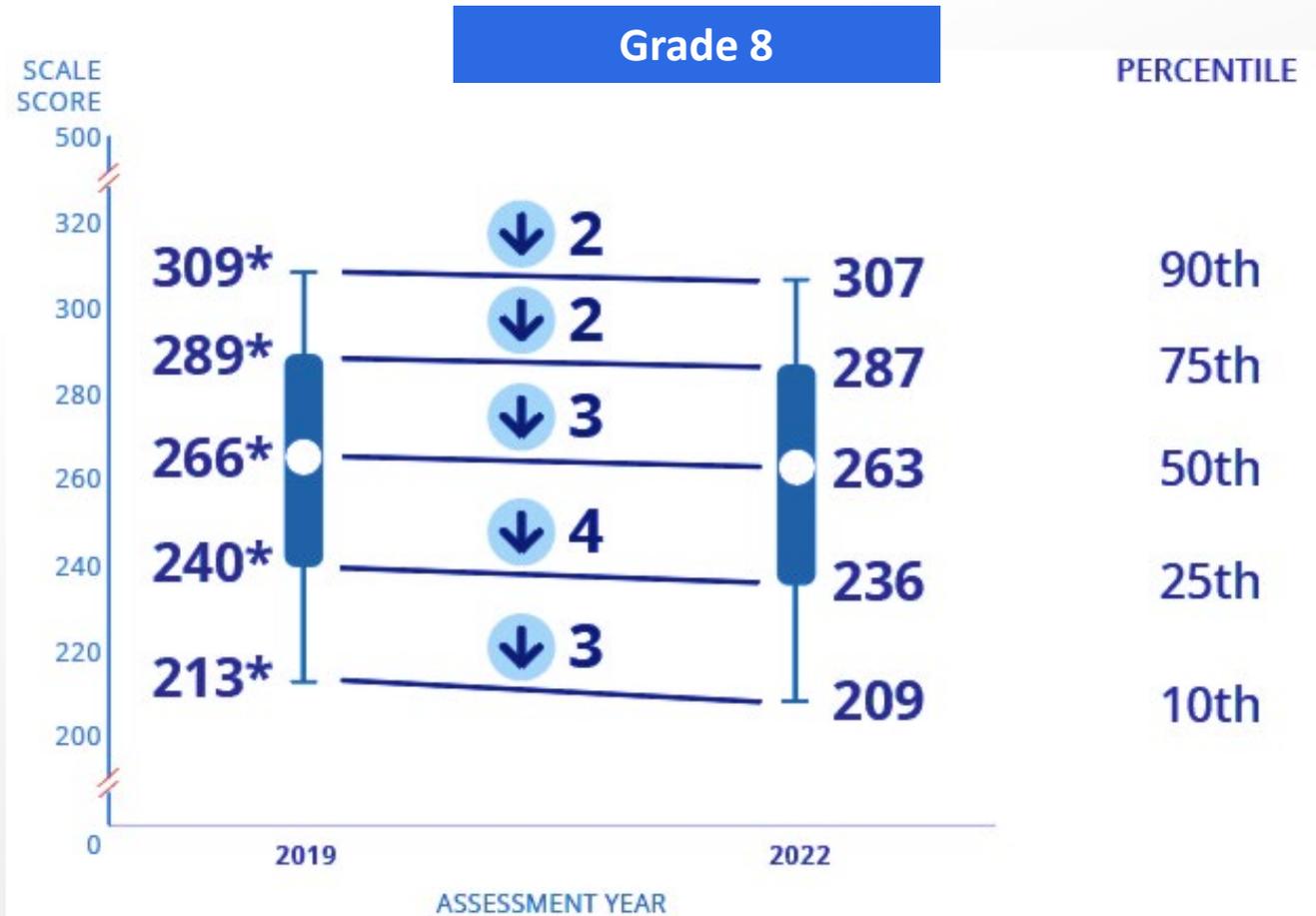
# Grade 8 Math: Declines for both High and Low Performers



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# Grade 8 Reading: Declines for both High and Low Performers



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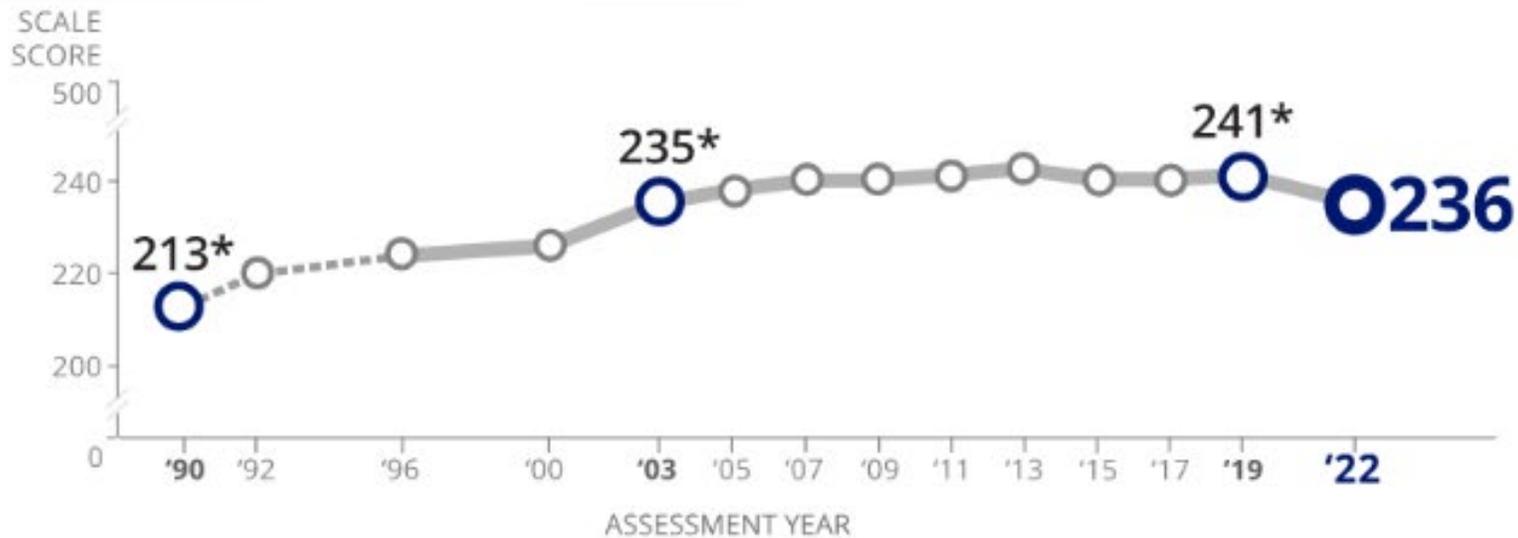
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# First ever math score decline



