

National Assessment of Educational Progress: 2024 Math and Reading Assessments

Topline Takeaways: National Scores*

Overall, U.S. students have **not** recovered from the devastating impact the pandemic had on education. **National scores are below 2019, or pre-pandemic levels in all tested grades and subjects.**

This decline **accentuates trends that began prior to the pandemic**: Scores in both subjects have been stagnant or declining for a decade.

Gaps continue to grow between higher-performing and lower-performing students, a trend that has persisted for more than a decade.

In 2024, there are different national stories for math and reading, compared to 2022:

- **Nationally, reading scores are down in both grades.** Rather than making up lost ground from the pandemic, students are still sliding.
- **Math scores are up in 4th grade, which reflects progress. Math scores are flat in 8th grade.** In both grades, students are behind where their peers were pre-pandemic.

*Private school (including Catholic school) students are included in the national scores.

National Average NAEP Scale Scores in Math and Reading: Catholic School and Public School Students in Grades 4 and 8

4th Grade Math

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC	244*	246*	246*	247*
PUBLIC	234	241	240	237

8th Grade Math

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC	289*	295*	293*	293*
PUBLIC	276	284	281	272

4th Grade Reading

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC	235*	235*	235*	230*
PUBLIC	216	221	219	214

8th Grade Reading

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC	281*	286*	278*	277*
PUBLIC	261	266	262	257

*Significantly different ($p < .05$) from Public.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2024 Mathematics Assessment and 2024 Reading Assessment

National NAEP Percentages at Each Achievement Level in Math and Reading: Catholic School and Public School Students in Grades 4 and 8

4th Grade Math

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC				
Below Basic	12*	12*	13*	14*
At Basic	44	40	40	36
At Proficient	38*	40*	39*	39*
At Advanced	5*	8	9	11
PUBLIC				
Below Basic	24	18	20	24
At Basic	45	41	40	36
At Proficient	28	34	32	31
At Advanced	4	8	9	9

8th Grade Math

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC				
Below Basic	19*	16*	18*	21*
At Basic	42	38	38	36
At Proficient	31*	33*	31*	28*
At Advanced	8*	12*	13	15*
PUBLIC				
Below Basic	33	37	32	41
At Basic	39	39	35	32
At Proficient	22	26	23	19
At Advanced	5	8	10	8

4th Grade Reading

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC				
Below Basic	19*	18*	19*	23*
At Basic	33	33	32	33*
At Proficient	33*	36*	35*	32*
At Advanced	14*	13*	14*	12*
PUBLIC				
Below Basic	38	33	35	41
At Basic	32	33	31	29
At Proficient	23	26	26	22
At Advanced	7	8	9	8

