

# NeSA

## Writing

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# **R**eports Interpretive Guide

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NeSA-Writing  
Grades 4 and 8  
Spring 2011



**Dr. Roger Breed**  
**Commissioner of Education**

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Commissioner of Education

For further information, contact Dr. Pat Roschewski  
Director of Statewide Assessment  
Office of Statewide Assessment  
(402) 471-2495

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# INTRODUCTION

## OVERVIEW OF THE NeSA-WRITING TEST

The Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) tests are developed specifically for Nebraska. Since 2004, the Nebraska statewide writing assessment has been annually administered in grades 4, 8, and 11 for the purpose of providing school districts with instructional information and to include writing results as the “other academic indicator” in the federal accountability requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

The Nebraska statewide writing assessment is intended to:

1. Gather information to assist teachers in determining the progress of students in meeting state or local standards for writing;
2. Provide each local school district with a report of student progress in meeting state or local standards for writing; and
3. Lead to improved writing by Nebraska students.

The NeSA-Writing tests, by law, are directly aligned with the state content standards. These tests, by law, must be as rigorous as those of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Students receive one of the following two performance level descriptors:

**Meets the Standards:** Overall student performance in writing reflects *satisfactory* performance on the standards and *sufficient* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level *generally* utilizes a variety of writing strategies to comprehend and interpret grade-level appropriate narrative and informational text.

**Below the Standards:** Overall student performance in writing reflects *unsatisfactory* performance on the standards and *insufficient* understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Below the Standards level *inconsistently* utilizes a variety of writing skills and strategies to comprehend and interpret narrative and informational text at grade level.

Nebraska content standards reflect the essential concepts and skills students are expected to know and perform. The foundation skills, identified as essential competencies needed to meet the demands of the classroom and the world beyond, are the basis of all content standards. These foundation skills are the following:

- communication,
- problem solving,
- resource access and utilization, and
- linking and generating knowledge.

## SETTING THE PERFORMANCE LEVEL STANDARDS

Results for NeSA-Writing are reported in scale scores, which range from 0 to 8 for each grade. In isolation, scale scores are difficult to interpret. Performance Levels are often used to help make the scale scores meaningful. Two performance levels, labeled *Below the Standards* and *Meets the Standards*, have been defined for the scale scores by the Nebraska State Board of Education. For NeSA-Writing, the scale scores have been defined so that the range 3.99 and below is *Below the Standards* and the range 4.00–8.00 is *Meets the Standards*.

There are three important reasons for establishing the Performance Levels:

1. satisfy the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education,
2. connect the scale scores to the writing content standards to assist Nebraska educators in helping students, and
3. give meaning to the scale scores to help Nebraska students and parents use the results effectively.

## NeSA-WRITING SCALE-SCORE RANGES

NeSA-W GRADES 4 and 8		
Performance Level	Grade 4 Writing Scale-Score Range	Grade 8 Writing Scale-Score Range
Meets the Standards	4.00–8.00	4.33–8.00
Below the Standards	3.99 and below	4.32 and below

## **READING AND INTERPRETING NeSA-WRITING RESULTS**

Sample NeSA-Writing reports and explanations appear on the following pages to aid administrators and teachers in understanding test results. The data in these reports are simulated and do not reflect the current year results.

The following reports are described in this *Reports Interpretive Guide*:

### **Reports for the School**

School Writing Summary

Writing School Student Roster

### **Reports for the District**

District Writing Summary

Writing District Report of School Performance

Each sample report includes circled numbers that are referenced in the interpretive information provided with the sample. Online reports will be available to districts and schools via the eDIRECT system, <https://ne.drctdirect.com/>, in late April.



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NEBRASKA STATE ACCOUNTABILITY (NeSA-W)  
SCHOOL WRITING SUMMARY  
SPRING 2011

GRADE 4

DISTRICT: SAMPLE DISTRICT (99-9999-999)  
SCHOOL: SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)

Student Groups Included in State Results	Average Score <sup>1</sup>	% Below the Standards	% Meets the Standards	Number Tested	Number Not Tested <sup>2</sup>
All Students <b>1</b>	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Male <b>2</b>	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Female	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
American Indian/Alaskan Native	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Asian <b>3</b>	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Black	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
White	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Hispanic	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Two or More Races	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Free and Reduced	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Not Free and Reduced	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
LEP/ELL Eligible <b>4</b>	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Not LEP/ELL Eligible	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Special Education	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Not Special Education	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Spanish Assessments	9.99	99	99	99,999	999

Other Student Groups	Number of Students
Emergency Medical Waiver	999
Alternate Assessment	999
Language Other than English or Spanish	999