## GRADE 4



**↑ 23pts**  
compared to 1990

**↓ 5pts**  
compared to 2019

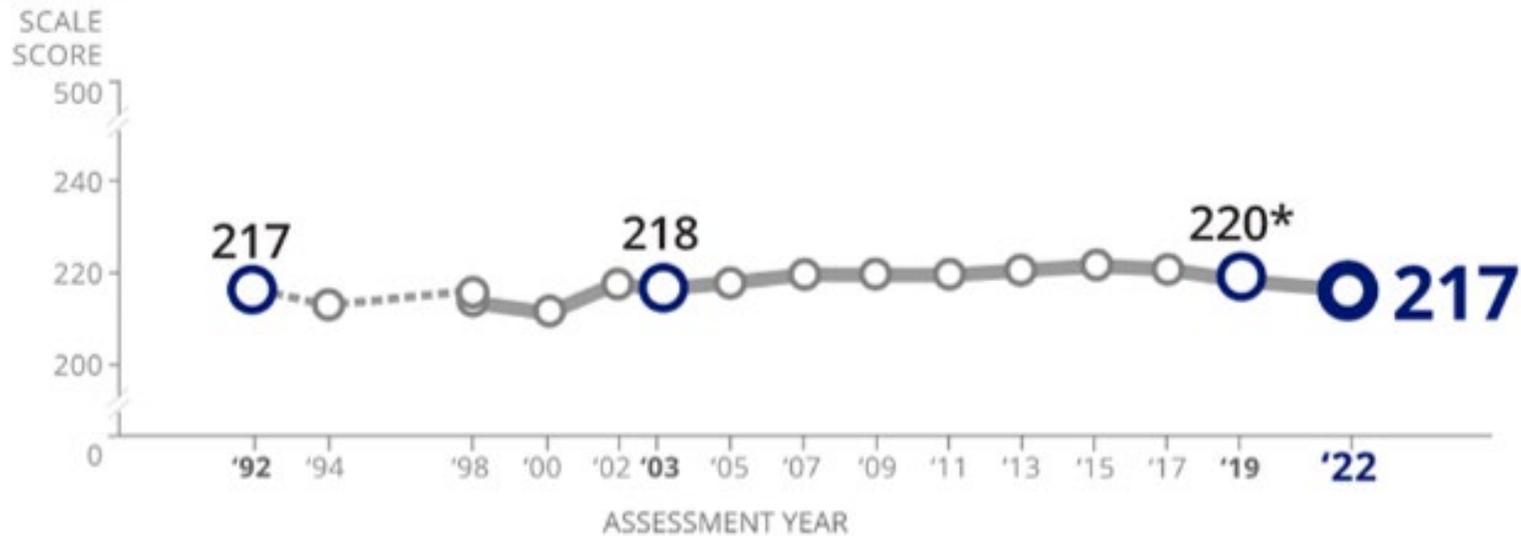
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# First ever reading score decline

