

TESTING BRIEF
National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
January 22 - March 2, 2007

The Nation's Report Card, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), is a nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, science, writing, history, geography, and other fields. By making objective information on student performance available to policymakers at the national, state, and local levels, NAEP is an integral part of our nation's evaluation of the condition and progress of education. Only information related to academic achievement is collected under this program. NAEP guarantees the privacy of individual students and their families. This report provides selected results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) for Georgia's public school students in writing at grade 8. The 2007 Georgia sample consisted of about 3500 students from 120 schools. Student performance is reported as an average score based on the NAEP writing scale, which ranges from 0 to 300. Writing was assessed previously at the state level in 1998 and 2002. The current NAEP writing framework was used for the development of the 1998, 2002, and 2007 assessments.

KEY FINDINGS IN WRITING

Grade 8

- The average reading score for students in Georgia was 153. This was significantly different from that in 1998 (146) and 2002 (147).
- Georgia's average score in 2007 (153) was not significantly different from that of the nation's public schools (154).
- The average reading score for White students in Georgia improved from 2002 (156) to 2007 (162). Black students' average score also improved from 2002 (138) to 2007 (144).
- The average reading score for students who were eligible for the National School Lunch Program in Georgia improved from 2002 (134) to 2007 (141).
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Proficient* was 29 percent. This was significantly different from that in 2002 (25 percent).
- The percentage of students in Georgia who performed at or above *Basic* was 88 percent. This was significantly different from that in 2002 (82 percent).
- The average scale score gap between White and Black students narrowed from 24 points in 1998 to 18 points in 2007.
- The average scale score gap between White and Hispanic students narrowed from 37 points in 2002 to 20 points in 2007.

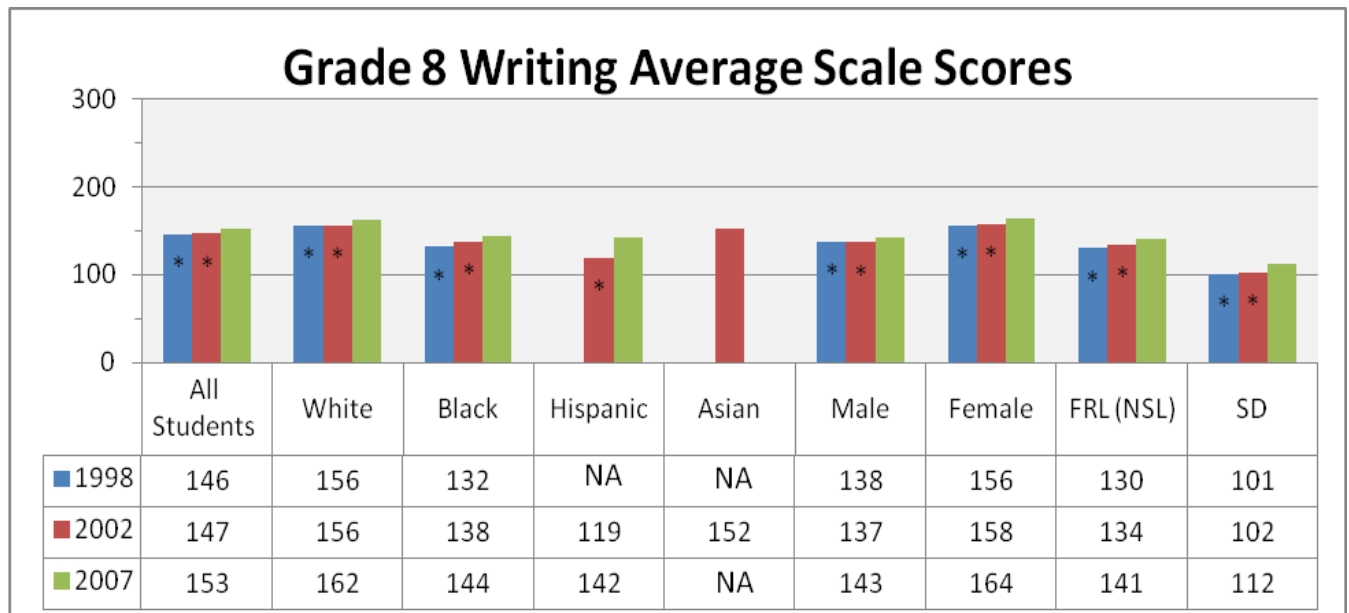
Table 1
 Average Scale Scores
 Writing 1998-2007
 Grade 8

Table 1: Average Scale Scores				
	1998	2002	2007	Change 1998-2007
All Students	146	147	153	+7
White	156	156	162	+6
Black	132	138	144	+12
Hispanic	NA	119	142	+23*
Asian	NA	152	NA	NA
American Indian/Alaska Native	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unclassified	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	138	137	143	+5
Female	156	158	164	+8
FRL (NSL)	130	134	141	+11
Students with Disabilities	101	102	112	+11
English Language Learner	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

*Reported change is between 2002 and 2007.

