Student scores in the 11-state Midwest on math and reading either remained steady or fell between 2017 and 2019, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The latest NAEP results were released in October.

Among its findings:

- Indiana, Kansas and Ohio were among the 17 U.S. states where fourth-grade reading scores fell between 2017 and 2019. They remained the same in every other Midwestern state.
- Reading scores among eighth-graders fell in 20 U.S. states, including five in the Midwest: Illinois, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin.
- In the subject of math, the scores of fourth-graders did not change in any Midwestern state between 2017 and 2019. Among eighth-graders, scores fell in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and two other U.S. states.

Over the longer term, student scores on math and reading have risen since the NAEP began being administered in the early 1990s. This year’s results show three Midwestern states—Minnesota, North Dakota and Ohio—having scores higher than the national average on all four tests (fourth-grade math and reading, and eighth-grade math and reading).