

Results From the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress

What is the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)?

According to the Institute of Education Sciences' National Center for Education Statistics, "NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do." Results from NAEP, often referred to as [The Nation's Report Card](#), reflect group-level data on student achievement in various subjects. The first national assessment occurred in 1969, and state assessments began in 1990. Beginning in 2002, urban districts were selected to participate on a trial basis, known as the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA), and Austin Independent School District (AISD) joined the TUDA program in 2005.

Every two years, 4th- and 8th-grade students from public, private, and charter schools take the math and reading assessments. Not every student takes NAEP; rather, a representative sample of students is randomly selected to reflect all students in the target population. Common test materials across test sites permit comparisons between states and TUDA districts, and common test materials across years permit comparisons over time.

For both the reading and math assessments in grades 4 and 8, scores range from 0 to 500 points. However, NAEP scales are developed independently for each subject, thus scores cannot be compared across subjects. In addition to reporting results by average scale score points, NAEP also reports results as percentages of students performing at or above the NAEP achievement levels (basic, proficient, and advanced¹). Most results in this research brief are reported by the percentage of students who achieved proficient or advanced levels.

How did AISD's performance compare with that of Texas and national public schools?

AISD's 4th-grade students continued to perform at or above the proficiency levels of students in Texas and national public schools. There were no significant changes in 4th-grade math or reading proficiency levels between 2017 and 2019 for AISD or Texas; however, 4th-grade reading proficiency significantly declined for national public schools between 2017 and 2019 (Figures 1 and 2).

¹NAEP basic achievement level represents partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills. NAEP proficient achievement level represents solid academic performance. Students at this level demonstrate competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter. NAEP advanced achievement level denotes superior performance beyond the NAEP proficient level.

Figure 1.
In 2019, 4th-grade math proficiency in AISD was significantly higher than national public schools and comparable to Texas.

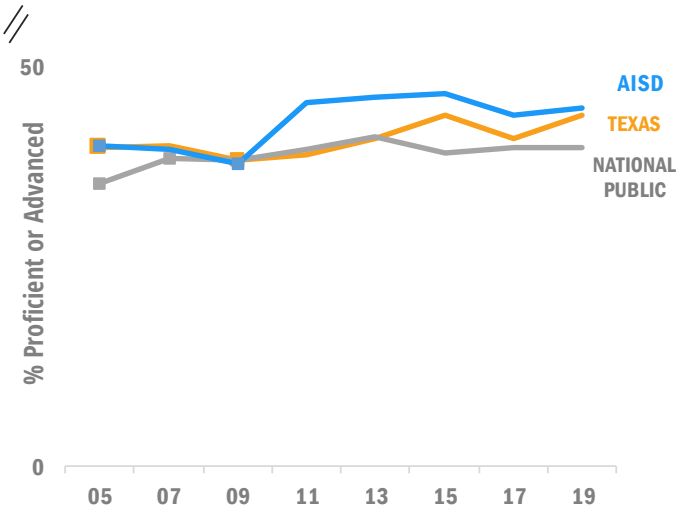
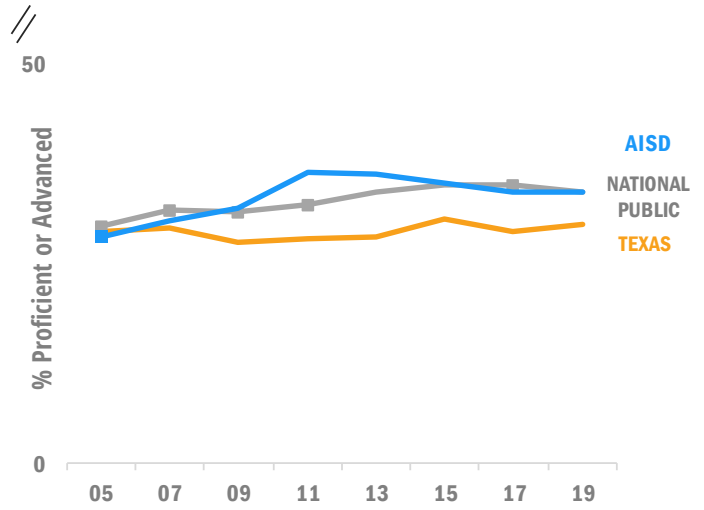


Figure 2.
In 2019, 4th-grade reading proficiency in AISD was comparable to Texas and national public schools.



