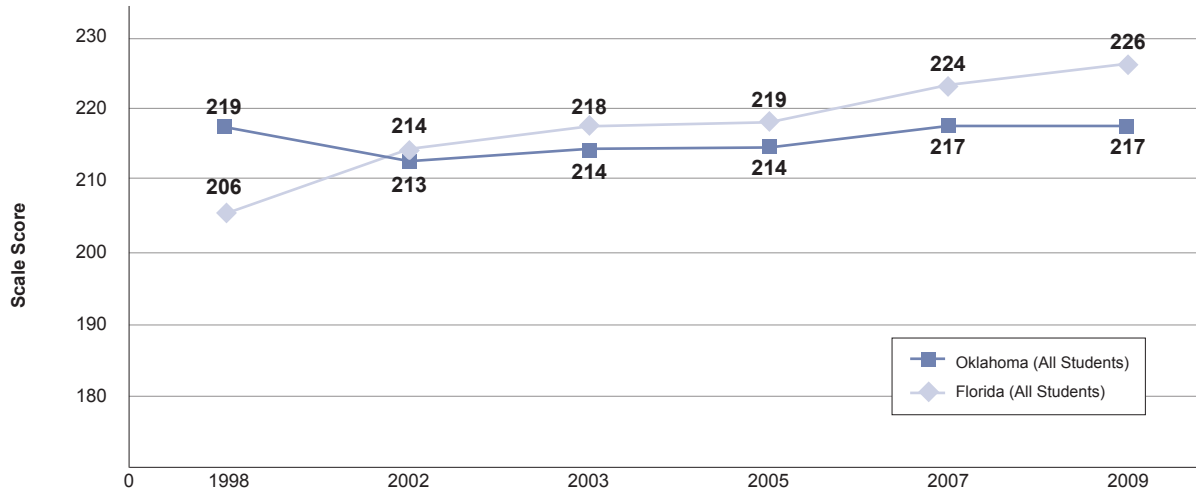




**Florida students went from being more than a grade level behind the Oklahoma average in 1998 to almost a grade level ahead in 2009.**

Figure 1

Fourth-grade reading scores for all students in Florida and Oklahoma (NAEP, 1998-2009)

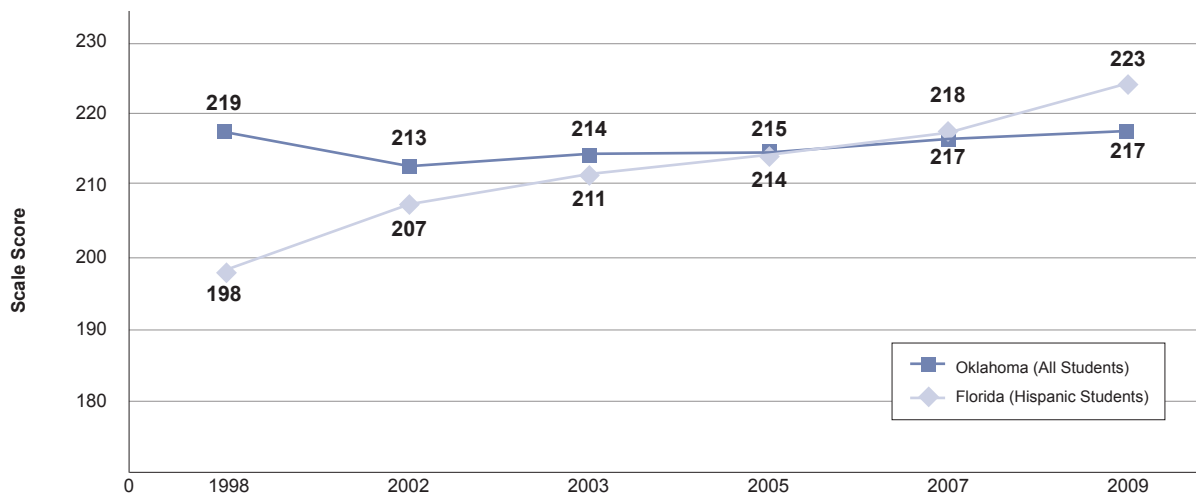


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

**Florida's Hispanic students scored about two grade levels below the Oklahoma average for all students in 1998, but about a half-grade level ahead in 2009.**