Graph 1
 Average Scale Scores
 Writing 1998-2007
 Grade 8



*Value is significantly different from the 2007 value

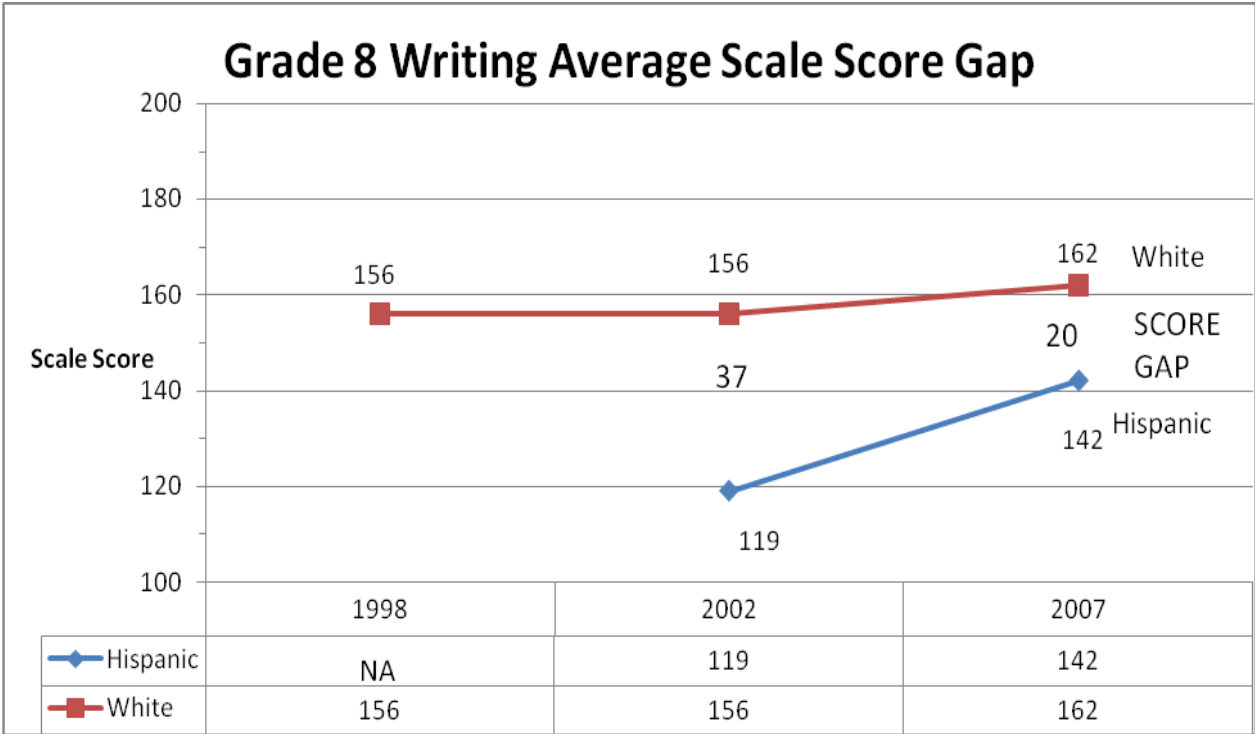
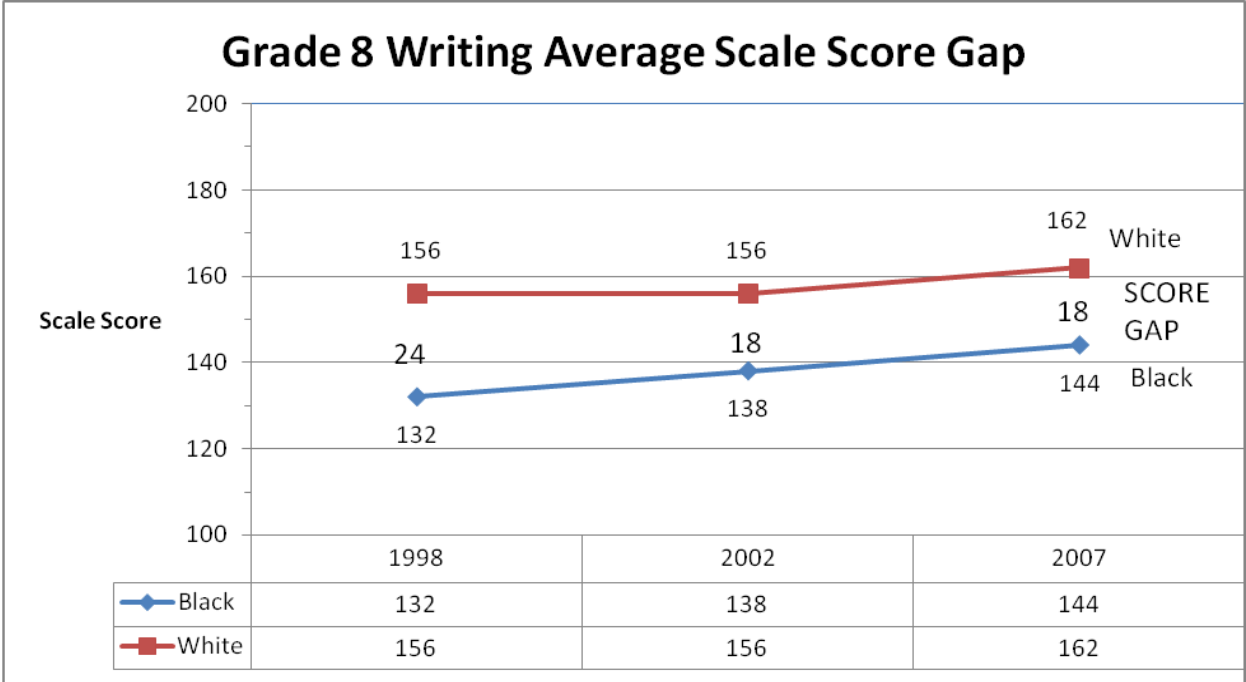
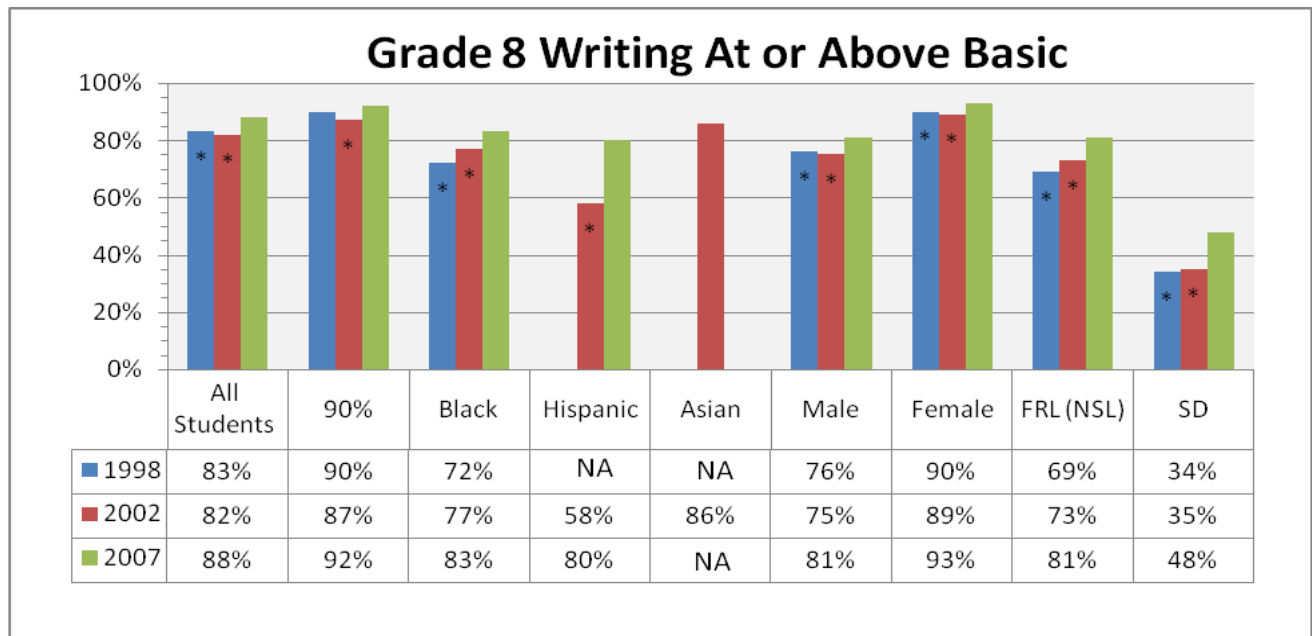


