



Cobb County School District Testing Brief
Georgia High School Writing Test
Fall 2013

Georgia law (O.C.G.A., Section 20-2-281) requires that writing assessments be administered to students in grades three, five, eight, and eleven. The State Writing Assessment Core Development and Advisory Committees assisted the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in developing the writing component of the student assessment program. The committees comprised of educators with expertise in the instruction of writing skills and writing assessments, consist of eight committees—a Core Development and Advisory Committee for each grade level (3, 5, 8, and 11). The goal of the Writing Assessment Core Development and Advisory Committees and the GaDOE is to create developmentally appropriate assessment procedures to enhance statewide instruction in the language arts. Statewide writing assessments serve the purpose of improving writing and writing instruction.

Students in the eleventh grade participate in the Georgia High School Writing Test and must pass the GHSWT to earn a regular education diploma. Students are asked to produce a response to one on-demand persuasive writing prompt.

The writing test requires students to produce a composition of no more than two pages on an assigned topic. The two-hour test administration includes 100 minutes of student writing time. The test is administered three times a year so that students have multiple opportunities to take the test before the end of the twelfth grade. The main administration of the GHSWT takes place in the fall of the eleventh grade year.

Results of the GHSWT are used to identify students who may need additional instruction in academic content and skills considered essential for a high school diploma.

At the district level, the percentage of first time test takers passing the test was 98%, unchanged from 2012. Ninety-nine (99) percent of Regular Education students scored at or above the expected level of proficiency, which is also unchanged from last year's administration. Eighty-five (85) percent of Special Education students taking the test scored at or above the expected level of proficiency, compared to 89% percent in the prior school year. Scores for English Language Learners increased from last year's 79%, to 81% in the current school year.

While the percentage of students passing in the district was unchanged, the percent of students passing statewide dropped one percent over last year. Statewide, the percentage of regular education students that passed the test also declined 1%, from 97% last year to 96% this year.. The percentage of special education students passing at the state level dropped 2%, and the percentage of English Language Learners statewide scoring at or above proficiency dropped 10%.

