

News Release

Monday evening, November 9, 2015

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#DitchTheGap coalition sees more “Perception Management” in JCPS’ Public Statements about latest NAEP data on achievement and learning gaps between races

At tonight’s meeting of the JCPS Board of Education, Chris Harmer addressed the Board as spokesperson for the #DitchTheGap coalition. That coalition consists of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the KY Alliance against Racist and Political Repression, WIT, Stand Up Sunday, DearJCPS, Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice, and Fairness Campaign. His remarks were about the ongoing misrepresentations to the Board and public by JCPS about district-wide academic results. His remarks focused on the JCPS results in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the October 28 JCPS news release, resultant public media coverage, and the presentation to the Board during the Board Meeting.

Mr Harmer’s remarks:

Good evening. My name is Chris Harmer, and I represent the DitchTheGap coalition. As you know, we are urging that the Board make an explicit commitment in the upcoming Vision2020 to meaningful reduction of learning gaps between so-called “gap” groups and advantaged, “nongap” students. The current draft still does not address that commitment, and we oppose its approval as drafted.

However, that is not why I am speaking tonight. Our second demand has always been that there be teeth in that commitment, in the form of learning gap reduction targets that the Board and public can understand and respond to if necessary. In the course of research and interviews about possible options for those metrics, we learned about National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as NAEP.

JCPS has participated in NAEP since 2009. It is given every two years to a few thousand representative JCPS 4th and 8th grade students, identified through a statistically valid, randomized design. In any experimental design, though, there

is a margin of error—a “plus or minus”—in the sampling and scores. It’s just like the political polls we’ve seen leading up to last week’s elections.

The October 28 JCPS press release on NAEP results, the resultant public media coverage, and the presentation you will receive tonight herald JCPS’ “closing” -- in some areas-- of achievement gaps for both African American and Hispanic students, as compared with White students. Unfortunately, while the actual scale score numbers may be correct, the conclusions are not. They seem, once again, more about management of perception. The snapshot summaries that NAEP itself provides tell a very different story. Those one-page summaries are attached in your packets.

NAEP takes a longer view to identify any statistically significant trends that can be relied upon in decision-making. Look at NAEP’s conclusions as you listen to the staff presentation. In the NAEP snapshots, you’ll see the phrase “not significantly different” over and over. With one exception, so-called “gains” and gap reductions were not statistically significant over the period 2009-2015. Hispanic data did not yet meet data standards and was generally not even compared over that period.

The gap between African-American and White 4th Grade Math performance did show a statistically valid reduction. That is perhaps a small, though literally significant, start. However, the inescapable takeaway for JCPS from NAEP—called the nation’s report card-- is that the other learning gaps between rich and poor and between black and white students are not significantly different now than in 2009.

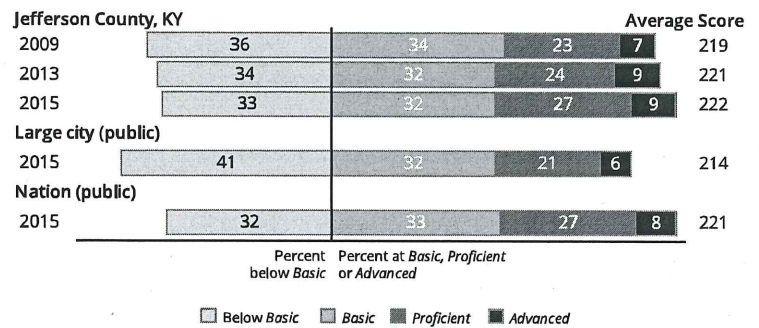
There are some new ideas with great potential in the Vision2020 draft. There were great words in Vision 2015 as well. What is needed is impact, not just intention. As a matter of justice, of doing JCPS’ part to break the cycle of poverty, we need an explicit commitment now to narrow these gaps, followed by the initiatives, budgets, and assessments to make good on that commitment.

Thank you.

Overall Results

- In 2015, the average score of fourth-grade students in Jefferson County was 222. This was higher than the average score of 214 for public school students in large cities.
- The average score for students in Jefferson County in 2015 (222) was not significantly different from their average score in 2013 (221) and in 2009 (219).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 36 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (33 percent) and in 2009 (30 percent).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP Basic level was 67 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (66 percent) and in 2009 (64 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



