

# How Do Students in Colorado Rural Schools Perform on NAEP?<sup>1</sup>

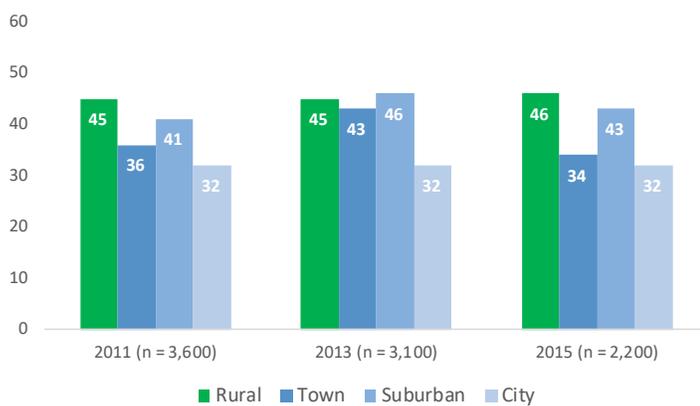
The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest assessment of student academic progress over time in mathematics, reading, and other subject areas in the United States. While NAEP is not aligned to state content standards, the assessment does not change much from year to year, which allows educators and policymakers to track student performance over time.



## Grade 4



The percentages of rural grade 4 students who scored at or above the NAEP proficient level in reading were higher than those of grade 4 students in all other locales in 2011 and 2015.<sup>2</sup>



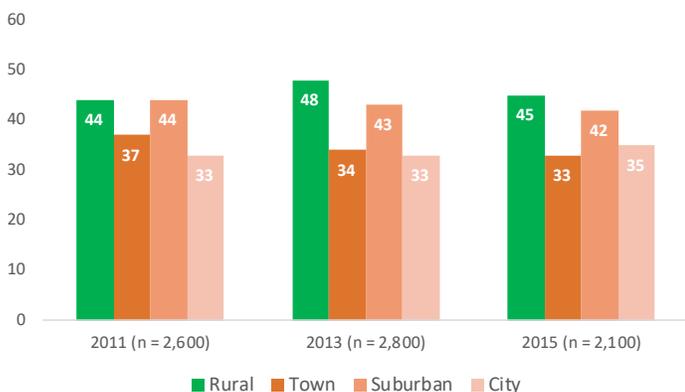
In 2011, 2013, and 2015, the percentages of grade 4 students who scored at or above the NAEP proficient level in mathematics were higher in rural locales than in all other locales.<sup>2</sup>



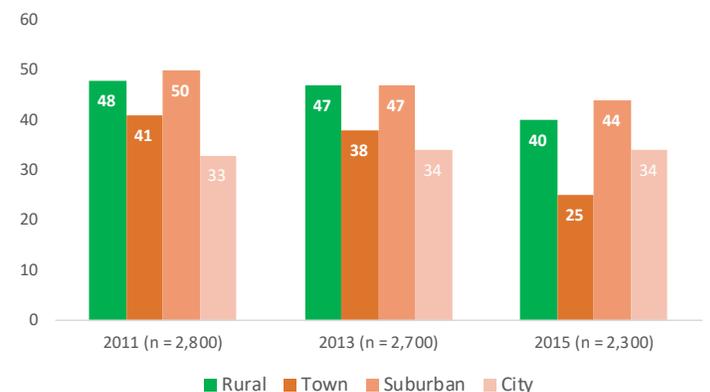
## Grade 8



The percentages of rural grade 8 students who scored at or above the NAEP proficient level in reading were higher than those of grade 8 students in all other locales in 2013 and 2015.<sup>2</sup>



In 2011, 2013, and 2015, the percentages of grade 8 students who scored at or above the NAEP proficient level in mathematics were higher in rural locales than in towns and cities.<sup>2</sup>



# What Percentage of Colorado Students Are in Rural Schools?<sup>3</sup>

Rural/  
13%



13% of Colorado students learn in **Rural** locales, such as **Bennett School District No. 29J** and **Agate School District No. 300**, that lie outside urbanized areas (densely settled communities surrounding principal cities) and urban clusters (densely settled areas with populations between 2,500 and 50,000).

Town  
9%



9% of Colorado students learn in **Town** locales, such as **Durango School District No. 9-R** and **East Otero School District R1**, inside urban clusters but outside urbanized areas.

Suburban  
39%



39% of Colorado students learn in **Suburban** locales, such as **Westminster Public Schools** and **Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8**, that lie outside principal cities but inside urbanized areas with populations of at least 50,000.

City  
38%



38% of Colorado students learn in **City** locales, such as **Denver Public Schools** and **Colorado Springs, School District 11**, with populations of at least 50,000.



<sup>1</sup> NAEP proficiency percentages in this profile were calculated from the NAEP Data Explorer for 2011, 2013 and 2015 for the types of communities in which schools are located. The national schedule for NAEP administration did not include 2012 or 2014 since reading and mathematics testing occurs every other year. In 2011, 2013, and 2015, only grades 4 and 8 were tested in these areas.

<sup>2</sup> The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) does not report exact sample sizes. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundredth.

<sup>3</sup> Percentages of students residing in each locale were calculated from Table 4: Number of city, suburban, town, and rural regular public elementary and secondary schools with membership and percentage distribution of students in membership, by state or jurisdiction: School year 2014–15, in *Selected Statistics From the Public Elementary and Secondary Education Universe: School Year 2014–15*, by NCES.