



Illinois Standards Achievement Test



Guide to the 2008 Illinois State Assessment Writing

Illinois State Board of Education • Student Assessment Division

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Introduction

Test Design and Reporting

ISAT Writing Reports provide detailed student test results, including information at the individual, school, district, and state level. In addition, information on ISAT Writing Feature scores from which the scale scores are derived is included. These scale scores are used to place ISAT Writing results in one of four performance levels (Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, Below Standards, Academic Warning). Table 1 below defines each of these four performance levels.

Table 1. ISAT Performance Level Descriptions

Exceeds Standards: Student work demonstrates advanced knowledge and skills in the subject. Students creatively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems and evaluate the results.
Meets Standards: Student work demonstrates proficient knowledge and skills in the subject. Students effectively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems.
Below Standards: Student work demonstrates basic knowledge and skills in the subject. However, because of gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills in limited ways.
Academic Warning: Student work demonstrates limited knowledge and skills in the subject. Because of major gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills ineffectively.

The ISAT Writing Rubric Features

Each ISAT Writing composition is evaluated on five Features: Focus, Support/Elaboration, Organization, Conventions, and Integration. All Writing Features are scored on a 6-point scale, with 6 being the highest score, except for Conventions which is scored on a 3-point scale with 3 being the highest score. A score of 4, 5, or 6 [2 or 3 in Conventions] indicates that the Feature is basically, adequately, or fully developed.

Table 2. Scale score range for ISAT Writing 2008 that defines Performance Levels

	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards
Grade 5	6-13	14-20	21-27	28-33
Grade 6	6-13	14-20	21-27	28-33
Grade 8	6-14	15-20	21-27	28-33

Reports for Local School Use

Individual Student Report

The first page of the "Individual Student Report" provides essential information concerning the student's performance on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test. This page identifies the student, school and district, and the grade and year for which the results are reported. The academic performance level for the student is indicated by the relative length of the bar for the Writing assessment.

Performance Levels

Student performance is classified into four performance levels. The score ranges for a respective performance category vary by subject area. These score ranges are indicated within the graph by vertical hatching [broken lines] and represent the range of scores pertaining to each performance level: Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, Below Standards, and Academic Warning.

Scale Scores

The total scale score, derived wholly from the Individual Writing Feature scores, is listed directly to the right of the bar in the graph. The score scale for ISAT Writing runs from 6, the lowest score, to 33, the highest score. This scale score is placed on the performance level grid to show into which performance category the student's results fall.