Source. National Assessment for Educational Progress Data Explorer
Note. Squares on a jurisdiction’s line indicate the proficiency level for that year was significantly different from the proficiency level in 2019.

AISD’s 8th-grade students continued to perform at or above the proficiency levels of students in Texas and national public schools. There were no significant changes in 8th-grade math proficiency between 2017 and 2019 for AISD, Texas, or national public schools (Figure 3). While there were no significant changes in 8th-grade reading proficiency for AISD or Texas (Figure 4), results of average scale scores revealed a significant decline from 2017 for AISD, Texas, and national public schools.

Figure 3.
In 2019, 8th-grade math proficiency in AISD was significantly higher than Texas and comparable to national public schools.

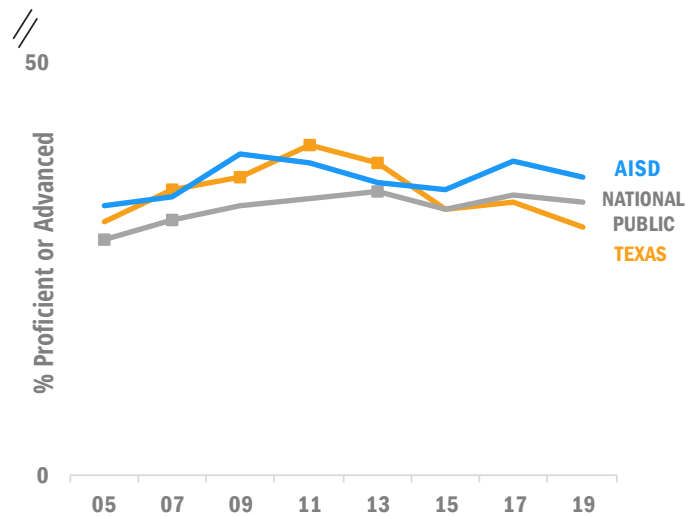
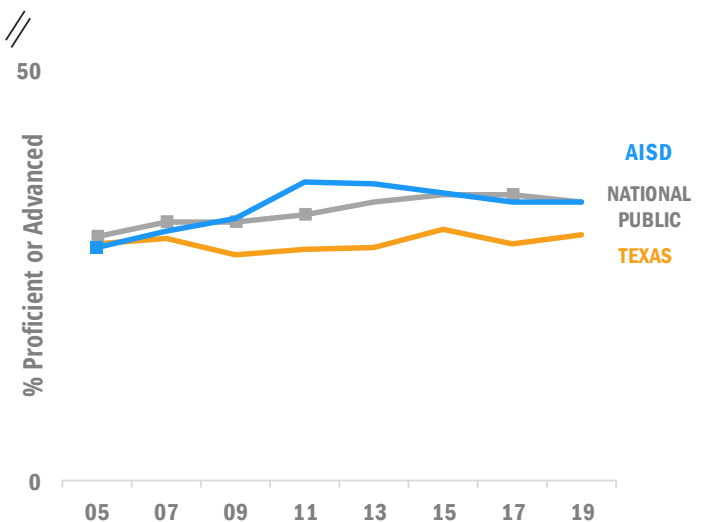


Figure 4.
In 2019, 8th-grade reading proficiency in AISD was significantly higher than Texas and comparable to national public schools.



