NCES 2008-470MT8

The Nation's Report Card Writing 2007

State Snapshot Report

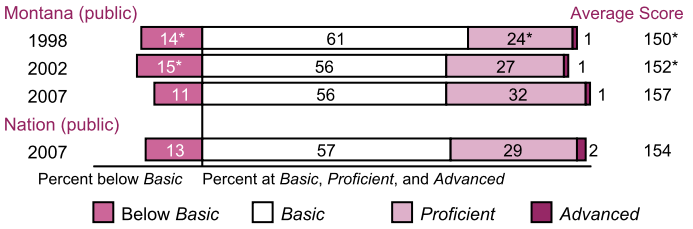
Montana
Grade 8
Public Schools

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 Montana

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Montana was 157. This was higher than their average score in 2002 (152) and was higher than their average score in 1998 (150).[1]
- Montana's average score (157) 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 Montana was higher than those in 19 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 18 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 8 jurisdictions.[2]
- The percentage of students in Montana who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 33 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2002 (29 percent) and was greater than that in 1998 (25 percent).
- The percentage of students in Montana who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 89 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in 2002 (85 percent) and was greater than that in 1998 (86 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.

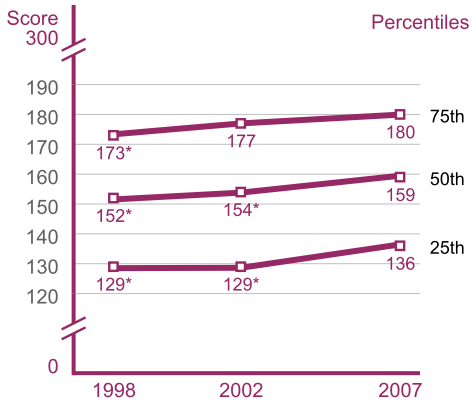
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Montana: 2007

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below *Basic*	Percent of students at or above *Basic*	Percent of students at or above *Proficient*	Percent *Advanced*
Male	52	145↑	17↓	83↑	19↑	#
Female	48	169	4	96	47	2
White	85	160↑	8↓	92↑	35	1
Black	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Hispanic	2	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
American Indian/Alaska Native	11	133	30	70	15	1
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	35	143↑	20↓	80↑	20	#
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	64	164↑	6↓	94↑	40	2

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2007, male students in Montana had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 24 points. This performance gap was the same as that of 1998 (24 points).
- Data are not reported for Black students in 2007, because reporting standards were not met. Therefore, the performance gap results are not reported.
- Data are not reported for Hispanic students in 2007, because reporting standards were not met. Therefore, the performance gap results are not reported.
- 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 21 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (17 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 43 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (45 points).

Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles in Montana



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.

[1] 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 Montana were 2 percent and "percentage rounds to zero" in 2007, respectively. For more information on NAEP significance testing, see http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/writing/interpret-results.asp#statistical.

[2] "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.