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San Diego Unified scored among the highest-performing urban districts nationwide, Nation's Report Card shows

Nation's Report Card shows that San Diego Unified outperformed California in reading, mathematics

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Published: 5:21 PM PST January 29, 2025

SAN DIEGO — A recent Nation's Report Card overseen by the U.S. Department of Education revealed that San Diego Unified School District, the second largest school district in California, scored among the highest-performing urban districts nationwide.

The report from the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress showed that the district's fourth grade math scores improved since the last evaluation in 2022, a press release from the district said. Unlike the declining reading scores nationwide, the eighth grade math scores and reading scores for the fourth and eighth grades remained largely unchanged.

San Diego Unified fourth graders went from 34% NAEP-proficient in 2022 to 41% in 2024, the press release said. "In reading, they went from 37% to 39% NAEP-proficient. For the eighth grade students, NAEP proficiency rates changed from 28% to 31%. In reading, the scores rose from 34% to 37%.

According to Raymond C. Hart, the Executive Director of the Council of the Great City Schools, the district's gains in fourth grade math from 2022-24 were greater than the gains made by California.

"San Diego Unified School District continues to be a top performer in all tested areas on NAEP, leading all large cities that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment program in both fourth and eighth grade reading performance nationally," Hart said in the press release.

Hart also said San Diego Unified had the second-highest eighth grade math scores and the sixth highest fourth grade math scores among the Urban District Assessments.

"These results illustrate the hard work being put in by students each day, and the support they're getting from our district and their families," Fabi Bagula, San Diego

Unified School District interim superintendent said. "Our educators do incredible work every day for our students. Their unwavering dedication, expertise, and compassion form the foundation of our shared success ... I couldn't be prouder of progress we have made as a team, but there is more work to be done."