



San Diego Unified students outscored districts in most large U.S. cities

by: [Rhea Caoile](#)

Posted: Jan 31, 2025 / 10:28 AM PST

SAN DIEGO (FOX 5/KUSI) — Students from the San Diego Unified School District outperformed other 4th and 8th grade students across the nation in several categories last year, according to recently released data from the U.S. Department of Education.

The report, largely referred to as the [nation's "report card,"](#) showed the district's scores in 4th grade mathematics for 2024 significantly improved since the previous assessment conducted in 2022. Meanwhile, 8th grade math scores, as well as reading scores for 4th and 8th grades, remained about the same since the last evaluation.

Still, the scores for both 4th and 8th grades in San Diego Unified's schools were higher than those for students in other districts across the country, according to the report.

Fourth graders scored an average of 239 in math last year, an improvement of seven points from 2022. This was higher than the average score of 231 for students in other large U.S. cities.

They had a modest improvement in reading scores from 222 in 2022 to 223 last year, but it was still 15 points higher than the nation's average.

Eighth graders, on the other hand, saw their average math score rise from 274 in 2022 to 275 last year, which was nine points higher than the average score in other large cities, data showed.

Although their reading score decreased by a point, from 264 in 2022 to 263 last year, eighth graders in San Diego Unified performed better than other districts nationwide. The average reading score for students in large cities nationwide was 252 last year.

“San Diego Unified School District continues to be a top performer in all tested areas on the [National Assessment of Educational Progress], leading all large cities that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessment program in both fourth and eighth grade reading performance nationally,” said Raymond Hart, the executive director of the Council of the Great City Schools, in a [news release](#) Wednesday.

He added the district’s improved scores in 4th grade math, as well as the scale score, were greater than those seen across California as a whole.

“I couldn’t be prouder of progress we have made as a team, but there is more work to be done,” commented Fabi Bagula, interim superintendent of San Diego Unified.