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**NAEP Math Scores for Nation, Oklahoma Steady;
 More Gains Expected to Come from Recent State Reforms**

OKLAHOMA CITY – The nation and Oklahoma saw little change from 2007 to 2009 in overall National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math scores, officials have announced. Progress is more pronounced for Oklahoma and the nation as compared to 2005. Moreover, the percentage of Oklahoma test-takers scoring Proficient and above has more than doubled at Grade 4 since 1992 and nearly doubled at Grade 8.

NAEP is administered every other year to a sample of students from each state (*a sample that represents the demographics of each individual state and thus differs for each state*) in Grades 4 and 8 in the areas of math, reading and science. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) coordinates NAEP administration and indicates it will release 2009 reading scores later this year and 2009 science scores in spring 2010.

NCES reports that for 2009 NAEP math:

- Oklahoma’s average scaled score at Grade 4 remained 237, which was slightly lower than the nation’s unchanged score of 239.
- Oklahoma’s Grade 8 score increased from 275 to 276 and the number of students scoring Proficient increased by 2 percent. The nation’s Grade 8 score was 282, compared to 280 in 2007. NCES indicates that because of standard error in the sampling, neither Oklahoma nor the nation’s increases at Grade 8 were statistically significant.

NAEP Average Scale Scores
 United States and Oklahoma Public Schools Only

Grade/Subj.	US 2009	OK 2009	Change since 2005
Gr. 4 Math	239	237	OK +3 US +2
Gr. 8 Math	282	276	OK +5 US +4

“Like most states across this nation, we didn’t see much movement in the overall scores for math. Yet significant reforms in K-8 math curriculum and state testing enacted this year should make a big impact the next time NAEP is administered,” said State Superintendent Sandy Garrett.

In June, the State Board of Education significantly raised the bar on the state’s grade 3-8 math and reading exams; the Board also adopted tougher math curriculum standards that were voluntary this year but mandatory by the 2010-2011 school year. The new standards introduce higher order math concepts earlier at lower grades and require more pre-algebra and geometry in middle grades.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
 Scale Scores (SS) are on a 0-500 results scale.
 SOURCE: The Nation’s Report Card, Mathematics 2009, National Assessment of Educational Progress, Grades 4 and 8, 2009.

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“While we have made tremendous improvement in the percentage of students scoring Proficient and above since the state began participating in NAEP, we want to do much better,” Garrett said. “Previously, state standards were aligned to what is considered satisfactory on the NAEP, which is Basic. However, this summer we toughened math expectations and are now closer aligned to what is considered mastery performance on the NAEP – Proficient.”



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In 2009, 49 percent of Oklahoma test-takers in Grade 4 math scored Basic; 30 percent scored Proficient and 3 percent scored Advanced - for a total of 82 percent above what is considered satisfactory on NAEP: Basic. "Below Basic" is the lowest performance level on NAEP. Nationally, 43 percent of Grade 4 test-takers scored Basic; 33 percent scored Proficient and 6 percent scored Advanced, which resulted in the same percentage being Basic and above for the nation as in Oklahoma: 82 percent.

At Grade 8, 44 percent of Oklahoma test-takers scored Basic, compared to 39 percent nationally; 20 percent scored Proficient, compared to 25 percent nationally; and 3 percent scored Advanced, compared to 7 percent nationally.

NAEP Average Scale Scores

Minority and Low-income Students

Grade/Subj.	US 2009	OK 2009	Change since 2005
Gr. 4 Math American Indian	227	234	OK +5 US +5
Gr. 8 Math American Indian	267	269	OK +2 US +1
Gr. 4 Math Black	222	222	OK +5 US +2
Gr. 8 Math Black	266	261	OK +12 US +7
Gr. 4 Math Hispanic	227	229	OK +3 US +1
Gr. 8 Math Hispanic	266	263	OK +6 US +4
Gr. 4 Math Low-income	228	231	OK +4 US +3
Gr. 8 Math Low-income	266	266	OK +6 US +5

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
Scale Scores (SS) are on a 0-500 results scale.

SOURCE: The Nation's Report Card, Mathematics 2009, National Assessment of Educational Progress, Grades 4 and 8, 2009.

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Garrett said that although 2009 NAEP scores were flat in most states, there were some notable results from Oklahoma's 2009 performance.

"We are pleased Oklahoma's American Indian and low income students, which are 20 percent and 56 percent respectively of Oklahoma's student population, continue to outperform their peers nationally on this test," she said.

"We also see progress with Black students in Oklahoma now being at the national average and their gains outpacing their peers nationally. As well, gains by Hispanic students in Oklahoma have outpaced their peers nationally," she said.

To better understand NAEP, its performance levels, and how it differs from the various states' exams, visit:

http://www.sde.state.ok.us/Services/News/2007/NAEP_FAQ.pdf

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