

Eighth Grade Writing Assessment

Winter 2014

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 Grade 8 Writing Assessment is to assess student achievement in the Georgia Performance Standards in writing and to improve writing and writing instruction. The Grade 8 Writing Assessment provides predictive information to eighth graders about their future writing performance in advance of taking the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT).

Across the district, 86% of students taking the Eighth Grade Writing Assessment achieved the “meets” and “exceeds” standards on the assessment. Students “meeting” or “exceeding” standards among program groups ranged from 59% for Special Education students, 52% for English Language Learners, to 90% for Regular Program students.

The District scale score was 217 and the scale scores for program groups was 198 for Special Education, 193 for ELL students, and 220 for Regular Program students. The scale score range for the Grade 8 Writing Assessment is 100 to 350. Writing scores are also reported in the following performance levels: Does Not Meet (100-199), Meets (200-249), and Exceeds (250-350).

KEY FINDINGS

- A total of **8,144** Cobb students were assessed in the 2014 Grade 8 Writing Assessment.
- **Eighty-six (86)** percent of all students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standards set for writing with a mean scaled score of **217**. This represents a 1% decrease from last year in the number of students meeting/exceeding standards while the average scale scores for the district decreased by one point as well.
- A total of **947** Special Education students were assessed in writing. **Fifty-nine (59)** percent of these students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standards set for writing with a mean scaled score of **198**. The percentage of students meeting/exceeding standards increased one point from last year, while the scale score for the group decreased two points from **200**.
- A total of **349** 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**. Students in this group declined in achievement by 6% in the percent meeting/exceeding standards compared to the previous year, as well as a five point decline in the average scaled score for the group.

KEY FINDINGS (continued)

- Six (6) Cobb Schools had **increases of 3% or greater in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards** from 2013 to 2014:

Awtrey (4%)	Cooper (14%)	Daniell (3%)
Lost Mountain (3%)	McClure (5%)	Smitha (4%)

- Three (3) Cobb middle schools **showed growth of less than 3% in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards** as in the previous year:

Hightower Trail (2%)	Lovinggood (1%)	Palmer (1%)
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- Student performance at all other middle schools was unchanged or showed decline from 2013 to 2014.

- Fourteen (14) of Cobb's middle schools had **overall mean scale scores higher than the state mean scale score of 213.**

Awtrey	Daniell	Dickerson	Dodgen
Durham	Hightower Trail	Lost Mountain	Lovinggood
Mabry	McCleskey	McClure	Palmer
Pine Mtn	Simpson		

- Twelve (12) of Cobb's middle schools had **overall mean scale scores equal to or higher than the mean scale score of 217 for Metro RESA and the Cobb County School District.**

Daniell	Dickerson	Dodgen	Durham
Hightower Trail	Lost Mountain	Lovinggood	Mabry
McCleskey	McClure	Palmer	Simpson

**Cobb County School District
2014 Eighth Grade Writing Assessment
All Students**

Table I

	# Tested	Mean Scale Score	% DNM	% M	% E	% M+E	WRITING DOMAINS**			
							Ideas	Organization	Style	Conventions
Cobb	8,144	217	14	78	8	86	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1
Metro Resa*	49,897	217	15	75	10	85	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1
Georgia	127,130	213	20	74	6	80	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0
Awtrey	305	214	15	79	5	84	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.1
Barber	313	212	19	78	4	82	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.0
Campbell Middle	402	207	26	71	3	74	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8
Cooper	296	207	23	76	1	77	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8
Daniell	305	224	5	86	9	95	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.2
Dickerson	401	241	1	71	28	99	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.8
Dodgen	378	230	3	80	17	97	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6
Durham	360	220	7	87	6	93	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3
East Cobb	421	211	20	74	6	80	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
Floyd	320	206	28	71	2	73	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7
Garrett	255	209	21	75	4	79	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8
Griffin	389	207	25	74	2	76	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.8
Hightower Trail	322	234	2	77	22	99	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6
Lindley	508	206	27	72	1	73	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7
Lost Mountain	333	222	5	86	9	95	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3
Lovinggood	452	219	10	82	8	90	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2
Mabry	293	226	4	83	13	96	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5
McCleskey	247	219	9	81	9	90	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1
McClure	362	225	7	80	13	93	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.3
Palmer	301	219	11	81	8	89	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.2
Pine Mountain	245	215	13	84	2	86	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0
Simpson	312	223	6	85	9	94	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.4
Smitha	300	207	25	73	2	75	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.7
Tapp	262	213	15	83	3	86	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9
IA Smyrna	52	214	10	85	6	91	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2

*RESA: Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett and Rockdale Counties, and Atlanta, Buford, Decatur, and Marietta City systems

DNM = Did Not Meet Standards (Score of 100 - 199)

M = Met Standards (Score of 200 - 249)

E = Exceeded Standards (Score of 250 - 350)

% M+E = Percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards

**Scoring Information for Domains
Range 1 (low) to 5 (high)

Cobb County School District
Eighth Grade Writing Assessment: 2014
Percentage of Students in Performance Levels
by Program Type

