

TESTING BRIEF
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) - Science
January 24 – March 4, 2011

The Nation's Report Card, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, history, geography, and other fields. By making objective information on student performance available to policymakers at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement is collected under this program. NAEP guarantees the privacy of individual students and their families. This report provides selected NAEP results for Georgia's public school students in science at grade 8. Student performance is reported as an average score based on the NAEP science scale, which ranges from 0 to 300. NAEP results are also reported in terms of four achievement levels: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. All fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools (DoDEA) participated in the 2011 science assessment at grade 8. Georgia met the goal of including 95% of all students selected for the NAEP science samples and the goal of including 85% of those students identified as students with disabilities or English Language Learners.

KEY FINDINGS IN SCIENCE – GRADE 8

- The average scale score for students in Georgia was 151. This was significantly higher than Georgia's average scale score in 2009 (147). This was the same as the average scale score of 151 for the nation's public school students.
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Basic* was 63 percent, which was significantly higher than the percentage in 2009 (58 percent). This was not significantly different from that for the nation's public schools (64 percent).
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Proficient* increased from 27 percent in 2009 to 30 percent in 2011 but this does not represent a significant change. Georgia's 30 percent at or above *Proficient* was not significantly different from that for the nation's public schools (31 percent).
- The average science score for White students in Georgia increased from 161 in 2009 to 166 in 2011. Black students' average score increased from 129 in 2009 to 133 in 2011. Scores for Hispanic students increased from 137 in 2009 to 143 in 2011.
- In 2011, the gap between the average score for Blacks students and White students was 33 points for Georgia, which was smaller than the nation (35 points). The gap between the average score for Hispanic students and White students was 23 points for Georgia, which was also smaller than the nation (27 points).
- Comparing 2009 to 2011, the average scale score for males increased from 150 to 153 and the average score for females increased from 144 to 148.
- The average scale score for students who were eligible for the National School Lunch Program (i.e., free/reduced-price lunch) in Georgia significantly increased from 133 in 2009 to 138 in 2011.

Table 1: Average Scale Score by Student Group: Georgia and Nation 2009 & 2011

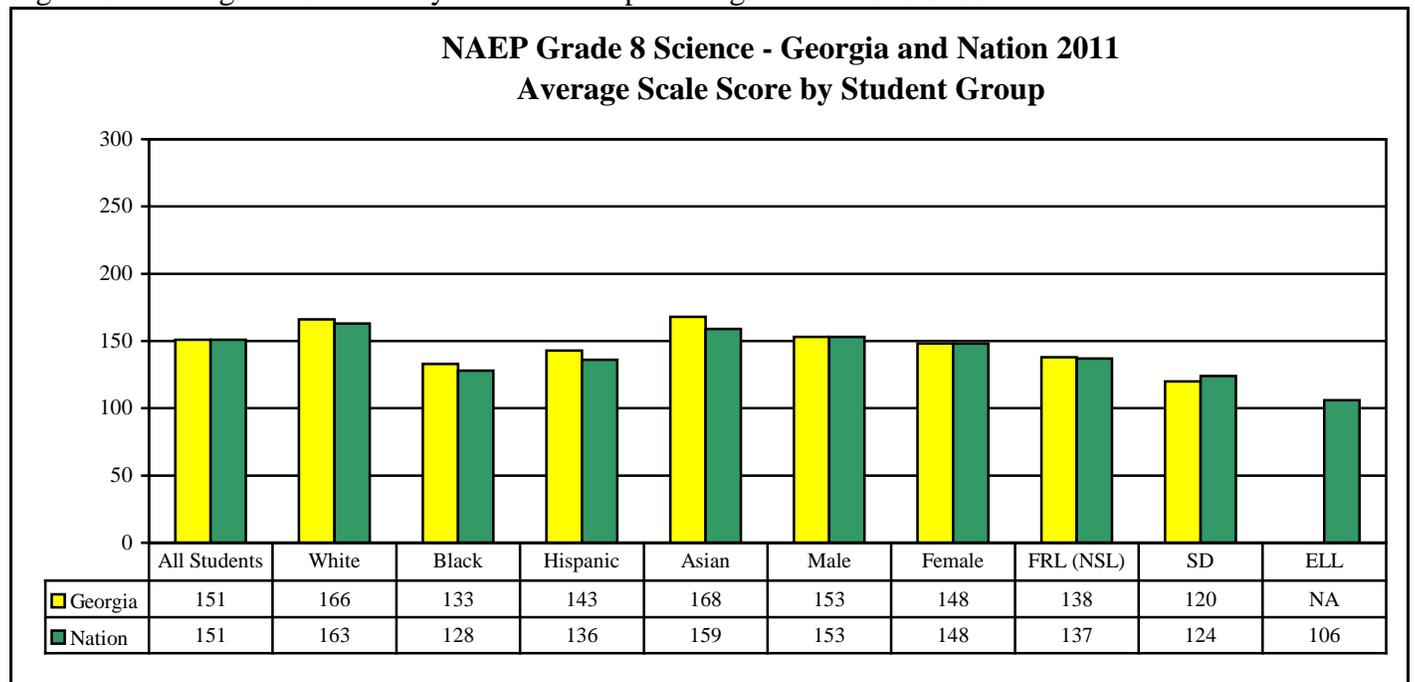
Subgroup	Georgia			Nation (Public Schools)		
	2009	2011	Change 2009 to 2011	2009	2011	Change 2009 to 2011
All Students	147*	151	+4	149*	151	+2
White	161	166	+5	161*	163	+2
Black	129	133	+4	125*	128	+3
Hispanic	137	143	+6	131*	136	+5
Asian	172	168	-4	159	159	0
Male	150	153	+3	151*	153	+2
Female	144	148	+4	147*	148	+1
FRL (NSL)	133*	138	+5	133*	137	+4
Students with Disabilities	119	120	+1	122	124	+2
English Language Learners	107	NA	--	103	106	+3

