

## GOAL 5: Mathematics and Science

### State Indicator 17a. International Mathematics Achievement — 8th grade

Have states<sup>1</sup> improved their international standing in 8th grade mathematics achievement?

#### Improvement over time

Improvement over time cannot be determined yet because a research study designed to predict state performance on international mathematics assessments has been conducted only once. The Goals Panel will report changes in standing in mathematics achievement when new results become available from international assessments conducted in 1999.

#### Highest-performing states\*

*States that would be expected to score as well as, or better than, 35 out of 41 nations<sup>o</sup> in 8th grade mathematics in 1995-1996:*

Iowa  
Maine  
Minnesota<sup>†</sup>  
Montana  
Nebraska  
North Dakota  
Wisconsin

*The U.S. scored as well as, or better than, 20 out of 40 nations in 8th grade mathematics.*

<sup>o</sup> Only Belgium (Flemish educational system), the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and Singapore would be expected to outperform these seven states in 8th grade mathematics.

<sup>†</sup> Results for Minnesota are based on actual scores, not estimated scores.  
See Appendix B.

\* Top 7 states.

#### Most-improved states

*States that made the greatest reductions in the numbers of countries that would be expected to outperform them on international 8th grade mathematics assessments:*

The states that made the greatest improvements over time cannot be identified yet, because a research study designed to predict state performance on international mathematics assessments has been conducted only once. The Goals Panel will recognize the most-improved states when new results become available from international mathematics assessments conducted in 1999.

<sup>1</sup> The term "state" is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas.