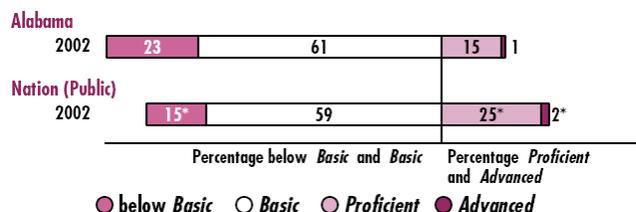


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for Alabama

- The average scale score for fourth-grade students in Alabama was 140.
- Alabama's average score (140) was lower¹ than that of the nation's public schools (153).
- Students' average scale scores in Alabama were higher than those in 3 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 6 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 38 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 15 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 77 percent.

Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Alabama

Reporting groups	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percentage of students at			
			Below <i>Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Male	51	130 ↓	32 ↑	59	8 ↓	#
Female	49	151 ↓	14 ↑	64 ↑	21 ↓	1 ↓
White	61	146 ↓	18 ↑	62 ↑	19 ↓	1 ↓
Black	36	130 ↓	31 ↑	61	7 ↓	#
Hispanic	1	---	---	---	---	---
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	53	130 ↓	31 ↑	62	7 ↓	#
Not eligible	34	152 ↓	14 ↑	60	24 ↓	1 ↓
Information not available	13	150	15	62	22	1 ↓

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in Alabama had an average score that was higher than that of male students (21 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (18 points).
- White students had an average score that was higher than that of Black students (17 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (20 points).
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Hispanic students in Alabama.
- Students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was higher than that of students who were eligible (23 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (22 points).

Writing Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
Alabama	117 ↓	140 ↓	163 ↓
Nation (Public)	128	153	178

An examination of scores at different percentiles on the 0-300 NAEP writing scale at each grade indicates how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed. For example, the data above shows that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 178, while 75 percent of students in Alabama scored below 163.

Percentage rounds to zero.

--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

* Significantly different from Alabama.

↑ Significantly higher than, ↓ lower than appropriate subgroup in the nation (public).

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance.

² "Jurisdictions" includes participating states and other jurisdictions (such as Guam or the District of Columbia).

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Score gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average scale scores.

Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/> for additional results and detailed information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessment.