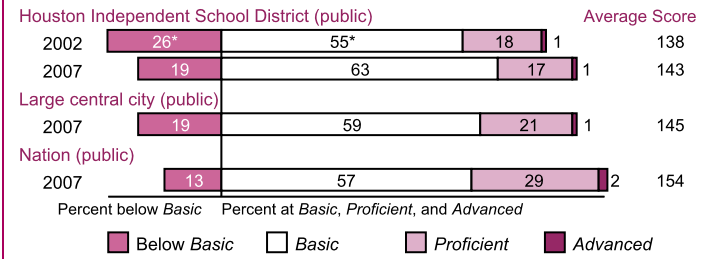


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300. In 2007, Houston Independent School District was one of ten urban districts that voluntarily participated in the NAEP writing assessment on a trial basis.

**Overall Writing Results for Houston**

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Houston was 143. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2002 (138).<sup>1</sup>
- Houston's average score (143) in 2007 was not significantly different from that of public schools in large central cities (145).<sup>2</sup>
- The percentage of students in Houston who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 18 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2002 (19 percent).
- The percentage of students in Houston who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 81 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in 2002 (74 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.

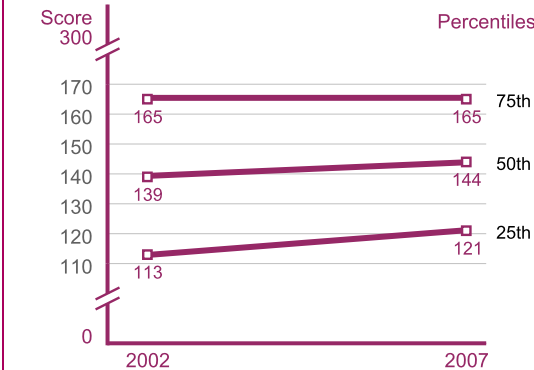
**Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Houston: 2007**

Reporting groups	Percent of students <sup>3</sup>	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above Basic	Percent Proficient	Percent Advanced
Male	49	135↑	27↓	73↑	12	#
Female	51	150	12	88	23	1
White	8	171	4	96	46	4
Black	31	140	20	80	15	#
Hispanic	57	138	22↓	78↑	13	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	171	5	95	47	5
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	77↑	137	22↓	78↑	13	#
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	23↓	159	10	90	35	2

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- In 2007, male students in Houston had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 16 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2002 (25 points).
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 31 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2002 (40 points).
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 33 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2002 (44 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 22 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2002 (25 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 44 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2002 (53 points).

**Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles in Houston**



NOTE: Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP writing scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed.

# Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

\* Significantly different from 2007.

↑ Significantly higher than 2002. ↓ Significantly lower than 2002.

<sup>1</sup> 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 Houston were 5 percent and 4 percent in 2007, respectively. For more information on NAEP significance testing, see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/writing/interpret-results.asp#statistical>.

<sup>2</sup> "Large central city" includes public schools located in large central cities (population 250,000 or more) within a U.S. Census Bureau-defined Core-Based Statistical Area. It is not synonymous with "inner city."

<sup>3</sup> For comparison, non-White students comprised 77 percent of students in large central city public schools and 42 percent in public schools nationally at grade 8. Also, students eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch comprised 64 percent of students in large central city public schools and 41 percent in public schools nationally.

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://nationsreportcard.gov/writing\\_2007/](http://nationsreportcard.gov/writing_2007/) 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 and 2007 Trial Urban District Writing Assessments.