

Figure 9. US 4th and 8th Grade Student Achievement in Physics-Related Content.

Both the 4th and 8th grade TIMSS tests had sub-test related to physics ("physical science" at the 4th grade). The results are presented here and countries are again divided into three tiers. Unlike other sub-tests for which US 4th grade scores placed us in the top tier, this fundamental area of science placed us in the middle tier for both grades. US performance was average in both cases. The upcoming 12th grade science results will be entirely on physics so the relationship of these data to those yet-to-be-released should be informative. Performing less well in an area as fundamental as physics is troubling.

Grade 4 (Physical Science)	
Nation	% Correct
Korea	75
Japan	70
(Netherlands)	65
Singapore	64
(Austria)	64
Australia)	63
Czech Republic	62
(Slovenia)	61
Canada	61
United States	60
England	60
Hong Kong	60
(Hungary)	59
Scotland	57
Ireland	57
New Zealand	57
(Israel)	55
Norway	55
(Latvia (LSS))	54
Iceland	52
Cyprus	50
Portugal	49
Greece	49
(Thailand)	46
Iran, Islamic Republic	40
(Kuwait)	37

Grade 8 (Physics)	
Nation	% Correct
Singapore	69
Japan	67
Korea	65
Czech Republic	64
(Netherlands)	63
(Austria)	62
England	62
Slovak Republic	61
(Slovenia)	61
Belgium-Flemish	61
(Bulgaria)	60
(Australia)	60
Hungary	60
Canada	59
Hong Kong	58
New Zealand	58
Switzerland	58
Russian Federation	57
(Germany)	57
Sweden	57
(Israel)	57
(Scotland)	57
Norway	57
Ireland	56
United States	56
Spain	55
France	54
(Thailand)	54
Iceland	53
(Greece)	53
(Denmark)	53
(Belgium-French)	51
Latvia (LSS)	51
Lithuania	51
(Romania)	49
Portugal	48
Iran, Islamic Republic	48
Cyprus	46
(Kuwait)	43
(Colombia)	37
(South Africa)	27