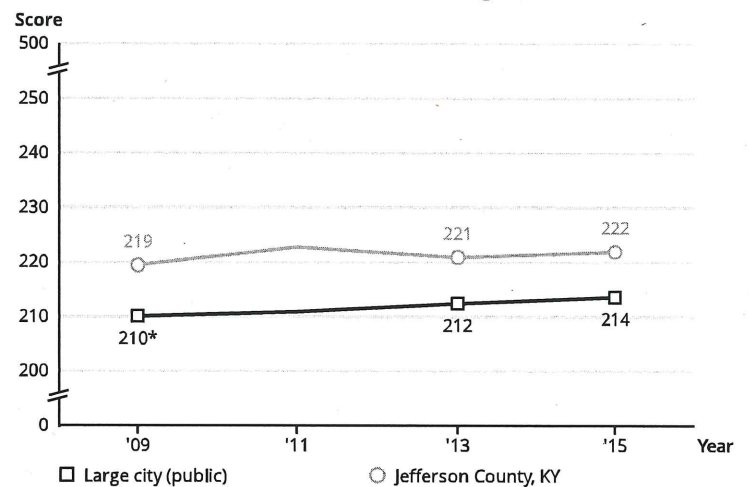
NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2015 to Other Districts

In 2015, the average score in Jefferson County (222) was

Lower Than District (1)	Not Significantly Different From Districts (5)	Higher Than Districts (14)
Hillsborough County	Austin Boston Charlotte Duval County (FL) Miami-Dade	Albuquerque Atlanta Baltimore City Chicago Cleveland Dallas Detroit District of Columbia Fresno Houston Los Angeles New York City Philadelphia San Diego

Average Scores for District and Large Cities



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2015. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

Results for Student Groups in 2015

Reporting Groups	Percentage of students	Avg. score	Percentage at or above Basic	Percentage at or above Proficient	Percentage at or above Advanced
Race/Ethnicity					
White	49	232	77	45	13
Black	35	208	53	22	3
Hispanic	9	217	63	28	5
Asian	3	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	3	‡	‡	‡	‡
Gender					
Male	48	220	64	34	9
Female	52	224	70	37	9
National School Lunch Program					
Eligible	70	213	59	25	4
Not eligible	30	242	86	60	20

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

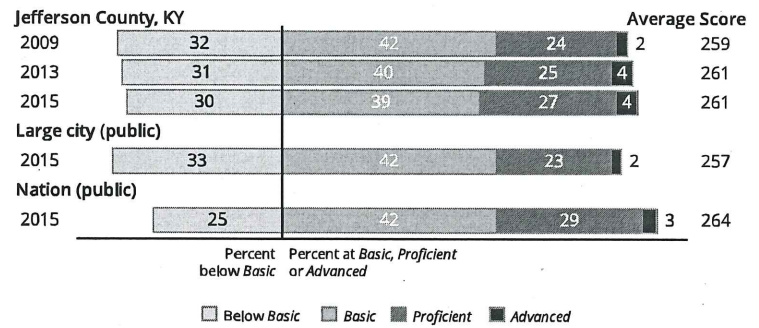
Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2015, Black students had an average score that was 24 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (27 points).
- In 2015, Hispanic students had an average score that was 14 points lower than that for White students. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 2009, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2015, female students in Jefferson County had an average score that was not significantly different from that for male students.
- In 2015, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 29 points lower than that for students who were not eligible. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (28 points).

Overall Results

- In 2015, the average score of eighth-grade students in Jefferson County was 261. This was higher than the average score of 257 for public school students in large cities.
- The average score for students in Jefferson County in 2015 (261) was not significantly different from their average score in 2013 (261) and in 2009 (259).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 31 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (29 percent) and in 2009 (26 percent).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP Basic level was 70 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (69 percent) and in 2009 (68 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



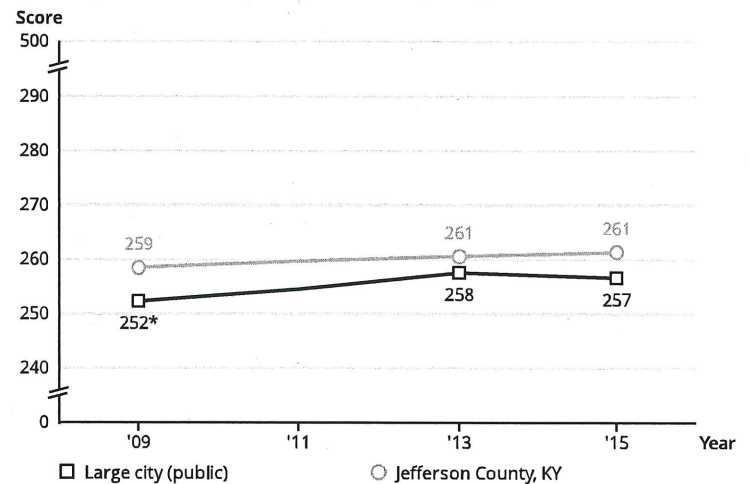
NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2015 to Other Districts

