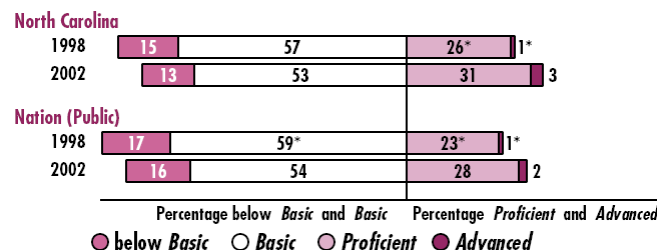


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for North Carolina

- The average scale score for eighth-grade students in North Carolina was 157. This was higher¹ than the average score (150) in 1998.
- North Carolina's average score (157) was higher than that of the nation's public schools (152).
- Students' average scale scores in North Carolina were higher than those in 30 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 11 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 5 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 34 percent. This percentage was greater than 1998 (27).

Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



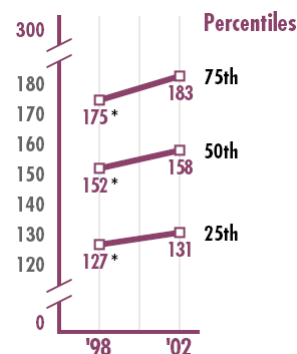
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in North Carolina

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	50	146 ↑	19	57	22	1
Female	50	167 ↑	7	48	40	5
White	63	165 ↑	8	48	39 ↑	5 ↑
Black	30	141 ↑	21	61	17 ↑	1
Hispanic	4	132	34	50	16	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	38	142 ↑	21 ↓	60	19 ↑	1
Not eligible	53	166 ↑	8	48	39	5
Information not available	9	164	8	51	37	5

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in North Carolina had an average score that was higher than that of male students (21 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (21 points).
- White students had an average score that was higher than that of Black students (24 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (25 points).
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Hispanic students in North Carolina in 1998.
- 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 (28 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.