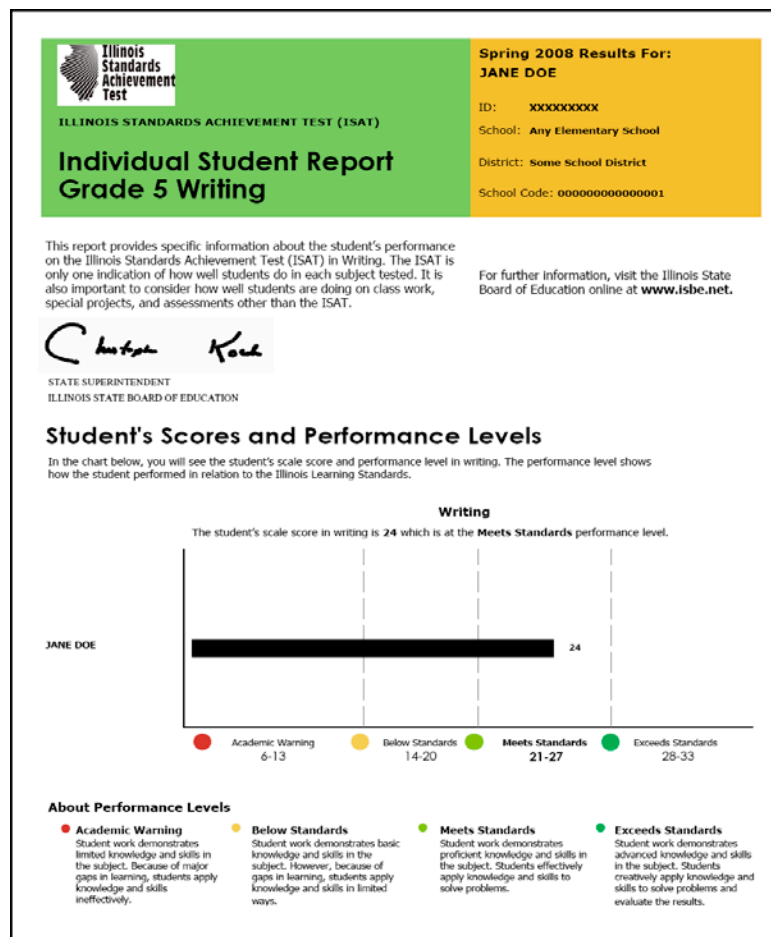


Figure 1: Page 1 of Individual Student Report.

The second page of the Individual Student Report includes information on how the scale score is derived, a synopsis of the prompt[s] used in the assessment, individual Feature scores, and performance-level comparisons to school, district, and state results.

How the Scale Score is Derived

In the first paragraph, the formula for deriving the scale score for Writing is explained.

Prompt Synopsis

A synopsis of the prompt or prompts used is provided at the top of the graph of Feature scores.

Feature Score Table

The individual Feature scores for the student are listed in **BOLD** in the first column on the left in the table at the top of the page. A percentile comparison by Feature by school, district, and state is provided in the table to the right of the student score.

Performance Level Comparison

At the bottom of the page, the student's scale score and performance level are presented. In addition, a percentile comparison of the student's performance level is made at the school, district, and state level.

More about the Writing score for JANE DOE							
ISAT Writing Results							
The table below shows how this student performed on the ISAT Writing assessment. Grade 5 students were asked to write one Expository composition that was scored for the following Features: Focus, Support, Organization, Conventions, and Integration.							
The writing Features are scored on a six-point scale, with 6 being the highest, except for Conventions which is scored on a three point scale, with 3 being the highest. The Integration score is doubled. A score of 1, 2, or 3 (or 1 in Conventions) indicates that the feature is absent or in the developing stages. A score of 4, 5, or 6 (2 or 3 in Conventions) indicates that the feature is basically, adequately, or fully developed. The scores are combined as follows:							
Focus + Support/Elaboration + Organization + Conventions + Integration + Integration = Scale Score.							
Expository Prompt Description							
Students were asked to write an Expository composition about one person they think is a good example of a role model.							
Feature	Student Score	Score Range	% of Responses for Each Score*	School	District	State	
Focus The clarity with which a composition presents and sustains a clear main idea or point of view.	4	6	0%	5%	9%		
		5	71%	72%	65%		
		4	19%	11%	12%		
		3	0%	7%	10%		
		2	0%	2%	2%		
		1	10%	3%	2%		
Support/Elaboration The degree to which the main point or position is supported and explained by specific details and reasons.	5	6	0%	1%	2%		
		5	0%	17%	10%		
		4	43%	35%	35%		
		3	48%	37%	43%		
		2	0%	7%	9%		
Organization The clarity with which the composition presents a clear structure or plan of development and logically related ideas.	4	6	0%	2%	2%		
		5	0%	17%	11%		
		4	43%	34%	35%		
		3	48%	35%	41%		
		2	0%	8%	9%		
Conventions The degree to which standard English is used.	3	3	24%	43%	44%		
		2	67%	53%	47%		
		1	10%	4%	9%		
Integration An evaluation based on the effectiveness of the composition as a whole.	4	6	0%	2%	3%		
		5	0%	17%	11%		
		4	43%	35%	36%		
		3	48%	36%	40%		
		2	0%	7%	8%		
Performance Level Student performance level in comparison to the School, District, and State.	24	Exceeds	28 - 33	0%	15%	11%	
		Meets	21 - 27	43%	39%	39%	
		Below	14 - 20	48%	35%	40%	
		Meets Standards	AW	6 - 13	10%	11%	10%

Figure 2: Page 2 of Individual Student Report.

