

Preliminary Analysis of D.C. Public Schools  
Reading and Math Scores  
By the  
Council of the Great City Schools



July 30, 2013

## Highlights of Preliminary Analysis of D.C. Schools Reading and Math Scores

By the  
Council of the Great City Schools

### Highlights of Findings

- The D.C. Public Schools showed substantial gains in reading and math scores on state tests between 2011-12 and 2012-13. The magnitude of the gains suggests an acceleration of district improvement over previous years.
- The D.C. Public Schools have also shown important gains in reading and math on state tests since 2006-07.
- Gains in the percentage of students reading at proficient levels or above in the D.C. Public Schools between 2011-12 and 2012-13 were substantial in all grades.
- Gains in the percentage of students scoring in math at the proficient levels or above in the D.C. Public Schools between 2011-12 and 2012-13 were substantial in all grades.
- The gains in reading on the state test were consistent with progress in reading that the D.C. Public Schools showed on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) between 2007 and 2011. (The 2013 results will be released later this calendar year.)
- The gains in math on the state test were consistent with progress in math that the D.C. Public Schools showed on the NAEP between 2007 and 2011.
- The D.C. Public Schools also saw substantial decreases in the percentages of students who scored below basic in reading on the DC-CAS. These results are consistent with NAEP (except in 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading).
- The D.C. Public schools also saw substantial decreases in the percentages of students who scored below basic in math on the DC-CAS. These results are consistent with NAEP trends.
- Between 2007-08 and 2011-12 (the period on which there are state data on other cities), DCPS increased the percent of fourth graders reading at or above proficient on the state test at about the same level as a set of nearby comparison districts, but DCPS showed a larger three percentage point gain between 2011-12 and 2012-13. (Data on comparison districts are not available for 2012-13.)
- Between 2011-12 and 2012-13, DCPS increased the percent of eighth-grade students reading at or above proficient on the state test by a larger amount than in previous years.
- Between 2007-08 and 2012-13, DCPS increased the percent of fourth graders scoring at or above proficient on the state math test by five points—the same amount as the increase between 2011-12 and 2012-12 alone, compared with relatively little change between 2007-08 and 2011-12 on the aggregate state test results among the comparison districts.
- Between 2007-08 and 2011-12, DCPS increased the percent of students scoring at or above proficient on the state math test by 16 points—and another seven point increase between 2011-12 and 2012-13, compared with a seven point gain between 2007-08 and 2011-12 among the comparison districts on their aggregate state test results.
- Gains in reading in DCPS were similar to or greater than reading gains seen nationally and among large city schools generally on NAEP between 2007 and 2011.
- Gains in math in DCPS were greater than math gains seen nationally and among large city schools generally on NAEP between 2007 and 2011.
- The data clearly show that student performance in DCPS has increased substantially in 2012-13 and consistently over the last several years, compared with other districts, large cities, and the nation.

Preliminary Summary of Progress in D.C. Public Schools  
Percent Proficient or Above in Reading on State Test, 2006-07 to 2012-13

Grade	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Six-year change	Avg. change/year
3	43	50	50	43	41	41	44	+1	+0.2
4	37	46	48	46	45	48	51	+14	+2.3
5	36	45	47	46	46	46	52	+16	+2.7
6	41	42	51	41	40	38	40	-1	-0.2
7	26	37	37	44	44	43	53	+27	+4.5
8	26	36	40	42	43	43	48	+22	+3.7
									+2.2

Percent Below Basic in Reading on State Test, 2006-07 to 2012-13

Grade	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Six-year change	Avg. change/year
3	18	15	14	24	23	23	23	+5	+0.8
4	20	13	16	19	20	18	14	-6	-1.0
5	18	14	13	16	17	17	13	-5	-0.8
6	20	17	13	19	20	21	24	+4	+0.7
7	24	16	17	15	15	16	10	-14	-2.3
8	30	19	18	17	18	19	16	-14	-2.3

Percent Proficient or Above in Math on State Test, 2006-07 to 2006-07 to 2012-13

Grade	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Six-year change	Avg. change/year
3	30	39	47	39	38	39	43	+13	+2.2
4	34	46	53	47	47	51	56	+22	+3.7
5	27	40	46	46	43	46	49	+22	+3.7
6	29	37	42	40	42	44	47	+18	+3.0
7	24	35	42	45	49	51	53	+29	+4.8
8	26	34	38	43	51	50	57	+31	+5.2
									+3.8

Percent Below Basic in Math on State Test, 2006-07 to 2012-13

Grade	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	Six-year change	Avg. change/year
3	26	22	18	23	24	23	21	-5	-0.8
4	28	19	16	19	20	17	17	-11	-1.8
5	33	25	18	18	20	20	16	-17	-2.8
6	29	24	22	22	19	20	20	-9	-1.5
7	40	30	23	24	19	18	17	-23	-3.8
8	37	29	26	23	18	18	14	-23	-3.8

Percentage-Point Gains in Students who are Proficient or Above on NAEP Reading Tests in Grade 4

City School District	Average yearly percentage-point gain from 2006-07 to 2010-11
National Gain	0
Large City Average Gain	+1.0
Atlanta	+3.0
Baltimore	-0.5*
Boston	+3.0
Cleveland	-0.5
DCPS	+3.0

\* Change from 2008-09 to 2010-11

Percentage-Point Gains in Students who are Proficient or Above on NAEP Reading Tests in Grade 8

City School District	Average yearly percentage-point gain from 2006-07 to 2010-11
National Gain	+1.5
Large City Average Gain	+1.5
Atlanta	+2.0
Baltimore	+1.0*
Boston	+1.0
Cleveland	0
DCPS	+1.5

\* Change from 2008-09 to 2010-11

Percentage-Point Gains in Students who are Proficient or Above on NAEP Math Tests in Grade 4

City School District	Average yearly percentage-point gain from 2006-07 to 2010-11
National Gain	+0.5
Large City Average Gain	+1.0
Atlanta	+2.5
Baltimore	+2.0*
Boston	+3.0
Cleveland	+0.5
DCPS	+4.5

