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 Virginia**

- The average scale score for fourth-grade students in Virginia was 157.
- Virginia's average score (157) was higher¹ than that of the nation's public schools (153).
- Students’ average scale scores in Virginia were higher than those in 26 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 17 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 4 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 29 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the Basic level was 89 percent.

**Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting groups</th>
<th>Percentage of students</th>
<th>Average Score</th>
<th>Below Basic</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>149 ↑</td>
<td>16 ↓</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>165 ↑</td>
<td>7 ↓</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>163 ↑</td>
<td>8 ↓</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free/reduced-priced school lunch</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information not available</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Virginia**

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<td>140</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>#</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free/reduced-priced school lunch Not eligible</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>165</td>
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<td>55</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- Female students in Virginia had an average score that was higher than that of male students (16 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 (23 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 (18 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 (25 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (22 points).

**Writing Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale Score Distribution</th>
<th>25th Percentile</th>
<th>50th Percentile</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>133 ↑</td>
<td>157 ↑</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nation (Public)</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Virginia scored below 181.

**NOTE:** Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Score gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average scale scores.

¹ Comparison (higher/lower/not different) is 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).
³ Percentage rounds to zero.