School Roster-Writing

A separate report is provided to the school for each grade assessed in Writing.

Enrollment Status

The letter "S" indicates the student was enrolled in the school on or before May 1 of the prior calendar year. The letter "D" indicates the student was enrolled in the district on or before May 1 of the prior calendar year.

Performance Level

Student performance is classified at four levels: Academic Warning, Below Standards, Meets Standards, and Exceeds Standards. This information is presented to the right of the enrollment status.

Scale Scores

The student scale score is listed in a vertical column just to the right of the performance level designation. The scale score is placed on the performance level grid to designate the performance level.

Writing Feature Scores

The Writing Feature scores are presented in the table to the right of the scale score. The highest possible score for each individual Feature is presented in the first line in **BOLD** at the top of the table.

School Roster		School: Any Elementary School		District: Some School District		School Code: 0000000000000001						
Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)												
Grade 5 Writing - Spring 2008												
ID*	Student Name	Enrollment Status ¹	Perform. Level ²	Scale Score	ISAT Writing Rubric Feature Scores							
					Focus	Support/Elaboration	Organization	Conventions	Integration			
					6	6	6	3	6			
1234	Anybody, Angel	S D	17	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	3
5678	Dee, Daniel	S D	17	5	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2
9012	Everybody, Eric	S D	16	5	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
3456	Nobody, Nancy	S D	15	5	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1
7890	Somebody, Samantha	S D	15	5	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1

* The last 4 digits of the student ID.
¹ A designation of "S" or "D" indicates that the student was enrolled in this school or district, respectively, on or before May 1, 2008.
² The performance level designations are E = Exceeds Standards, M = Meets Standards, B = Below Standards, W = Academic Warning.

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Figure 3: School Roster for Writing.

School Performance Profile/District Performance Profile

The School Performance Profile and District Performance Profile are each two-page reports presenting a variety of summary results for the school and district on the ISAT Writing tests. There is a separate Performance Profile for each grade tested. The School Performance Profile reports results at the school, district, and state levels. The District Performance Profile reports results at the district and state levels. Otherwise, these two reports are identical and the various elements of the reports will be described using the School Performance Profile as an example.

Grade and Subject

A separate report is provided to the school for each grade assessed in Writing.

Student Performance

Student performance is classified in four levels: Academic Warning, Below Standards, Meets Standards, and Exceeds Standards in the bar graph on the right side of page one.

Meeting or Exceeding Standards

The bar graph on the left side of page one presents the percent of students in the school, the district, and the state at or above the "Meets Standards" performance level.

Average Scale Score

Average scale scores for the school, district, and state level are compared in the table below the Meeting/Exceeding bar graph.