*Value is significantly different from the value for the same jurisdiction (i.e., Georgia to Georgia or Nation to Nation) and student subgroup in 2011.

FRL (NSL) = Free or reduced-price lunch based on National School Lunch program eligibility

NA – Reporting standards for sample size were not met.

Figure 1: Average Scale Score by Student Group: Georgia and Nation 2011



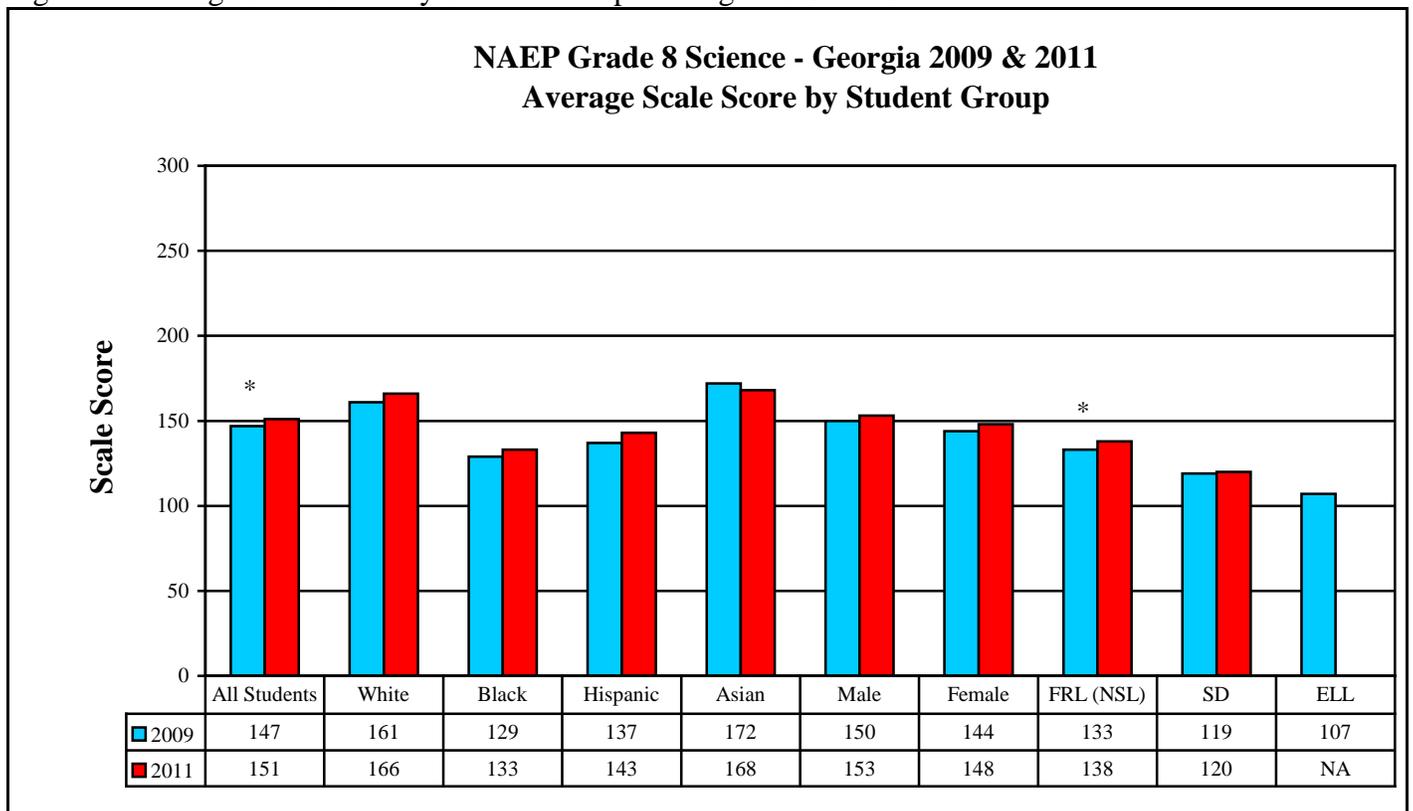
FRL (NSL) = Free or reduced-price lunch based on National School Lunch program eligibility

