

Table 119.—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						
Total	204 (1.5)	206 (1.6)	202 (1.5)	207 (1.5)	205 (1.6)	207 (1.2)
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						
Total	267 (2.0)	264 (1.3)	257 (1.2)	274 (1.3)	265 (1.3)	264 (1.0)
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						
Total	290 (1.6)	291 (1.3)	287 (1.0)	287 (1.4)	285 (1.2)	283 (1.2)
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.)