

Table 116. Average writing scale score of 4th-, 8th-, and 11th-graders, by selected student and school characteristics: Selected years, 1984 to 1996

Selected student and school characteristics	1984	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4th-graders						
Total	204 (1.5)	206 (1.6)	202 (1.5)	207 (1.5)	205 (1.6)	207 (1.2)
Sex						
Male	201 (2.8)	199 (2.3)	195 (1.9)	198 (1.7)	196 (1.7)	200 (1.8)
Female	208 (3.1)	213 (2.0)	209 (2.2)	216 (1.7)	214 (2.2)	214 (1.9)
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	211 (1.9)	215 (1.9)	211 (2.0)	217 (1.7)	214 (1.5)	216 (1.6)
Black, non-Hispanic	182 (5.0)	173 (4.7)	171 (5.4)	175 (3.8)	173 (3.2)	182 (2.3)
Hispanic	189 (5.8)	190 (3.5)	184 (4.1)	189 (3.6)	189 (3.1)	191 (3.2)
Parents' highest level of education						
Not high school graduate	179 (4.6)	194 (5.4)	186 (3.9)	191 (3.2)	188 (7.8)	190 (5.5)
Graduated high school	192 (3.4)	199 (3.0)	197 (3.0)	202 (3.2)	202 (2.3)	203 (2.3)
Post high school	208 (6.5)	211 (6.3)	214 (4.0)	201 (4.5)	212 (4.0)	205 (5.2)
Graduated college	218 (3.0)	212 (2.2)	209 (1.6)	214 (1.4)	212 (2.1)	214 (1.7)
Control of school						
Public	202 (1.8)	204 (2.0)	200 (1.4)	205 (1.6)	204 (1.8)	206 (1.5)
Private	215 (4.6)	216 (4.1)	216 (5.7)	222 (3.3)	213 (4.3)	218 (3.2)
Region						
Northeast	212 (4.0)	204 (4.9)	211 (3.6)	216 (4.0)	210 (4.0)	213 (2.8)
Southeast	204 (3.3)	200 (2.3)	192 (4.0)	193 (2.4)	198 (3.4)	200 (3.4)
Central	201 (2.6)	212 (3.0)	203 (3.1)	214 (3.1)	209 (3.3)	212 (3.1)
West	201 (4.9)	207 (3.4)	201 (2.7)	206 (2.2)	203 (2.7)	205 (2.5)
8th-graders						
Total	267 (2.0)	264 (1.3)	257 (1.2)	274 (1.3)	265 (1.3)	264 (1.0)
Sex						
Male	258 (2.3)	254 (1.5)	246 (1.5)	264 (1.9)	254 (1.8)	251 (1.1)
Female	276 (2.4)	274 (1.7)	268 (1.3)	285 (1.3)	278 (1.4)	276 (1.2)
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	272 (2.1)	269 (1.3)	262 (1.6)	279 (1.3)	272 (1.4)	271 (1.0)
Black, non-Hispanic	247 (5.7)	246 (3.5)	239 (2.3)	258 (4.0)	245 (3.4)	242 (2.6)
Hispanic	247 (6.4)	250 (2.5)	246 (2.8)	265 (2.2)	252 (3.3)	246 (2.3)
Parents' highest level of education						
Not high school graduate	258 (4.8)	254 (3.9)	246 (3.7)	258 (5.3)	250 (4.1)	245 (4.5)
Graduated high school	261 (1.6)	258 (2.1)	253 (1.4)	268 (1.6)	259 (2.2)	258 (1.9)
Post high school	271 (3.9)	275 (3.3)	267 (3.0)	280 (2.2)	270 (3.1)	270 (2.4)
Graduated college	278 (1.8)	271 (1.8)	265 (1.8)	284 (1.9)	275 (1.3)	274 (1.3)
Control of school						
Public	264 (2.0)	262 (1.5)	254 (1.2)	272 (1.3)	264 (1.6)	263 (1.2)
Private	282 (5.5)	276 (3.0)	277 (4.4)	288 (3.2)	279 (3.8)	272 (3.3)
Region						
Northeast	273 (3.6)	265 (2.7)	261 (3.3)	285 (3.3)	277 (2.2)	264 (2.4)
Southeast	267 (3.6)	268 (2.3)	252 (2.8)	266 (2.2)	259 (2.1)	260 (3.5)
Central	264 (2.3)	258 (2.2)	259 (3.9)	277 (2.0)	270 (4.1)	268 (2.3)
West	264 (3.0)	264 (2.1)	255 (2.6)	271 (2.3)	259 (1.6)	263 (1.3)
11th-graders						
Total	290 (1.6)	291 (1.3)	287 (1.0)	287 (1.4)	285 (1.2)	283 (1.2)
Sex						
Male	281 (1.4)	282 (2.0)	276 (1.6)	279 (1.2)	276 (1.5)	275 (1.4)
Female	299 (2.5)	299 (1.2)	298 (1.5)	296 (2.0)	293 (1.5)	292 (1.4)
Race/ethnicity						
White, non-Hispanic	297 (1.8)	296 (1.3)	293 (1.2)	294 (1.2)	291 (1.4)	289 (1.5)
Black, non-Hispanic	270 (3.6)	275 (2.9)	268 (2.3)	263 (3.2)	267 (2.2)	267 (3.0)
Hispanic	259 (6.6)	274 (4.4)	277 (2.6)	274 (3.8)	271 (4.0)	269 (2.5)
Parents' highest level of education						
Not high school graduate	274 (5.2)	276 (3.5)	268 (4.0)	271 (3.7)	269 (4.7)	260 (3.0)
Graduated high school	284 (3.0)	285 (2.2)	278 (1.9)	278 (2.2)	279 (1.7)	275 (1.6)
Post high school	298 (2.5)	296 (2.6)	292 (2.7)	292 (2.0)	286 (1.7)	287 (2.1)
Graduated college	300 (2.4)	299 (2.0)	298 (2.0)	296 (1.4)	293 (1.5)	291 (1.9)
Control of school						
Public	288 (1.6)	290 (1.2)	286 (1.1)	287 (1.6)	284 (1.4)	283 (1.4)
Private	305 (3.7)	300 (3.6)	306 (5.2)	295 (4.4)	291 (3.8)	287 (6.6)
Region						
Northeast	291 (3.0)	295 (2.8)	295 (2.5)	290 (2.3)	291 (2.4)	290 (2.2)
Southeast	287 (4.9)	289 (2.2)	280 (2.3)	278 (3.3)	277 (2.5)	273 (2.2)
Central	291 (2.7)	292 (4.0)	289 (2.7)	291 (2.2)	284 (2.3)	285 (2.5)
West	289 (3.7)	289 (2.3)	285 (2.1)	289 (2.1)	287 (2.7)	284 (2.2)

NOTE: These test scores are from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Includes public and private schools. Excludes persons not enrolled in school and those who were unable to be tested due to limited proficiency in English or due to disability. The writing scale score ranges from 0 to 500 and is defined as the average of a respondent's estimated scores on specific writing tasks. The average response

method is used to estimate average writing achievement for each participant as if each had performed all 11 writing tasks. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress, *NAEP 1996 Trends in Academic Progress*, by Educational Testing Service. (This table was prepared September 1997.)