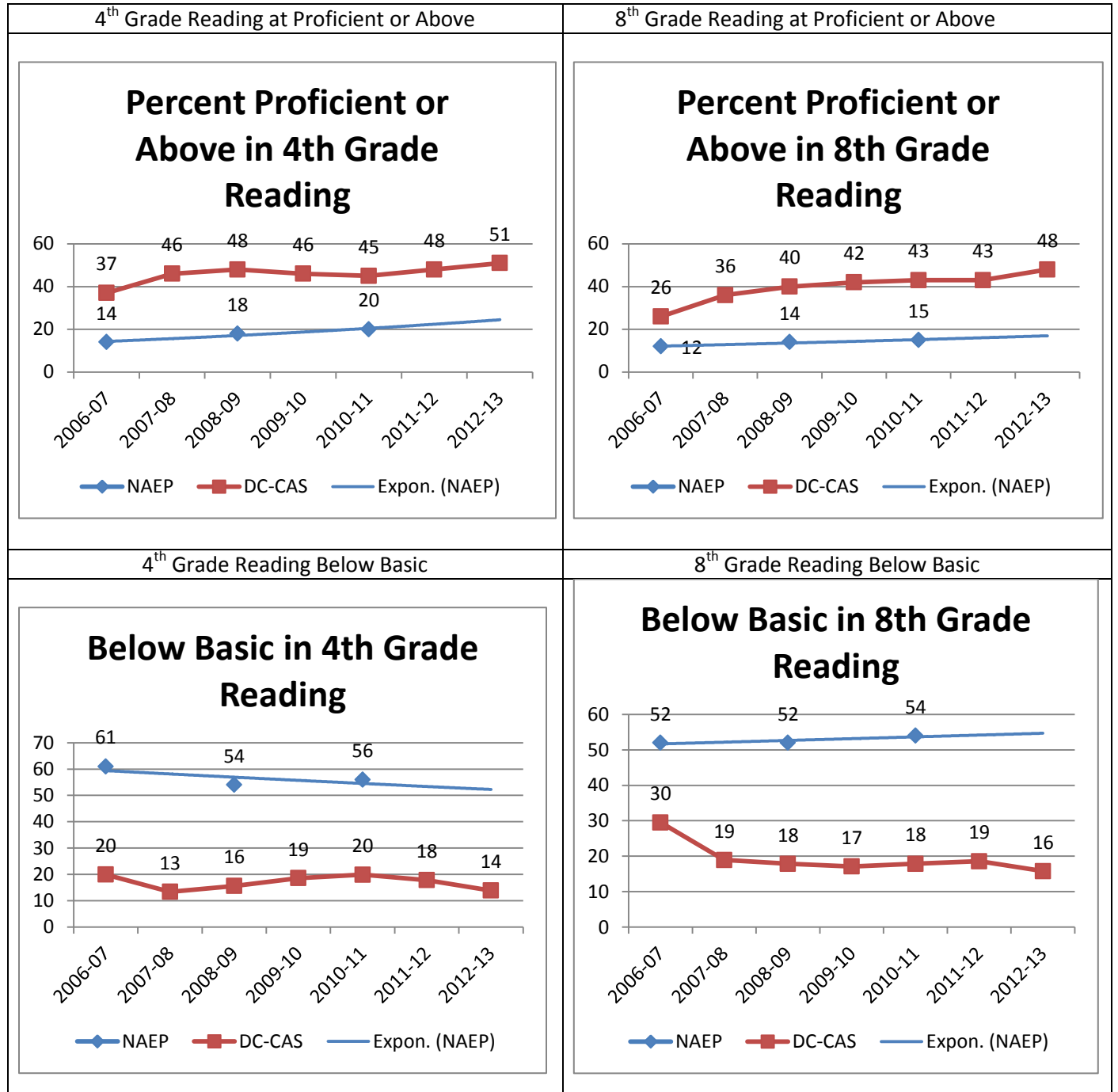
\* Change from 2008-09 to 2010-11

Percentage-Point Gains in Students who are Proficient or Above on NAEP Math Tests in Grade 8

City School District	Average yearly percentage-point gain from 2006-07 to 2010-11
National Gain	+1.5
Large City Average Gain	+2.0
Atlanta	+2.5
Baltimore	+1.5*
Boston	+3.5
Cleveland	+1.5
DCPS	+3.5

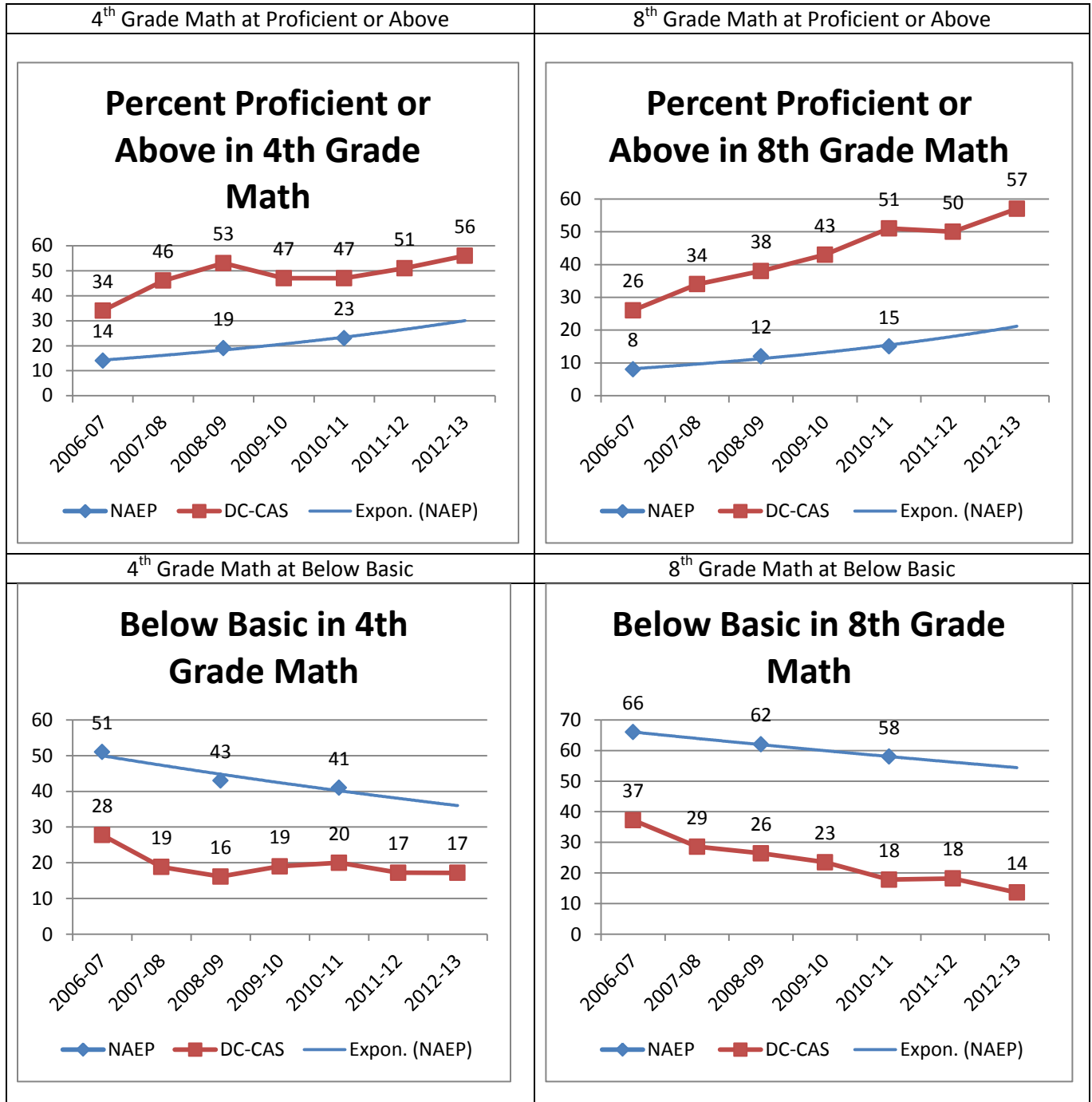
\* Change from 2008-09 to 2010-11

Percent Proficient and Above or Below Basic on NAEP Fourth and Eighth Grade Reading and DC-CAS Fourth and Eighth Grade Reading



The DCPS has substantially increased the percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency in reading on both NAEP and DC-CAS while decreasing the percentages of students scoring below basic levels.

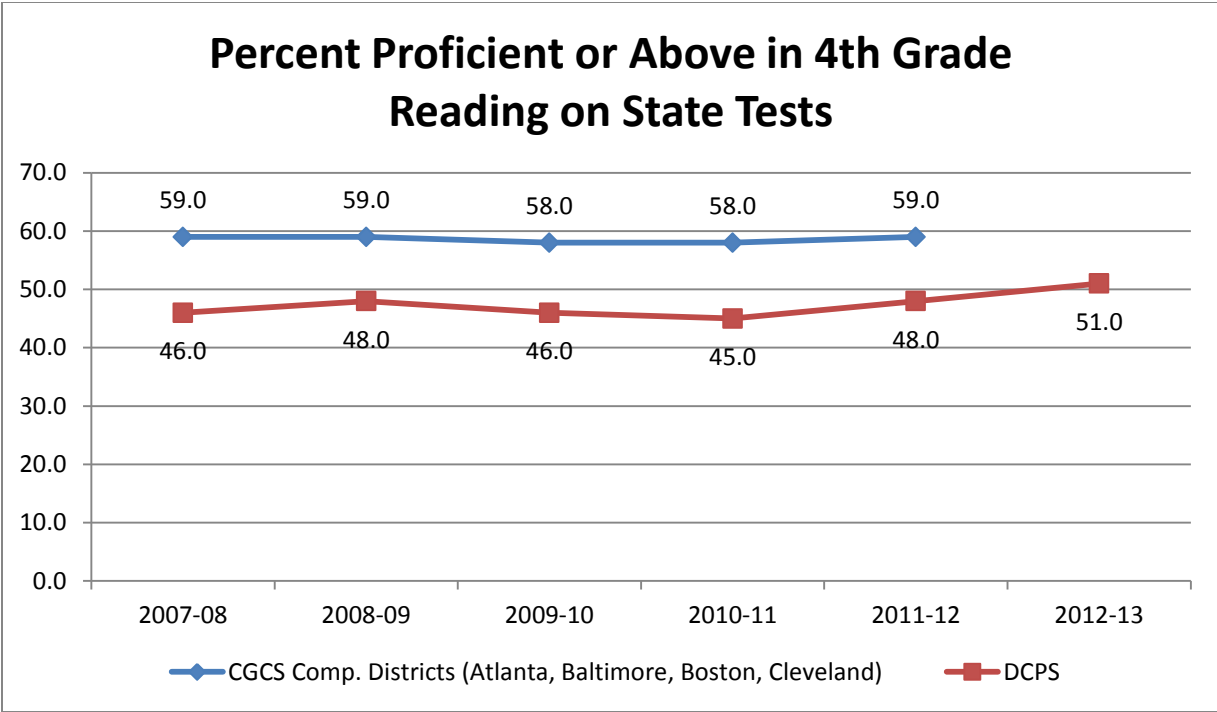
Percent Proficient and Above or Below Basic on NAEP Fourth and Eighth Grade Math and DC-CAS Fourth and Eighth Grade Math