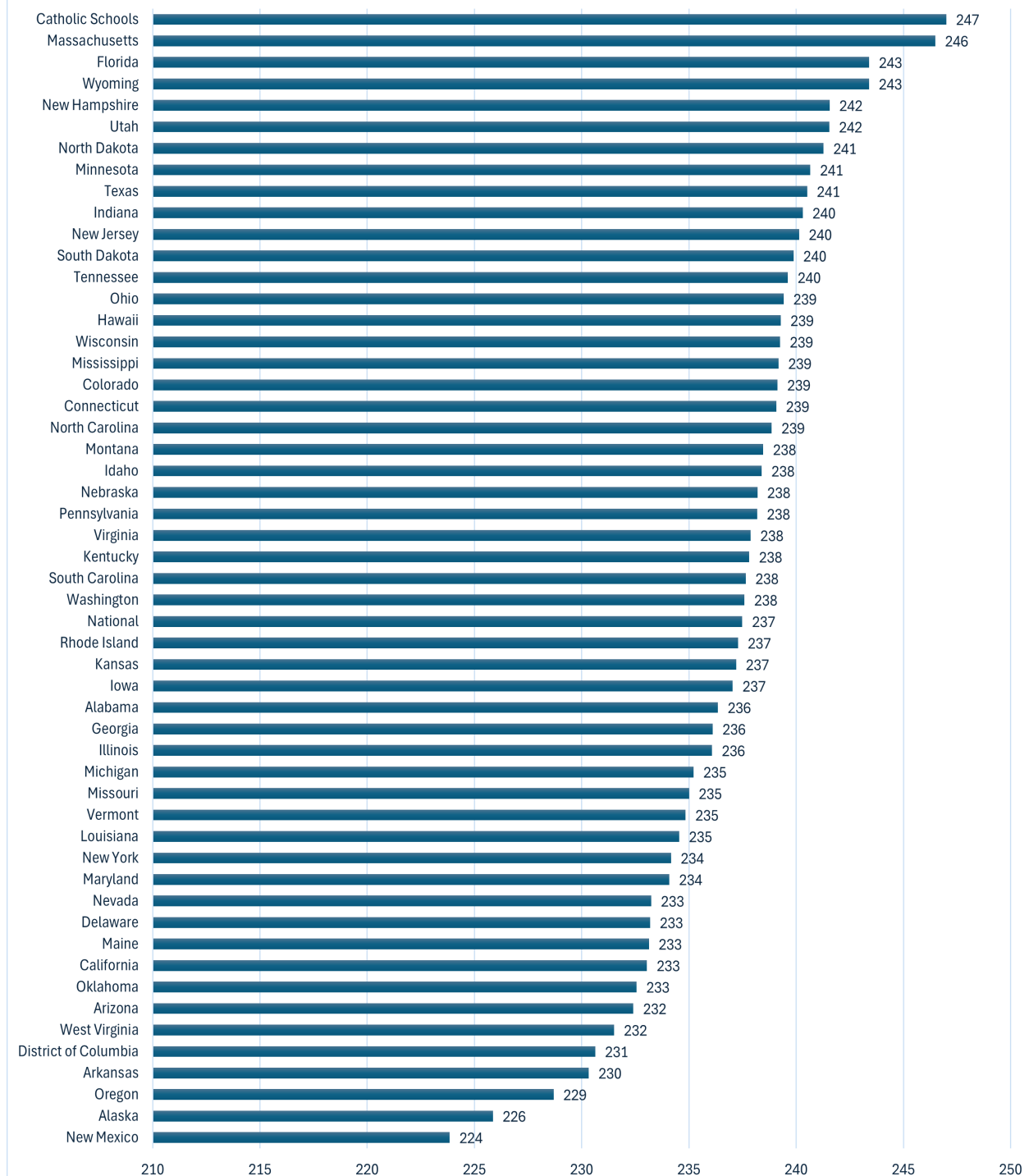
8th Grade Reading

SCHOOL TYPE	2003	2013	2019	2024
CATHOLIC				
Below Basic	10	8*	12*	15*
At Basic	39*	34*	40	38
At Proficient	44*	49*	43*	39*
At Advanced	7*	10*	6	7*
PUBLIC				
Below Basic	28	23	28	34
At Basic	42	42	39	37
At Proficient	27	31	29	25
At Advanced	3	4	4	4

*Significantly different ($p < .05$) from Public.