SD = Students with Disabilities

ELL = English Language Learners

NA - Reporting standards for sample size were not met.

Figure 2: Average Scale Score by Student Group: Georgia 2009 & 2011



*Value is significantly different from the 2011 value.

FRL (NSL) = Free or reduced-price lunch based on National School Lunch program eligibility

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Table 2: Percent of Students At or Above Basic Level by Student Group: Georgia and Nation 2009 & 2011

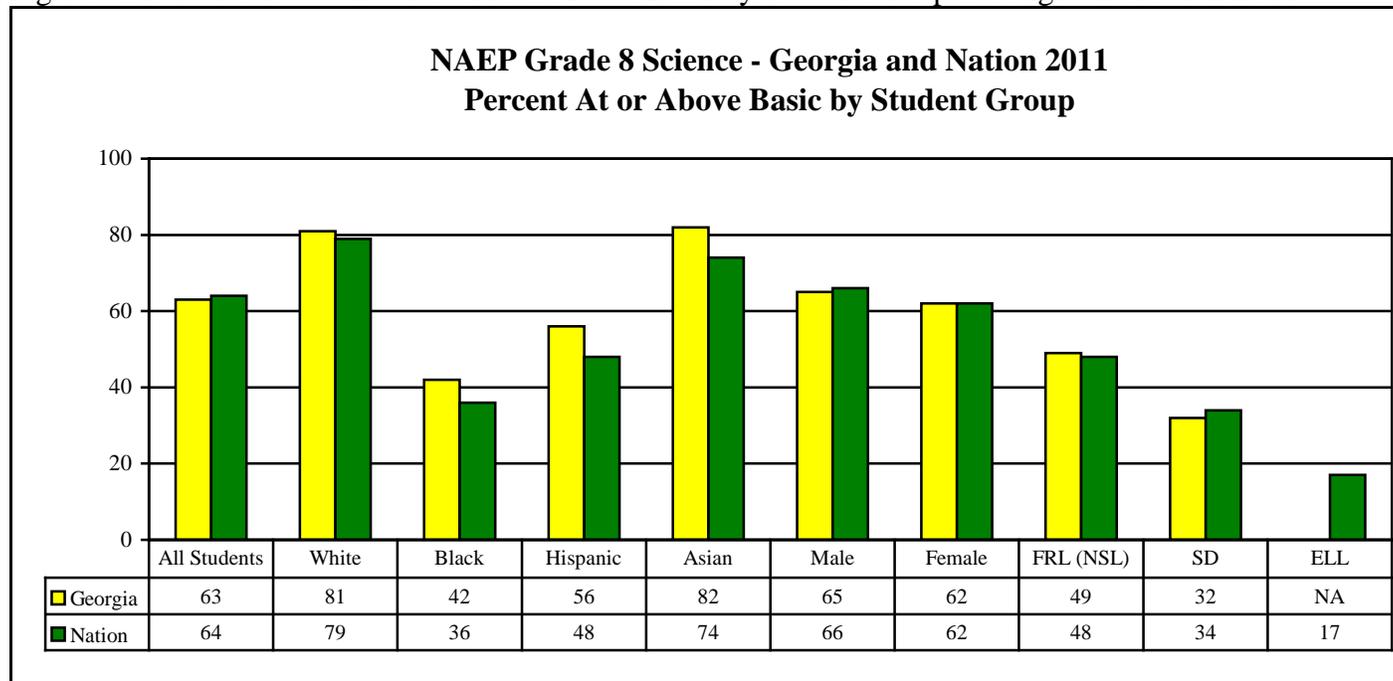
Subgroup	Georgia			Nation (Public Schools)		
	2009	2011	Change 2009 to 2011	2009	2011	Change 2009 to 2011
All Students	58*	63	+5	62*	64	+2
White	75	81	+6	77*	79	+2
Black	36	42	+6	32*	36	+4
Hispanic	51	56	+5	41*	48	+7
Asian	85	82	-3	72	74	+2
Male	61	65	+4	64*	66	+2
Female	55*	62	+7	60*	62	+2
FRL (NSL)	40*	49	+9	43*	48	+5
Students with Disabilities	29	32	+3	33	34	+1
English Language Learners	18	NA	--	14	17	+3

