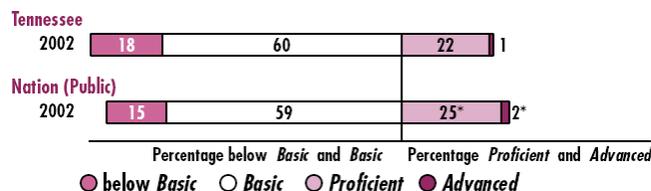


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

### Overall Writing Results for Tennessee

- The average scale score for fourth-grade students in Tennessee was 149.
- Tennessee's average score (149) was lower<sup>1</sup> than that of the nation's public schools (153).
- Students' average scale scores in Tennessee were higher than those in 10 jurisdictions<sup>2</sup>, not significantly different from those in 15 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 22 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 23 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 82 percent.

### Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



### Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Tennessee

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	140 ↓	24	62	14 ↓	#
Female	50	158 ↓	11	57	29	2 ↓
White	73	153 ↓	14 ↑	60	25 ↓	1 ↓
Black	23	135 ↓	29 ↑	60	11	#
Hispanic	2	139	25	61	14	0
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	45	139	24	62	13	#
Not eligible	50	158 ↓	11 ↑	58	29 ↓	2
Information not available	5	146	17	65	17	1

### Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in Tennessee had an average score that was higher than that of male students (18 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 (19 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 (15 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 (19 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
Tennessee	125	150	173 ↓
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 Tennessee scored below 173.

# Percentage rounds to zero.

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

\* Significantly different from Tennessee.

↑ 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.