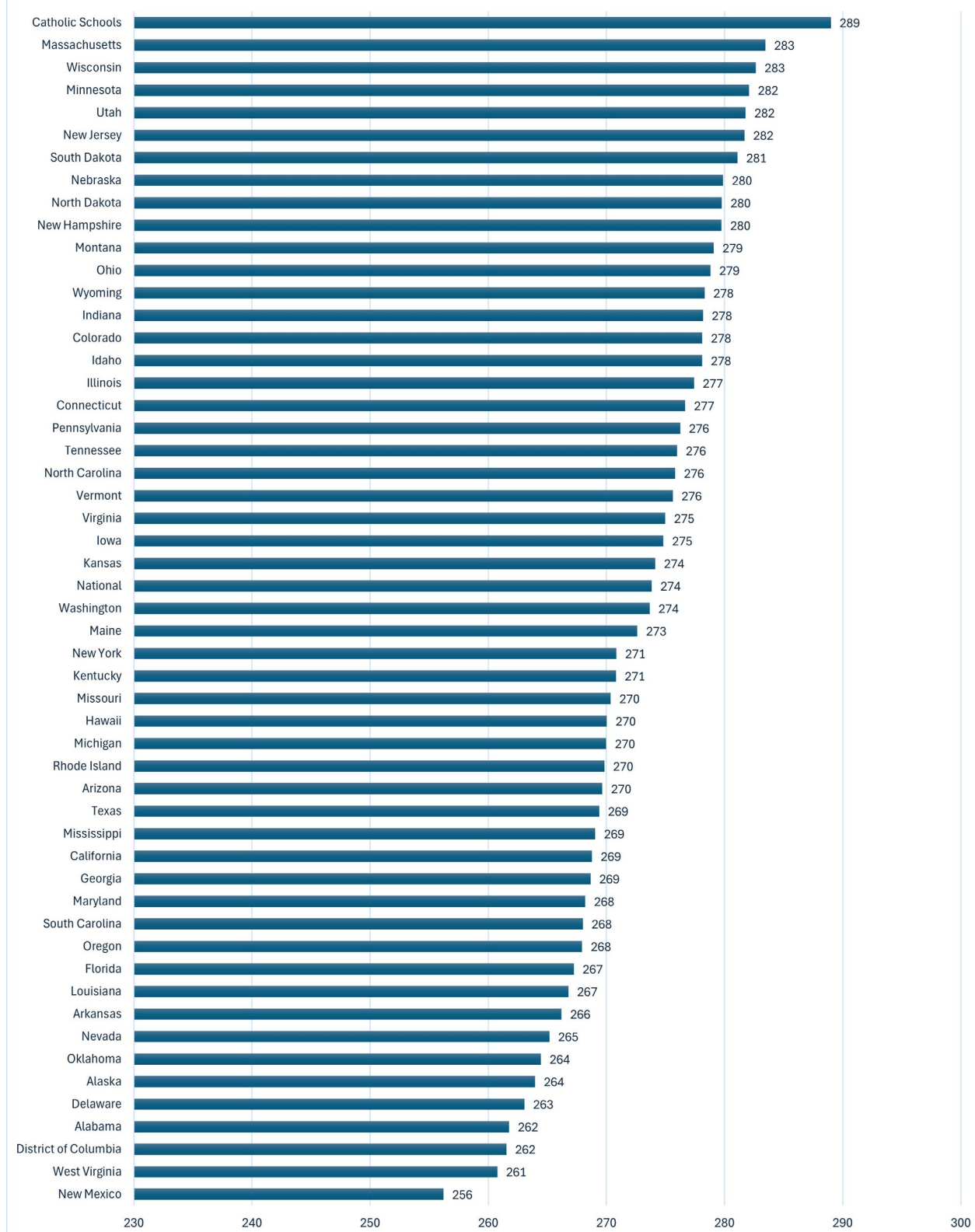
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2024 Mathematics Assessment and 2024 Reading Assessment