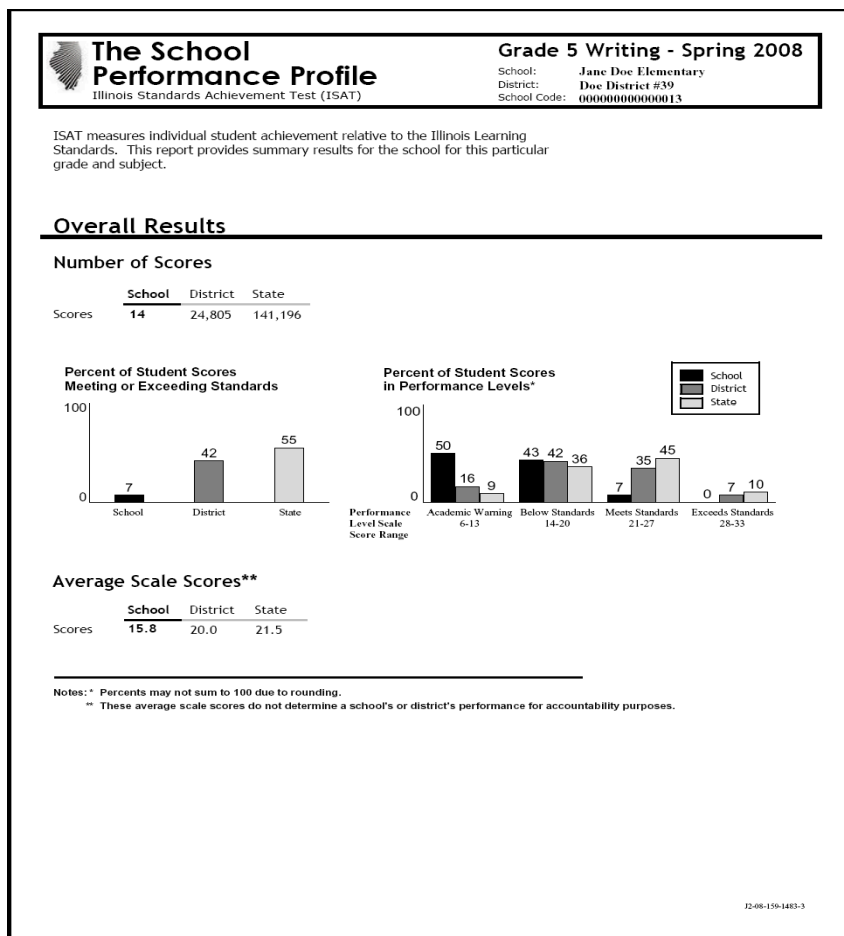


Figure 4: Page 1 of School Performance Profile.

The second page of the School Performance Profile provides two reporting elements. The school performance by Writing Feature is compared to district and state performance. Also, the performance of disaggregated groups in the student population by performance level is listed for the school.

Percent at Score Point by Writing Feature

The table at the top of page two shows the percent of students in the school, district, or state whose scores were at each score point for each Writing Rubric Feature.

Performance by Student Group

This table shows the percent of students in the four performance categories (e.g. Meets) for all students (Overall) as well as for various demographic categories (e.g. Low Income/Non-low Income). These results are reported at the school level on the School Performance Profile and at the district level on the District Performance Profile.

The School Performance Profile		Grade 5 Writing ISAT - Spring 2008					
School: Jane Doe Elementary		District: Doe District #39			Page 2 of 2		
Performance on ISAT Writing Rubric Features							
The table below shows how students performed on each of the five ISAT Writing rubric Features. Each student composition was scored on the following Features: Focus, Support/Elaboration, Organization, Conventions, and Integration.							
All Features, except Conventions, are scored on a 6-point scale, with 6 being the highest score. Conventions is scored on a 3-point scale, with 3 being the highest score.							
		% of student scores at each score point*					
		6	5	4	3	2	1
Focus	School	0%	36%	14%	43%	7%	0%
	District	11%	55%	15%	14%	3%	3%
	State	11%	67%	11%	8%	2%	1%
Support	School	0%	0%	7%	43%	43%	7%
	District	1%	7%	32%	43%	14%	3%
	State	2%	9%	42%	37%	8%	1%
Organization	School	0%	0%	7%	43%	43%	7%
	District	1%	6%	32%	43%	15%	3%
	State	2%	9%	42%	37%	9%	1%
Conventions	School	29%	29%	43%	29%	29%	29%
	District	46%	40%	14%	14%	14%	14%
	State	57%	36%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Integration	School	0%	0%	7%	43%	43%	7%
	District	1%	7%	33%	42%	14%	3%
	State	2%	10%	43%	36%	8%	1%
* Percents may not sum to 100 due to rounding.							
Performance by Student Group							
Student Group Size ¹		Percentage of Students in each Performance Level ²					Scale Score
Number of Scores		Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Average	
Overview	14	7	50	43	7	0	15.8
Male	10	0	60	40	0	0	14.8
Female	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
American Indian or Alaskan Native	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Asian / Pacific Islander	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Black or African American	13	8	46	46	8	0	16.1
Hispanic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
White	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Multiracial / Ethnic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Low Income	12	8	58	33	8	0	15.3
Non-Low Income	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
LEP	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Non-LEP	14	7	50	43	7	0	15.8
IEP	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Non-IEP	11	9	36	55	9	0	17.3
<p>Note: The dash (--) indicates that there are fewer than 10 scores reported in this category. No results are reported to protect the confidentiality of these students.</p> <p>¹ The total number of student scores may not equal the total enrollment. The number of scores does not include students who took IMAGE, IAA, or who were absent.</p> <p>² Percents may not sum to 100 due to rounding.</p>							
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Figure 5: Page 2 of School Performance Profile.

