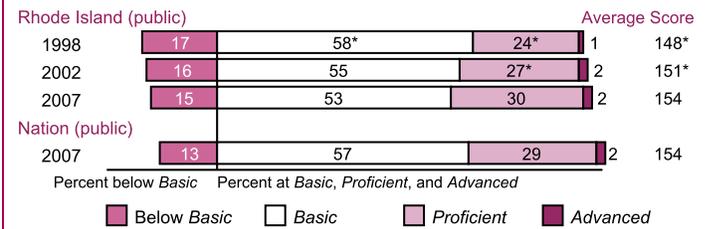


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for Rhode Island

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Rhode Island was 154. This was higher than their average score in 2002 (151) and was higher than their average score in 1998 (148).¹
- Rhode Island's average score (154) in 2007 was not significantly different from 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 Rhode Island was higher than those in 11 jurisdictions, not significantly different from those in 17 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 17 jurisdictions.²
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 32 percent in 2007. This percentage was greater than that in 2002 (29 percent) and was greater than in 1998 (25 percent).
- The percentage of students in Rhode Island who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 85 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2002 (84 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 1998 (83 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.

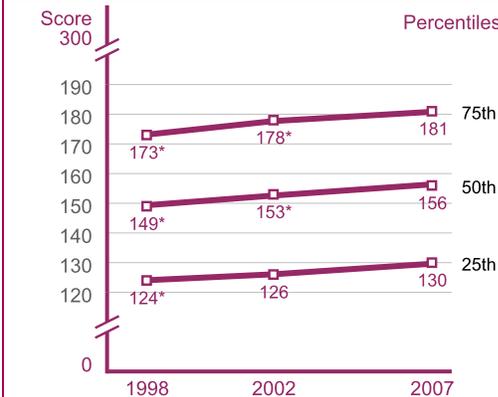
Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Rhode Island: 2007

Reporting groups	Percent of students	Average score	Percent below Basic	Percent of students at or above Basic	Percent Proficient	Percent Advanced
Male	50	143	21	79	20	1
Female	50	165 [↑]	9	91	45 [↑]	3
White	71 [↓]	162 [↑]	9	91	39	3
Black	8	136	26	74	12	#
Hispanic	17 [↑]	128	34	66	11	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	160	19	81	43	5
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	31 [↑]	136	26	74	15	#
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	69 [↑]	162	10	90	40	3

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- In 2007, male students in Rhode Island had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 23 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (19 points).
- In 2007, Black students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 26 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 34 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (32 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 26 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (24 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 51 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of 1998 (49 points).

Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles in Rhode Island



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 Rhode Island 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>.

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.