<sup>1</sup> Includes: zero scores for INV = Invalid, OTH = Other, PAR = Parent Refusal, and SAE = Student Absent for the Entire Testing Window  
<sup>2</sup> Includes: INV = Invalid, OTH = Other, PAR = Parent Refusal, and SAE = Student Absent for the Entire Testing Window

## **SAMPLE SCHOOL WRITING SUMMARY: EXPLANATION OF RESULTS AND TERMS**

The School Writing Summary is posted in PDF format and may be downloaded and printed from the eDIRECT system by districts and schools. The summary report lists all students by different demographic information and presents a summary of their performance. This report is for internal district and school use only and is required for state and federal reporting purposes. Information to protect small numbers of students has not been suppressed. Release of summary data to the public may violate individual student confidentiality (FERPA).

### **1 ALL STUDENTS**

All student performance on the NeSA-Writing test is reported. Reading across the row, the school's average score, percent of students in each performance level, and the number of students tested and not tested are presented.

### **2 GENDER**

All student performance on the NeSA-Writing test is reported. Reading across the row, the school's average score, percent of students in each performance level, and the number of students tested and not tested are presented. This information is broken out by gender of all students.

### **3 RACE/ETHNICITY**

All student performance on the NeSA-Writing test is reported. Reading across the row, the school's average score, percent of students in each performance level, and the number of students tested and not tested are presented. This information is listed based on the race/ethnicity of each student: American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, Hispanic, and Two or More Races.

### **4 SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

All student performance on the NeSA-Writing test is reported. Reading across the row, the school's average score, percent of students in each performance level, and the number of students tested and not tested are presented. This information is listed based on the students involved in special programs: Free and Reduced, Not Free and Reduced, LEP/ELL Eligible, Not LEP/ELL Eligible, Special Education, Not Special Education, and Spanish Assessments.



**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NEBRASKA STATE ACCOUNTABILITY (NesA-W)  
WRITING SCHOOL STUDENT ROSTER  
SPRING 2011**

DISTRICT: **SAMPLE DISTRICT (99-9999-999)**  
SCHOOL: **SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)**

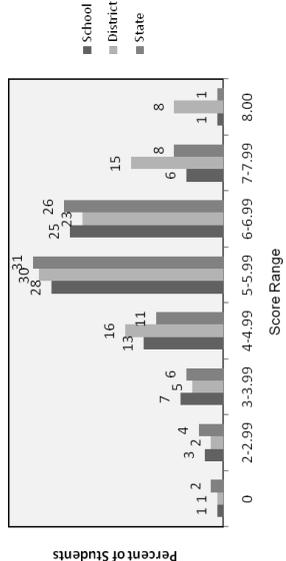
**GRADE 4**

PAGE: 1 OF #

Meets the Standards	4.00–8.00	Performance Level <sup>1</sup>	Score <sup>2</sup>			
				1	2	3
Below the Standards	3.99 and below					
<b>State Average</b>						
<b>District Average</b>						
<b>School Average</b>						
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			
STUDENT'S LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL 123456789		X	9.99			

<b>5 Included in State Writing Results</b>										
	Total Students	0	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9
Number of Students	99,999	999	999	999	999	999	999	999	999	999
Percentage of Students		99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99

**6 School Summary Report for Grade 4**



<sup>1</sup>M = Meets the Standards, B = Below the Standards  
<sup>2</sup>EMW = Emergency Medical Waiver, INV = Invalid, NLE = No Longer Enrolled, OTH = Other, PAR = Parent Refusal, SAE = Student Absent for the Entire Testing Window, FNS = Foreign Language not Spanish, ALT = Alternate Assessment  
<sup>3</sup>These results include students with the following test codes: INV, OTH, PAR, and SAE and student responses that could not be scored.

## SAMPLE WRITING SCHOOL STUDENT ROSTER: EXPLANATION OF RESULTS AND TERMS

The Writing School Student Roster is posted in PDF format and may be downloaded and printed from the eDIRECT system by districts and schools. The roster report lists students who were required to take the regular NeSA-Writing test and presents a summary of their performance. For most schools, the report has multiple pages.

***The state averages provided on the April 29<sup>th</sup> reports are NOT final. They are only preliminary as they do not include appeals, late corrections, and final calculations. The April state averages are NOT to be shared. This information is embargoed until the state release in August.***

### 1 PERFORMANCE LEVEL RANGES

In the upper left corner of this chart, the score ranges associated with each performance level are reported for Writing. For example, a student receiving a score of 5 on the Writing test would achieve *Meets the Standards*, and one receiving a score of 2.5 would achieve *Below the Standards*.