District Performance Profile

The District Performance Profile for Writing is a two-page document presenting a variety of aggregate data elements summarizing the district performance on the ISAT tests. ISAT provides a separate report for each grade and subject. The report for Writing includes a participation summary, the percentage of students in ISAT performance levels, the percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards, the average scale scores, performance by Writing Feature, and performance by student group by performance level.

Grade and Subject

A separate report is provided to the district for each grade assessed in Writing.

Student Performance

Student performance is classified in four levels: Academic Warning, Below Standards, Meets Standards, and Exceeds Standards in the bar graph on the right side of page one.

Meeting or Exceeding Standards

The bar graph on the left side of page one presents the percentage of students in the district and state at or above the "Meets Standards" performance level.

Average Scale Score

Average scale scores for the district and state level are compared in the table below the Meeting/Exceeding bar graph.

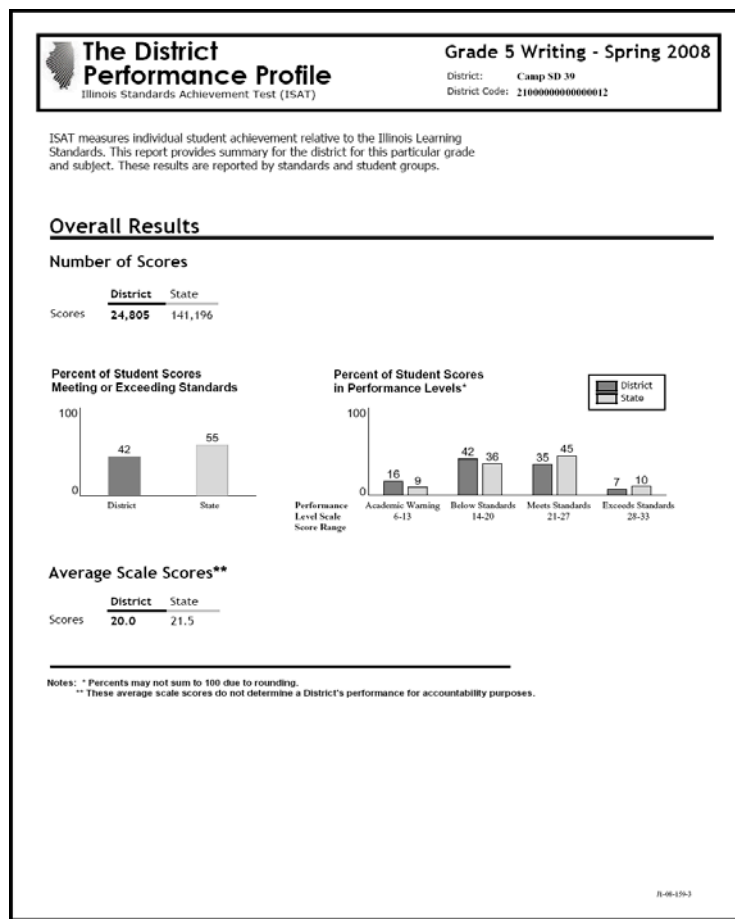


Figure 6: Page 1 of District Performance Profile.

