

Many 8th graders score poorly on U.S. history, civics exam

KIMBERLY HEFLING AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON — Time for another history lesson.

Only about a quarter of eighth graders showed solid performance or better in U.S. history, civics and geography on tests known as the Nation's Report Card.

The 2014 results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress released Wednesday were similar to those four years ago when the assessments were last administered.

Among the findings: Less than half — 45 percent — of eighth-grade respondents were able to correctly interpret time differences using an atlas with time zones.

ical belief shared by most people in the U.S.

Michelle Herzog, president of the National Council for the Social Studies, said the results "point to a need for immediate action."

White and Asian students performed better than their Hispanic and black peers. Although the scores overall were similar to 2010, Hispanic students made gains in U.S. history and geography and white students made gains in U.S. history and civics.

HOW STUDENTS DID

Only 18 percent of students demonstrated solid performance or better in U.S. history. The results for geography and civics were slightly better, 27 percent and 23 percent, respectively.

A large share of the eighth graders who took the test scored at the "basic" level, meaning just partial mastery of the subjects.

OTHER FINDINGS

About two-thirds of the eighth graders were able to use a map to locate a country on the Horn of Africa, but only a quarter successfully completed a two-part question that involved explaining how the participation of African-Americans in the Civil War affected the war's outcome.

WHO TOOK THE TEST

A nationally represented sample of 29,000 eighth graders from public and private schools took a test in one of the three subjects.

It is administered by the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics.

HOW STUDENTS LEARN

History class is going digital. Compared to four years earlier, more students in 2014 reported using computers at school in their U.S. history and social studies classes.

The assessment is not designed to provide the context needed to explain student performance or what works in classrooms.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Question: The Supreme Court's 1803 decision in Marbury v. Madison established the court's power to:

- A. Impeach a president
B. Decide whether a federal law is constitutional
C. Resolve conflicts between states
D. Resolve conflicts between the president and Congress

*The answer is B, which 41 percent of students chose correctly.

- Question: What is one responsibility that modern Presidents have that was not described in the Constitution?
A. Commanding the armed forces
B. Granting pardons
C. Appointing Supreme Court justices
D. Proposing an annual budget to Congress

*The answer is D, which 38 percent of students chose correctly.

Television > Today's highlights



James Spader as seen in "The Blacklist"

The Vampire Diaries

Alaric (Matt Davis) and Jo (guest star Jodi Lyn O'Keefe) participate in their bachelor and bachelorette parties while Damon (Ian Somerhalder) and Elena (Nina Dobrev) discuss an impulsive offer.

The First 48

An evening of real-crime drama continues as cameras chronicle the efforts of investigators in the crucial hours after a crime.

The Blacklist

Dive into season 2 of this critically acclaimed crime drama starring James Spader and Megan Boone. As Red (Spader) continues his hunt for Berlin (Peter Stormare), his world is rocked when someone important from his past resurfaces in his life.

Backstrom

In this season finale, Amy's (guest star Sarah Chalke) new boyfriend Jessie Rocha (guest star Adam Beach), an Indian Reserve Police Captain, wants to be involved in the investigation into the death of a Native American found dead under a bridge.

Mom

A tumultuous season comes to a close with this new episode. Anna Faris stars as a recently sober single mom struggling to raise her kids and resist temptation.

Scandal

Kerry Washington stars as communications expert Olivia Pope in a new episode of this critically acclaimed drama.

Beat Bobby Flay

Bobby has his sights set on NBC's Tamron Hall and "Chopped's" Ted Allen. They've arrived in the arena with two talented chefs ready to take him down.

Talk shows

6:00 a.m. KVEW Good Morning Northwest
WPIX Maury
6:30 a.m. KVEW Good Morning Northwest
7:00 a.m. KEPR KOIN CBS This Morning
25 KNDU KGW Today Show
KATU The Meredith Vieira Show
KATU Good Morning America
ESPN2 ESPN First Take
WPIX Maury
8:00 a.m. WPIX The Jerry Springer Show
9:00 a.m. KEPR The Meredith Vieira Show
25 KNDU KGW Today Show II
HALL Home and Family
WPIX The Bill Cunningham Show
11:00 a.m. KEPR The Real
25 KNDU Steve Harvey
KATU Live! With Kelly and Michael
WPIX The Bill Cunningham Show
11:00 a.m. KTNW Charlie Rose
42 KVEW KATU The Chew
WPIX The Steve Wilkos Show

tested positive for having cocaine in his system.
1:00 p.m. KPTV The Wendy Williams Show
19 KEPR KOIN The Talk
59 OPB Charlie Rose
WPIX The Steve Wilkos Show
2:00 p.m. KOIN 42 KVEW The Doctors
KATU The Meredith Vieira Show
3:30 a.m. KEPR KOIN Dr. Phil
25 KNDU The Dr. Oz Show
KATU The Ellen DeGeneres Show
4:00 p.m. KNDU The Ellen DeGeneres Show
42 KVEW The Rachael Ray Show
KATU Steve Harvey
4:00 p.m. KNDU The Ellen DeGeneres Show
42 KVEW The Queen Latifah Show
5:30 p.m. HBO Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
8:30 p.m. HBO3 Real Time With Bill Maher
9:30 p.m. HBO3 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
11:00 p.m. TBS Conan
11:35 p.m. 19 KEPR KOIN The Late Show With David Letterman
25 KNDU KGW The Tonight Show
42 KVEW KATU Jimmy Kimmel Live
12:30 a.m. TBS Conan
12:35 a.m. 25 KNDU KGW Late Night With Seth Meyers
Pendleton East-Oregonian, OR: Talk Shows Apr 30, 2015

Thursday Morning

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes shows like AgDay, The Office, News, Today Show, and Sesame Street.

AFTERNOON

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes shows like Pat. Court, Judge Mathis, The Real, and The Doctors.

EVENING

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes shows like Modern Family, Family Feud, The Big Bang Theory, and Jeopardy!

STATION PEN 6 PM 6:30 7 PM 7:30 8 PM 8:30 9 PM 9:30 10 PM 10:30 11 PM 11:30

Large table listing various TV programs and their times across different stations. Includes shows like The First 48, AMC, ANPL, CMT, and many others.

NIGHT OWL

Table with columns for Station, Time, and Program. Includes shows like AngerM., TMZ, Dish, and King of H.