

# ***NAEP in the News***

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## **NAEP Summary**

This week's top stories include a blog about private schools and achievement, a column about student achievement in Massachusetts, and an editorial about common standards in Ohio.

*Washington Post* writer Valerie Strauss [explored](#) the differences between public and private schools on her blog "The Answer Sheet." Strauss takes issue with a recent *Washingtonian* article that implies that all private schools are "automatically" better than public schools. Strauss writes that "private schools are so different in size, resources, enrollment, cost and mission" that they cannot be considered one homogenous group, and better or worse than public schools. A comment posted on her blog pointed out that NAEP results show students in private schools have higher math and reading scores than their peers in public schools. Strauss [responded](#) in a new post that the higher NAEP scores "may not be a result of anything the private schools do." She mentions a correlation between parent income and education and test scores and says children in private schools tend to have more highly educated and wealthier parents than those in public schools.

A [blog post](#) from *The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* explores why Massachusetts students achieved such high scores on recent NAEP tests. Columnist Patrick McIlheran says that Massachusetts adoption of E.D Hirsch's Core Knowledge curriculum is the motivating force behind the state's success. Referring to an [article](#) by Sol Stern in the *City Journal*, McIlheran's post notes that on the 2005 and 2007 NAEP assessments, Massachusetts ranked first in the nation in fourth- and eighth-grade reading and fourth- and eighth-grade math. He says "no state had ever scored first in both grades and both subjects in a single year let alone for two consecutive test cycles" McIlheran says Hirsh's Core Knowledge is gaining popularity with New York City's Chancellor Joel Klein.

An [editorial](#) in *The Columbus Dispatch* argued that Ohio should adopt the common core standards being developed by CCSSO and NGA. Ohio was one of 48 states to sign on to the common core standards movement. According to the article, some state education leaders are considering developing new Ohio-only standards because a state budget bill requires new standards by June 30, and the national standards will not be adopted by that date. *The Columbus Dispatch* cites discrepancies between Ohio's state assessment scores and NAEP scores as the reason the state should wait for the new common standards despite budget law. The article says the time invested in developing the common

standards “could allow nearly all the nation's educational experts to combine efforts and compare notes on how best to help students reach them.”

There were 13.6 million media impressions this week, making the 2009 total 1.08 billion impressions. There were 7 unique print articles and 10 internet posts this week, which brings the year's total to 981.

**This Week's Education Policy Issue:** Race to the Top and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is offering up to \$250,000 to help states prepare their applications for the Race to the Top Fund.

- The New York Times [reports](#) that the money was originally offered to only 15 states but has been expanded to include all states.
- The Seattle Post Intelligencer [says](#) the Obama Administration and Obama Gates Foundation “share some goals that not everyone embraces,” including paying teachers based on student test scores and common standards.

## **Top Stories**

[Are private schools better than public schools?](#)

Washington Post Blogs (DC)

10-27-2009

[Do test scores prove private schools are better?](#)

Washington Post Blogs (DC)

10-27-2009

[Why can Massachusetts kids read better than yours?](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Blogs (WI)

10-27-2009

[Editorial: Raise the bar](#)

Columbus (OH) Dispatch

10-27-2009

## **Top Print News**

[Xenia teacher helps set standards](#)

Dayton (OH) Daily News

10-28-2009

[Hawaii marches backward on education reform](#)

Iola (KS) Register Interactive (The)

10-28-2009

[Pushed parental involvement in students' education](#)

Washington (DC) Post

10-27-2009

[The Gender Debate:](#)

Cincinnati Parent (OH)

10-27-2009

[Poor Math Scores Come as Education Cuts Continue](#)

School Library Journal

10-27-2009

[Charter: Give concept fair chance](#)

Clarion-Ledger (Jackson,MS)

10-25-2009

**Top Online and Blog News**

[Parents get a Refund for Baby Einstein: Can we get one for Race to the Top?](#)

Education Week Blogs

10-28-2009

[End State: Is California Finished?](#)

Carnegie Endowment (Washington,DC)

10-28-2009

[Knowledge matters](#)

JoanneJacobs.com

10-27-2009

[As test scores fall, it is time for real reforms](#)

Wyoming Tribune-Eagle (Cheyenne, WY)

10-27-2009

[Admissions Competitiveness Reconsidered](#)

Inside Higher Ed

10-27-2009

[Failed State](#)

New Republic (Washington, DC)

10-27-2009

[The Graduation Gap](#)

American Prospect (Boston,MA)

10-26-2009