



FLORIDA

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT  
OF EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRESS

## National Assessment of Educational Progress 2007 Report for Florida

### Highlights of Grade 8 Writing

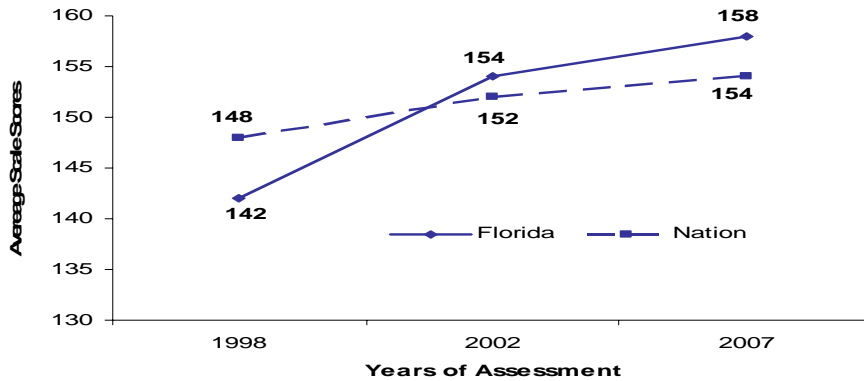
In 2007, 47 jurisdictions participated in the NAEP Grade 8 Writing assessment: 45 states, the Department of Defense Schools, and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

- Florida's NAEP Grade 8 Writing average scale score moved from below the national average in 1998 to above the national average in 2007, an improvement of 16 points—from 142 to 158.
- Florida had the greatest increase in average scale scores of any of the 33 states that participated in the Grade 8 writing assessment in both 1998 and 2007.
- For the first time, Florida scored significantly better than the nation in the percent at or above *Proficient*. This improvement is indicative of the progress Florida's Grade 8 students are making in writing.
- Of the 45 states that participated in NAEP 2007 Grade 8 Writing, Florida placed 9<sup>th</sup> in terms of students scoring at or above *Proficient*, performing higher than the nation and 26 states, not significantly different from 14 states, and lower than only four states: New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont.
- Of the 45 states that participated in NAEP 2007 Grade 8 Writing, Florida placed 11<sup>th</sup> in terms of scale scores, performing higher than the nation and 23 states, not significantly different from 18 states, and lower than only three states: New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.
- In 2007, Florida's Grade 8 students outperformed 76 percent of the states participating in the writing assessment in terms of scale scores, up from 23 percent in 1998.
- Florida's Hispanic Grade 8 students continued to outperform their national counterparts in writing. Between 1998 and 2007, the average scale score for Florida's Hispanic students improved 14 points, from 136 to 150. The average scale score of the nation's Grade 8 Hispanic students improved 9 points, from 130 to 141.

# Florida NAEP 2007—Grade 8 Writing Results

## Average Scale Scores Florida and the Nation

**Figure 1**  
**NAEP Grade 8 Writing 1998–2007**



### Highlights

Florida has the greatest increase in average scale scores of any of the 33 states that participated in both 1998 and 2007 in the NAEP Grade 8 Writing assessment.

Florida's 2007 Grade 8 Writing average scale score (158) was significantly higher than in 1998 (142) and in 2002 (154).

Florida's average scale score (158) in 2007 was significantly higher than that of the nation's public schools (154) for the first time.

Florida's Grade 8 Writing average scale score gained 16 points between 1998 and 2007 (142 vs. 158), while the nation's average scale score only increased by 6 points (148 vs. 154).