## GRADE 4



◊  
No significant  
score change  
compared to 1992

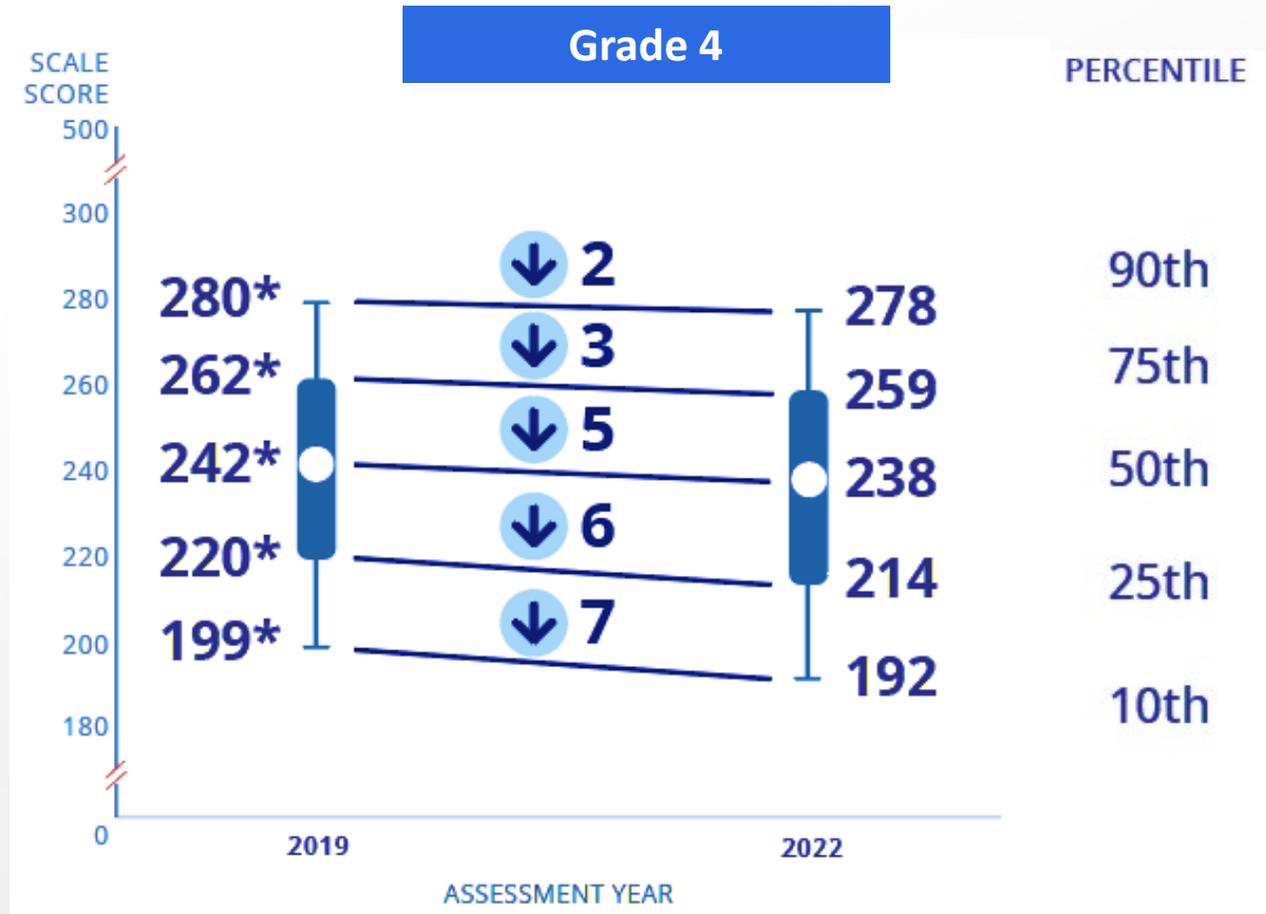
↓ **3pts**  
compared to 2019

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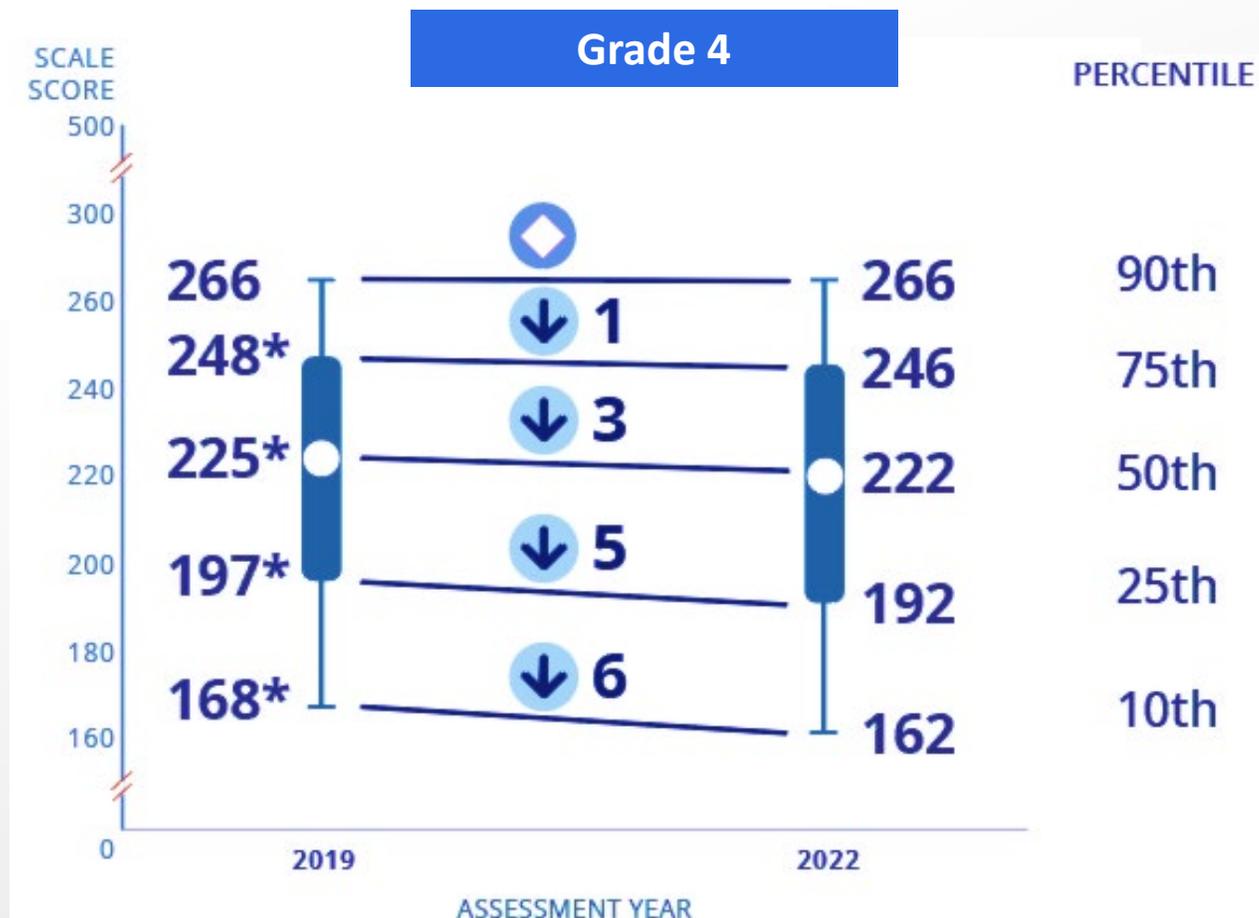
# Grade 4 Math: Growing Gaps Between High and Low Performers

