

Press Release

Nevada's 2011 NAEP Results Released *Improvements Made in Several Key Areas*

CARSON CITY, NV. FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, November 1, 2011 –

State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Keith Rheault, released Nevada's 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results for grade 4 and 8 in Reading and Mathematics today. The NAEP is the only nationally standardized assessment of student performance in several key content areas.

Overall reading performance for Nevada grade 8 students increased significantly from an average scale score of 254 in 2009, to 258 in 2011. The percentage of students performing at the NAEP "At or Above Basic" level increased 3 percentage points, "At or Above Proficient" increased 4 percentage points, and "Advanced" increased from 1% to 2%. The greatest gain was seen among Black students with an average scale score increase of 9 percentage points, followed by White and Hispanic students showing an average increase of 5 percentage points each. Despite the tremendous increase in the number of students identified as eligible for free or reduced lunch, the NAEP measure of socio-economic status, there was an increase in performance for students qualifying for aid. Finally, average scale scores for students identified as English Language Learners (ELL) increased significantly, while average scale scores and percentages of students at most performance levels increased among non-ELL students.

Significant gains were seen in grade 8 Math and the percentage of grade 4 Math students performing at the Advanced level increased significantly. Many gains were seen across a variety of specific demographic groups.

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Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Keith Rheault, was quoted as saying, "While there is certainly more work to do, we are all pleased to see such advances, particularly among some of the traditionally 'at risk' subgroups. Nevada is still below the national averages in overall student performance, but since 2003, we have gained on the averages in both 4th and 8th grades and in both subjects. We still rank in the bottom quarter of the states in average scores, but compared to 2003, the first year all states participated in NAEP, Nevada ranks in the top quarter of the states in making gains."

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