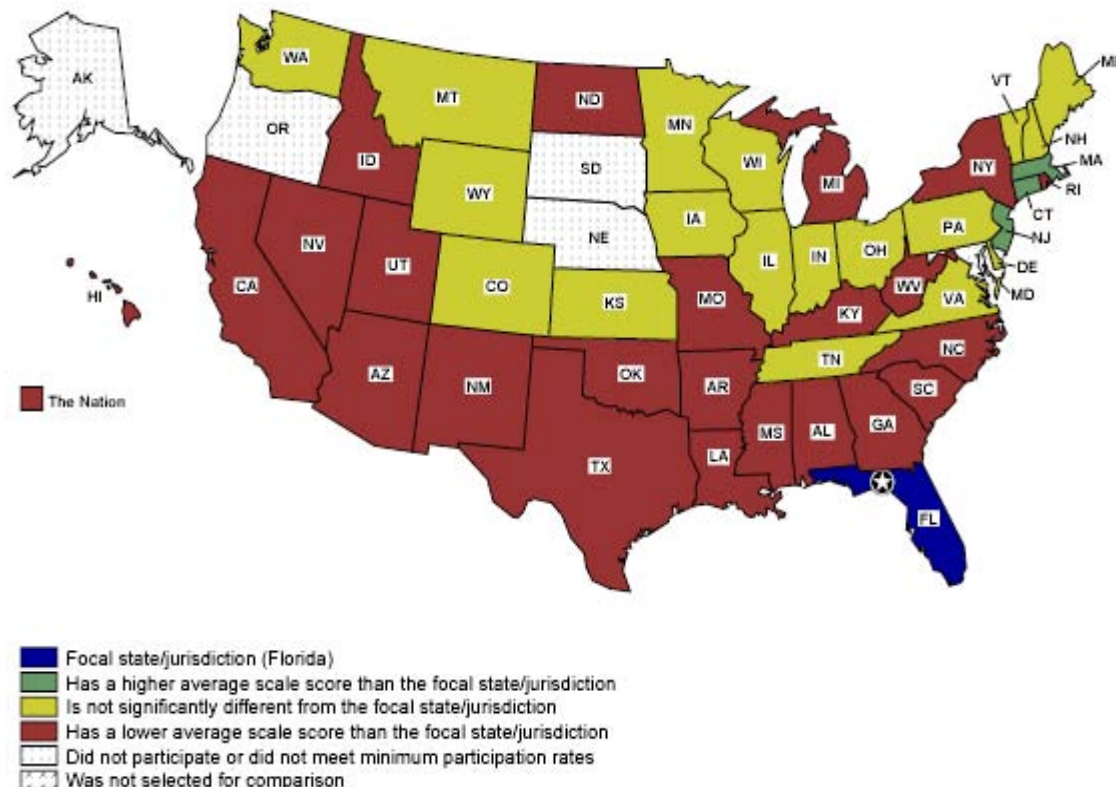
Florida was one of 19 states (out of 38) with significantly higher Grade 8 writing average scale scores in 2007 than in 2002.

Florida's increase in average scale scores between 1998 and 2007 was twice that of the nation's, except for Hispanic students and English language learners (ELLs). The increase in average scale scores of Florida's Hispanic and ELL students was equal to that of the nation's.

## Florida NAEP 2007—Grade 8 Writing Results

### Grade 8 Writing Average Scale Scores

**Figure 2**  
**Florida's National Standing in 2007**



In 2007, Florida ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation in NAEP Grade 8 Writing average scale scores. Florida's average scale score of 158 is

- **higher than the nation and 23 states:**  
Idaho, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Georgia, North Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma, Utah, Kentucky, Texas, Michigan, Arkansas, Arizona, South Carolina, California, Alabama, Louisiana, West Virginia, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and Mississippi.\*
- **not significantly different from 18 states:**  
Vermont, Maine, Colorado, New Hampshire, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Delaware, **Florida**, Wyoming, Washington, Wisconsin, Virginia, Montana, Kansas, Tennessee, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, and Iowa.\*
- **lower than three states:**  
New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.\*

Alaska, Oregon, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Maryland did not participate in the Grade 8 writing assessment.