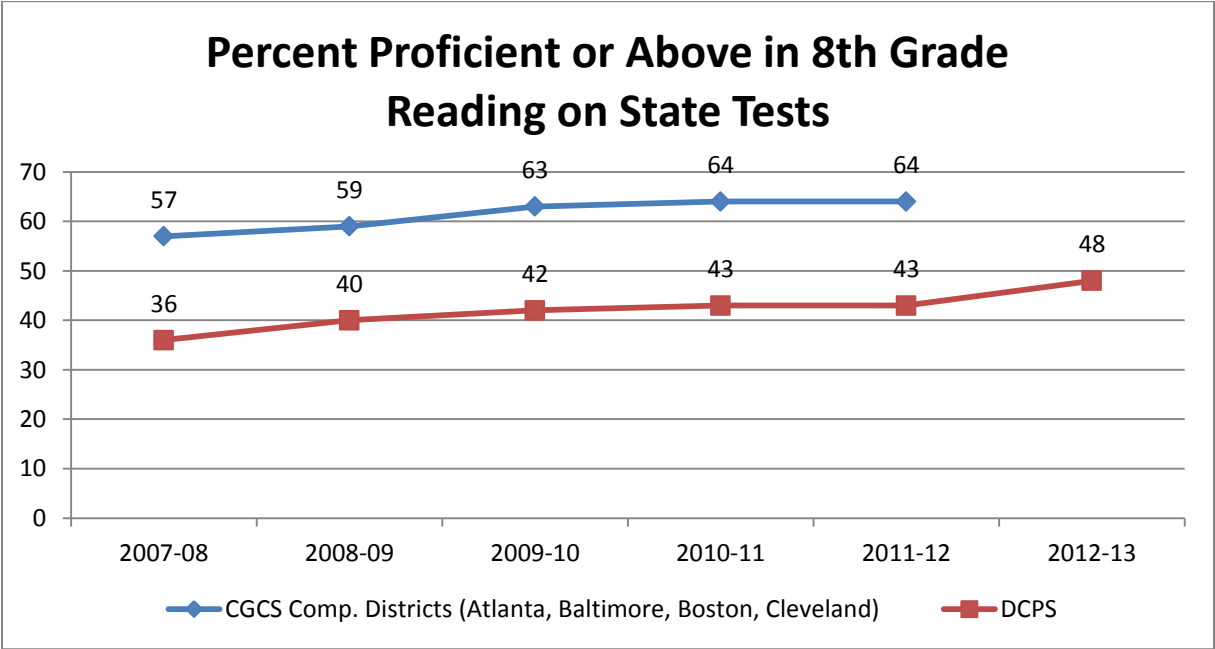
The DCPS has substantially increased the percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency in math on both NAEP and DC-CAS while decreasing the percentages of students scoring below basic levels.

Demographic Characteristics of Similar-Size, Nearby Comparison City School Districts that Participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment of NAEP

City School District	Students	Free & Reduced Lunch	Asian	Hispanic	Black	White	Students with Disabilities	English Language Learners
Atlanta	48,909	37,916	390	2,618	39,659	5,459	4,287	1,475
Baltimore	82,866	69,263	754	2,584	72,783	6,492	13,938	1,810
Boston	55,371	41,850	4,747	21,940	20,192	7,236	11,210	6,599
Cleveland	48,392	28,771	293	5,855	33,442	7,212	9,517	2,466
DCPS	43,652	30,549	941	5,860	32,940	3,881	8,516	4,203

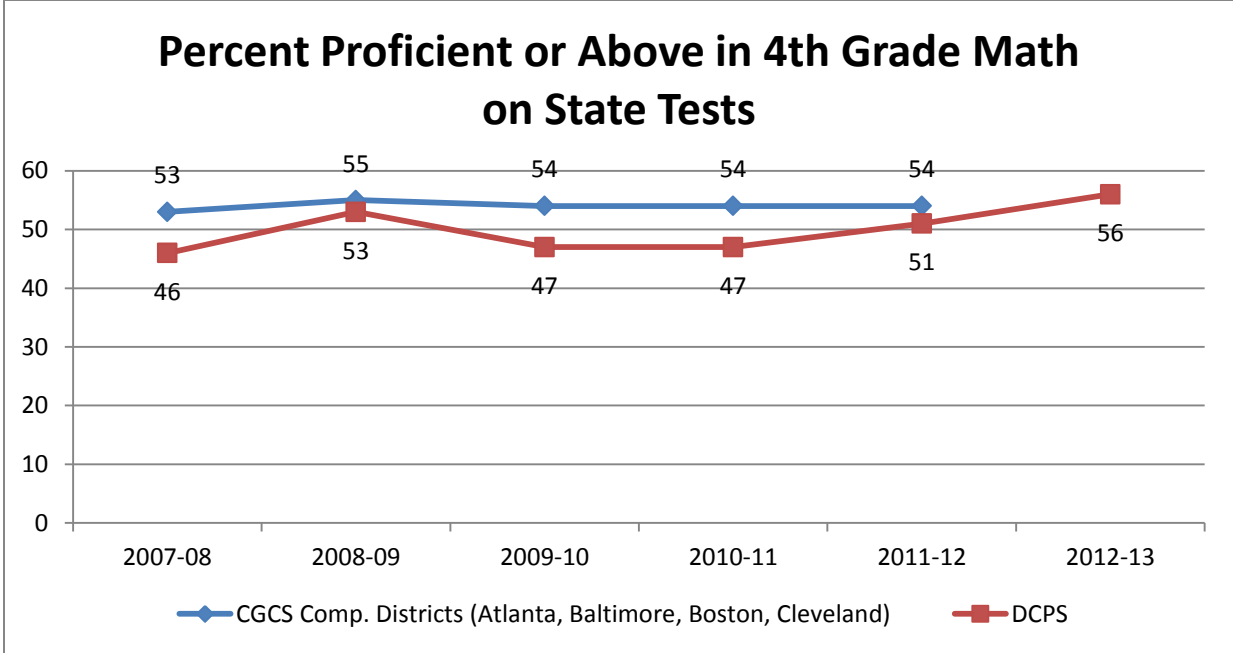


Between 2007-08 and 2012-13, DCPS increased the percent of students reading at or above proficient on the state test, compared with no change between 2007-08 and 2011-12 on the aggregate state test results among the comparison districts. The increase in DC’s performance between 2011-12 and 2012-13 resulted in the highest overall performance of the previous six years. (Data on comparison districts are not available for 2012-13.)

