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.

The average scale score for fourth-grade students in Arkansas was 145.

Arkansas’ average score (145) was lower¹ than that of the nation’s public schools (153).

Students’ average scale scores in Arkansas were higher than those in 6 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 13 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 28 jurisdictions.

The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 19 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the Basic level was 82 percent.

Female students in Arkansas had an average score that was higher than that of male students (18 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 (21 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (20 points).

White students had an average score that was higher than that of Hispanic students (12 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (19 points).

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 (19 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (22 points).

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 Arkansas scored below 169.

# Percentage rounds to zero.
--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.
* Significantly different from Arkansas.
† 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.
