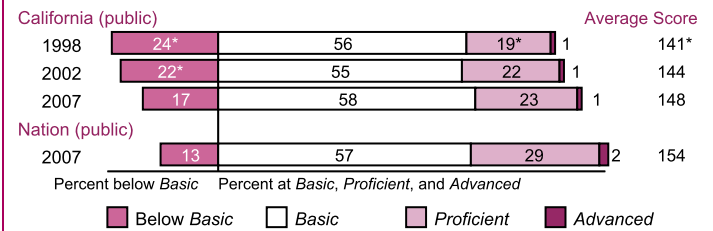


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

**Overall Writing Results for California**

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in California was 148. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2002 (144) and was higher than their average score in 1998 (141).<sup>1</sup>
- California's average score (148) in 2007 was lower than that of the nation's public schools (154).
- Of the 45 states and one other jurisdiction that participated in the 2007 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in California was higher than those in 4 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 6 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 35 jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup>
- The percentage of students in California who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 25 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2002 (23 percent) and was greater than that in 1998 (20 percent).
- The percentage of students in California who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 83 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in 2002 (78 percent) and was greater than that in 1998 (76 percent).

**Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels and Average Score**



NOTE: The NAEP grade 8 writing achievement levels correspond to the following scale points: *Below Basic*, 113 or lower; *Basic*, 114–172; *Proficient*, 173–223; *Advanced*, 224 or above.

**Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in California: 2007**

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	52	139	23	77	17	1
Female	48	157 <sup>↑</sup>	11 <sup>↓</sup>	89 <sup>↑</sup>	33	2
White	31	161	9	91	38	2
Black	7	138	23	77	13	#
Hispanic	48	137	23	77	13	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	12	164	10	90	44	4
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	136	29	71	17	1
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	47 <sup>↑</sup>	136	24	76	13	#
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	49	159	10	90	36	2

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- In 2007, male students in California had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 18 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (15 points).
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 23 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (20 points).
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 24 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of 1998 (30 points).
- In 2007, students who were eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch, an indicator of poverty, had an average score that was lower than that of students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch by 23 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of 1998 (33 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 48 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (51 points).

**Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles in California**



NOTE: Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP writing scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed.

# Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

\* Significantly different from 2007.

↑ Significantly higher than 2002. ↓ Significantly lower than 2002.

<sup>1</sup> Comparisons (higher/lower/narrower/wider/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level with appropriate adjustments for multiple comparisons was used for testing statistical significance. Statistical comparisons are calculated on the basis of unrounded scale scores or percentages. Comparisons across jurisdictions and comparisons with the nation or within a jurisdiction across years may be affected by differences in exclusion rates for students with disabilities (SD) and English language learners (ELL). The exclusion rates for SD and ELL in California were 1 percent and 1 percent in 2007, respectively. For more information on NAEP significance testing, see <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/writing/interpret-results.asp#statistical>.

<sup>2</sup> "Jurisdiction" refers to states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity schools.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding and because the "Information not available" category for the National School Lunch Program, which provides free and reduced-price lunches, and the "Unclassified" category for race/ethnicity are not displayed. 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, 2002, and 2007 Writing Assessments.