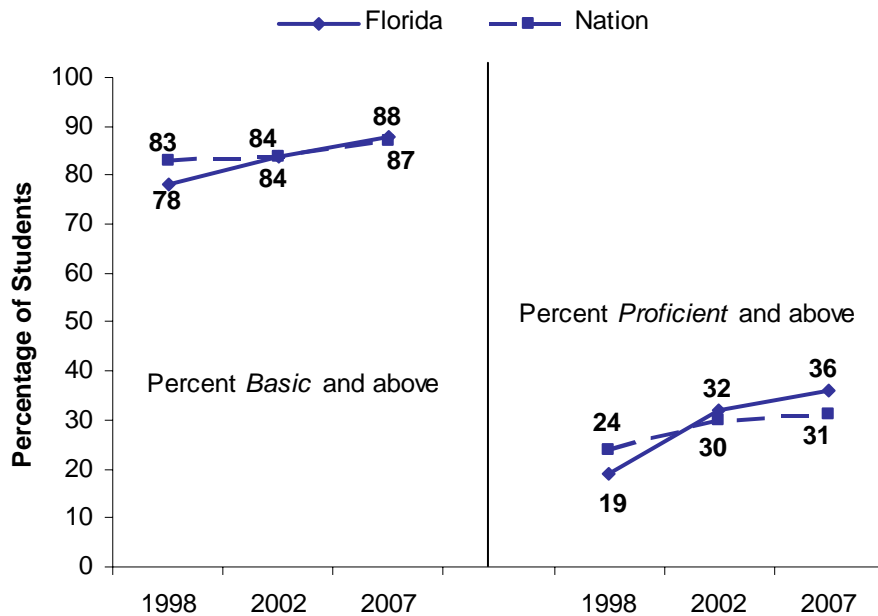
\*Within each group, states are listed from highest to lowest performance.

# Florida NAEP 2007—Grade 8 Writing Results

## Percentage of Students Performing at or above *Proficient* and *Basic* Achievement Levels

### Florida and the Nation

**Figure 3**  
NAEP Grade 8 Writing 1998–2007



### Highlights

A significantly higher percentage of Florida's Grade 8 students performed at or above *Proficient* in 2007 (36 percent) than in 1998 (19 percent). The percentage scoring at or above *Basic* increased by 10 percentage points between 1998 and 2007 (88 percent vs. 78 percent).

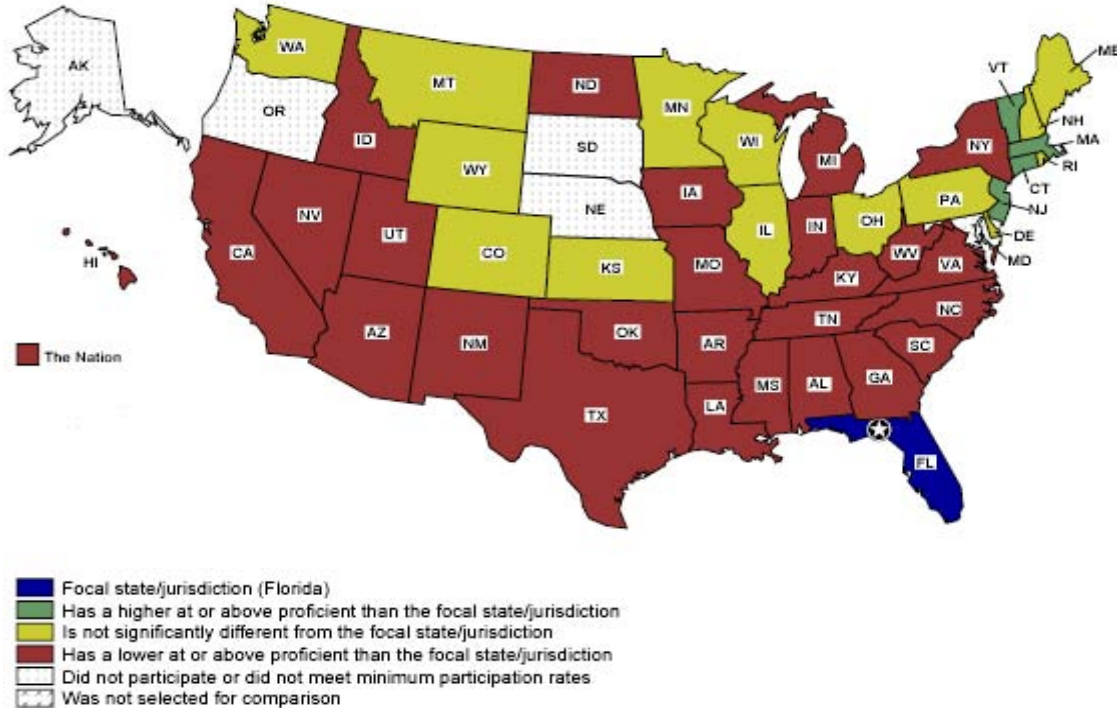
For the first time, Florida scored significantly better than the nation in the percent at or above *Proficient*. This improvement is indicative of the progress Florida's Grade 8 students are making in writing. Between 1998 and 2007, Florida and the nation showed improvement, as shown in the numbers below:

