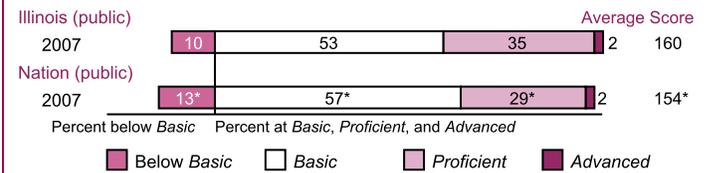


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for Illinois

- Illinois' average score (160) in 2007 was higher than that of the nation's public schools (154).¹
- Of the 45 states and one other jurisdiction that participated in the 2007 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in Illinois was higher than those in 27 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 14 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 4 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 37 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in the nation (31 percent).
- The percentage of students in Illinois who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 90 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in the nation (87 percent).

Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels and Average Score



NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 writing achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: *Below Basic*, 113 or lower; *Basic*, 114–172; *Proficient*, 173–223; *Advanced*, 224 or above.

Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Illinois: 2007

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above		Percent Advanced
				Basic	Proficient	
Male	51	150↑	15↓	85↑	27↑	1
Female	49	170↑	5↓	95↑	48↑	4
White	58	169↑	6↓	94↑	48↑	3
Black	19	142	19	81	18	#
Hispanic	18	143	18	82	17	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	180↑	2	98	60↑	8
American Indian/Alaska Native	#↓	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	40	142	19	81	17	#
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	60	172↑	5↓	95↑	51↑	4

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2007, male students in Illinois had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 19 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the nation (20 points).
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 27 points. This performance gap was wider than that of the nation (22 points).
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the nation (21 points).
- In 2007, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of poverty, had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch by 29 points. This performance gap was wider than that of the nation (23 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 47 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the nation (46 points).

Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles: 2007

Jurisdiction	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
Illinois	138	162	185
Nation (public)	132*	156*	178*

NOTE: Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP writing scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed. For example, the data above show that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 178, while 75 percent of students in Illinois scored below 185.

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from Illinois.

↑ Significantly higher than nation (public). ↓ Significantly lower than nation (public).

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/narrower/wider/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level with appropriate adjustments for multiple comparisons was used for testing statistical significance. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages. Comparisons across jurisdictions and comparisons with the nation or within a jurisdiction across years may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL). The exclusion rates for SD and ELL in Illinois were 2 percent and 1 percent in 2007, respectively. For more information on NAEP significance testing, see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/writing/interpret-results.asp#statistical>.

² "Jurisdiction" refers to states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free and reduced-price lunches, and the "Unclassified" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed. 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), 2007 Writing Assessment.