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# Grade 4 Reading: Growing Gaps Between High and Low Performers



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# Post-Pandemic NAEP Assessments

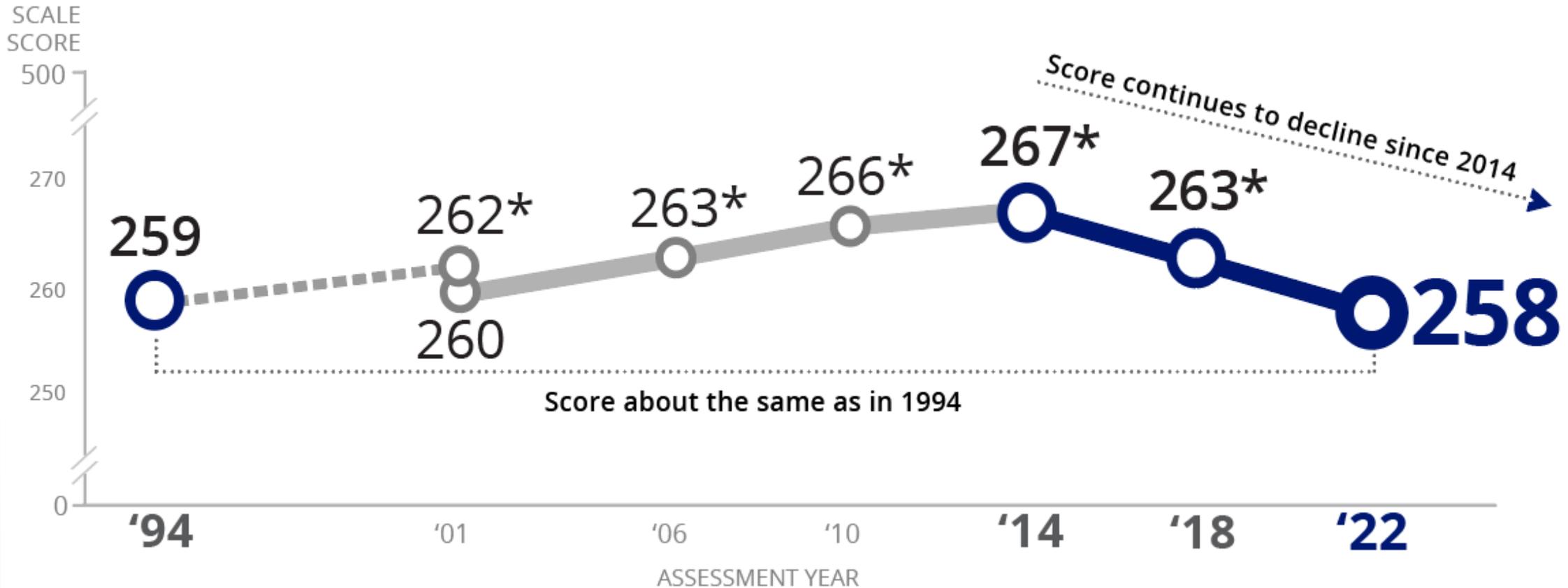


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# U.S. history continues decline since 2014



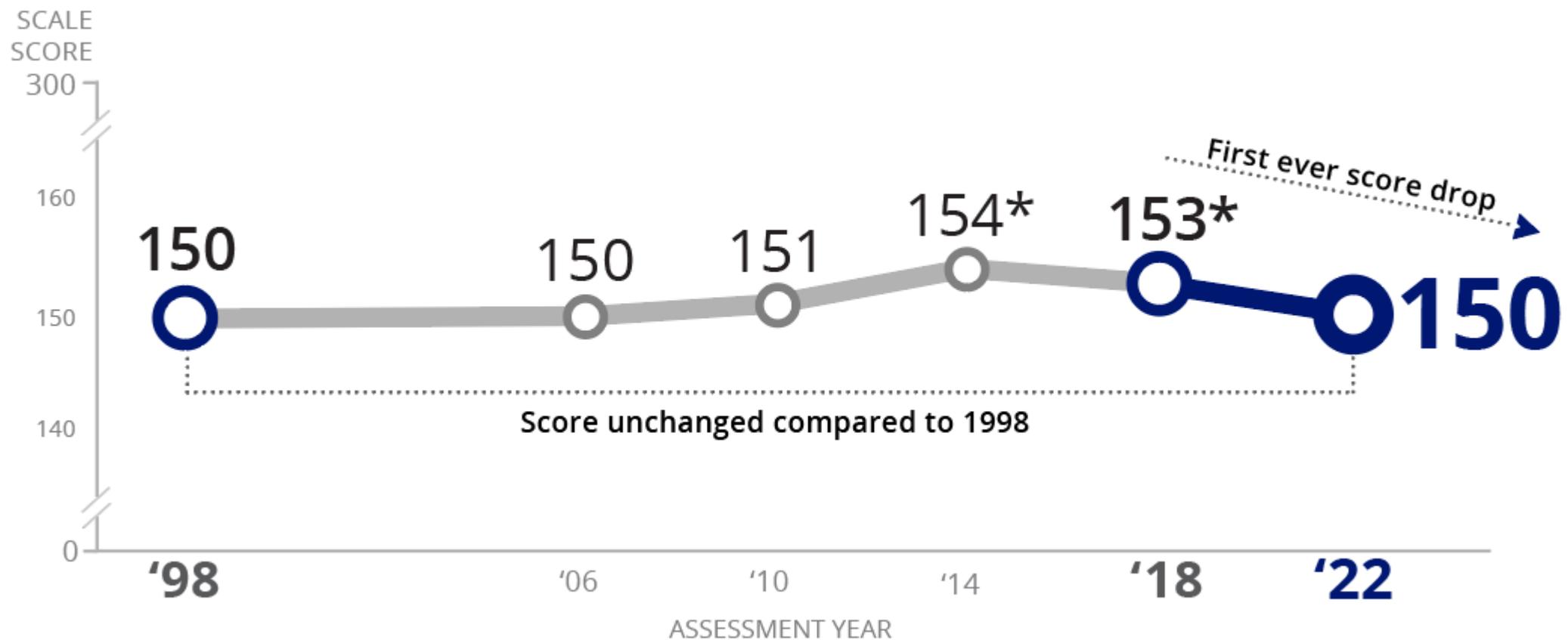
--- Accommodations not permitted.

