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 Delaware was 163.

Delaware's average score (163) was higher¹ than that of the nation's public schools (153).

Students’ average scale scores in Delaware were higher than those in 44 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 1 jurisdiction, and lower than those in 2 jurisdictions.

The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 35 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the Basic level was 92 percent.

Female students in Delaware had an average score that was higher than that of male students (17 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 (23 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 (23 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 Delaware scored below 186.