Figure 2

Fourth-grade reading scores for Florida's Hispanic students and all Oklahoma students (NAEP, 1998-2009)



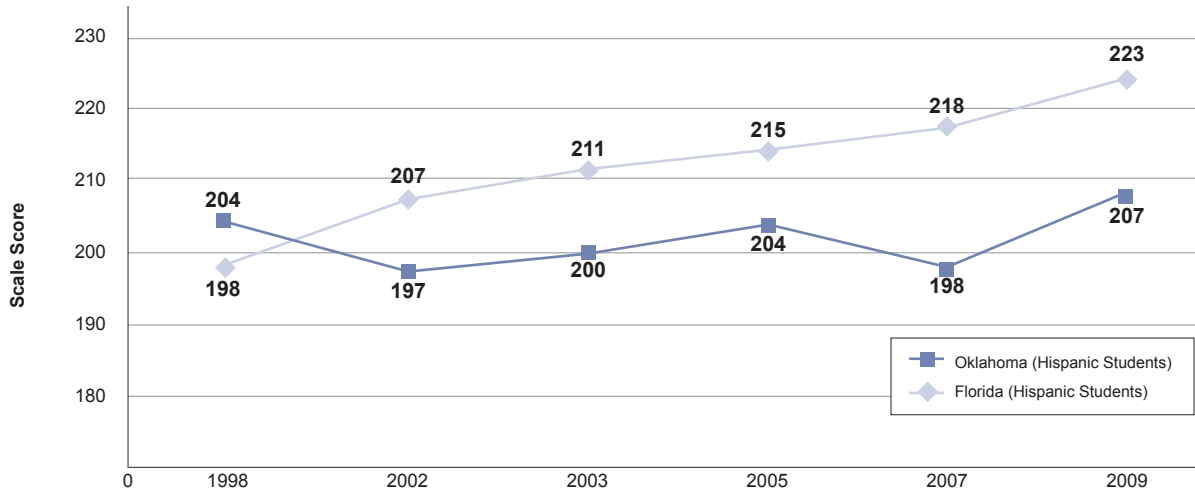
Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)



Oklahoma's Hispanic students' average score has improved by 3 points since 1998, but Florida's Hispanic students have improved by 25 points.

Figure 3

Fourth-grade reading scores for Hispanic students in Florida and Oklahoma (NAEP, 1998-2009)