— Accommodations permitted.

\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2022.



## First ever score declines in civics



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2022.

Slide from the National Center for Education Statistics 2022 NAEP US History and Civics Grade 8 presentation

# NAEP Proficiency is the goal for students.



**NAEP Basic** – partial mastery of knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at that grade and subject.



**NAEP Proficient** – demonstrated competency over challenging material, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real world situations, and analytical skills. *NAEP Proficient* does not signify being on grade level.



**NAEP Advanced** – superior performance beyond *NAEP Proficient*.

# We expect eighth graders to be able to...

## GRADE 8

### READING



#### **NAEP Basic**

Identify basic literary elements such as the order of events, character traits, and main idea



#### **NAEP Proficient**

Make inferences and draw conclusions about literary elements such as character interactions and plot features



#### **NAEP Advanced**

Interpret descriptive or figurative language and how those impact the meaning of the text

### MATH



#### **NAEP Basic**

Simplify expressions involving integers



#### **NAEP Proficient**

Apply strategies to solve Pythagorean Theorem\*\*\* problems



#### **NAEP Advanced**

Solve problems involving area, including composing and decomposing complex figures

# We expect eighth graders to be able to...



## Civics

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### **NAEP Basic**

Describe the structure and function of government.



### **NAEP Proficient**

Identify separation of powers and checks and balances.



### **NAEP Advanced**

Analyze the functions of the three branches of government.

## U.S. History

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### **NAEP Basic**

Identify simple historical concepts in primary or secondary sources.<sup>2</sup>



### **NAEP Proficient**

Read and interpret primary and secondary sources to make inferences and draw conclusions.



### **NAEP Advanced**

Analyze primary and secondary sources to contextualize and explain historical ideas and events.

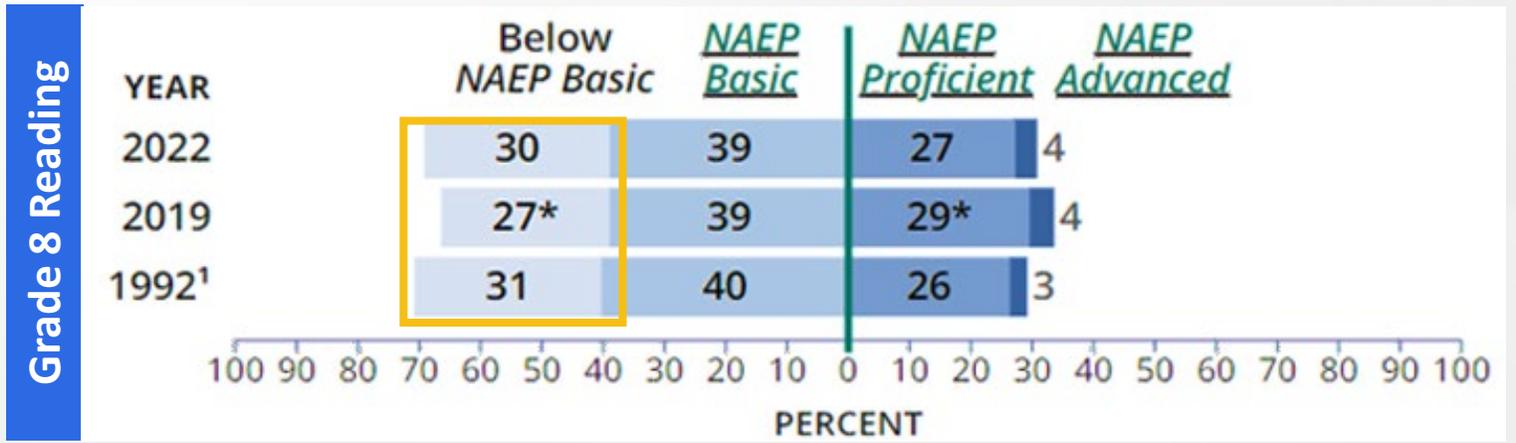
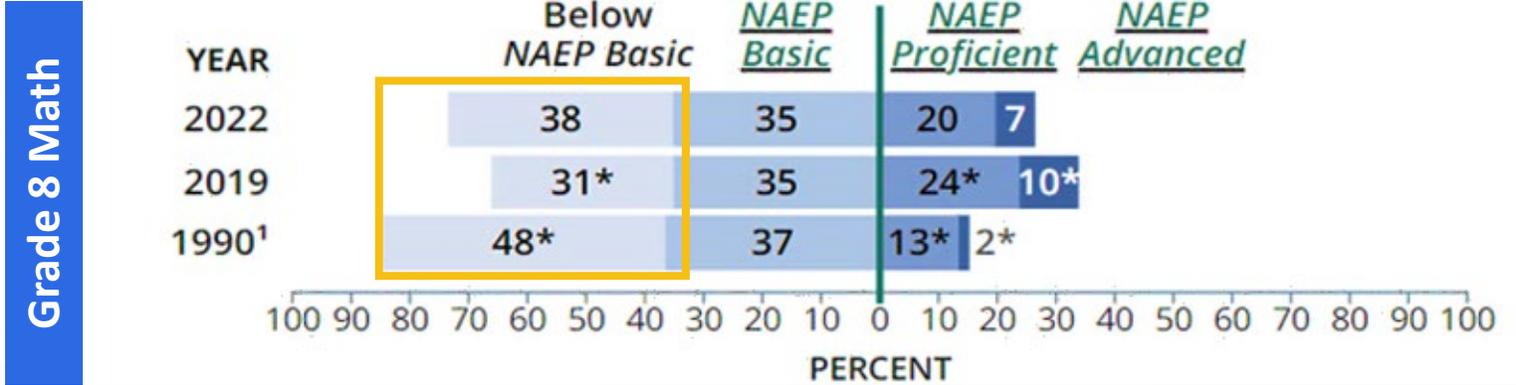
# Below *NAEP Basic* at Grade 8