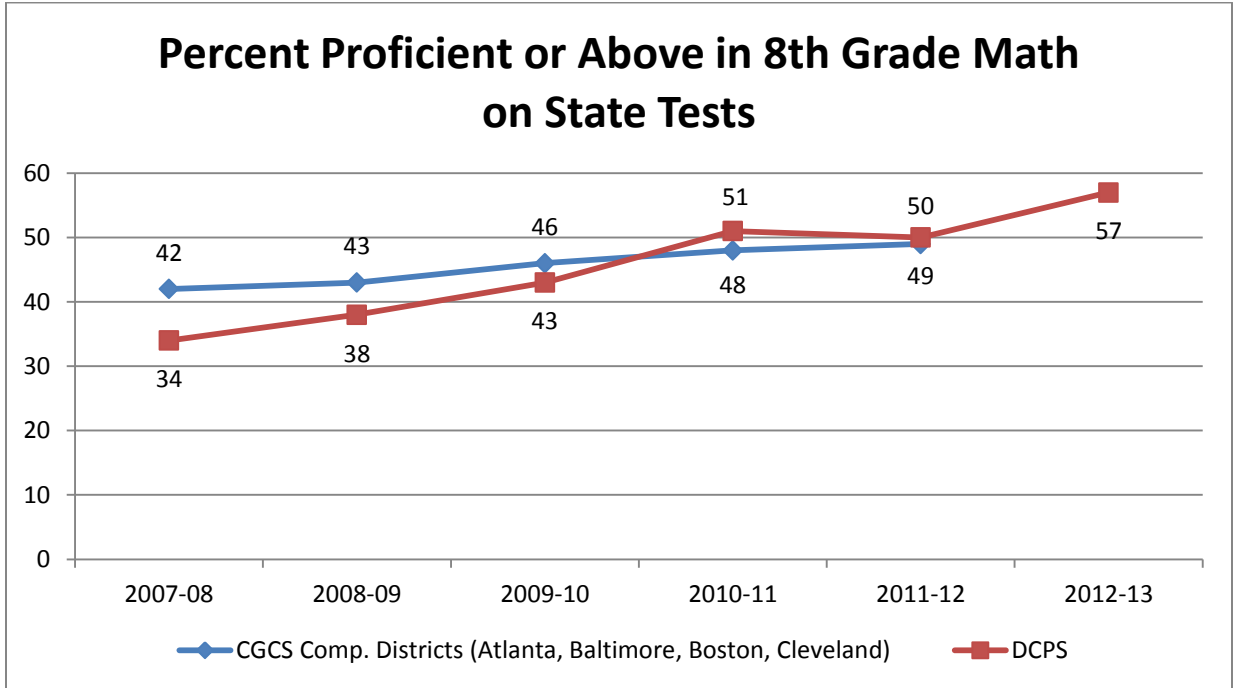


Between 2011-12 and 2012-13, DCPS increased the percent of students reading at or above proficient on the state test by a larger amount than in all previous years, resulting in the highest overall performance of the last six years. (Data on comparison districts are not available for 2012-13.)





Between 2007-08 and 2012-13, DCPS increased the percent of students scoring at or above proficient on the state math test by five points—the same amount as the increase between 2011-12 and 2012-13 alone, compared with relatively no change between 2007-08 and 2011-12 on the aggregate state test results among the comparison districts. (Data on comparison districts are not available for 2012-13.)



Between 2007-08 and 2011-12, DCPS increased the percent of students scoring at or above proficient on the state math test by 16 points—and another seven point increase between 2011-12 and 2012-13, compared with a seven point gain between 2007-08 and 2011-12 among the comparison districts on the aggregate state test results. (Data on comparison districts are not available for 2012-13.)

Comparison of Percent Proficient or Above in Reading on State Tests among Similar-size, Nearby City School Districts that Participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment of NAEP, 2007-08 to 2011-12<sup>1</sup>

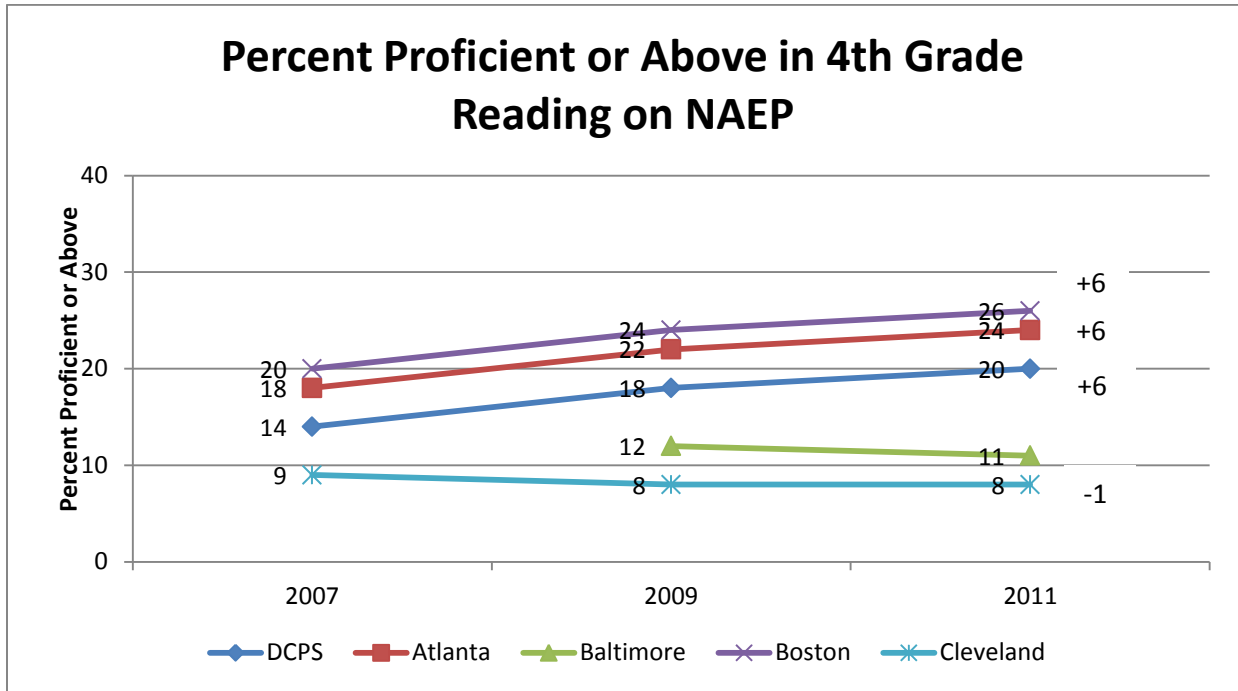
District	Grade	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Change	Avg. change/year
Atlanta	3	91	90	89	90			
	4	86	86	81	81	83	-3	-0.8
	5	92	92	89	90			
	6	86	85	85	91	92	+6	+1.5
	7	82	82	82	84	90	+8	+2.0
	8	87	92	92	94	94		
								+0.9
Baltimore	3	73	77	74	69	66	-7	-1.8
	4	81	78	76	73	76	-5	-1.3
	5	76	82	81	76	76	0	0
	6	66	68	74	66	65	-1	-0.3
	7	61	66	67	67	62	+1	+0.3
	8	49	62	62	61	59	+10	+2.5
								-0.1
Boston	3	29	31	37	36	35	+6	+1.5
	4	25	30	30	29	30	+5	+1.3
	5	37	38	40	43	38	+1	+0.3
	6	43	43	44	41	38	-5	-1.3
	7	48	48	52	54	50	+2	+0.5
	8	57	59	58	60	63	+6	+1.5
								+0.6
Cleveland	3	53	52	55	55	57	+4	+1.0
	4	56	54	57	60	58	+2	+0.5
	5	39	38	40	43	47	+8	+2.0
	6	55	54	63	64	64	+9	+2.3
	7	50	48	59	50	49	-1	-0.3
	8	58	44	61	65	59	+1	+0.3
								+1.0
DCPS	3	50	50	43	41	41	-9	-2.3
	4	46	48	46	45	48	+2	+0.5
	5	45	47	46	46	46	+1	+0.3
	6	42	51	41	40	38	-4	-1.0
	7	37	37	44	44	43	+6	+1.5
	8	36	40	42	43	43	+7	+1.8
								+0.1

<sup>1</sup> Comparable year-to-year data were not available for 2006-07 and new data were not available on other districts for 2012-13.