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Figure 3: Percent of Students At or Above Basic Level by Student Group: Georgia and Nation 2011



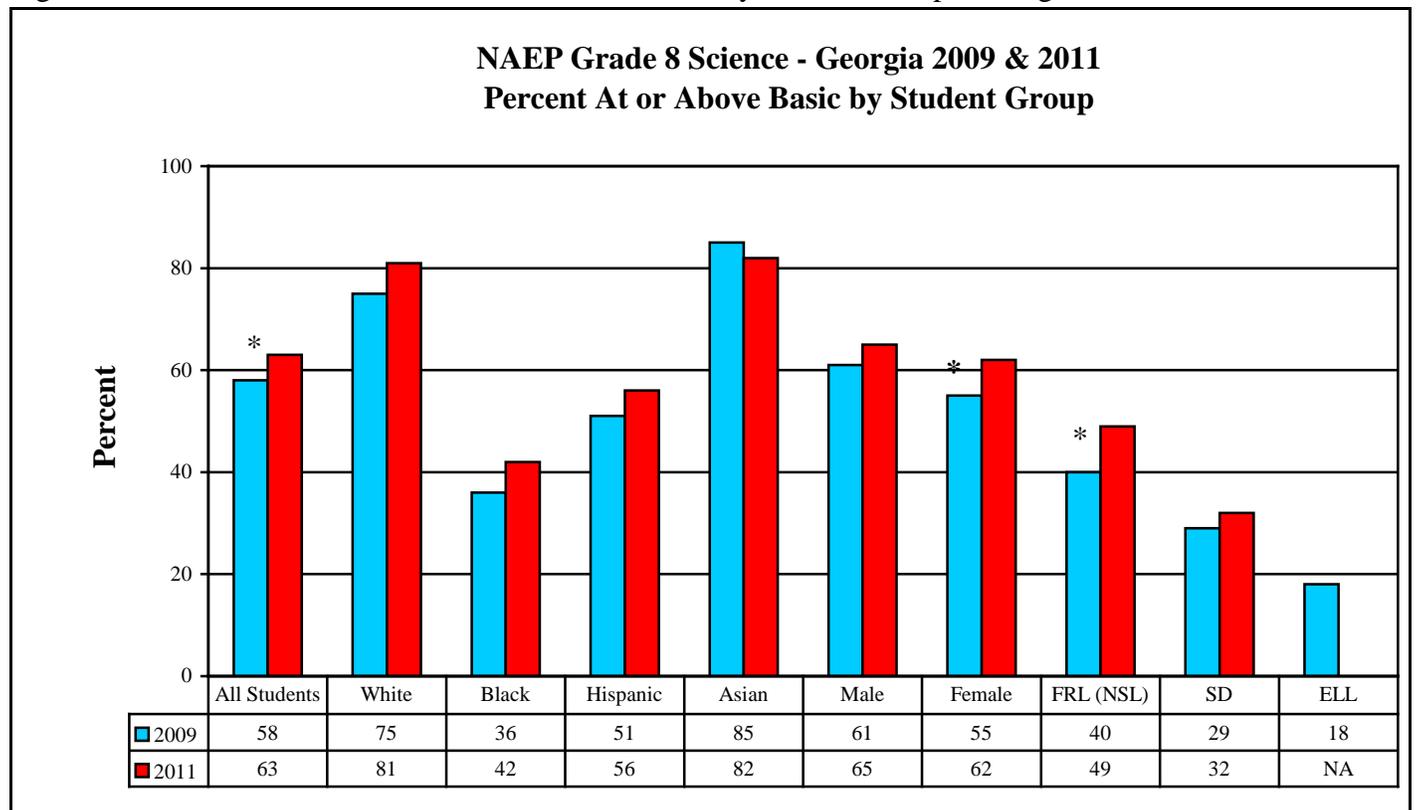
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Figure 4: Percent of Students At or Above Basic Level by Student Group: Georgia 2009 & 2011



