Utah Statewide Scores on the Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) 2001-2011

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DWA

The Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) is a criterion-referenced test that is designed to assess the writing skills of students enrolled in the fifth and eigth grades. Beginning in 2010, the DWA was administered online and scored using artificial intelligence. Student responses are scored for each of the six writing traits: ideas and content, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions.

There are five points for each trait, with a total possible score of 30. The DWA proficiency percentage reported here shows the percentage of students scoring 18 or higher. Prior to 2010, the DWA was administered to the sixth and ninth grades.

2011 Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) Results for State of Utah

	DWA Grade 5		DWA Grade 8	
	Total Tests	% Prof	Total Tests	% Prof
All Students	**44,452**	**83%**	**40,659**	**81%**
African American	615	72%	521	68%
American Indian	560	70%	547	69%
Asian	831	85%	764	84%
Hispanic	6,822	73%	6,007	66%
Multiple Races	510	86%	381	83%
Pacific Islander	682	80%	600	80%
White	34,432	85%	31,839	84%
Female	21,878	88%	20,100	87%
Male	22,574	78%	20,559	75%
ELL	2,966	56%	1,935	43%
Not ELL	41,486	85%	38,724	83%
Econ Disadv	18,194	76%	15,274	71%
Not Econ Dis	26,258	88%	25,385	87%
Not SWD	38,365	87%	36,527	86%
SWD	6,087	54%	4,132	39%