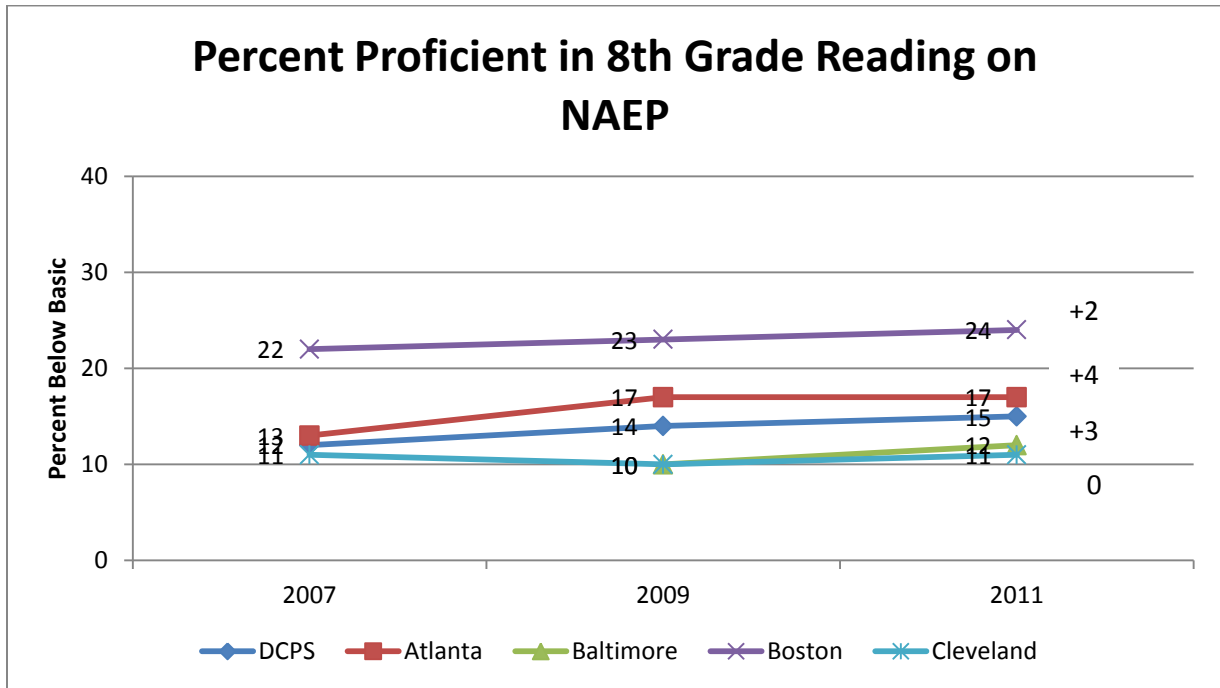
Comparison of Percent Proficient or Above in Math on State Tests among Similar-size, Nearby City School Districts that Participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment of NAEP, 2007-08 to 2011-12<sup>2</sup>

District	Grade	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	Change	Avg. change/year
Atlanta	3	68	73	65	70	68	0	0
	4	68	71	64	68	67	-1	-0.3
	5	84	86	80	86			
	6	58	65	62	62	65	+7	+1.8
	7	70	75	76	80	82	+8	+2.0
	8	69	77	75	78	71	+2	+0.5
								+0.8
Baltimore	3	72	78	80	73	74	+2	+0.5
	4	80	83	84	79	80	0	0
	5	67	76	74	65	70	+3	+0.8
	6	51	58	65	62	64	+13	+3.3
	7	34	44	51	49	50	+16	+4.0
	8	28	39	39	35	40	+12	+3.0
								+1.9
Boston	3	36	33	42	41	38	+2	+0.5
	4	30	27	28	29	29	-1	-0.3
	5	33	33	39	41	39	+6	+1.5
	6	32	33	38	36	44	+12	+3.0
	7	28	28	37	33	34	+6	+1.5
	8	34	28	34	34	35	+1	+0.3
								+1.1
Cleveland	3	46	55	51	58	55	+9	+2.3
	4	43	43	46	49	46	+3	+0.8
	5	26	25	29	31	28	+2	+0.5
	6	41	38	45	47	45	+4	+1.0
	7	34	43	39	46	37	+3	+0.8
	8	46	35	41	45	50	+4	+1.0
								+1.1
DCPS	3	39	47	39	38	39	0	0
	4	46	53	47	47	51	+5	+1.3
	5	40	46	46	43	46	+6	+1.5
	6	37	42	40	42	44	+7	+1.8
	7	35	42	45	49	51	+16	+4.0
	8	34	38	43	51	50	+16	+4.0
								+2.1

<sup>2</sup> Comparable year-to-year data were not available for 2006-07 and new data were not available on other districts for 2012-13.

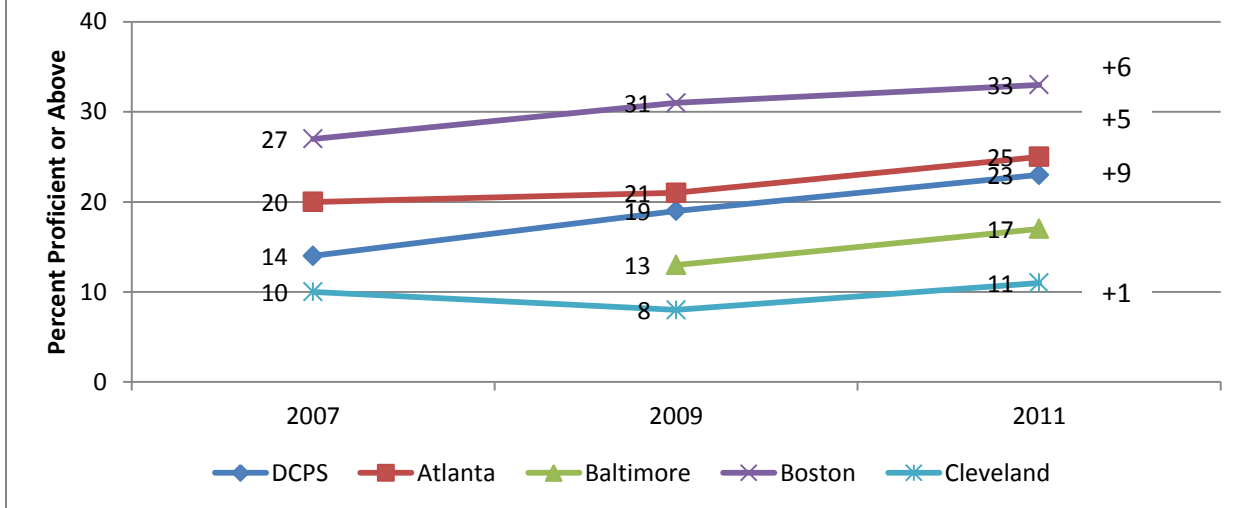


Between 2007 and 2011, DCPS increased the percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> graders scoring proficient or above on NAEP reading by six points, compared with six points in Atlanta, six in Boston, and a one point decrease in Cleveland.



