



Update: September 2025 NAEP Data Release

In February, we shared our perspective on the latest NAEP results. With the September release of additional data, we are providing this update to build on our earlier response.

Today's latest release of the Nation's Report Card is sobering. The 2024 NAEP results show steep declines in 12th grade math and reading, and in 8th grade science. Most troubling is the sharp drop for African American students in reading—11 points, nearly double the decline of their white peers.

But while NAEP gives us an important snapshot, pointing to national trends, we're seeing another story unfold at Success for All.

In schools implementing our model, students are making gains: last year, schools using Success for All saw, on average, 26% more students reading on grade level. In Louisiana, Success for All schools score consistently ~10 points higher than the state's average. In Ohio, one elementary school that partnered with us saw proficiency rise by 35 percentage points in two years.

What makes the difference? It's not curriculum alone. It's a complete system--research-proven instruction, science of reading-aligned curricula, job-embedded coaching, high-impact tutoring, and social-emotional supports--that works together to give every child the opportunity to read and succeed.

The NAEP results are a call to action. They should push us to move beyond piecemeal efforts and quick fixes, and toward the kind of systemic, research-grounded solutions that we know can change trajectories for students. The declines are real but so is the progress happening in schools that commit to comprehensive support.

The question isn't whether we can solve this crisis. We can. The question is whether we're willing to do what it takes.



February 10, 2025

The **2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)** showed a continued decline in reading scores across the nation with just 31% of 4th graders scoring proficient on the reading assessment - **a two point decline since 2022**. Among economically disadvantaged students, just 19% scored proficient. These results confirm what we already know: too many children struggle to read and achievement gaps continue to widen.

While these numbers are concerning, there's reason for hope.

Last week, I was surrounded by hundreds of educators at our annual **Success for All (SFA) Foundation conference**. These teachers and administrators – **from rural public schools in Texas, charter schools in Miami, Detroit, and New Orleans, Archdiocesan schools in Los Angeles, to Bureau of Indian Education schools, and everywhere in between** - are telling a very different story about the learning success of children in their schools, especially those living in high-poverty communities.

These schools are not just improving reading scores, they're changing lives, opening doors, and delivering the educational experience every parent dreams for their child.

Among the many stories we heard:

- Achievement gaps, closed.
- 100% proficiency rates on state assessments among schools with large English language learner populations.
- 98%+ attendance rates and 100% parent-teacher conference participation.
- Students advancing multiple grade levels in reading – in as little as nine weeks.
- Schools where every student is setting and reaching ambitious learning goals.

How are they doing it? With a relentless focus on student success – and a clear plan to achieve it.

At SFA, we equip schools with the systems, tools, training, and evidenced-based strategies proven to **turn every child into a confident reader and continuous learner** - regardless of background or barriers to learning.

Here's how you can help us reach more children:

[Encourage a school to apply for our School Success Scholarship](#) - Thanks to the generosity of a private donor, we have an incredible opportunity to offer \$100,000 scholarships to elementary schools serving children in high-poverty communities that are ready to transform learning outcomes. Know a school that could benefit? Encourage them to apply!



[Support SFA](#) - As a non-profit organization, our ability to impact more children relies on our incredible community of donors. Your donation - whatever the amount - will help us deliver the promise of literacy to more children.

[See the impact](#) - Read our latest success story about Texhoma Elementary School, the 2025 Dr. Robert Slavin Award Winner, and the accelerated literacy gains their students are making.

Children who can't read are hurting - but as we know and these schools prove, it's not their fault. **We know how to fix it - and it's urgent that we do.**

Thank you for being part of our story.

Sincerely,

Julie Wible

CEO

Success for All Foundation