- at or above *Proficient*:
  - Florida – 19 percent to 36 percent, a 17-percentage point increase
  - Nation – 24 percent to 31 percent, a 7-percentage point increase
- at or above *Basic*:
  - Florida – 78 percent to 88 percent, a 10-percentage point increase
  - Nation – 83 percent to 87 percent, a 4-percentage point increase

# Florida NAEP 2007—Grade 8 Writing Results

## Grade 8 Writing Achievement Level Percent at or above *Proficient*

Figure 4  
Florida's National Standing in 2007



<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity schools (domestic and overseas).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2007 Writing Assessments.

In 2007, Florida's students who performed at or above *Proficient* ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation in Grade 8 writing. Florida's students' score of 36 percent is

- **higher than the nation and 26 states:**  
Iowa, Virginia, New York, Utah, Tennessee, Indiana, Idaho, Georgia, North Carolina, Arkansas, North Dakota, Michigan, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kentucky, California, Alabama, Arizona, South Carolina, West Virginia, Nevada, Hawaii, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Mississippi.\*
- **not significantly different from 14 states:**  
New Hampshire, Maine, Colorado, Illinois, **Florida**, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, Wyoming, Delaware, Kansas, Montana, Rhode Island, Minnesota, and Ohio.\*
- **lower than four states:**  
New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont.\*