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ELL = English Language Learners

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Table 3: Percent of Students At or Above Proficient Level by Student Group: Georgia and Nation 2009 & 2011

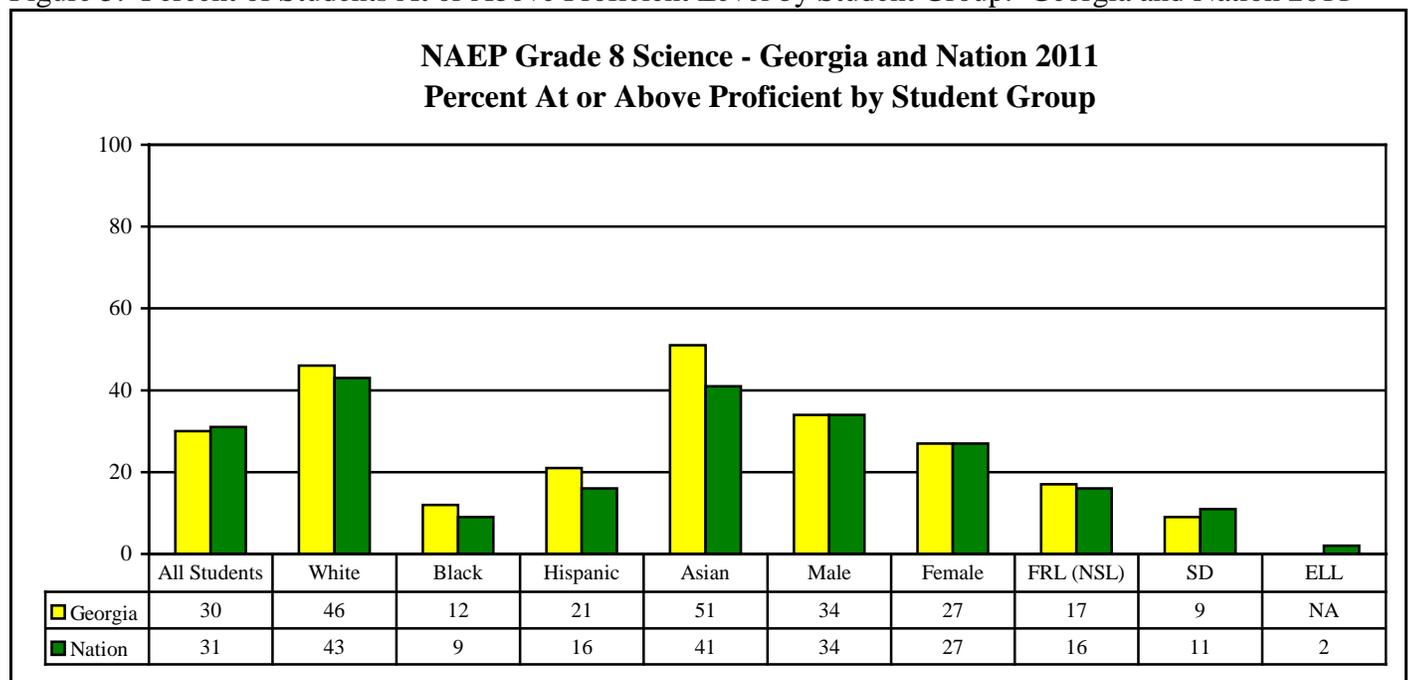
Subgroup	Georgia			Nation (Public Schools)		
	2009	2011	Change 2009 to 2011	2009	2011	Change 2009 to 2011
All Students	27	30	+3	29*	31	+2
White	41	46	+5	41*	43	+2
Black	10	12	+2	8*	9	+1
Hispanic	15	21	+6	12*	16	+4
Asian	58	51	-7	40	41	+1
Male	30	34	+4	32*	34	+2
Female	24	27	+3	26*	27	+1
FRL (NSL)	13*	17	+4	14*	16	+2
Students with Disabilities	7	9	+2	11	11	0
English Language Learners	4	NA	--	2	2	0

