

Lit Scan

Facts & Figures from the Colorado Literacy Research Initiative

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Parents' Level of Education Outweighs Other At Risk Conditions as Predictor of NAEP Reading Scores, 1998



Table 1. NAEP Reading Scores for Colorado Eighth Graders by Parents' Highest Level of Education and Other At Risk Conditions, 1998

Selected Characteristics	Parents' Highest Level of Education			
	Less than high school	Graduated H.S.	Some college	Graduated college
GENDER				
Male	231	245	259	269
Female	249	258	274	281
RACE/ETHNICITY				
White	N/R	259	274	278
Hispanic	234	239	250	259
METROPOLITAN STATUS				
Central City	N/R	246	262	272
Urban fringe/large town	N/R	257	268	276
Rural/small town	N/R	249	269	275
NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM				
Eligible (i.e., poor)	235	240	255	259

N/R = not reported due to insufficient number of cases

According to the U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the level of education of parents outweighs other at risk conditions, such as gender, race/ethnicity, metropolitan status (i.e., central city, rural/small town), and eligibility for the National School Lunch Program.

HIGHLIGHT

Parents' level of education accounts for 8th grade reading score differences of up to 38 points, compared with only 24 points for other at risk conditions.

Table 1 reports 1998 NAEP reading scores for Colorado eighth graders by their parents' highest level of education and other at risk conditions. Differences attributable to parents' level of education run as high as 38 points, while the effects of other at risk conditions, controlling for parents' education level, top out at only 24 points. For most characteristics with multiple categories, differences range only from 10 to 15 points.

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