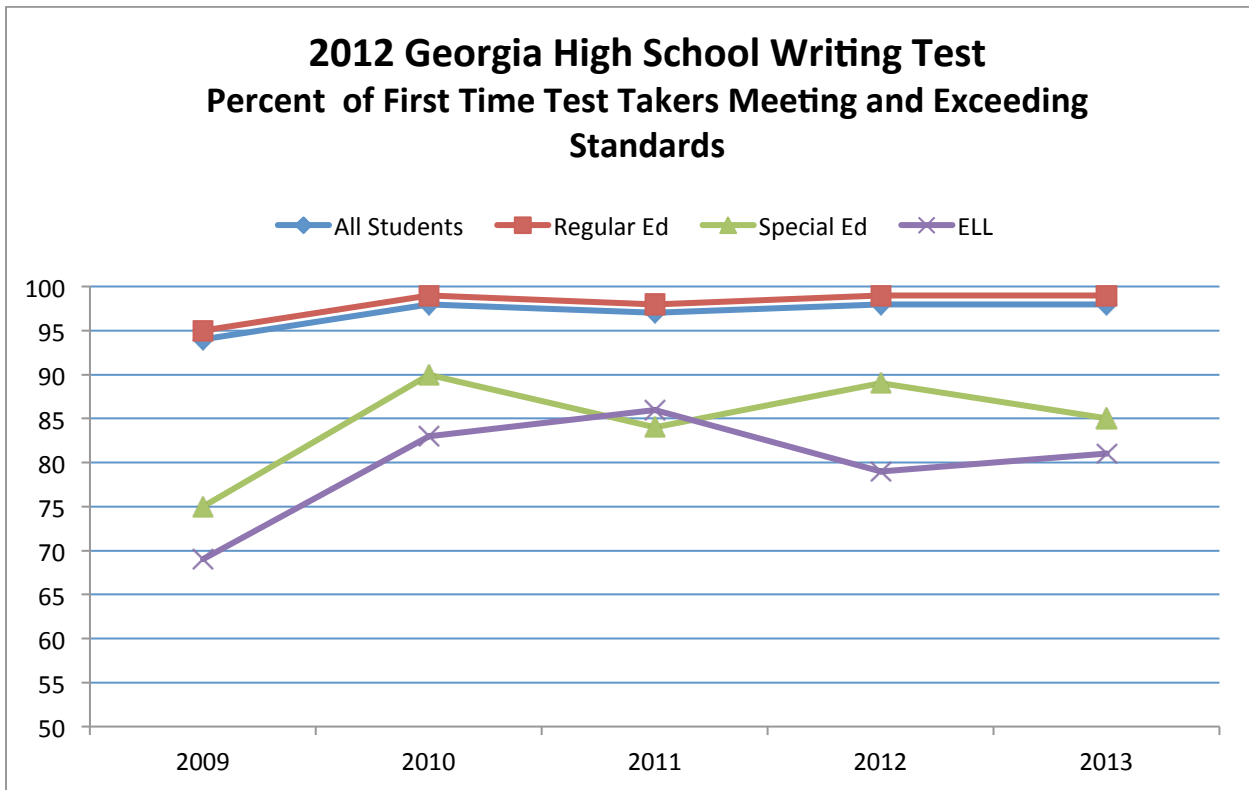
KEY FINDINGS

District Results

- A total of 6,722 first-time test takers took the writing test. Ninety-eight (98) percent met the passing standard with a mean scale score of 230. This reflects a 1 point decrease over previous year's scale score of 231.
- A total of 6,276 Regular Program Grade 11 students were first-time test takers, with 99% passing and a mean scale score of 231. The percent of Regular Program students passing in 2012 was 99%, with an average scale score of 233.
- A total of 448 Special Education Grade 11 first-time test takers participated in the writing test. Eighty-five (85) percent met the passing standard with a mean scale score of 215. The percent of Special Education students passing in 2012 was 89%, with a scale score of 216.
- A total of 54 English Language Learner Grade 11 first-time test takers were tested. Eighty-one (81) percent met the passing standard with a mean scale score of 208. Last year, 79% of the English language learners met the passing standard with a scale score of 209.

School Results

- All sixteen of the district's high schools had a pass rate of 90% or better.
- Ten high schools had 98% or more students passing. They were Allatoona, Harrison, Hillgrove, Kell, Kennesaw Mountain, Lassiter, Pebblebrook, Pope, Sprayberry, and Walton.
- The percentage of students meeting or exceeding performance expectations at Osborne High School grew by 4% over last year, the biggest gain district-wide.



Cobb County School District
2013 Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test
Results for 11th Grade First Time Test Takers - All Students

TABLE I

	# Tested	Scale Score	% DNM*	% Meet*	% Exceed*	% Meets + Exceeds
Georgia	101,059	224	6	85	9	94
Metro Area Districts	39,757	227	5	84	12	96
Cobb	6,724	230	3	84	14	98
SCHOOL RESULTS						
Allatoona	391	229	1	88	11	99
Campbell	442	224	7	84	8	92
Harrison	427	228	0	91	9	100
Hillgrove	481	229	2	86	12	98
Kell	380	231	1	85	14	99
Kennesaw Mountain	494	232	1	85	13	98
Lassiter	464	241	0	74	26	100
McEachern	369	224	4	88	8	96
North Cobb	555	227	3	88	9	97
Osborne	296	215	9	90	1	91
Pebblebrook	313	226	2	87	11	98
Pope	401	247	0	65	35	100
South Cobb	357	221	6	90	4	94
Sprayberry	369	230	1	86	14	100
Walton	621	241	1	75	25	100
Wheeler	362	229	5	82	13	95

* Percentage of students may not equal 100 due to rounding

tfc - Too few To count

** Data Not Available

Cobb County School District
2013 Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test
Domain Results for 11th Grade First Time Test Takers

TABLE II

	Ideas (2)	Organization (1)	Style (1)	Conventions (1)
Georgia	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Metro Area Districts	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4
Cobb	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
SCHOOL RESULTS				
Allatoona	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
Campbell	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Harrison	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5
Hillgrove	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
Kell	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Kennesaw Mountain	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5
Lassiter	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.8
McEachern	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.2
North Cobb	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.5
Osborne	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.9
Pebblebrook	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.2
Pope	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9
South Cobb	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.1
Sprayberry	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
Walton	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8
Wheeler	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.5

Domains are weighted differently and range from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Weights are in parentheses.

Cobb County School District
2013 Georgia High School Graduation Writing Test
Results for Program Groups - 11th Grade First Time Test Takers

TABLE III

	Regular Ed		Special Ed		ELL	
	Mean SS	% Pass	Mean SS	% Pass	Mean SS	% Pass
Georgia	NA**	96	NA**	70	NA**	60
Cobb	231	99	215	85	208	81
SCHOOL RESULTS						
Allatoona	229	99	222	100	TFC	TFC
Campbell	225	94	204	64	202	60
Harrison	229	100	216	97	TFC	TFC
Hillgrove	230	98	222	89	TFC	TFC
Kell	232	99	216	93	TFC	TFC
Kennesaw Mountain	233	99	215	89	TFC	TFC
Lassiter	242	100	220	93	TFC	TFC
McEachern	225	97	212	81	TFC	TFC
North Cobb	228	98	210	78	TFC	TFC
Osborne	217	93	199	59	TFC	TFC
Pebblebrook	227	99	211	86	TFC	TFC
Pope	248	100	235	100	TFC	TFC
South Cobb	222	97	208	68	TFC	TFC
Sprayberry	231	99	218	100	TFC	TFC
Walton	243	100	224	95	TFC	TFC
Wheeler	230	96	208	71	TFC	TFC

Mean SS: Scale score based on 100-350 scale
TFC: too few to count
NA** not reported