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FRL (NSL) = Free or reduced-price lunch based on National School Lunch program eligibility

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Figure 5: Percent of Students At or Above Proficient Level by Student Group: Georgia and Nation 2011



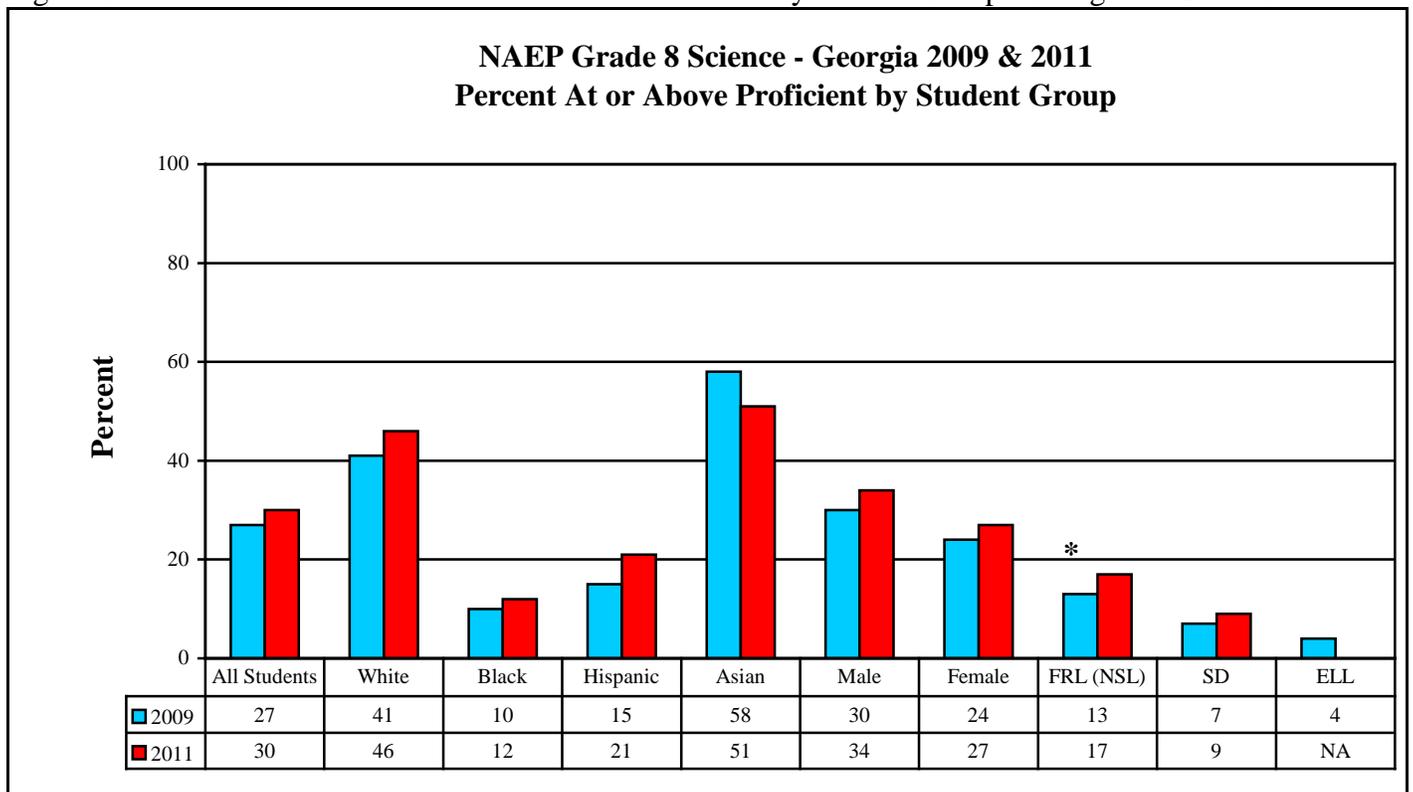
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Figure 6: Percent of Students At or Above Proficient Level by Student Group: Georgia 2009 & 2011



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