

TESTING BRIEF
Winter 2009 Grade 5 Writing Assessment
March 2009

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-281) states “writing assessments shall be administered to students in grades three, five, eight, and eleven.” The purpose of the Grade 5 Writing Assessment is to assess student achievement on the Georgia Performance Standards in writing. The Grade 5 Writing Assessment provides information to guide writing instruction for 6th and 7th grade teachers and parents in preparation for the Grade 8 Writing Assessment.

Administration of the Grade 5 Writing Assessment supports Goal 5 of the Superintendent’s Strategic Plan: Improve the SAT, ACT, and achievement scores of Georgia students. This is achieved through providing an effective curriculum and assessment system designed to improve student achievement.

The scale score range for the Grade 5 Writing Assessment is 100 to 350. Writing scores are also reported in the following performance levels: Does Not Meet (100-199), Meets (200-249), and Exceeds (250-350). The 2009 assessment is the third administration of the new Grade 5 Writing assessment.

KEY FINDINGS

- Seventy-eight (78) percent of all Grade 5 students met or exceeded the passing standard for writing. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Eighty-two (82) percent of Regular Program Grade 5 students met or exceeded the passing standard for writing. There is no change from 2008 to 2009.
- Forty-four (44) percent of Special Education students met or exceeded the passing standard for writing. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Fifty-five (55) percent of English Language Learners (ELL) met or exceeded the standard for passing. This represents a two (2) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Hispanic and ELL students have achieved greatest gains with increases of fourteen (14) and eleven (12) percentage points respectively since 2007.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for Grade 5 Writing was eighty (80) percent. This goal was not met.

Table 1. Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding Passing Standard

	Combined Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Passing Standard for Grade 5 Writing			
	2007	2008	2009	
	Meets and Exceeds	Meets and Exceeds	Meets and Exceeds	Differences from 2007-2009
All Students Tested	70%	77%	78%	+8
Regular Program	75%	82%	82%	+7
Special Education	35%	43%	44%	+9
English Language Learner	43%	53%	55%	+12
Asian	85%	90%	90%	+5
Black	62%	71%	71%	+9
Hispanic	62%	73%	76%	+14
Native American/Alaskan	77%	73%	80%	+3
White	76%	81%	82%	+6
Multi Ethnic	76%	81%	81%	+5
Female	78%	84%	85%	+7
Male	62%	71%	70%	+8

Figure 1: Students Meeting and Exceeding Passing Standard 2007 - 2008

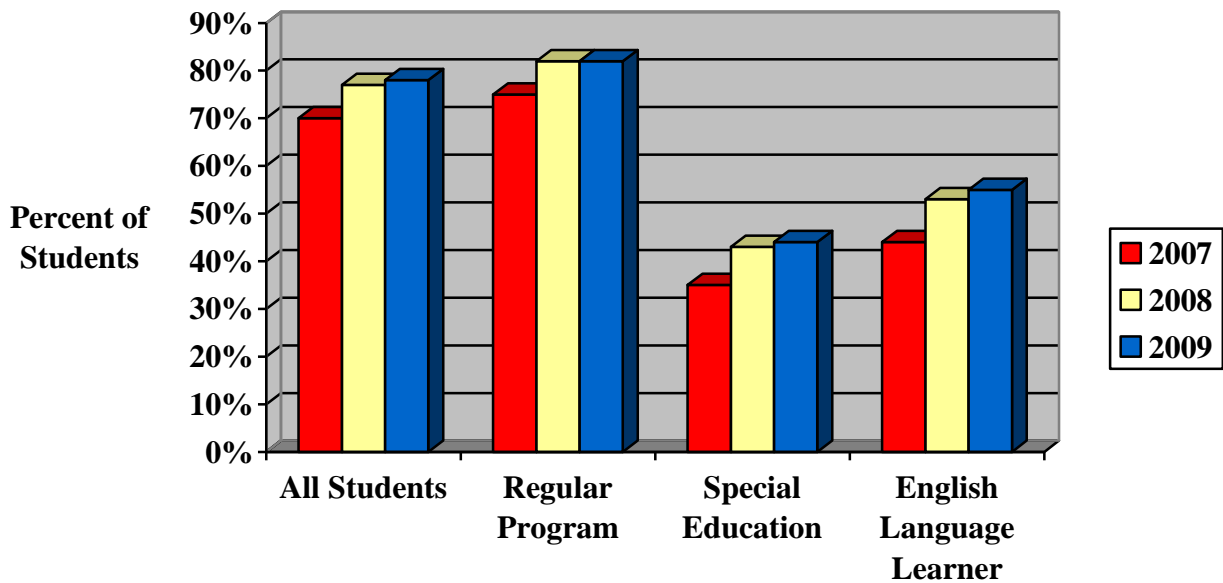


Table 2. Mean Scale Scores for the Grade 5 Writing Assessment from 2007 – 2009

Student Groups	2007	2008	2009	Differences from 2007 to 2009
All Students Tested	209	214	213	+4
Regular Program	213	218	216	+3
Special Education	181	185	185	+4
English Language Learner	186	193	194	+8
Asian	226	233	232	+6
Black	202	207	206	+4
Hispanic	201	209	208	+7
Native American/Alaskan	214	214	212	-2
White	215	220	218	+3
Multi Ethnic	212	218	216	+4
Female	216	220	219	+3
Male	203	209	207	+4