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Baesler Notes ND Gains on ‘Nation’s Report Card’

BISMARCK, N.D., Oct. 28, 2015 – School Superintendent Kirsten Baesler said North Dakota’s fourth and eighth grade students improved their national reading rankings in the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress.

The NAEP results, made public Wednesday, showed an increase in reading proficiency among all North Dakota fourth graders. This was helped by a substantial increase in the percentage of American Indian students whose scores ranked them as proficient or advanced in reading, Baesler said.

The NAEP, which is known as the “Nation’s Report Card,” is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics. It is given to North Dakota fourth and eighth graders every two years. In 2015, 2,500 North Dakota fourth graders and 2,300 eighth graders were tested. Nationally, more than 130,000 students sat for the exam.

North Dakota fourth graders scored an average of 225 on the reading assessment. The national average was 221, and the national ranking of North Dakota fourth graders rose from 13th to 10th.

North Dakota eighth graders scored an average of 267 on the reading assessment, compared to a national average of 264, and improved their ranking from 16th to 10th.

American Indian students made impressive gains in reading proficiency, Baesler said. The percentage of American Indian fourth graders whose scores were proficient or advanced, which are the two highest levels, rose to 21 percent in 2015, compared to 14 percent two years earlier.

Among American Indian eighth graders, 17 percent scored at proficient or advanced levels, an increase from 12 percent in 2013.

On the math assessment, North Dakota fourth graders scored an average of 245, while eighth graders averaged 288. Both averages ranked the two groups seventh in the nation, Baesler said.

Full results of the 2015 NAEP are available online at <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>.

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