In 2015, the average score in Jefferson County (261) was

Lower Than 0 Districts	Not Significantly Different From 9 Districts	Higher Than 11 Districts
	Austin Boston Charlotte Chicago Duval County (FL) Hillsborough County Miami-Dade New York City San Diego	Albuquerque Atlanta Baltimore City Cleveland Dallas Detroit District of Columbia Fresno Houston Los Angeles Philadelphia

Average Scores for District and Large Cities



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2015. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

Results for Student Groups in 2015

Reporting Groups	Percentage of students	Avg. score	Percentage at or above Basic	Percentage at Proficient	Percentage at Advanced
Race/Ethnicity					
White	50	271	79	42	6
Black	36	247	57	15	1
Hispanic	8	260	70	29	2
Asian	4	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	2	‡	‡	‡	‡
Gender					
Male	50	258	67	28	3
Female	50	265	73	34	5
National School Lunch Program					
Eligible	62	251	61	19	1
Not eligible	38	279	85	51	8

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

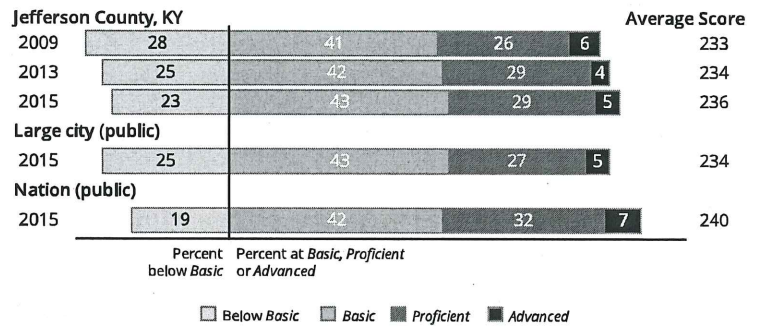
Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2015, Black students had an average score that was 24 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (22 points).
- In 2015, Hispanic students had an average score that was 11 points lower than that for White students. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 2009, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2015, female students in Jefferson County had an average score that was not significantly different from that for male students.
- In 2015, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 28 points lower than that for students who were not eligible. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (23 points).

Overall Results

- In 2015, the average score of fourth-grade students in Jefferson County was 236. This was not significantly different from the average score of 234 for public school students in large cities.
- The average score for students in Jefferson County in 2015 (236) was not significantly different from their average score in 2013 (234) and in 2009 (233).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 34 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (33 percent) and in 2009 (31 percent).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 77 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (75 percent) and in 2009 (72 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



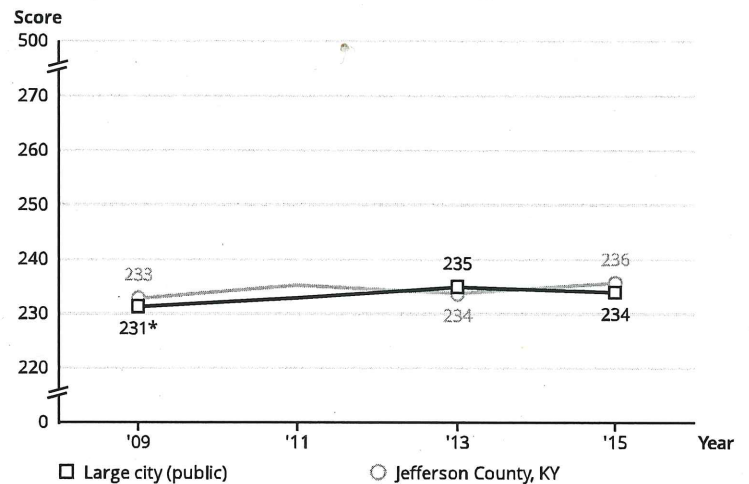
NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2015 to Other Districts

In 2015, the average score in Jefferson County (236) was

Lower Than 5 Districts	Not Significantly Different From 6 Districts	Higher Than 9 Districts
Austin Charlotte Duval County (FL) Hillsborough County Miami-Dade	Boston Chicago Dallas District of Columbia Houston San Diego	Albuquerque Atlanta Baltimore City Cleveland Detroit Fresno Los Angeles New York City Philadelphia

Average Scores for District and Large Cities



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2015. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

Results for Student Groups in 2015

Reporting Groups	Percentage of students	Avg. score	Percentage at or above Basic	Percentage at or above Proficient	Percentage at or above Advanced
Race/Ethnicity					
White	48	245	86	47	7
Black	35	225	67	17	1
Hispanic	10	226	66	21	2
Asian	4	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	3	‡	‡	‡	‡
Gender					
Male	49	238	78	38	7
Female	51	233	76	30	3
National School Lunch Program					
Eligible	71	229	71	24	2
Not eligible	28	252	91	57	11