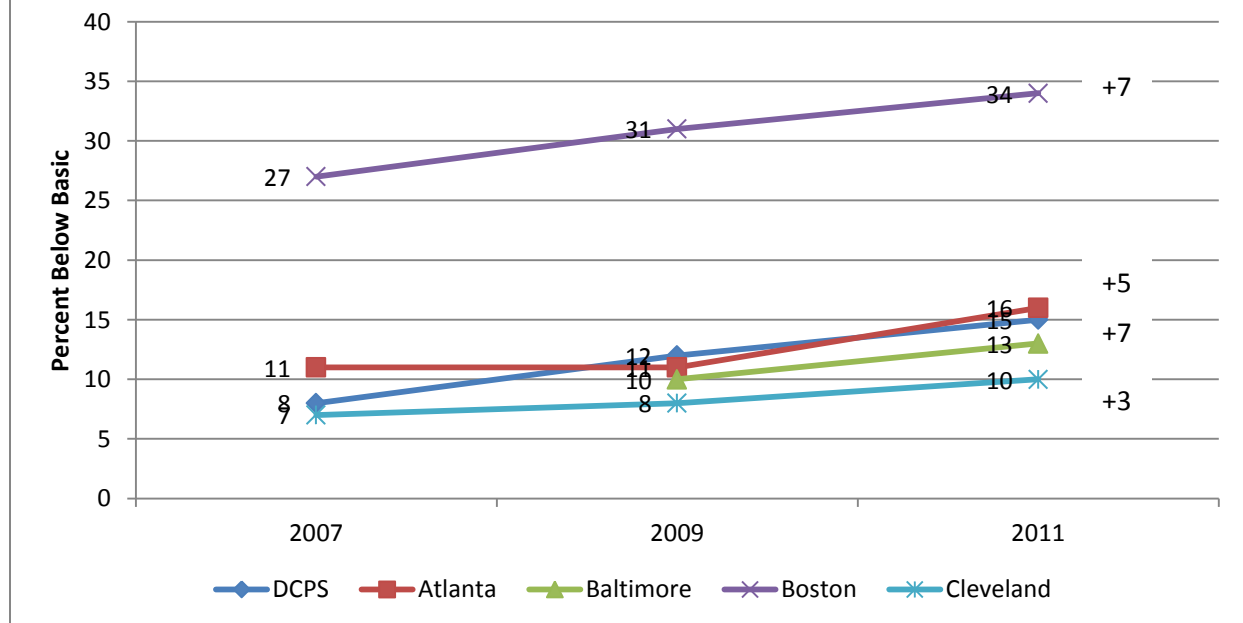
Between 2007 and 2011, DCPS increased the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders scoring proficient or above on NAEP reading by three points, compared with four points in Atlanta, two in Boston, and none in Cleveland.

## Percent Proficient or Above in 4th Grade Math on NAEP



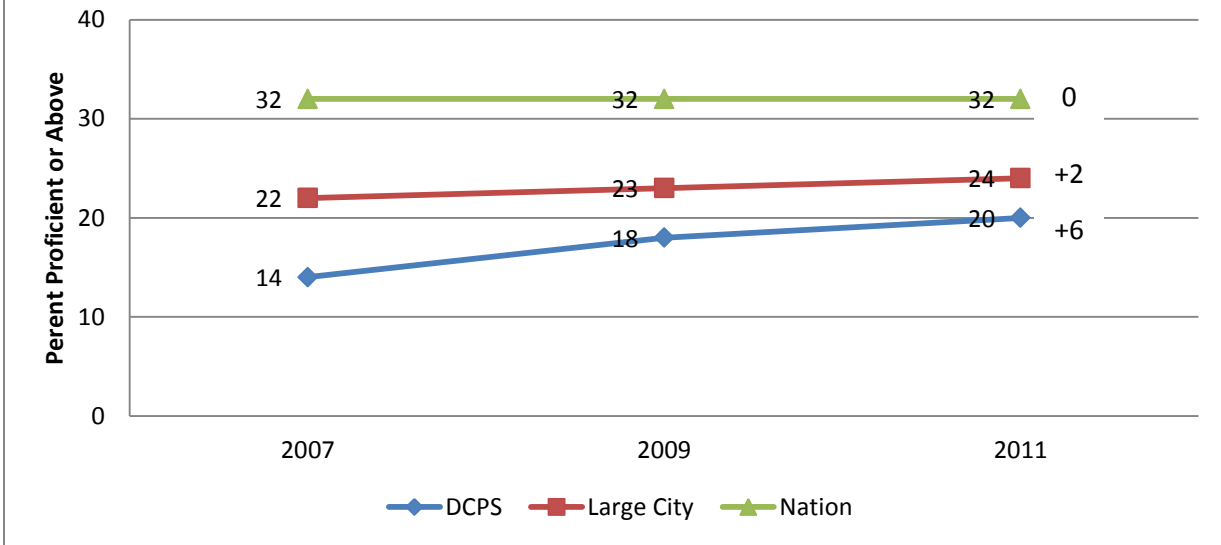
Between 2007 and 2011, DCPS increased the percentage of 4<sup>th</sup> graders scoring proficient or above on NAEP math by nine points, compared with five points in Atlanta, six in Boston, and one point in Cleveland.

## Percent Proficient in 8th Grade Math on NAEP



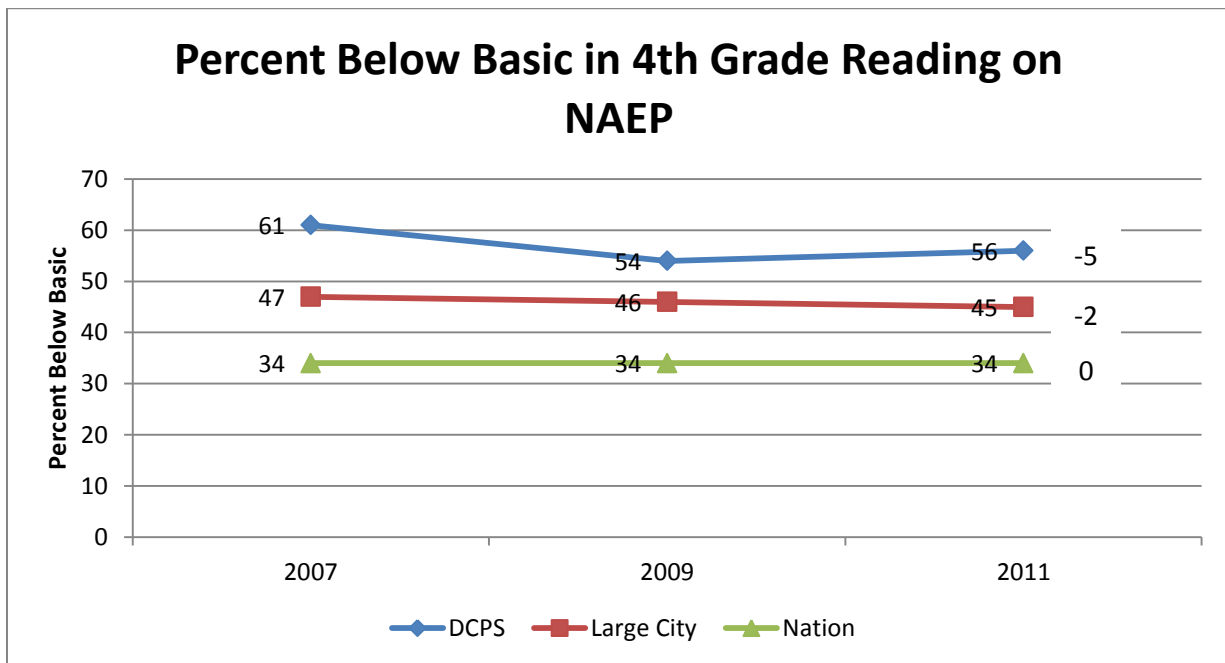
Between 2007 and 2011, DCPS increased the percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders scoring proficient or above on NAEP math by seven points, compared with five points in Atlanta, seven in Boston, and three in Cleveland.

