

**Table 118.—Average writing performance of 4th-, 8th-, and 11th-graders, by selected characteristics of students: 1984 to 1996**

Selected characteristics of students	1984	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4th-graders						
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>204 (1.5)</b>	<b>206 (1.6)</b>	<b>202 (1.5)</b>	<b>207 (1.5)</b>	<b>205 (1.6)</b>	<b>207 (1.2)</b>
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 .....	211 (1.9)	215 (1.9)	211 (2.0)	217 (1.7)	214 (1.5)	216 (1.6)
Black .....	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)
Parental 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						
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>267 (2.0)</b>	<b>264 (1.3)</b>	<b>257 (1.2)</b>	<b>274 (1.3)</b>	<b>265 (1.3)</b>	<b>264 (1.0)</b>
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 .....	272 (2.1)	269 (1.3)	262 (1.6)	279 (1.3)	272 (1.4)	271 (1.0)
Black .....	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)
Parental 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						
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>290 (1.6)</b>	<b>291 (1.3)</b>	<b>287 (1.0)</b>	<b>287 (1.4)</b>	<b>285 (1.2)</b>	<b>283 (1.2)</b>
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 .....	297 (1.8)	296 (1.3)	293 (1.2)	294 (1.2)	291 (1.4)	289 (1.5)
Black .....	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)
Parental 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). 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.)