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

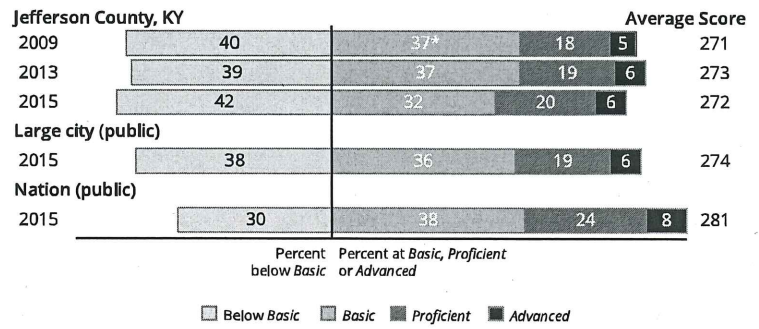
Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2015, Black students had an average score that was 20 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was narrower than that in 2009 (27 points).
- In 2015, Hispanic students had an average score that was 19 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (17 points).
- In 2015, male students in Jefferson County had an average score that was not significantly different from that for female students.
- In 2015, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 22 points lower than that for students who were not eligible. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (29 points).

Overall Results

- In 2015, the average score of eighth-grade students in Jefferson County was 272. This was not significantly different from the average score of 274 for public school students in large cities.
- The average score for students in Jefferson County in 2015 (272) was not significantly different from their average score in 2013 (273) and in 2009 (271).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 26 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (25 percent) and in 2009 (22 percent).
- The percentage of students in Jefferson County who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 58 percent in 2015. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2013 (61 percent) and in 2009 (60 percent).

Achievement-Level Percentages and Average Score Results



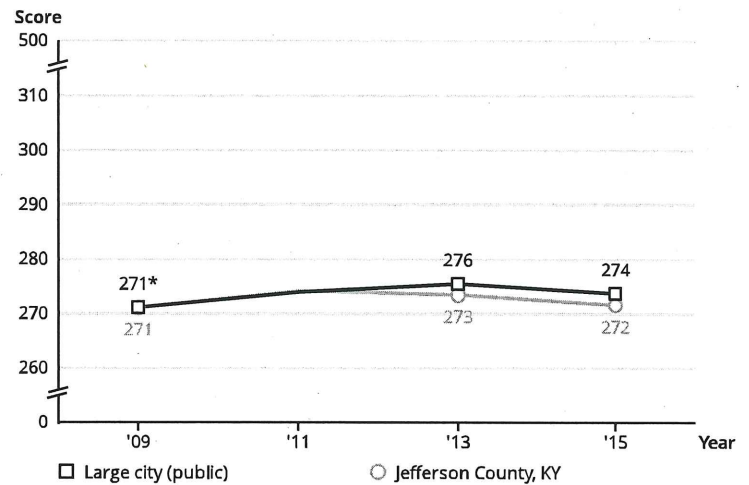
NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Compare the Average Score in 2015 to Other Districts

In 2015, the average score in Jefferson County (272) was

Lower Than 4 Districts	Not Significantly Different From 9 Districts	Higher Than 7 Districts
Austin Boston Charlotte San Diego	Albuquerque Chicago Dallas Duval County (FL) Hillsborough County Houston Miami-Dade New York City Philadelphia	Atlanta Baltimore City Cleveland Detroit District of Columbia Fresno Los Angeles

Average Scores for District and Large Cities



* Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2015. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.

Results for Student Groups in 2015

Reporting Groups	Percentage of students	Avg. score	Percentage at or above Basic	Percentage at Proficient	Percentage at Advanced
Race/Ethnicity					
White	49	285	73	38	8
Black	36	252	38	8	1
Hispanic	7	266	51	17	6
Asian	4	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	#	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	2	‡	‡	‡	‡
Gender					
Male	50	270	56	26	7
Female	50	273	60	26	6
National School Lunch Program					
Eligible	58	258	44	13	2
Not eligible	42	290	78	43	11

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding, and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free/reduced-price lunches, is not displayed. Black includes African American and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin.

Score Gaps for Student Groups

- In 2015, Black students had an average score that was 33 points lower than that for White students. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (32 points).
- In 2015, Hispanic students had an average score that was 18 points lower than that for White students. Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 2009, because reporting standards were not met.
- In 2015, male students in Jefferson County had an average score that was not significantly different from that for female students.
- In 2015, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of low family income, had an average score that was 32 points lower than that for students who were not eligible. This performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2009 (30 points).