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ODE Contact: Patrick Gallaway

Ohio Makes Strides in Eighth-Grade Math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Columbus, OH - While Ohio can take pride that it continues to outperform many states on the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) issued today, it is important to remember that the United States lags its peers around the world on key academic measures.

"We rank above average in a nation that is not where it needs to be to compete in the demanding global economy," Heffner said. "While there are some positives in the latest NAEP data and Ohio fares better than a large number of states, we need to move much faster to close the gap with our competitors around the world."

Ohio fourth and eighth-grade students performed better than many across the country, according to today's release of the NAEP 2011 reading and mathematics results. The results also showed that Ohio eighth grade mathematics made good gains from 2009. Eighth grade reading and fourth grade math and reading were generally unchanged and have been flat for several administrations.

These results place the Buckeye state higher than the nation's average in reading and mathematics.

Average Scale Score-Reading

Grade Level	2011 Ohio	2011 National Public	2009 Ohio	2009 National Public
4	224	220	225	220
8	268	264	269	262

Average Scale Score-Mathematics

Grade Level	2011 Ohio	2011 National Public	2009 Ohio	2009 National Public
4	244	240	244	239
8	289*	283	286	282

Nationally, fourth and eighth grade math scale scores went up one point each. Fourth grade reading was unchanged and eighth grade reading increased by one scale score point.

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), a worldwide academic assessment of 15-year-olds, found in 2010 that the United States is an average performer in reading (rank 14th in the world) and science (rank 17) and ranks just 25th in mathematics.

"We are showing signs of advancement and we need to recognize this progress, but on other measures good enough just can't be good enough for Ohio anymore," Heffner said. "The competition is tough and this is why we will be asking more of students, parents and educators as we increase academic expectations. What I have found during my career as an educator is that when you ask more of students, they deliver."

In 2010, the State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics as well as the revisions to Ohio's academic content standards in science and social

studies. The standards encourage teachers to add greater focus and content depth than is typical with current standards.

The standards will be effective in 2014-2015 when a new generation of assessments will be implemented that promise significantly increased expectations.

NAEP is a leading national 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 assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test blocks across the nation and are a common measure for all states. The procedure also cycles the booklets for administration so that no more than a few students in an assessment section received the same test booklet.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Schools participated in the 2011 NAEP reading and mathematics assessment.