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2023

1 Accommodations not permitted

NOTE: NAEP achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted and used with caution.



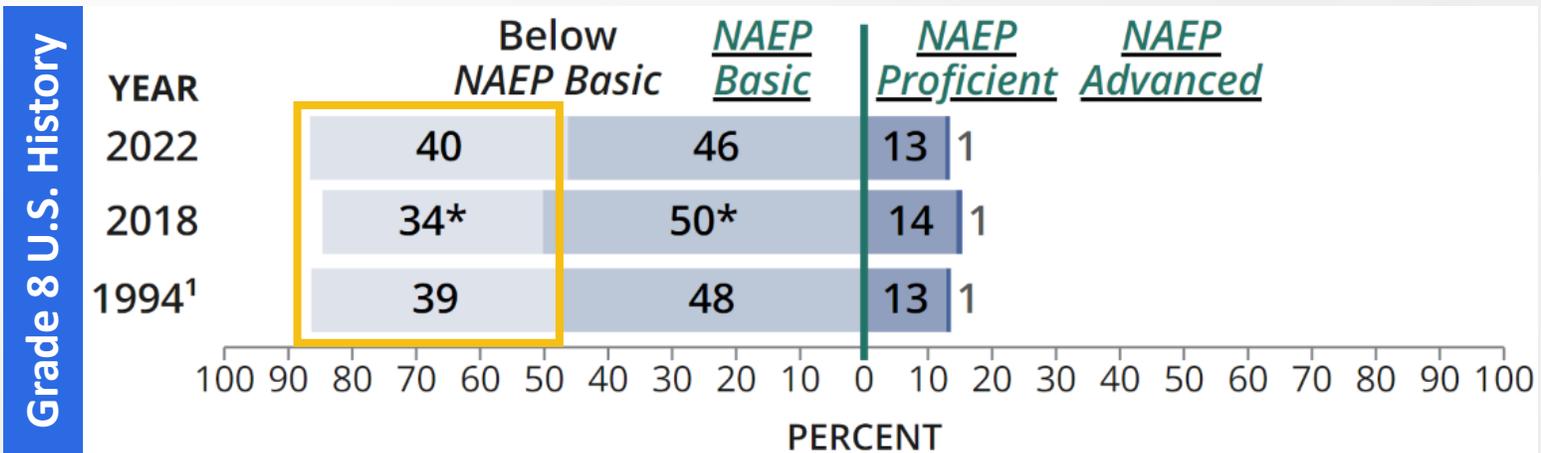
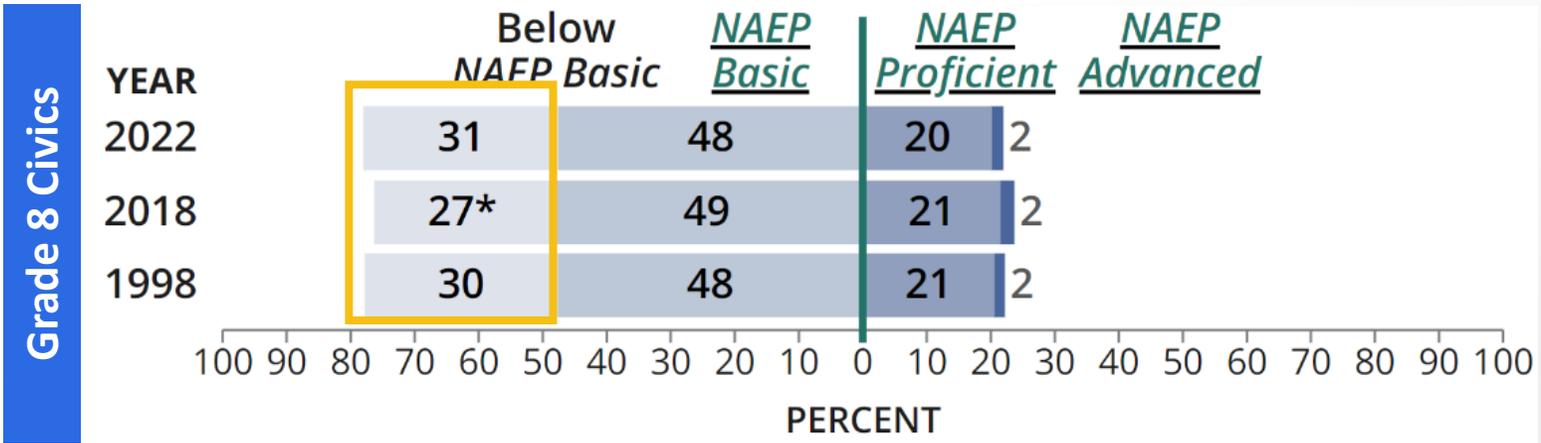
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# Beyond achievement findings

