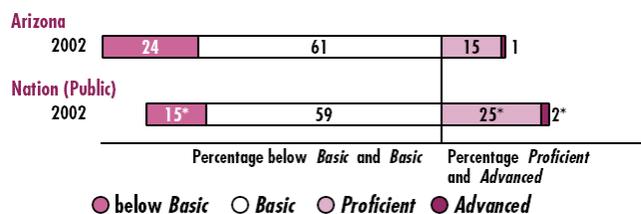


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

### Overall Writing Results for Arizona

- The average scale score for fourth-grade students in Arizona was 140.
- Arizona's average score (140) was lower<sup>1</sup> than that of the nation's public schools (153).
- Students' average scale scores in Arizona were higher than those in 3 jurisdictions<sup>2</sup>, 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 76 percent.

### Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



### Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Arizona

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	132 ↓	30 ↑	61	9 ↓	#
Female	49	148 ↓	18 ↑	60 ↑	21 ↓	1 ↓
White	50	149 ↓	15 ↑	63 ↑	20 ↓	1 ↓
Black	5	143	17	69	15	0
Hispanic	35	129 ↓	35 ↑	57	8 ↓	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	7	121 ↓	41 ↑	56	4 ↓	0
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	46	129 ↓	34 ↑	59	7 ↓	#
Not eligible	36	151 ↓	14 ↑	64 ↑	22 ↓	1 ↓
Information not available	18	147	20	59	21	1 ↓

### Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in Arizona had an average score that was higher than that of male students (16 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (18 points).
- White students had an average score that was not found to be significantly different from that of Black students. White students had an average score that was higher than Black students in the Nation.
- White students had an average score that was higher than that of Hispanic students (20 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 (22 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 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Arizona	116 ↓	140 ↓	164 ↓
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 Arizona scored below 164.

# Percentage rounds to zero.

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

\* Significantly different from Arizona.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> "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.