

TESTING BRIEF

Fall 2007 Georgia High School Writing Test

September 26-27, 2007

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 Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) is to assess student achievement in the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) objectives in writing and to improve writing and writing instruction. The results of the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) are used to identify students who may need additional instruction in academic content and skills considered essential for a high school diploma.

The Fall administration is the main administration of the GPS version of the GHSWT for 11th graders who are testing for the first time or students who enrolled after the summer administration of the GHSWT. Eleventh and twelfth grade students who have failed the test previously were administered the QCC version of the GHSWT. This report does not include QCC results.

The scale score range for the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) is 100 to 350. A scale score of 200 is required for passing and is one criterion for diploma eligibility. Writing scores are also reported in the following performance levels: Does Not Meet (100-199), Meets (200-249), and Exceeds (250-350). Since the 2007 assessment is the first administration of the new GPS-based GHSWT, there are no comparative data. The results of the 2007 GHSWT cannot be compared to previous years’ results. Instead, they may serve as a baseline from which to measure future growth.

KEY FINDINGS

- A total of **101,114** students were assessed in the 2007 Georgia High School Writing Test. **Eighty-eight (88)** percent of all students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standards set for writing with a mean scaled score of **217**. This group includes all students with scorable papers.
- A total of **87,396** students were grade eleven regular program first time test takers. **Ninety-two (92)** percent met or exceeded the standard set for Writing with a mean scaled score of **220**.
- A total of **8,273** Special Education students were assessed in writing. **Fifty-four (54)** percent of students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standards set for writing with a mean scaled score of **193**.
- A total of **1,813** English Language Learner (ELL) students were assessed in writing. **Fifty-two (52)** percent of students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standards set for writing with a mean scaled score of **193**.

Table 1

Percent of Meets and Exceeds Standards for the Georgia High School Writing Test – Fall 2007
Administration: All Standard Administrations

| | Fall 2007 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| All Students Tested: | 88% |
| Regular Program | 92% |
| Asian | 90% |
| Black | 83% |
| Hispanic | 80% |
| Native American/Alaskan | 89% |
| White | 93% |
| Multi Ethnic | 92% |
| Female | 92% |
| Male | 85% |
| Special Education | 54% |
| English Language Learner | 52% |

Table 2

Mean Scaled Scores for the Georgia High School Writing Test – Fall 2007 Administration
All Standard Administrations

| | Fall 2007 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| All Students Tested: | 217 |
| Regular Program | 219 |
| Asian | 224 |
| Black | 212 |
| Hispanic | 210 |
| Native American/Alaskan | 218 |
| White | 222 |
| Multi Ethnic | 221 |
| Female | 220 |
| Male | 215 |
| Special Education | 193 |
| English Language Learner | 193 |