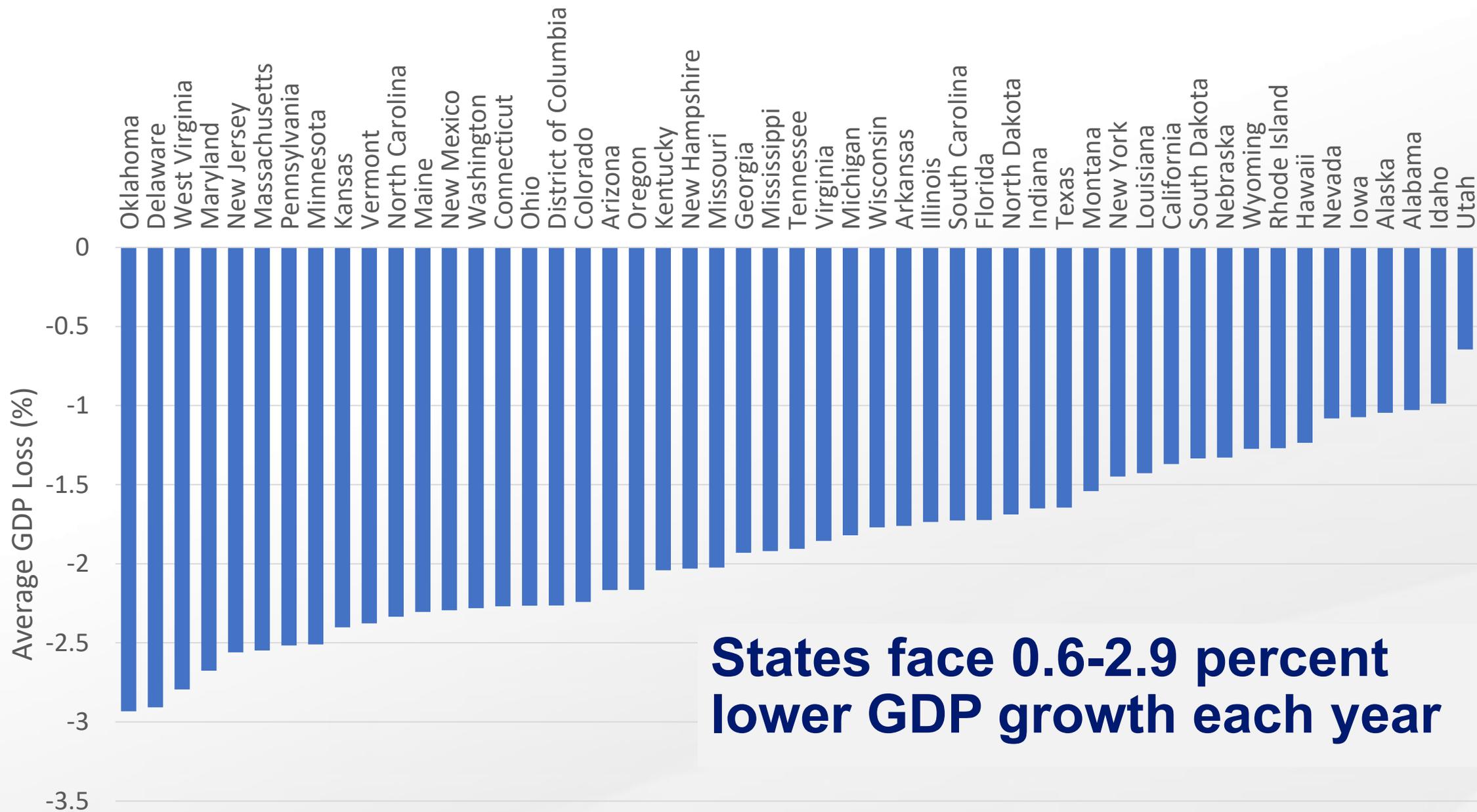
**Students** report low confidence in their civics knowledge and skills. In addition, fewer students report taking classes that mainly focus on U.S. history.