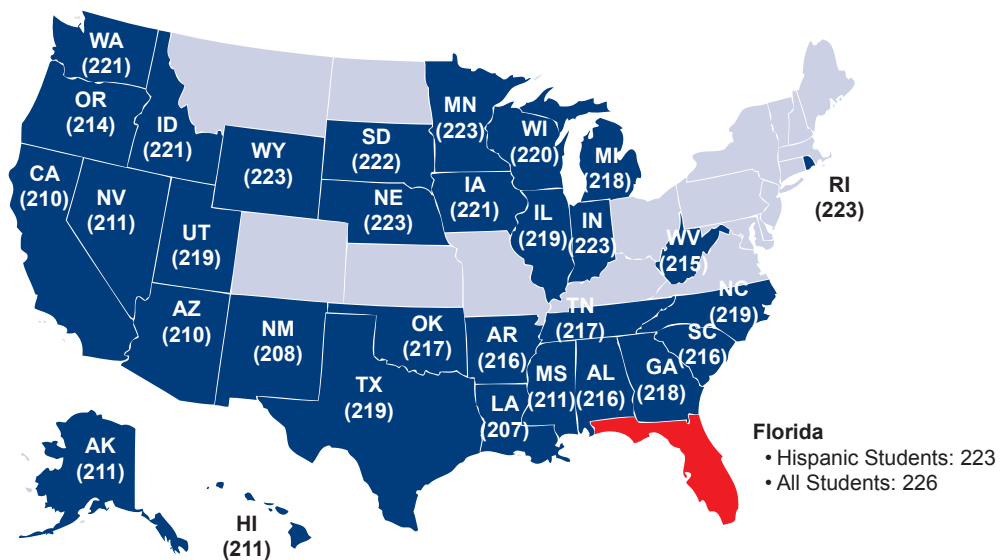


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

In 2009, Florida's Hispanic students outscored or tied the statewide average for all students in Oklahoma and 30 other states.

Figure 4

Fourth-grade reading achievement comparisons, Florida's Hispanic students vs. states



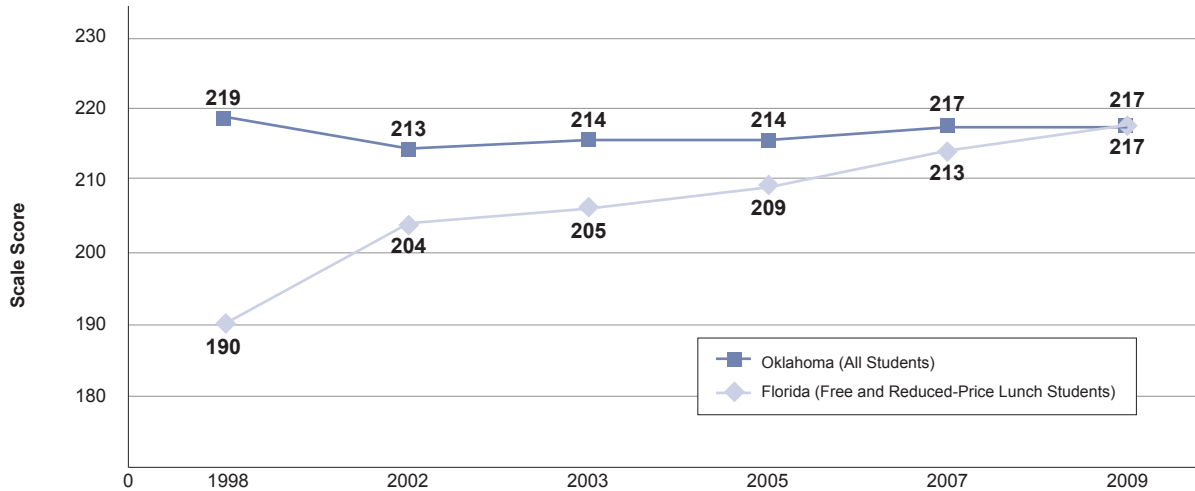
Source: The Heritage Foundation



**In 1998, Free and Reduced-Price-Lunch-eligible Florida students scored 29 points below the average for all students in Oklahoma. In 2009, they tied.**

Figure 5

Fourth-grade reading scores for Free and Reduced-Price-Lunch-eligible students in Florida and all Oklahoma students (NAEP, 1998-2009)