## Percent Proficient or Above in 4th Grade Reading on NAEP

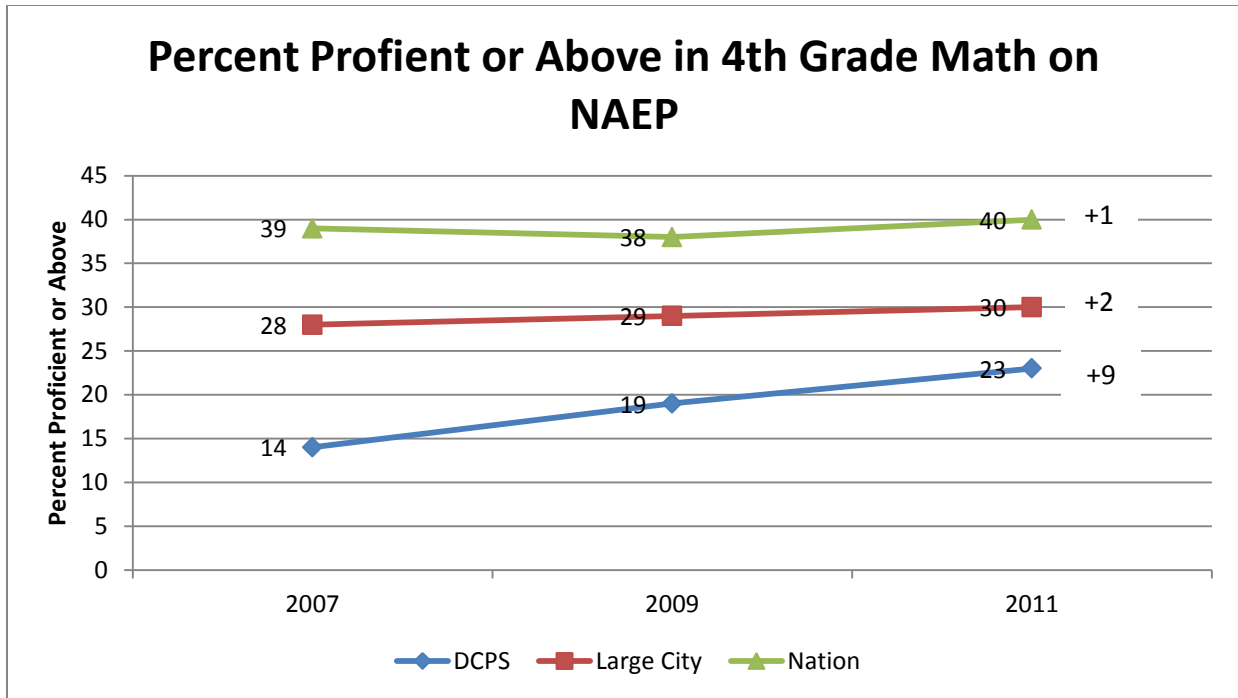


The DCPS increased its percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency on 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading by six points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average gain of two points among large cities and no change nationally.

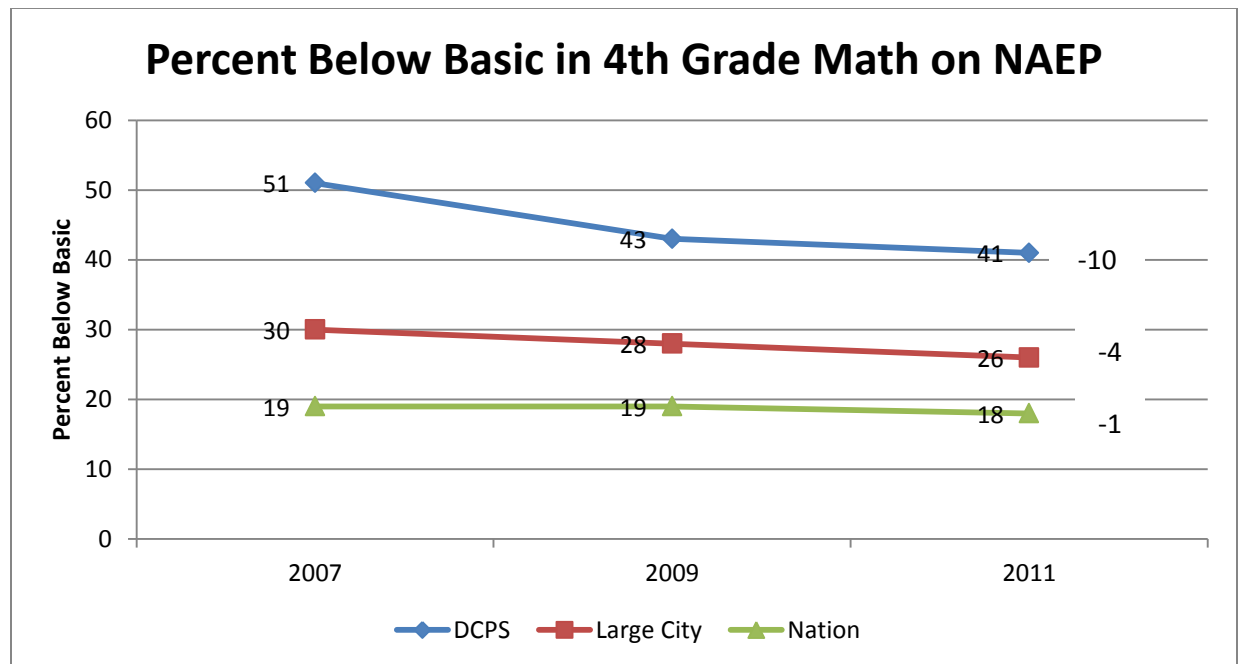
## Percent Below Basic in 4th Grade Reading on NAEP



The DCPS decreased its percentage of students scoring below basic level on 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading by five points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average drop of two points among large cities and no change nationally.

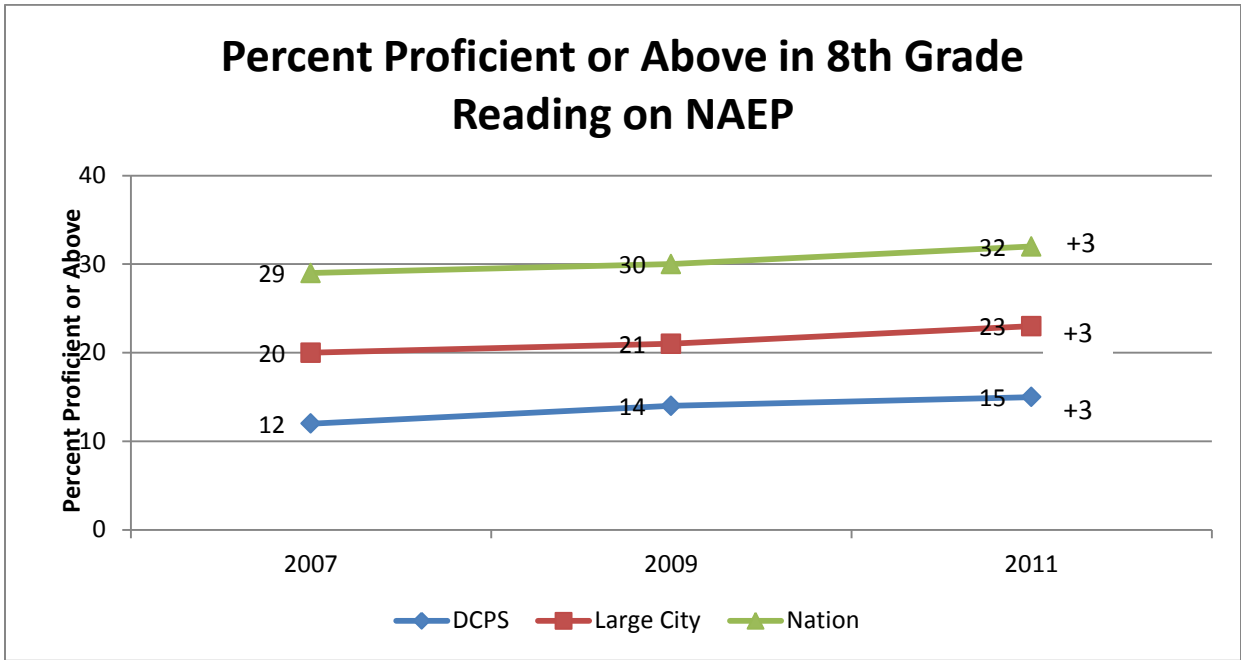


The DCPS increased its percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency on 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP math by nine points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average gain of two points among large cities and one point nationally.



