

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 28, 2015**

**Contact: Frank O’Gara or Elaine Kanellis**

**Voice: (571) 372-0613 or (571) 372-0614**

**Email: frank.ogara@hq.dodea.edu**

**elaine.kanellis@hq.dodea.edu**

**DoDEA Ranks with Top Performing States in the Nation on the 2015 NAEP**

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA – The results of the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics show that Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) students rank among the best performing in the nation.

DoDEA placed first in the nation in 4th grade reading, tied with Massachusetts and New Hampshire. DoDEA was one of only three states in the nation that posted an increase in 4th grade reading scores in 2015 when compared with 2013. DoDEA’s 8th grade students also scored first in the nation in reading along with their counterparts in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

In mathematics, DoDEA’s 4th grade students tied for second highest in the nation along with seven other states. Only Massachusetts scored higher than DoDEA on the 4th grade NAEP mathematics assessment. DoDEA’s 8th grade students tied for fourth in the nation with four other states on the NAEP mathematics assessment. Only three other states – Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Minnesota scored higher than DoDEA.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Assessments are conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, economics, geography, and U.S. history. NAEP does not provide scores for individual students or schools; instead, it offers results regarding subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., fourth-graders) and groups within those populations (e.g., female students, Hispanic students). NAEP results are based on a sample of student populations of interest.

“We are pleased to be among the top performing states in the nation on the NAEP assessments for 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics,” said Mr. Thomas M. Brady, DoDEA Director. “We are encouraged by the progress we see in the average overall 4th grade reading scores and in the proficiency rates in the 4th grade reading and mathematics areas as well as increases in participation of students with disabilities,” he added.

**-more-**

**DoDEA 2015 NAEP Results/2-2-2**

“However, we must address proficiency rates; achievement gaps; and in some areas, scores that have remained stable with no growth. There doesn’t appear to be any one reason for what we are experiencing in regard to our results, but we do know that the NAEP is providing us valuable information about student performance that will inform our future practices. Today’s NAEP release confirms we have a lot of work ahead of us to ensure that our young people are ready for success in college, careers and life. Specifically in DoDEA, we are beginning the implementation of our College and Career Ready Standards in mathematics and literacy and ensuring our students and teachers have the support they need to be successful,” he said.

The results showed increases for DoDEA in the participation of students with disabilities, at both grade levels and subjects. Increases in the participation of students with disabilities was especially noteworthy in reading, with increases of at least 25% percentage points at both grade levels. Participation for students with disabilities in 4th and 8th grade mathematics was 94%; an increase from 2013 (90%).

According to the 2015 NAEP Reading and Mathematics Assessment results, the percentage of DoDEA’s 4th grade students who are performing at or above proficient in both reading and math has increased by 4% in each area, but has remained flat for its 8th grade students in the same area.

The gaps between Black and White students in DoDEA have decreased (narrowed) in 4th and 8th grade reading. In addition, the gap between Hispanic and white students in 4th grade math has decreased.

The NAEP Reading and Mathematics Assessments were administered to 4th and 8th grade students in the nation’s public schools from January to early March 2015. DoDEA’s domestic and overseas schools participated in the NAEP as a single jurisdiction. The NAEP Reading and Mathematics scale ranges from 0 to 500.

**Additional Information:**

Detailed statistical information on the 2015 NAEP reading and mathematics assessment and all other NAEP assessments can be found on the web at the following URL: <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>.

**-30-**