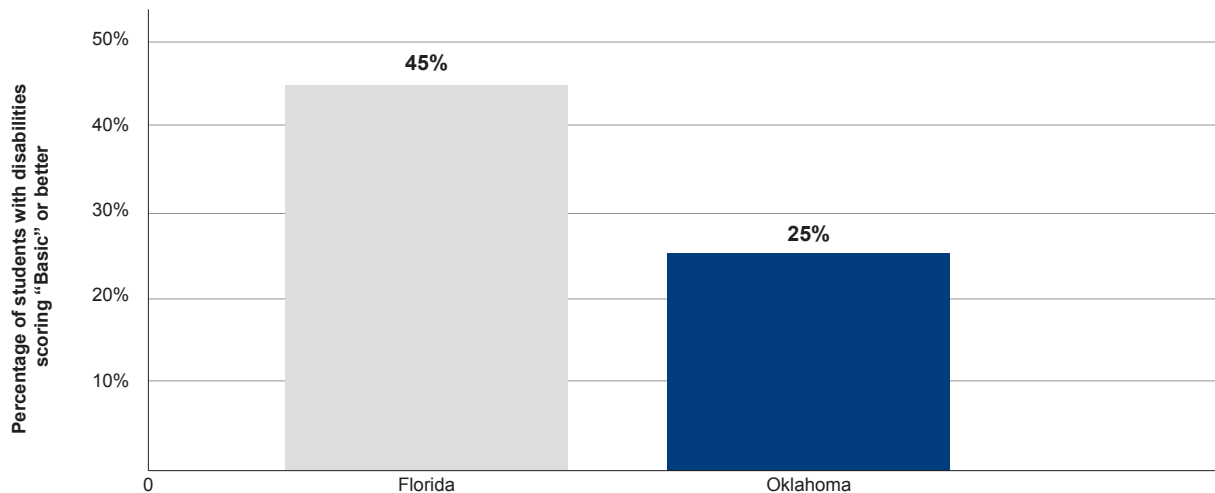


Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

**Florida's children with disabilities score substantially higher than those in Oklahoma after a decade of strong progress.**

Figure 6

Percentage of students with disabilities scoring "Basic" or better, fourth-grade reading (NAEP, 2009)



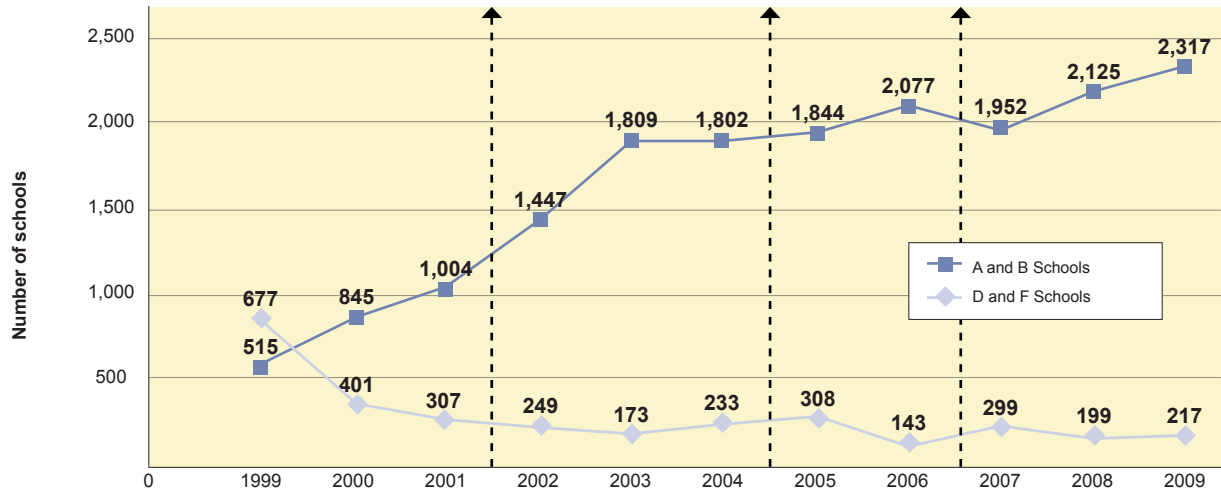
Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)



**Florida's schools improved their grade rankings despite the fact that the state raised the bar three times (see dotted lines).**

Figure 7

Trends in Florida school grades, 1999-2009



Source: Foundation for Excellence in Education

**Florida's grading system balances overall scores and student learning gains, while emphasizing progress among low-achieving students (by double-counting).**

Figure 8

School grading system, each category has 100 possible points (percentage of students)

Reading	Math	Writing	Science
Proficiency (all students)	Proficiency (all students)	Proficiency (all students)	Proficiency (all students)
Progress (all students)	Progress (all students)		
Progress (lowest 25%)	Progress (lowest 25%)		

Source: Foundation for Excellence in Education