



## New Jersey Students Lead National Assessment

*Garden State fourth-graders tie for first in the nation in reading and math*

**For Immediate Release**

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**Trenton, NJ** – The New Jersey Department of Education today applauded New Jersey schools for achieving top scores as reported by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). According to the 2017 NAEP data, New Jersey's fourth-grade students' scores were tied as the highest in the nation in both reading and math, and the Garden State's eighth graders' scores were tied for second in the nation in reading and math.

NAEP, referred to in academic circles as the "Nation's Report Card," is considered the only apples-to-apples comparison of student achievement, since the same assessments are administered to a representative sample in every state.

Acting Education Commissioner Lamont O. Repollet praised the performance of the students and their teachers. "This is an outstanding accolade for our students and educators," said Dr. Repollet. "Our educators provide the learning environment for our students to thrive, and our children are rising to the challenge."

The NAEP assessment is administered every two years by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), an arm of the U.S. Department of Education.

The last NAEP report from 2015 had New Jersey fourth graders tied for fourth in the nation in reading, and sixth in math. New Jersey eighth graders were ranked fourth in the nation in math and sixth in reading in 2015.

For 2017, New Jersey tied for first in the nation with Massachusetts and Department of Defense schools in fourth-grade reading. In fourth-grade math, New Jersey tied for first in the nation with five states and the Department of Defense schools. In eighth-grade reading last year, New Jersey tied for second with the Department of Defense schools and four other states, and in eighth-grade math New Jersey tied for second with five states and Department of Defense schools.

More information about the assessment can be found on the [NAEP website](http://www.state.nj.us/education/).

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[www.state.nj.us/education/](http://www.state.nj.us/education/)