Table II

	# Tested	Average Scale Score	Percentages		
GEORGIA			DNM	M	E
All Students	127,130	213	20	74	6
COBB COUNTY			DNM	M	E
All Students	8,144	217	14	78	8
Regular Program Students	7197	220	10	81	9
Limited English Proficient	349	193	47	52	0
Special Education	947	198	41	57	2
Awtrey			DNM	M	E
All Students	305	214	15	79	5
Regular Program Students	266	216	10	84	6
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	39	196	51	49	0
Barber			DNM	M	E
All Students	313	212	19	78	4
Regular Program Students	267	215	12	84	4
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	46	190	59	41	0
Campbell Middle			DNM	M	E
All Students	402	207	26	71	3
Regular Program Students	363	210	22	75	3
Limited English Proficient	50	194	48	52	0
Special Education	39	181	67	33	0
Cooper			DNM	M	E
All Students	296	207	23	76	1
Regular Program Students	254	209	19	80	1
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	42	195	50	50	0
Daniell			DNM	M	E
All Students	305	224	5	86	9
Regular Program Students	272	225	4	86	10
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	33	210	12	88	0
Dickerson			DNM	M	E
All Students	401	241	1	71	28
Regular Program Students	358	243	1	69	30
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	43	223	5	86	9

Cobb County School District
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Percentage of Students in Performance Levels
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GEORGIA			DNM	M	E
All Students	127,130	213	20	74	6
COBB COUNTY			DNM	M	E
All Students	8,144	217	14	78	8
Regular Program Students	7197	220	10	81	9
Limited English Proficient	349	193	47	52	0
Special Education	947	198	41	57	2
Dodgen			DNM	M	E
All Students	378	230	3	80	17
Regular Program Students	336	232	1	81	18
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	42	209	19	76	5
Durham			DNM	M	E
All Students	360	220	7	87	6
Regular Program Students	319	222	3	90	7
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	41	205	34	63	2
East Cobb			DNM	M	E
All Students	421	211	20	74	6
Regular Program Students	382	213	17	76	7
Limited English Proficient	25	186	44	56	0
Special Education	39	187	49	51	0
Floyd			DNM	M	E
All Students	320	206	28	71	2
Regular Program Students	284	208	24	75	1
Limited English Proficient	30	189	63	33	3
Special Education	36	183	56	42	3
Garrett			DNM	M	E
All Students	255	209	21	75	4
Regular Program Students	227	211	17	78	5
Limited English Proficient	16	177	75	25	0
Special Education	28	195	54	46	0
Griffin			DNM	M	E
All Students	389	207	25	74	2
Regular Program Students	340	211	18	80	2
Limited English Proficient	40	188	53	48	0
Special Education	49	179	69	31	0
Hightower Trail			DNM	M	E
All Students	322	234	2	77	22
Regular Program Students	284	235	1	75	24
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	38	220	8	87	5

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All Students	127,130	213	20	74	6
COBB COUNTY			DNM	M	E
All Students	8,144	217	14	78	8
Regular Program Students	7197	220	10	81	9
Limited English Proficient	349	193	47	52	0
Special Education	947	198	41	57	2
Lindley			DNM	M	E
All Students	508	206	27	72	1
Regular Program Students	458	208	22	76	1
Limited English Proficient	51	195	41	59	0
Special Education	50	187	70	30	0
Lost Mountain			DNM	M	E
All Students	333	222	5	86	9
Regular Program Students	306	223	3	87	10
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	27	208	26	74	0
Lovinggood			DNM	M	E
All Students	452	219	10	82	8
Regular Program Students	416	219	9	82	9
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	36	209	22	75	3
Mabry			DNM	M	E
All Students	293	226	4	83	13
Regular Program Students	254	228	2	84	14
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	39	210	21	77	3
McCleskey			DNM	M	E
All Students	247	219	9	81	9
Regular Program Students	212	223	5	84	10
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	35	196	34	63	3
McClure			DNM	M	E
All Students	362	225	7	80	13
Regular Program Students	331	227	3	82	15
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	31	200	42	58	0
Palmer			DNM	M	E
All Students	301	219	11	81	8
Regular Program Students	258	223	7	84	10
Limited English Proficient	11	201	27	73	0
Special Education	43	201	35	65	0

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All Students	127,130	213	20	74	6
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All Students	8,144	217	14	78	8
Regular Program Students	7197	220	10	81	9
Limited English Proficient	349	193	47	52	0
Special Education	947	198	41	57	2
Pine Mountain			DNM	M	E
All Students	245	215	13	84	2
Regular Program Students	212	218	8	89	3
Limited English Proficient	16	199	31	69	0
Special Education	33	197	45	55	0
Simpson			DNM	M	E
All Students	312	223	6	85	9
Regular Program Students	268	226	3	87	10
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	44	204	27	68	5
Smitha			DNM	M	E
All Students	300	207	25	73	2
Regular Program Students	253	212	17	80	3
Limited English Proficient	51	197	49	51	0
Special Education	47	185	64	36	0
IA Smyrna			DNM	M	E
All Students	52	214	10	85	6
Regular Program Students	50	215	8	86	6
Limited English Proficient	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC
Special Education	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC	TFC