**If Catholic Schools were a state:
Average 2024 NAEP Scale Scores - Grade 4 Math**



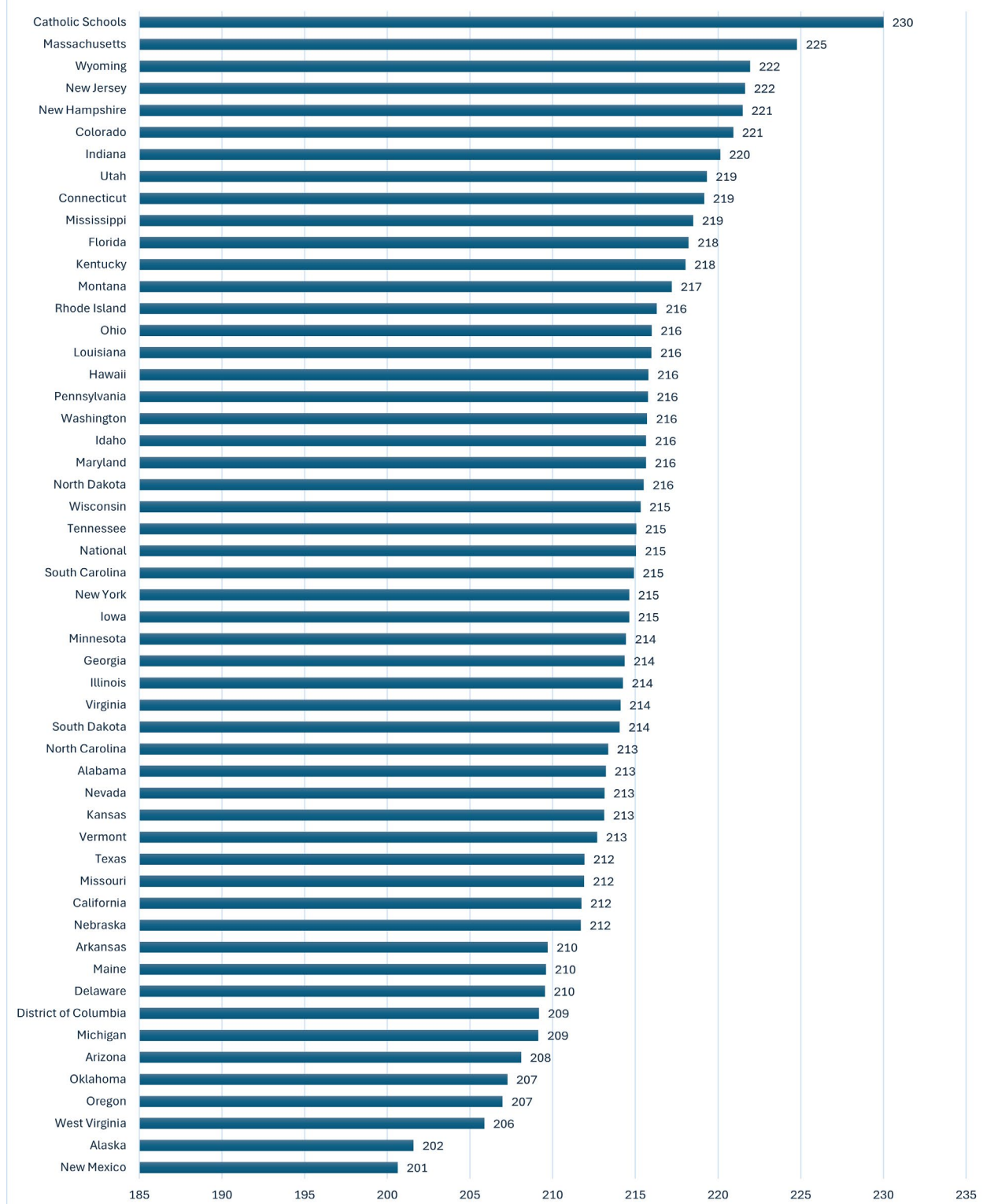
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2024 Mathematics Assessment

