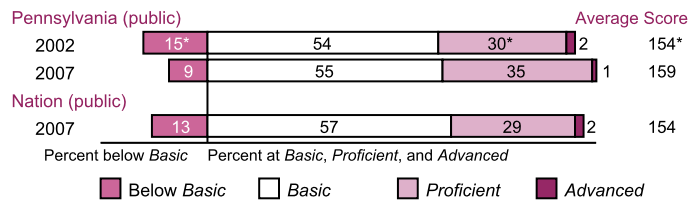


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

**Overall Writing Results for Pennsylvania**

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Pennsylvania was 159. This was higher than their average score in 2002 (154).<sup>1</sup>
- Pennsylvania's average score (159) 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 Pennsylvania was higher than those in 26 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 15 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 4 jurisdictions.<sup>2</sup>
- The percentage of students in Pennsylvania who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 36 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in 2002 (32 percent).
- The percentage of students in Pennsylvania who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 91 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in 2002 (85 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.

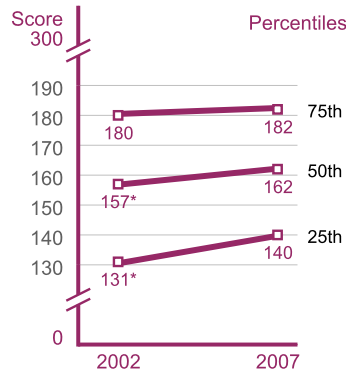
**Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Pennsylvania: 2007**

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	51	151↑	13↓	87↑	26	1
Female	49	168	5	95	47	2
White	76	164↑	6↓	94↑	42	1
Black	15	138↑	21↓	79↑	13	#
Hispanic	6	145↑	17	83	20	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	170	4	96	50	2
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	30	144↑	17↓	83↑	19	#
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	70	166	5	95	44	2

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- In 2007, male students in Pennsylvania had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 17 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2002 (21 points).
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of 2002 (36 points).
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 19 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 2002 (27 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 22 points. This performance gap was narrower than that of 2002 (33 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 narrower than that of 2002 (50 points).

**Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles in Pennsylvania**



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 Pennsylvania were 3 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), 2002 and 2007 Writing Assessments.