Table 2
 Achievement Level – At or Above Basic
 Reading 1998-2007
 Grade 8

Table 2: Achievement Level – At or Above Basic				
	1998	2002	2007	*Change 1998-2007
All Students	83%	82%	88%	+5
White	90%	87%	92%	+2
Black	72%	77%	83%	+11
Hispanic	NA	58%	80%	+22
Asian	NA	86%	NA	NA
American Indian/Alaska Native	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unclassified	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	76%	75%	81%	+5
Female	90%	89%	93%	+3
FRL (NSL)	69%	73%	81%	+12
Students with Disabilities	34%	35%	48%	+14
English Language Learner	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Indicates change in percentage score point
 NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

Graph 2
 Achievement Level – At or Above Basic
 Writing 1998-2007
 Grade 8



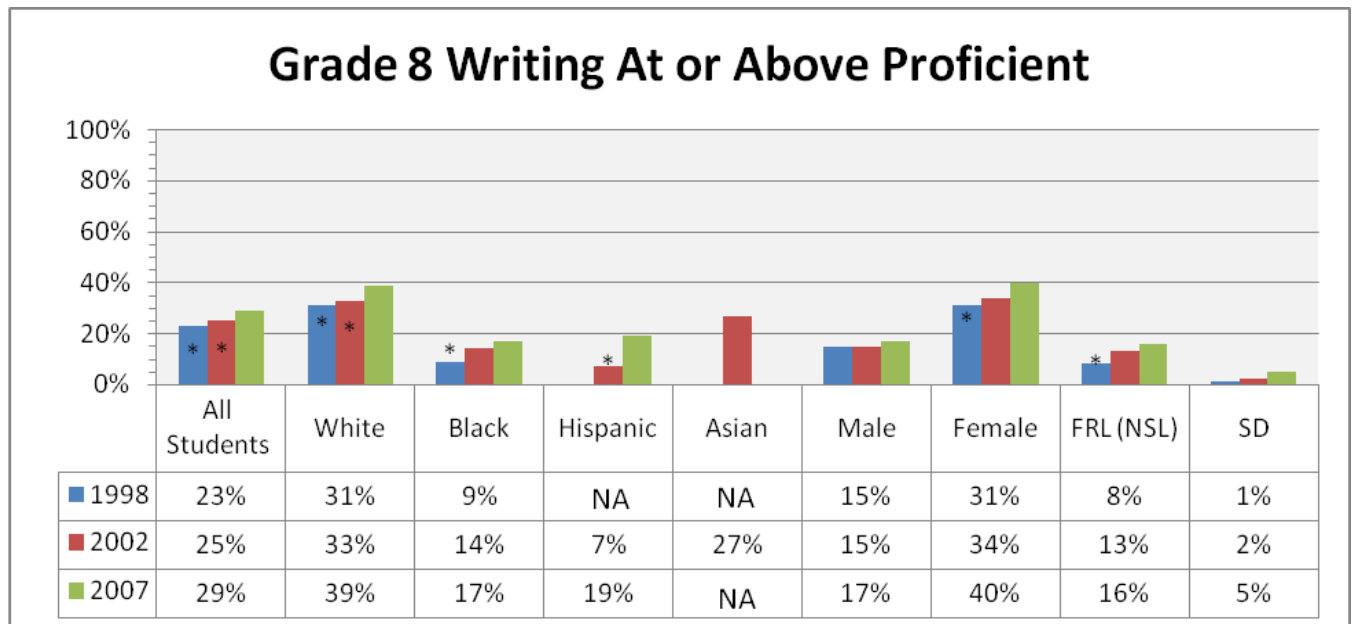
*Value is significantly different from the 2007 value

Table 3
 Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient
 Writing 1998-2007
 Grade 8

Table 3: Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient				
	1998	2002	2007	*Change 1998-2007
All Students	23%	25%	29%	+6
White	31%	33%	39%	+8
Black	9%	14%	17%	+8
Hispanic	NA	7%	19%	+8
Asian	NA	27%	NA	NA
American Indian/Alaska Native	NA	NA	NA	NA
Unclassified	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	15%	15%	17%	+2
Female	31%	34%	40%	+9
FRL (NSL)	8%	13%	16%	+8
Students with Disabilities	1%	2%	5%	+4
English Language Learner	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Indicates change in percentage score point
 NA – Reporting standards for sample size not met.

Graph 3
 Achievement Level – At or Above Proficient
 Writing 1998-2007
 Grade 8



*Value is significantly different from the 2007 value