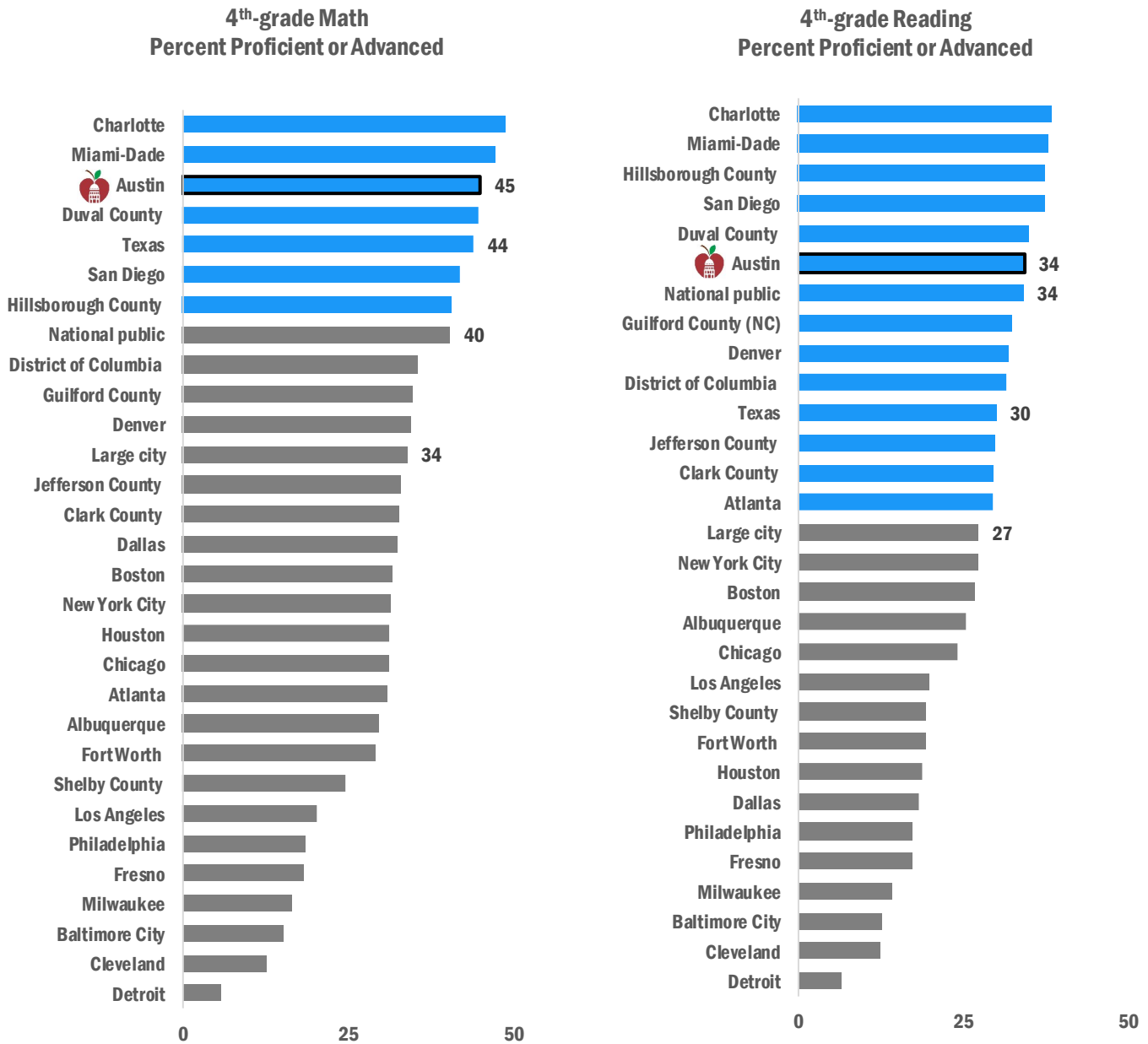
Source. National Assessment for Educational Progress Data Explorer
Note. Squares on a jurisdiction’s line indicate the proficiency level for that year was significantly different from the proficiency level in 2019.

How did AISD's performance compare with that of other urban districts?

Twenty-seven districts participated in the 2019 TUDA program, and AISD continued to outperform most districts. For both 4th-grade math and 4th-grade reading, proficiency levels for AISD students were significantly higher than proficiency levels in other Texas districts, including Houston, Dallas, and Ft. Worth (Figure 5). No TUDA districts significantly outperformed AISD in 4th-grade math or in 4th-grade reading.

Figure 5.

AISD 4th-grade students ranked third in math and sixth in reading among 27 urban districts in 2019.



