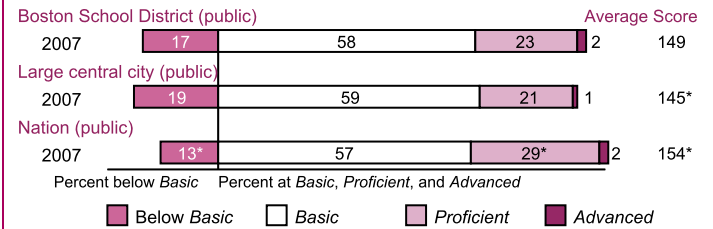


The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assesses writing for three purposes identified in the NAEP framework: narrative, informative, and persuasive. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300. In 2007, Boston School District was one of ten urban districts that voluntarily participated in the NAEP writing assessment on a trial basis.

**Overall Writing Results for Boston**

- In 2007, the average scale score for eighth-grade students in Boston was 149. This was lower than the average score in the nation (154).<sup>1</sup>
- Boston's average score (149) in 2007 was higher than that of public schools in large central cities (145).<sup>2</sup>
- The percentage of students in Boston who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 25 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in large central cities (22 percent).
- The percentage of students in Boston who performed at or above the NAEP *Basic* level was 83 percent in 2007. This percentage was not significantly different from that in large central cities (81 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 Boston: 2007**

Reporting groups	Percent of students <sup>3</sup>	Average score	Percent below <i>Basic</i>	Percent of students at or above <i>Basic</i>	Percent <i>Proficient</i>	Percent <i>Advanced</i>
Male	50	138	24	76	15	1
Female	50	160↑	10	90	35	4
White	18↓	173↑	6	94	52↑	8↑
Black	40↑	141	21	79	16	#
Hispanic	33	138	23	77	14	#
Asian/Pacific Islander	9	174↑	4	96	55↑	5
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Eligible for National School Lunch Program	70↑	144↑	18↓	82↑	18	1
Not eligible for National School Lunch Program	30↓	161	15	85	41	6

**Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups**

- In 2007, male students in Boston had an average score that was lower than that of female students by 22 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the large central cities (19 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 large central cities (24 points).
- In 2007, Hispanic students had an average score that was lower than that of White students by 35 points. This performance gap was wider than that of the large central cities (25 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 18 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the large central cities (21 points).
- In 2007, the score gap between students at the 75th percentile and students at the 25th percentile was 49 points. This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the large central cities (47 points).

**Writing Scores at Selected Percentiles: 2007**

Jurisdiction	25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile
Boston	124	149	173
Large central city (public)	122	146	169
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 at or below 178, while 75 percent of students in Boston scored at or below 173.

# Rounds to zero.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

\* Significantly different from Boston.

↑ Significantly higher than large central cities. ↓ Significantly lower than large central cities.

<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 Boston were 5 percent and 3 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> "Large central city" includes public schools located in large central cities (population 250,000 or more) within a U.S. Census Bureau-defined Core-Based Statistical Area. It is not synonymous with "inner city."

<sup>3</sup> For comparison, non-White students comprised 77 percent of students in large central city public schools and 42 percent in public schools nationally at grade 8. Also, students eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch comprised 64 percent of students in large central city public schools and 41 percent in public schools nationally.

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://nationsreportcard.gov/writing\\_2007/](http://nationsreportcard.gov/writing_2007/) 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 Trial Urban District Writing Assessment.