Utah Statewide Scores on the Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) 2011-2012

Larry Shumway, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Judy W. Park, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent
Student Services and Federal Programs

John Jesse
Director of Assessment and Accountability

Utah STATE OFFICE of Education

250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, Utah
84114-4200

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.

2012 Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) Results for State of Utah

	DWA Grade 5		DWA Grade 8	
	Total Tests	% Prof	Total Tests	% Prof
All Students	**43,895**	**83%**	**41,104**	**85%**
African American	650	75%	541	72%
American Indian	499	70%	478	74%
Asian	794	86%	802	84%
Hispanic	6,929	74%	6,406	74%
Multiple Races	573	87%	521	86%
Pacific Islander	677	83%	656	89%
White	33,773	86%	31,700	88%
Female	21,525	88%	20,036	90%
Male	22,370	79%	21,068	81%
ELL	2,585	57%	1,963	49%
Not ELL	41,310	85%	39,141	87%
Econ Disadv	18,222	77%	15,959	77%
Not Econ Dis	25,673	88%	25,145	91%
Not SWD	37,733	88%	36,681	90%
SWD	4,559	58%	3,190	51%
SWD W/ACC	1,603	42%	1,233	36%