The second page of the District Performance Profile provides two reporting elements: The district performance by Writing Feature compared to state performance and the performance of key groups in the student population as reported in a table.

Percent at Score Point by Writing Feature

The table at the top of page two shows the percent of students in the district and state whose scores were at each score point for each Writing Rubric Feature.

Performance by Student Group

Key data reporting population are used to identify groups of students in the district for which the number of students and percent of students in each particular performance level are reported, as well as the percent meeting or exceeding Standards.

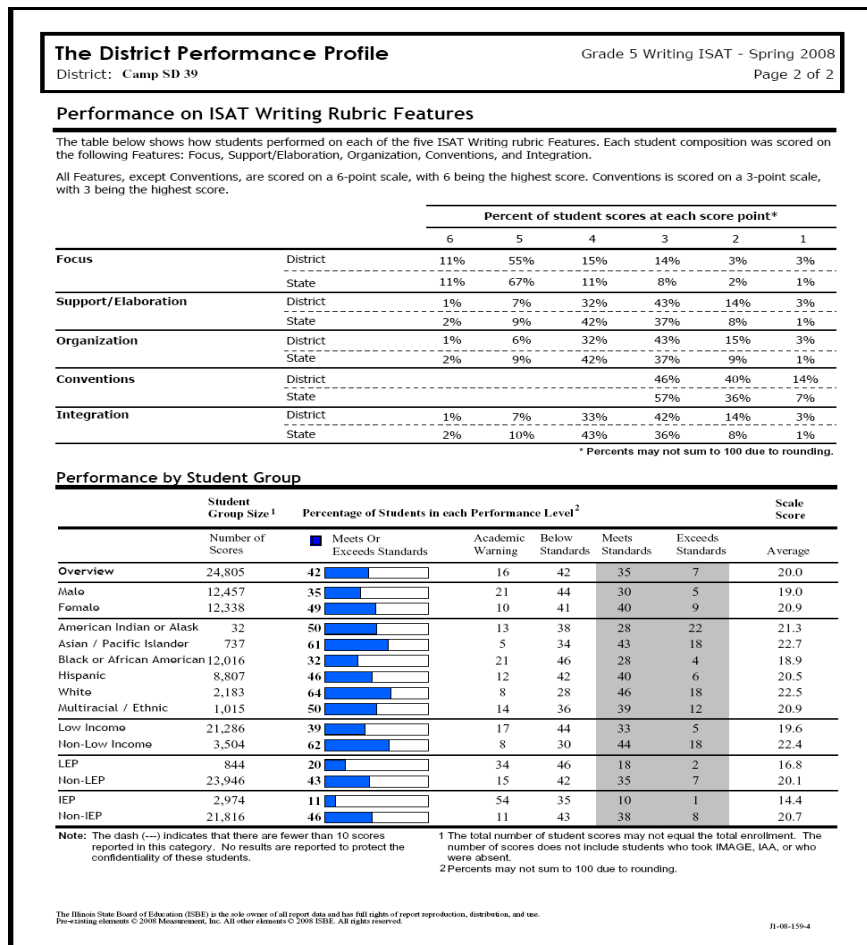



Figure 7: Page 2 of District Performance Profile.

District Roster-By School

The district roster reports the results for all grades assessed in Writing in the school. The reported data elements include school name, grade[s] assessed, number of scores, performance-level percentages, and scale score averages.

