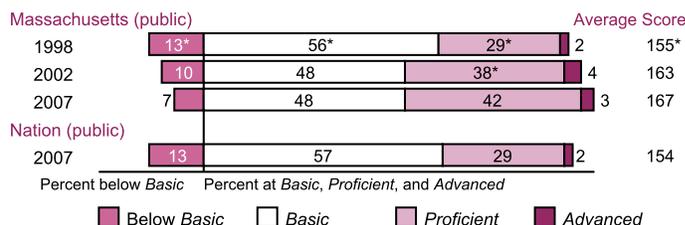


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

**Overall Writing Results for Massachusetts**

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Massachusetts was 167. This was not significantly different from their average score in 2002 (163) and was higher than their average score in 1998 (155).<sup>1</sup>
- Massachusetts' average score (167) in 2007 was higher 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 Massachusetts was higher than those in 42 jurisdictions, not significantly different from that in 1 jurisdiction, and lower than those in 2 jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup>
- The percentage of students in Massachusetts who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 46 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2002 (42 percent) and was greater than that in 1998 (31 percent).
- The percentage of students in Massachusetts who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 93 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2002 (90 percent) and was greater than that in 1998 (87 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.

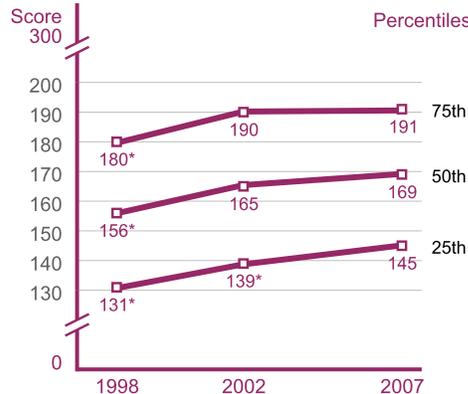
**Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Massachusetts: 2007**

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	157	10	90	32	1
Female	48	178	4	96	60	6
White	74	173	3	97	52	4
Black	9	146	14	86	19	#
Hispanic	10	138	25	75	16	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	175	4	96	55	6
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	27	146	16	84	21	1
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	73	174	4	96	54	4

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- In 2007, male students in Massachusetts had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 21 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (22 points).
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 points. This performance gap was the same as that of 1998 (26 points).
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 35 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (38 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 28 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (31 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 45 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (49 points).

**Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles in Massachusetts**



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 Massachusetts were 6 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.