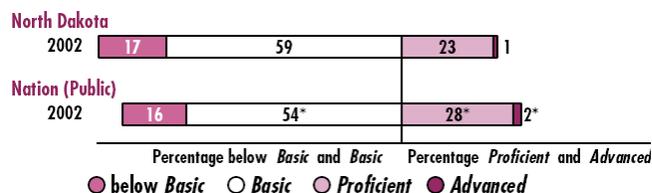


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for North Dakota

- The average scale score for eighth-grade students in North Dakota was 147.
- North Dakota's average score (147) was lower¹ than that of the nation's public schools (152).
- Students' average scale scores in North Dakota were higher than those in 13 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 9 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 24 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 24 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 83 percent.

Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in North Dakota

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	52	133 ↓	27 ↑	63	11 ↓	#
Female	48	161	7	55 ↑	36	1 ↓
White	92	148 ↓	16 ↑	59 ↑	24 ↓	1 ↓
Black	1	---	---	---	---	---
Hispanic	2	---	---	---	---	---
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	4	125	36	57	7	0
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	25	134	27	58	15	#
Not eligible	74	151 ↓	14 ↑	59 ↑	26 ↓	1 ↓
Information not available	2	---	---	---	---	---

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in North Dakota had an average score that was higher than that of male students (28 points). This performance gap was wider than that of the Nation (21 points).
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Black students in North Dakota.
- The sample size was not sufficient to permit a reliable estimate for Hispanic students in North Dakota.
- 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 (17 points). This performance gap was narrower than that of the Nation (25 points).

Writing Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
North Dakota	124 ↓	148 ↓	171 ↓
Nation (Public)	127	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 North Dakota scored below 171.

Percentage rounds to zero.

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

* Significantly different from North Dakota.

↑ 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. 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), 2002 Writing Assessment.