 District Roster - By School Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) Writing - Spring 2008							
				District: Some School District District Code: 1000000000000000			
	Group Size Number of Scores	Percent in Each Performance Level*					Scale Score Average
		Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Meets or Exceeds Standards	
A B Elementary School 1000000000000001							
Grade 5	34	15	32	38	15	53	21.26
Anytown School 1000000000000002							
Grade 5	46	2	48	46	4	50	21.54
C D Elementary School 1000000000000005							
Grade 5	115	4	39	51	5	57	21.75
Everytown School 1000000000000003							
Grade 5	122	2	30	63	4	67	22.13
Some Elementary School 1000000000000004							
Grade 5	102	0	19	69	13	81	23.60

* Percents in Performance Levels may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

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Figure 8: District Roster-By School Report

Tables of ISAT Writing Performance Levels

Table 3. Percent of Student Scores Falling into Each ISAT Performance Level

Writing

Grade 5	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Meets + Exceeds
2000	3	26	57	14	71
2001	4	27	58	12	70
2002	6	35	54	5	59
2003	6	29	61	4	65
2004	4	26	66	4	70
2007	10	40	39	11	50
2008	9	36	45	10	55

Grade 6 *	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Meets + Exceeds
2008	5	35	55	5	60

Grade 8	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Meets + Exceeds
2000	3	27	59	11	70
2001	6	32	55	7	62
2002	5	32	57	5	62
2003	6	35	55	4	59
2004	5	32	59	5	66
2007	6	31	54	9	63
2008	6	31	54	9	63

* 2008 was the first year of ISAT Writing assessment at Grade 6.

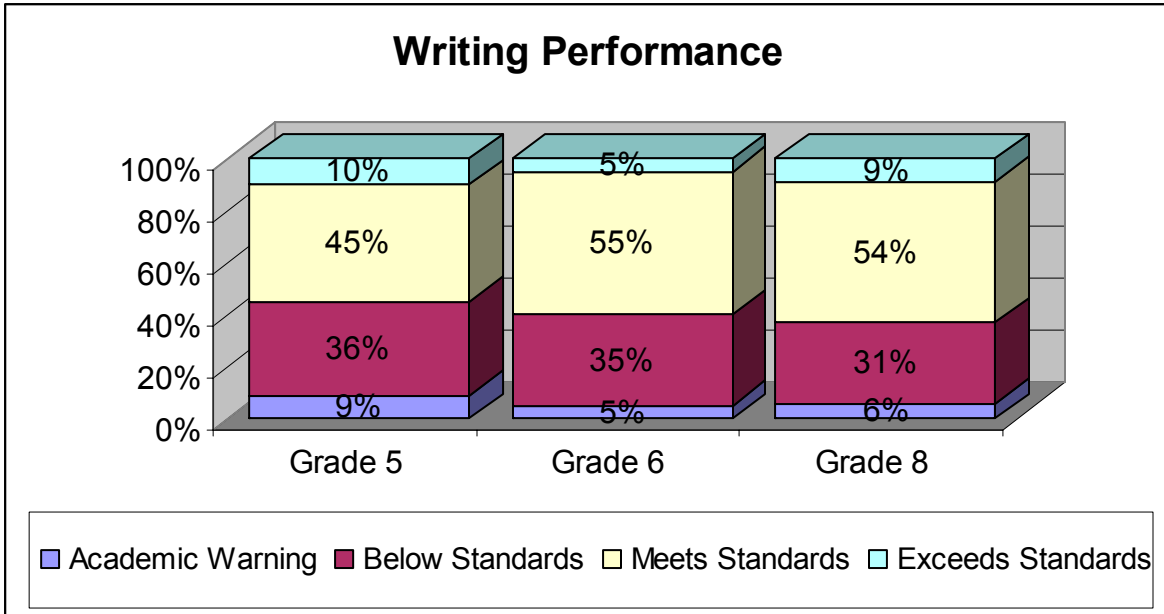


Figure 9: Bar Graph of ISAT 2008 Writing by Performance Level.