

TESTING BRIEF
Fall Georgia High School Writing Test
September 27 - 28, 2006

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 Quality Core Curriculum objectives in writing and to improve writing and writing instruction. The Fall administration is the main administration of the GHSWT for 11th graders who are testing for the first time, and for 11th and 12th graders who have failed the test previously or enrolled after the summer administration of the GHSWT. 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 scale score range for the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) is 400 to 600. A scale score of 500 is required for passing the test.

KEY FINDINGS

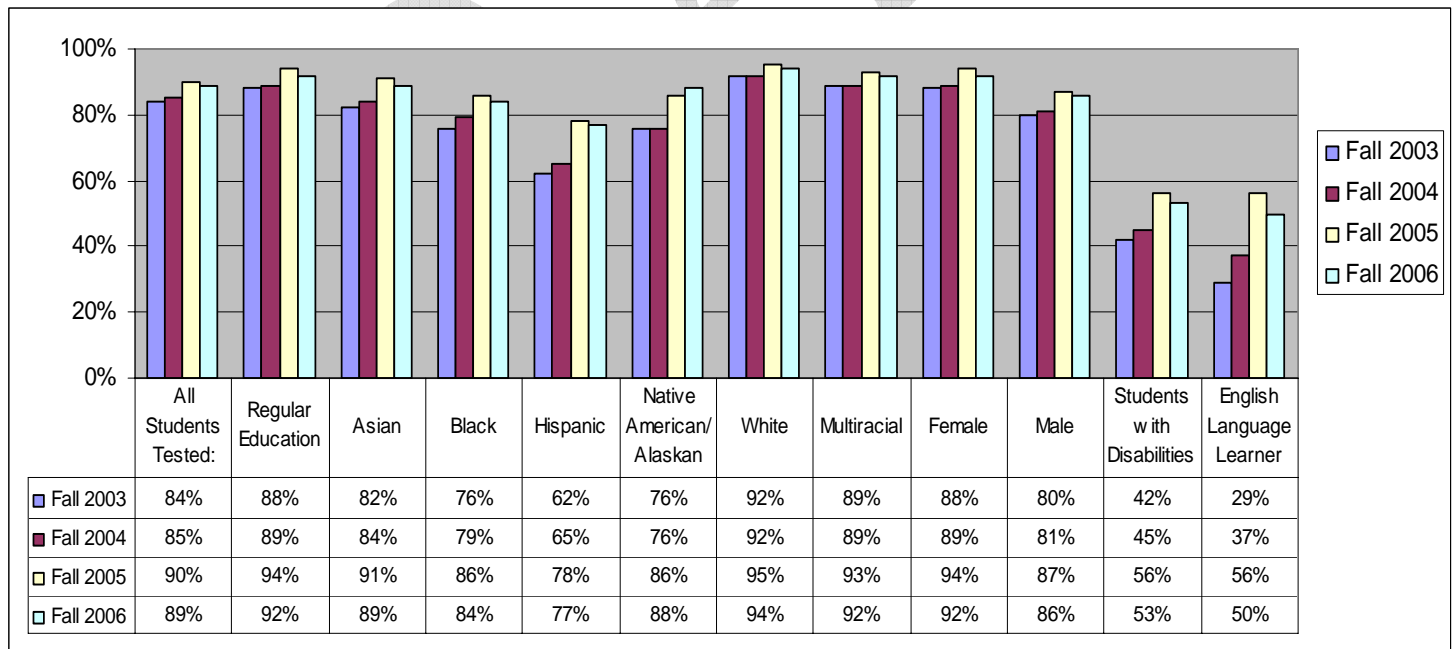
- A total of **103,106** students were assessed in Writing. **Eighty-nine (89)** percent of all students met or exceeded the standard set for Writing with a mean scaled score of **523**. This group includes all students with scorable papers. This is a decrease of one percentage point over last year.
- A total of **85,078** students were grade eleven regular program first time test takers. **Ninety-four (94)** percent met or exceeded the standard set for Writing with a mean scaled score of **527** compared to 96% in Fall 2005. This represents a decrease of two percentage points.
- A total of **8,859** special education students were assessed in Writing. **Fifty-three (53)** percent of special education students met or exceeded the standard for Writing with a mean scaled score of **499**. This is a decrease of three percentage points since Fall 2005.
- A total of **2,252** English Language Learner (ELL) students were assessed in Writing. **Fifty (50)** percent of students met or exceeded the standard for Writing with a mean scaled score of **497**. The percentage of ELL students passing the GHSWT decreased from 56% in 2005 to 50% in 2006.

Passing rates for all student examinees in 2006 ranged from 50% for English Language Learner students to 94% for Grade 11 First Time Regular Program Students and White students. Table 1 below provides longitudinal data for the passing rates of all students from 2003 to 2006.

Table 1
 Passing Rates for the GHSWT – Fall 2003 - 2006 Administration
 All Standard Administrations

Table 1: All Students Tested					
	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Change 2002-2006
All Students Tested:	84%	85%	90%	89%	+5
Regular Education	88%	89%	94%	92%	+4
Asian	82%	84%	91%	89%	+7
Black	76%	79%	86%	84%	+8
Hispanic	62%	65%	78%	77%	+15
Native American/Alaskan	76%	76%	86%	88%	+12
White	92%	92%	95%	94%	+2
Multiracial	89%	89%	93%	92%	+3
Female	88%	89%	94%	92%	+4
Male	80%	81%	87%	86%	+6
Students with Disabilities	42%	45%	56%	53%	+11
English Language Learner	29%	37%	56%	50%	+21

Graph 1
 Passing Rates for the GHSWT – Fall 2003 - 2006 Administration
 All Standard Administrations



The mean scaled scores for all student examinees in 2006 ranged from a 497 for English Language Learner (ELL) students to a 529 for White students. The scale score range is 400 to 600 with a required passing scale score of 500. Table 2 provides longitudinal data for the mean scaled scores of all students from 2003 to 2006.

Table 2
 Mean Scaled Scores for the GHSWT – Fall 2003- 2006 Administration
 All Standard Administrations

Table 2: All Students Tested					
	Fall 2003	Fall 2004	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Change 2002 - 2006
All Students Tested:	520	521	525	523	+3
Regular Education	523	524	528	526	+3
Asian	522	525	530	528	+6
Black	512	513	519	518	+6
Hispanic	505	506	514	513	+8
Native American/Alaskan	514	512	520	526	+12
White	526	528	531	529	+3
Multiracial	524	524	527	526	+2
Female	523	524	529	526	+3
Male	517	518	521	521	+4
Students with Disabilities	492	493	499	499	+7
English Language Learner	485	487	498	497	+12

Graph 2
 Mean Scaled Scores for the GHSWT – Fall 2003 - 2006 Administration
 All Standard Administrations