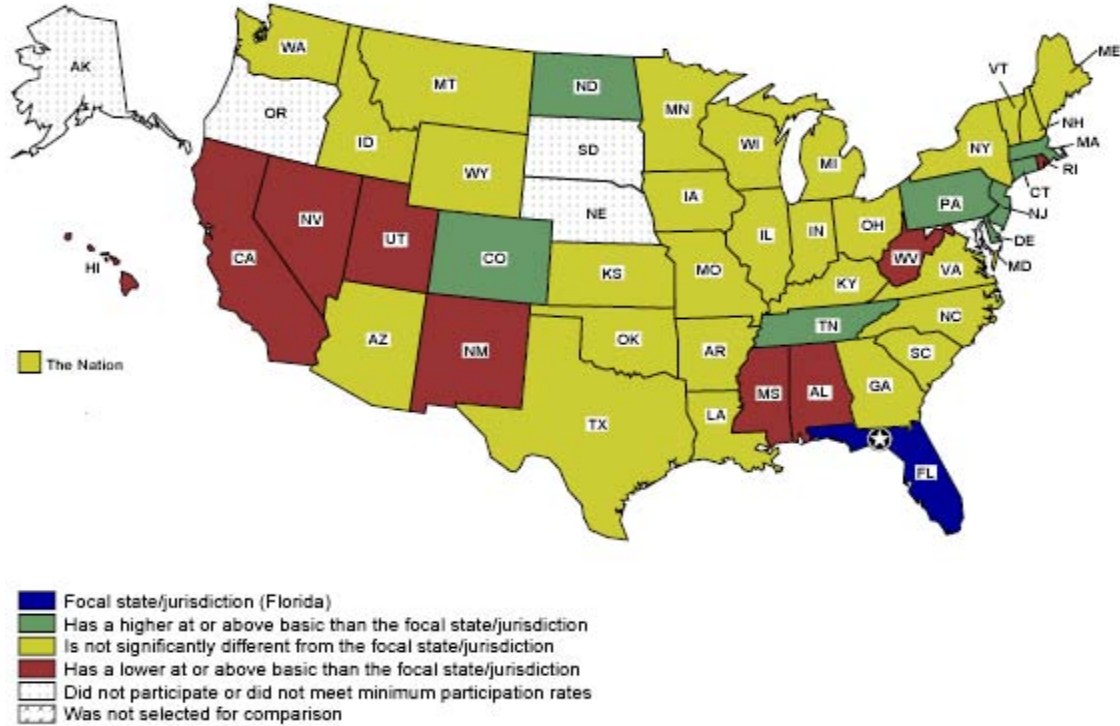
Alaska, Oregon, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Maryland did not participate in the NAEP 2007 Grade 8 Writing assessment.

\*Within each group, states are listed from highest to lowest performance.

# Florida NAEP 2007—Grade 8 Writing Results

## Grade 8 Writing Achievement Level Percent at or above *Basic*

**Figure 5**  
**Florida's National Standing in 2007**



<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense Education Activity schools (domestic and overseas).  
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2007 Writing Assessments.

In 2007, the percentage of Florida's Grade 8 students who scored at or above *Basic* (88 percent) in writing was

- **higher than nine states:**  
Rhode Island, Utah, Alabama, West Virginia, California, Mississippi, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Nevada.\*
- **not significantly different from the nation and 27 states:**  
Wyoming, New Hampshire, Illinois, Ohio, Maine, Virginia, Missouri, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Oklahoma, Vermont, Georgia, **Florida**, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Washington, North Carolina, New York, Kentucky, Texas, Michigan, Arizona, Arkansas, and South Carolina.\*
- **lower than eight states:**  
New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Colorado, North Dakota, Delaware, and Tennessee.\*

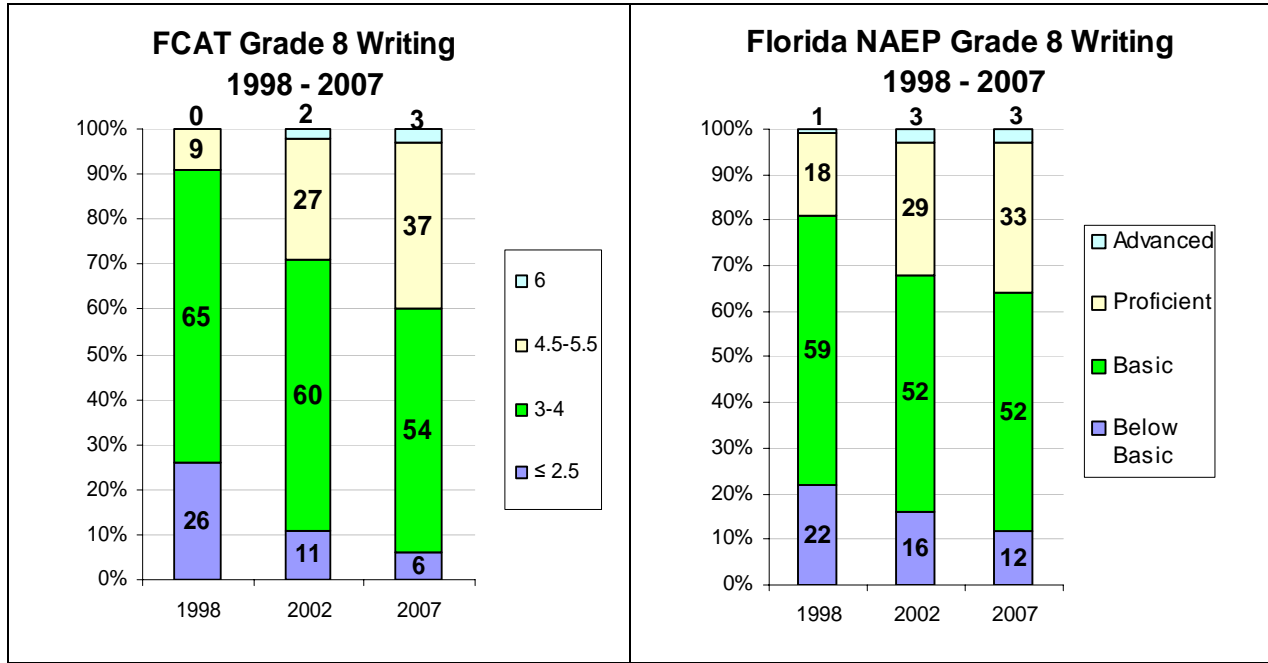
Alaska, Oregon, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Maryland did not participate in the NAEP 2007 Grade 8 Writing assessment.