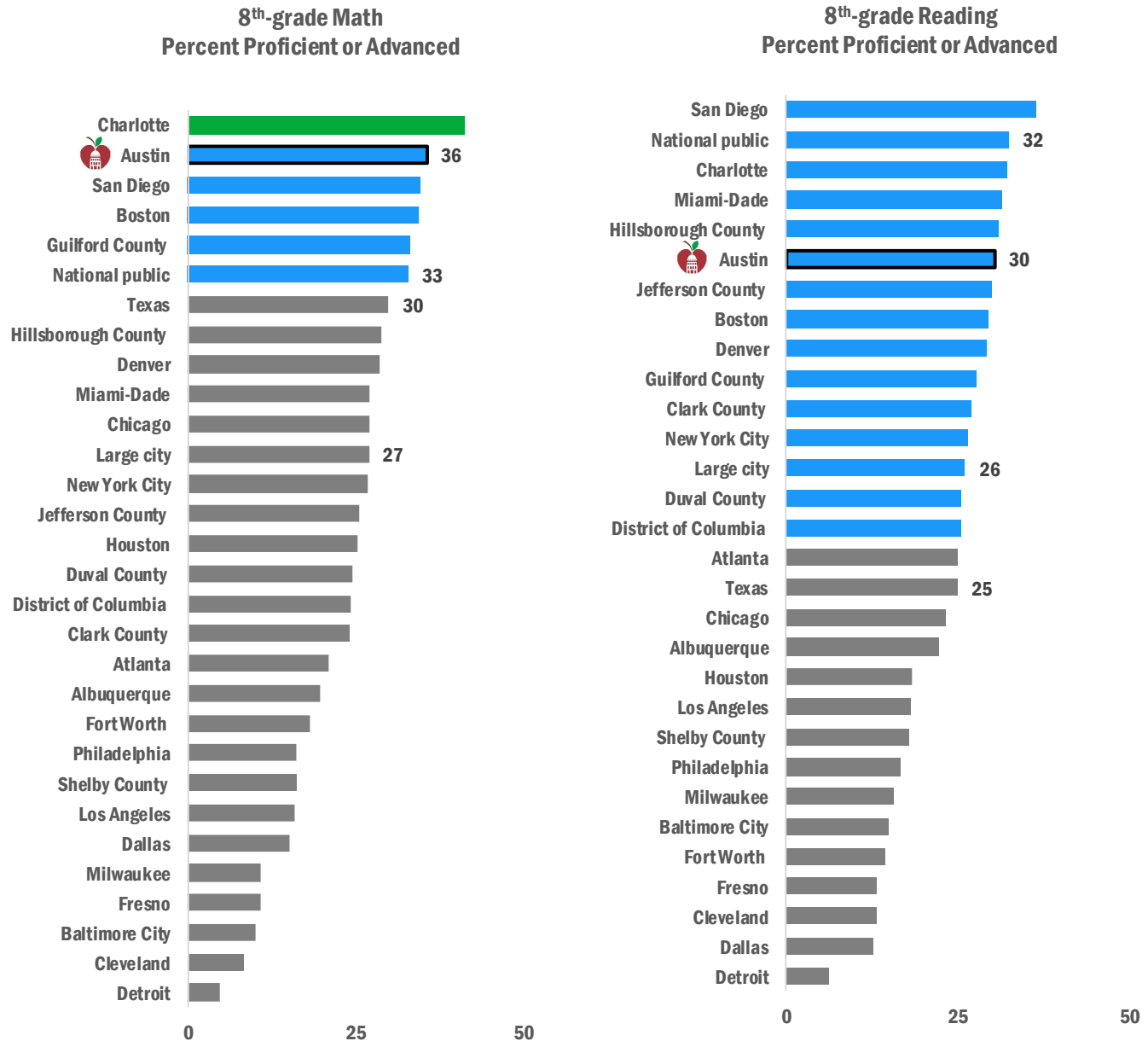
Source. National Assessment for Educational Progress Data Explorer

Note. AISD's proficiency levels were significantly higher than in districts/jurisdictions shown in gray and not significantly different than in districts/jurisdictions shown in blue.

AISD’s 8th-grade students also outperformed most districts in 2019. In 8th-grade math, AISD ranked second among the 27 TUDA districts, and in 8th-grade reading, AISD ranked sixth. AISD proficiency levels in both math and reading were significantly higher than proficiency levels in other Texas TUDA districts (Figure 6).

Figure 6.

AISD 8th-grade students ranked second in math and sixth in reading among 27 urban districts in 2019.



Source. National Assessment for Educational Progress Data Explorer

Note. AISD’s proficiency levels were significantly higher than in districts/jurisdictions shown in gray, significantly lower than in districts shown in green, and not significantly different than in districts/jurisdictions shown in blue.

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