### 2 STATE, DISTRICT, AND SCHOOL AVERAGE

Student performance at a state level on the NeSA-Writing test is not reported because state averages are not final. This information is embargoed until the state release in August. The district and school averages are presented for scores in Writing.

### 3 ROSTER OF STUDENTS TESTED

In the far left column, a list of students who are enrolled in the school is printed alphabetically by last name and first name.

### 4 WRITING PERFORMANCE DATA

Each student's performance on the NeSA-Writing test is reported. Reading across the row, the student's performance level and score are presented. If a student did not attempt the test, the score column will be populated with a not tested code.

### 5 INCLUDED IN STATE WRITING RESULTS

The number of students that tested is listed in this chart. The number of students and percentage of students that scored in each score range are listed in separate columns.

### 6 SCHOOL SUMMARY REPORT GRAPH

The graph gives a visual description of score distribution based on the percentage of students within each score range throughout the school, district, and state.



NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NEBRASKA STATE ACCOUNTABILITY (NeSA-W)  
DISTRICT WRITING SUMMARY  
SPRING 2011

GRADE 4

DISTRICT: SAMPLE DISTRICT (99-9999-999)

## SAMPLE DISTRICT WRITING SUMMARY

Student Groups Included in State Results	Average Score <sup>1</sup>	% Below the Standards	% Meets the Standards	Number Tested	Number Not Tested <sup>2</sup>
All Students <b>1</b>	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Male <b>2</b>	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Female	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
American Indian/Alaskan Native	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
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Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
White	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Hispanic	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Two or More Races	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
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LEP/ELL Eligible	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Not LEP/ELL Eligible <b>4</b>	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Special Education	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Not Special Education	9.99	99	99	99,999	999
Spanish Assessments	9.99	99	99	99,999	999

Other Student Groups	Number of Students
Emergency Medical Waiver	999
Alternate Assessment	999
Language Other than English or Spanish	999

<sup>1</sup> Includes: zero scores for INV = Invalid, OTH = Other, PAR = Parent Refusal, and SAE = Student Absent for the Entire Testing Window.  
<sup>2</sup> Includes: INV = Invalid, OTH = Other, PAR = Parent Refusal, and SAE = Student Absent for the Entire Testing Window

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### **1 ALL STUDENTS**

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### **2 GENDER**

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### **3 RACE/ETHNICITY**

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### **4 SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

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# SAMPLE WRITING DISTRICT REPORT OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
NEBRASKA STATE ACCOUNTABILITY (NeSA-W)  
WRITING DISTRICT REPORT OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE  
SPRING 2011**

**GRADE 4**

PAGE: 1 OF #

DISTRICT: **SAMPLE DISTRICT (99-9999-999)**

1 Performance Level Ranges	Writing				
	Average Score <sup>1</sup>	% Below the Standards	% Meets the Standards	Number Tested	Number Not Tested <sup>2</sup>
Meets the Standards 4.00–8.00					
Below the Standards 3.99 and below					
<b>STATE SUMMARY 2</b>					
<b>DISTRICT SUMMARY 3</b>	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999
SAMPLE SCHOOL (99-9999-999)	999	99	99	9,999	999

<sup>1</sup>Includes: zero scores for **INV** = Invalid, **OTH** = Other, **PAR** = Parent Refusal, and **SAE** = Student Absent for the Entire Testing Window  
<sup>2</sup>Includes: **INV** = Invalid, **OTH** = Other, **PAR** = Parent Refusal, and **SAE** = Student Absent for the Entire Testing Window

99-9999-999 99/99/9999

# SAMPLE WRITING DISTRICT REPORT OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE: EXPLANATION OF RESULTS AND TERMS

The District Report of School Performance is posted in PDF format and may be downloaded and printed from the eDIRECT system by all districts. The district report includes all schools within the district that tested students.

***The state averages provided on the April 29<sup>th</sup> reports are NOT final. They are only preliminary as they do not include appeals, late corrections, and final calculations. The April state averages are NOT to be shared. This information is embargoed until the state release in August.***

## **1 PERFORMANCE LEVEL RANGES**

In the upper left corner of this chart, the score ranges associated with each performance level are reported for Writing. For example, a student receiving a score of 5 on the NeSA-Writing test would achieve *Meets the Standards*, and one receiving a score of 2.5 would achieve *Below the Standards*.

## **2 STATE SUMMARY**

Student performance at a state level on the NeSA-Writing test is not reported because state averages are not final. This information is embargoed until the state release in August.

## **3 DISTRICT SUMMARY**

All student performance on the NeSA-Writing test is reported. Reading across the row, the average score, the percent of students in each performance level, and the total number of students that tested and not tested is presented at the district level. In addition, each school within the district is listed and summarized.

2011

**Reports Interpretive Guide**

