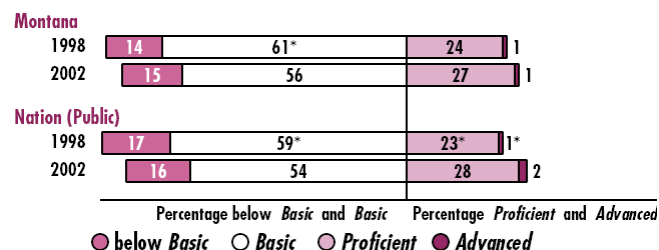


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for Montana

- The average scale score for eighth-grade students in Montana was 152. This was not found to be significantly different¹ from the average score (150) in 1998.
- Montana's average score (152) was not found to be significantly different from that of the nation's public schools (152).
- Students' average scale scores in Montana were higher than those in 19 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 15 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 12 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 29 percent. This percentage was not found to be significantly different from 1998 (25).

Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



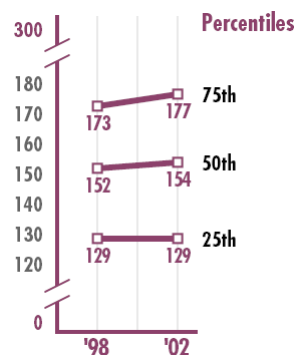
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Montana

Reporting groups	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percentage of students at	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Male	53	137	24	63	14	#	
Female	47	168	6	48 ↓	43	3	
White	84	155	13	55 ↓	30	2	
Black	1	---	---	---	---	---	
Hispanic	2	---	---	---	---	---	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	---	---	---	---	---	
American Indian/Alaska Native	12	129	34	56	9	#	
Free/reduced-priced school lunch							
Eligible	31	135	27	59	13	#	
Not eligible	67	159	10	54	34	2	
Information not available	2	---	---	---	---	---	

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in Montana had an average score that was higher than that of male students (31 points). This performance gap was wider than that of 1998 (24 points).
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Black students in Montana.
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Hispanic students in Montana.
- 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 (24 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (17 points).

Writing Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles



Percentage rounds to zero.

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

* Significantly different from 2002.

↑ Statistically significantly higher than 1998.

↓ Statistically significantly lower than 1998.

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. Performance changes across years should be interpreted in the context of changes in rates of exclusion of special-needs students, which occurred in some states. See *The Nation's Report Card: Writing 2002* for additional information.

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), 1998 and 2002 Writing Assessments.