\*Within each group, states are listed from highest to lowest performance.

# Florida NAEP 2007—Grade 8 Writing Results

## Grade 8 Writing Comparison of FCAT and Florida NAEP Proficiency Results 1998–2007

**Figure 6**  
**FCAT and NAEP**

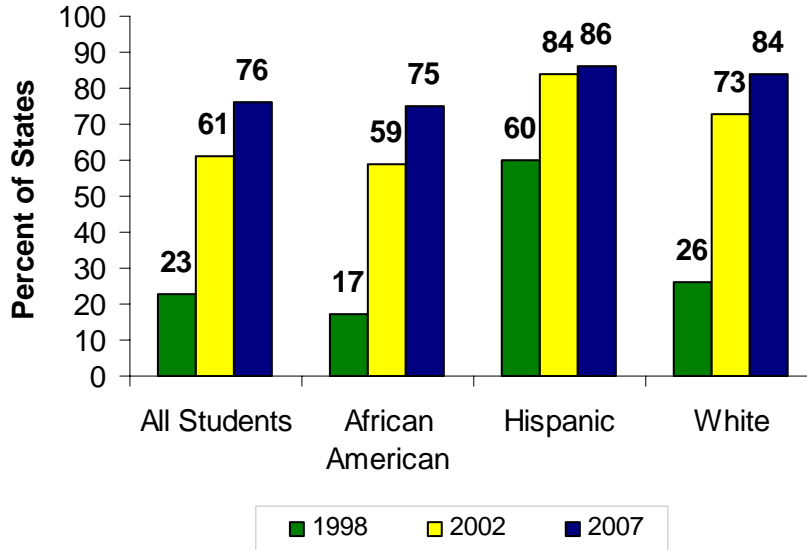


### Highlights

The percentage of Florida’s students with FCAT Writing essay scores at 4.5 and above in Grade 8 increased 31 percentage points between 1998 and 2007 (9 percent vs. 40 percent). The percentage of Florida’s students scoring at *Proficient* and above in NAEP Grade 8 Writing increased 17 percentage points between 1998 and 2007 (19 percent vs. 36 percent).

# Florida NAEP 2007—Grade 8 Writing Results

**NAEP 1998–2007 Grade 8 Writing  
Percent of States Florida Outperformed  
Based on Average Scale Scores**



**NAEP 1998–2007 Grade 8 Writing  
Percent of States Florida Outperformed  
Based on at or above *Proficient* Achievement Level Scores**

