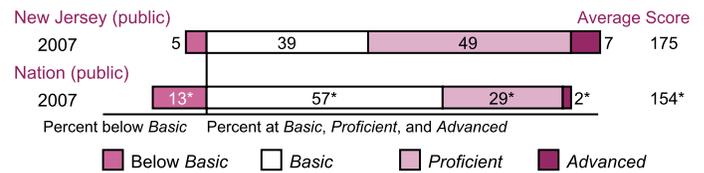


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for New Jersey

- New Jersey's average score (175) in 2007 was higher than that of the nation's public schools (154).¹
- Of the 45 states and one other jurisdiction that participated in the 2007 eighth-grade assessment, students' average scale score in New Jersey was higher than those in 44 jurisdictions, and not significantly different from that in 1 jurisdiction.²
- The percentage of students in New Jersey who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 56 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in the nation (31 percent).
- The percentage of students in New Jersey who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 95 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in the nation (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 New Jersey: 2007

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above		Percent Advanced
				Basic	Proficient	
Male	50	168↑	7↓	93↑	47↑	4↑
Female	50	183↑	4↓	96↑	65↑	10↑
White	58	184↑	2↓	98↑	66↑	9↑
Black	16	152↑	13↓	87↑	27↑	2
Hispanic	18	162↑	10↓	90↑	41↑	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	8↑	191↑	2↓	98↑	73↑	14↑
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	26↓	155↑	13↓	87↑	33↑	2
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	72↑	183↑	3↓	97↑	64↑	9↑

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2007, male students in New Jersey had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 15 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of the nation (20 points).
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 32 points. This performance gap was wider than that of the nation (22 points).
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 22 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the nation (21 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 the nation (23 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 46 points. This performance gap was the same as that of the nation (46 points).

Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles: 2007

Jurisdiction	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
New Jersey	154	178	200
Nation (public)	132*	156*	178*

NOTE: Scores at selected percentiles on the NAEP writing scale indicate how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels performed. For example, the data above show that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 178, while 75 percent of students in New Jersey scored below 200.

Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

* Significantly different from New Jersey.

↑ Significantly higher than nation (public). ↓ Significantly lower than nation (public).

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 New Jersey were 2 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>.

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), 2007 Writing Assessment.