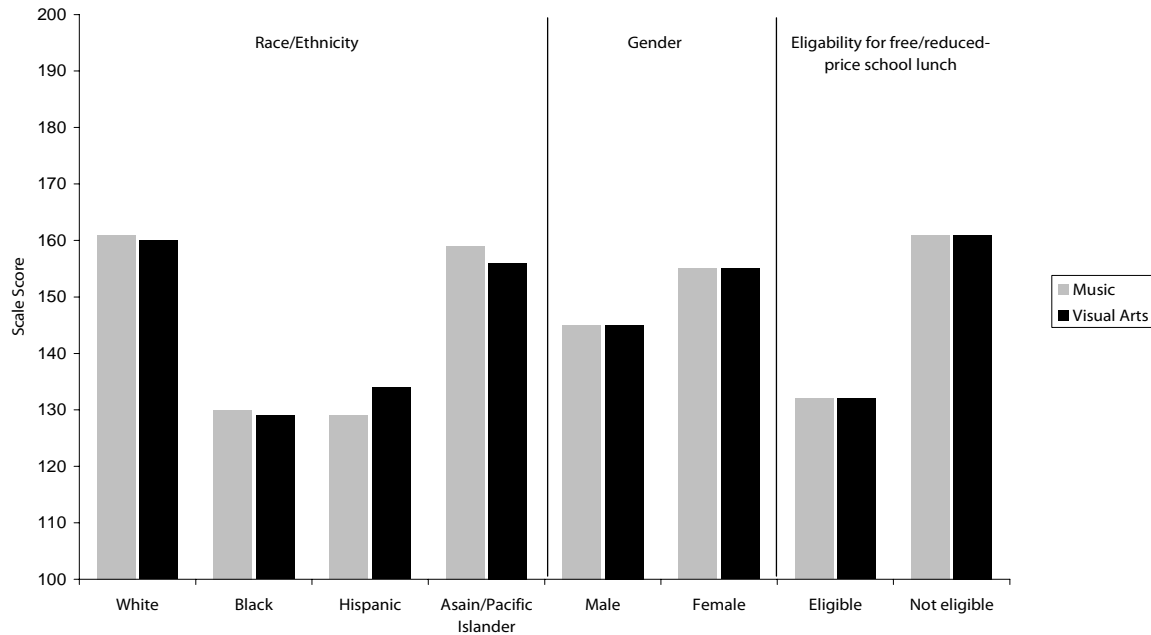




Arts Facts . . . The “National Assessment of Education Progress in the Arts,” a study of eighth-grade students nationwide, revealed **mediocre achievement** in their knowledge and skills in the visual arts and knowledge of music.

Average Responding Scale Score in NAEP Music and Visual Arts Assessments at Grade 8, by Selected Student Characteristics: 2008



The National Assessment Governing Board released the 2008 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in the Arts, which presents the educational progress of eighth-grade students nationally in visual arts and music.

Theatre and dance were not surveyed because of budget restrictions and difficulty in previous years finding enough theater and dance classes to yield reliable results. In addition, the questions that assessed a student’s ability to create music were eliminated for budget reasons.

In both music and visual arts (see chart above, higher scale scores indicate higher proficiency),

- Average responding scores were higher for White and Asian/Pacific Islander students than Black and Hispanic students.
- Female students had a higher average responding score than male students.
- Students who were eligible for free/reduced price school lunch had a lower average responding score and a lower average creating task score in visual arts than those who were not eligible.
- City students scored lower than suburban, town and rural students.

Additional findings included the following:

- Eight percent of surveyed schools do not offer music instruction. Fourteen percent of schools do not offer visual arts classes.
- Eight percent of surveyed schools offer music instruction less than once a week. Ten percent of schools offer visual arts instruction less than once a week.
- Fifty-seven percent of eighth-graders in 2008 attended schools where students received music instruction at least three or four times a week.
- Forty-seven percent of eighth-graders in 2008 attended schools where students received visual arts instruction at least three or four times a week.