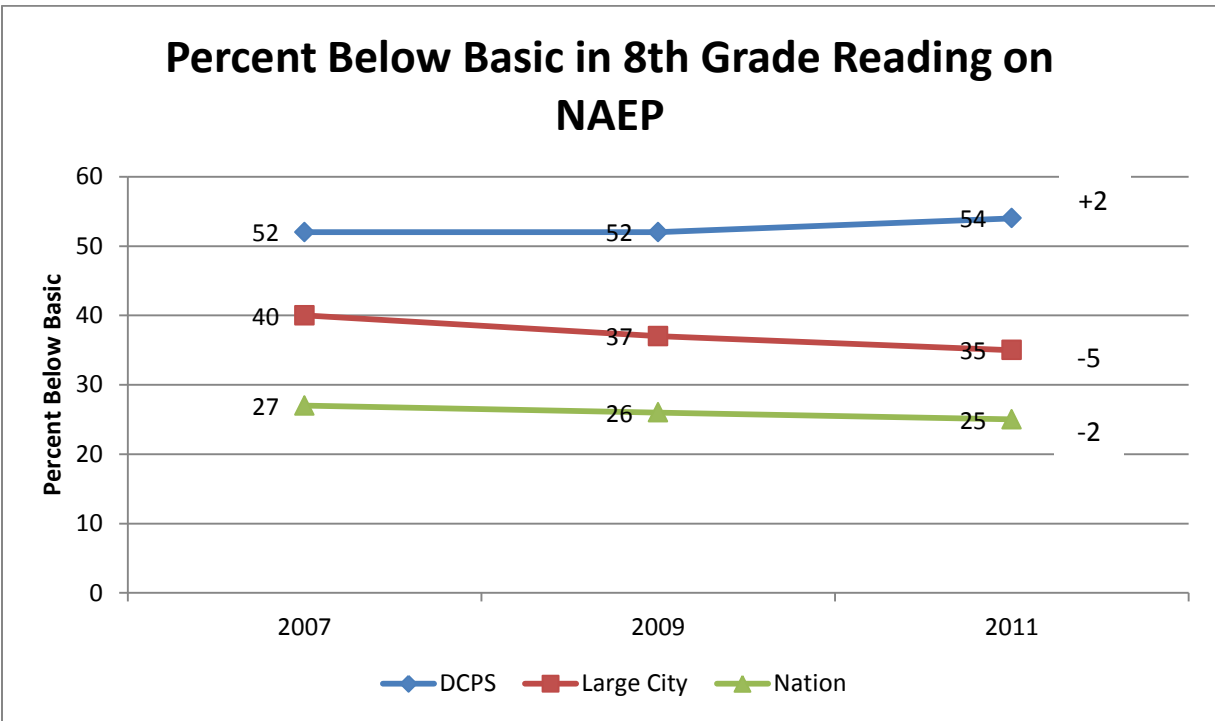
The DCPS decreased its percentage of students scoring below basic level on 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP math by ten points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average drop of four points among large cities and a one point decrease nationally.

## Percent Proficient or Above in 8th Grade Reading on NAEP



The DCPS increased its percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency on 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading by three points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average gain of three points among large cities and three points nationally.

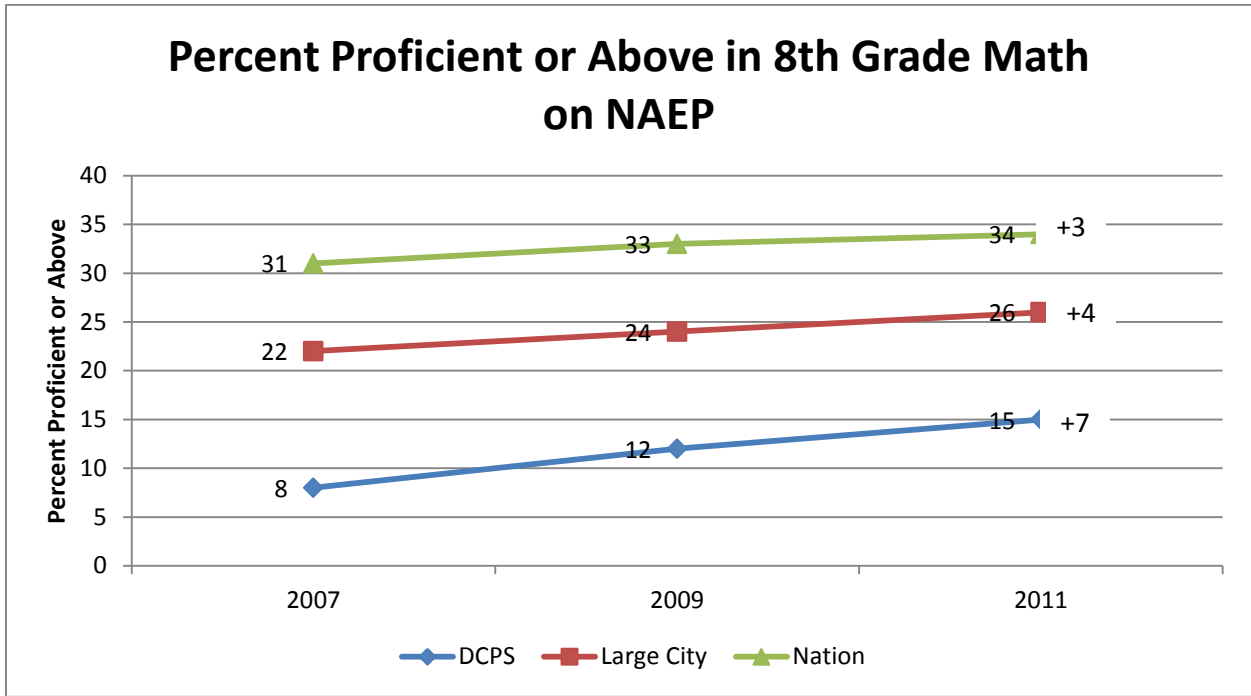
## Percent Below Basic in 8th Grade Reading on NAEP



The DCPS increased its percentage of students scoring below basic level on 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP math by two points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average drop of five points among large cities and two points nationally.

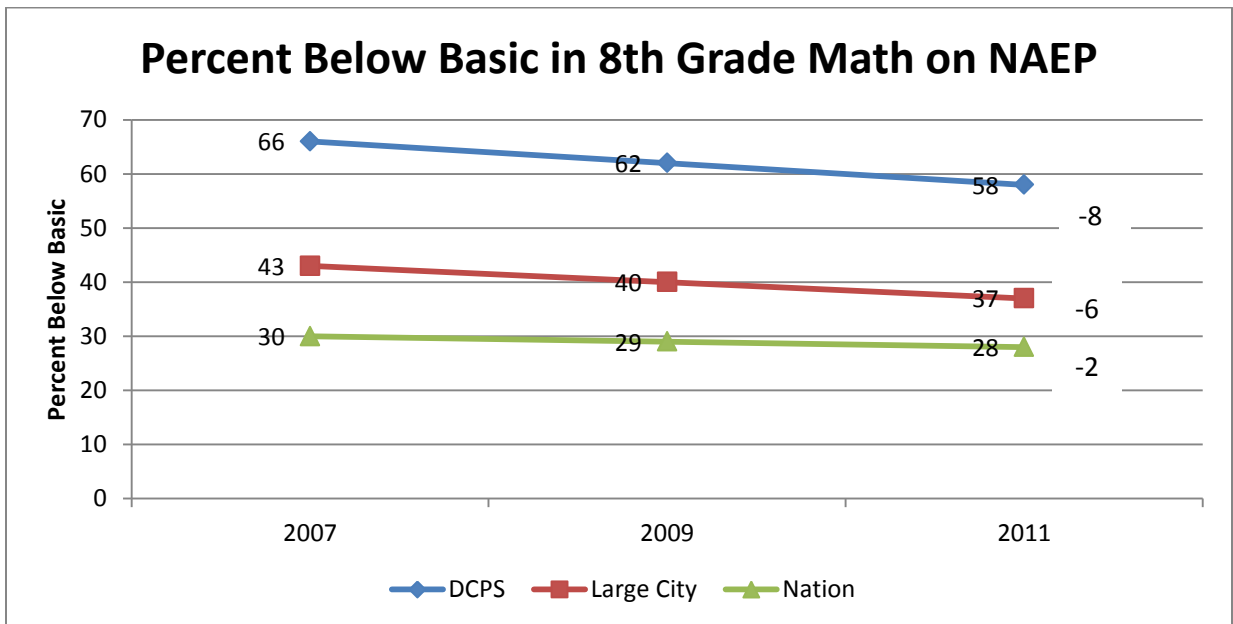


## Percent Proficient or Above in 8th Grade Math on NAEP



The DCPS increased its percentage of students scoring at or above proficiency on 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP math by seven points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average gain of four points among large cities and three points nationally.

## Percent Below Basic in 8th Grade Math on NAEP



The DCPS decreased its percentage of students scoring below the basic level on 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP math by eight points between 2007 and 2011, compared with an average drop of six points among large cities and two points nationally.