

Average NAEP Reading Scores, 1992, 1994, and 1996

	1992	1994	1996
All students	290	288	288
White	297	296	295
Black	261	266	266
Latino	271	263	265
Male	284	282	281
Female	296	295	295

Reading score range:

- 200 Can comprehend specific or sequentially related information
- 250 Can search for specific information, interrelate ideas, and make generalizations
- 300* Can find, understand, summarize, and explain relatively complicated information
- 350 Can synthesize and learn from specialized reading materials

*300 points or higher is the estimated NAEP reading score needed to earn a middle-class income today.

"Close to half of all 17-year-olds cannot read or do math at the level needed to get a job in a modern automobile plant. Barring some other special knowledge that would allow them to make a living as, say, a plumber or an artist, they lack the skills to earn a middle-class paycheck in today's economy."

(Source: Murnane and Levy 1996, p. 35)