If Catholic Schools were a state: Average 2024 NAEP Scale Scores - Grade 8 Math



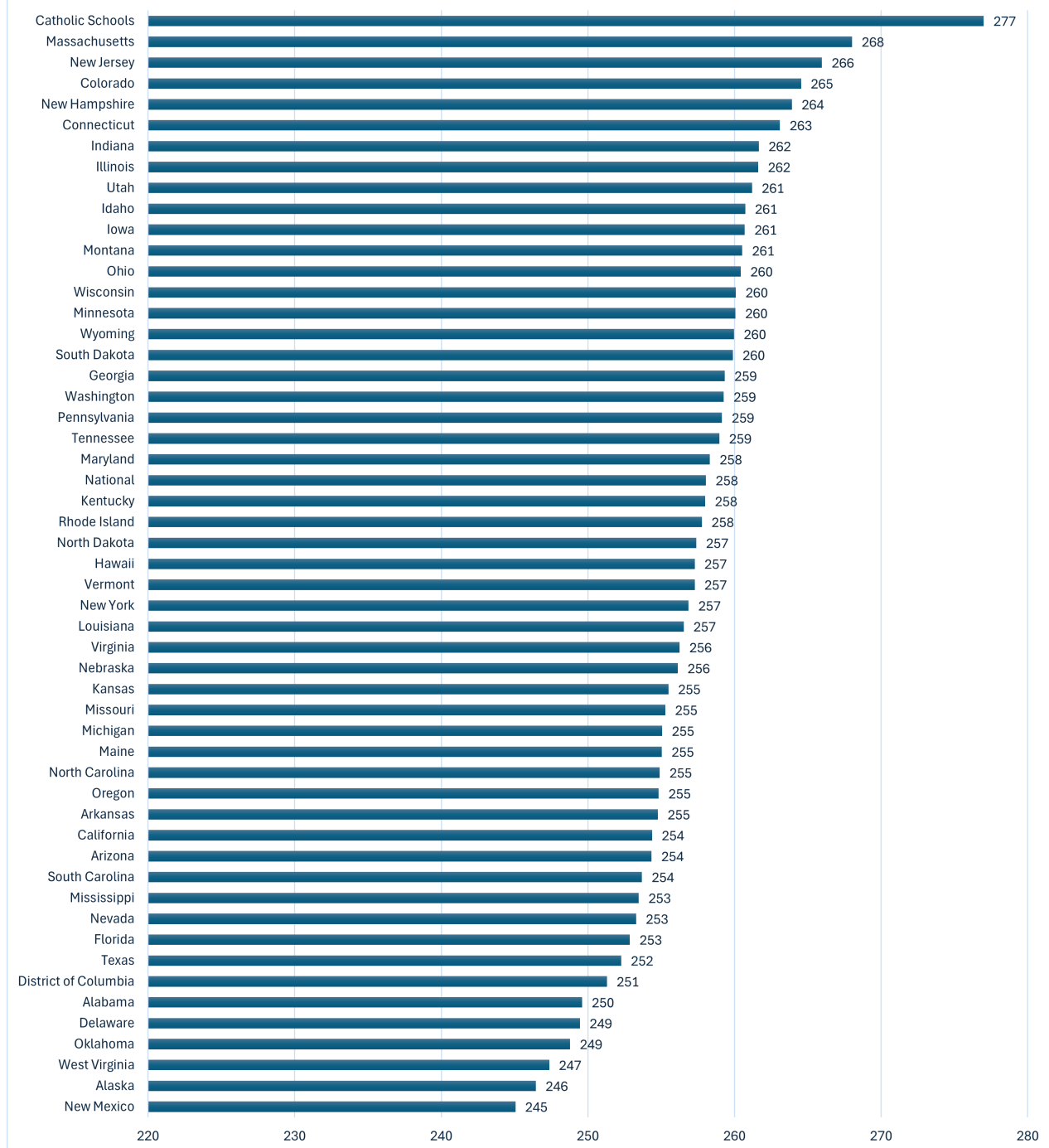
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2024 Mathematics Assessment

If Catholic Schools were a state: Average 2024 NAEP Scale Scores - Grade 4 Reading



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2024 Reading Assessment

If Catholic Schools were a state: Average 2024 NAEP Scale Scores - Grade 8 Reading



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2024 Reading Assessment

Full Disclosure: Average scale scores obtained by students in Department of Defense schools were higher than those of students in Catholic schools in three of the four categories depicted in the bar charts, above. (Only in Grade 8 math did Catholic school students score higher.)

Average Scale Scores for Department of Defense School Students:

Math Grade 4:	251
Math Grade 8:	291
Reading Grade 4:	234
Reading Grade 8:	282