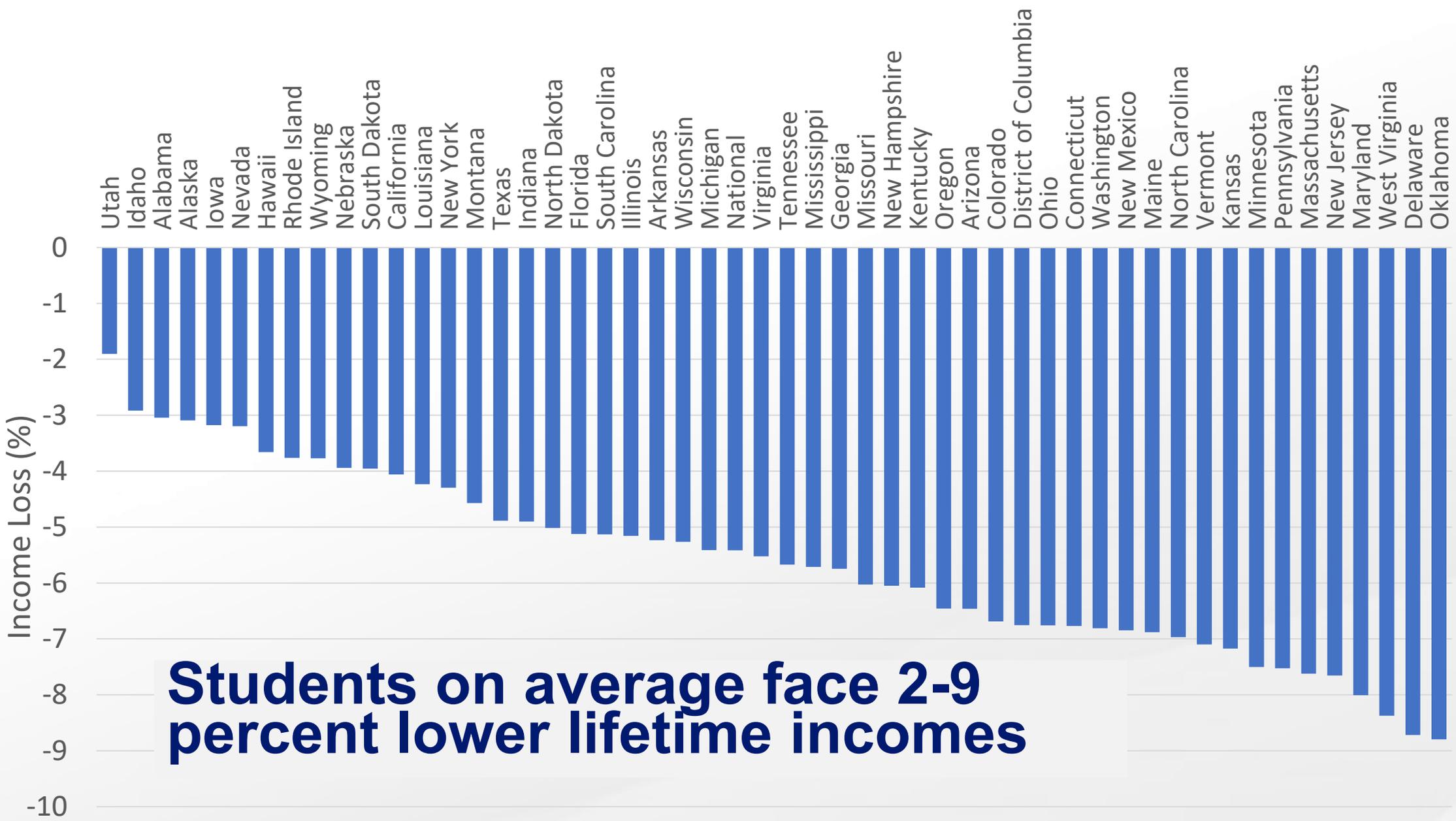
Fewer **students** report that they read for fun.

More **students** report having missed five or more days of school in the past month.

# Beyond achievement findings

**Teachers** report feeling less inspired and more overworked. They also report lacking confidence in helping students close knowledge and skill gaps.





**Students on average face 2-9 percent lower lifetime incomes**

# It's up to all of us to help districts and schools accelerate progress by

- Keeping expectations high
- Using evidence-based research
- Supporting educators
- Acting with urgency

...in service of student learning.

# Decision-making should be centered on data

The Nation's Report Card, along with other data, provides critical information to inform and improve teaching and learning, including policy and practice decisions on pandemic recovery and long-standing systemic challenges that are worsening.

“

***We can't move the goalpost just because we're running behind. We have to train harder, to run faster.***

Beverly Perdue, Chair of the Governing Board and former North Carolina Governor (D) and Haley Barbour, former Chair of the Governing Board and former Mississippi Governor (R), writing in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution

”



# QUESTIONS?

**THANK YOU!**



# Help Lead the Nation's Report Card

The National Assessment Governing Board will be soliciting nominations for 6 open positions:

- General Public Representative – Parent Leader
- Local School Board Member
- Non-Public School Administrator
- State Legislator – Democrat**
- State Legislator – Republican**
- Testing & Measurement Expert

**Submissions Open Sept. 5, 2023**

# We expect fourth graders to be able to...

## GRADE 4

### READING



#### **NAEP Basic**

Sequence or categorize events from a literary text



#### **NAEP Proficient**

Describe the impact of a character's actions or explain how characters influence one another



#### **NAEP Advanced**

Determine the meaning of nonliteral phrases

### MATH



#### **NAEP Basic**

Locate whole numbers on a number line



#### **NAEP Proficient**

Add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers, fractions, and decimals in single and multi-step problems



#### **NAEP Advanced**

Understand and be able to use inverse operations\* and simple ratios\*\*

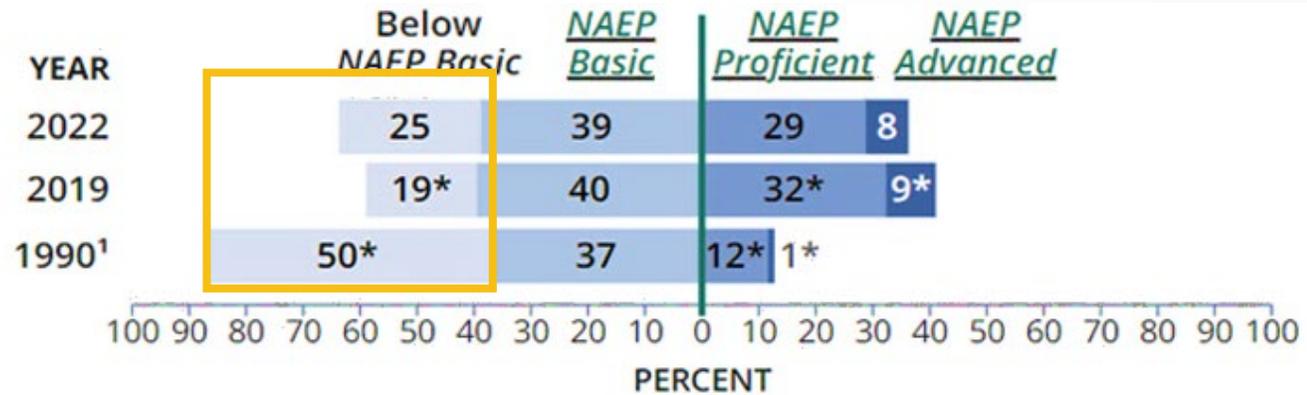
# Below *NAEP Basic* at Grade 4

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## Grade 4 Math



## Grade 4 Reading

