Illinois Standards Achievement Test

Guide to the 2007 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.

Writing Included in ISAT 2007 Assessment

After an absence of two years, the Writing assessment was reinstated in 2007 at grades 5 and 8. Grade 5 students wrote one Expository composition, while grade 8 students wrote two compositions, one Persuasive and one Narrative.

The ISAT Writing Rubric Features

As in the past, each ISAT Writing composition is evaluated on five Features: Focus, Support/Elaboration, Organization, Conventions, and Integration. All Writing Features are scored on a six-point scale, with 6 being the highest score, except for Conventions which is scored on a three-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.

Change in the Writing Rubric: Conventions, Support/Elaboration

Though all of the same Writing Features were scored as in previous ISAT Writing administrations from 1999 to 2004, the Conventions Feature was modified for the 2007 assessment. Previously the Conventions Feature was scored on a two-point scale; now it is scored on a three-point scale, allowing for greater delineation of skill level in the area of Conventions. Also, a change in the score scale range was made to add an extra point to the Exceeds Standards category as seen in Table 2 below. Further, in the Support and Elaboration Feature, Voice was added as an important consideration in the evaluation of the overall strength of development across modes.

Establishment of Scoring Anchors for Conventions

In October 2006, ISBE staff, Illinois teachers, and Measurement Incorporated staff met in Durham, NC to establish and select scoring lines for the new three-point rubric for Conventions. Consideration was taken to anchor on previous ISAT Validation committee decisions from previous ISAT assessments as a starting point for deliberations before discussion began on assigning scores using the new rubric. Each participant scored each response independently and through thorough, careful evaluation and discussion, a consensus was formed on the new grade-level-specific scoring lines via key anchor papers. These anchors were then used for scoring in the ISAT Writing fall Pilot in November 2006 and also formed the basis for Conventions scoring in the ISAT Census 2007 Writing Validation Meeting in February 2007 in Springfield. At this meeting for Features other than Conventions, previous committee decisions were extensively reviewed from the 2004 and 2003 ISAT Writing assessments. In this way, the two -year lapse in assessment was bridged such that consistent scoring lines were created and maintained throughout the scoring of the ISAT 2007 Writing Assessment

Table 2. Scale score range for ISAT Writing 2007 that defines Performance Levels

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

Reports for Local School Use

Illinois Student Report

The first page of the "Illinois 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.
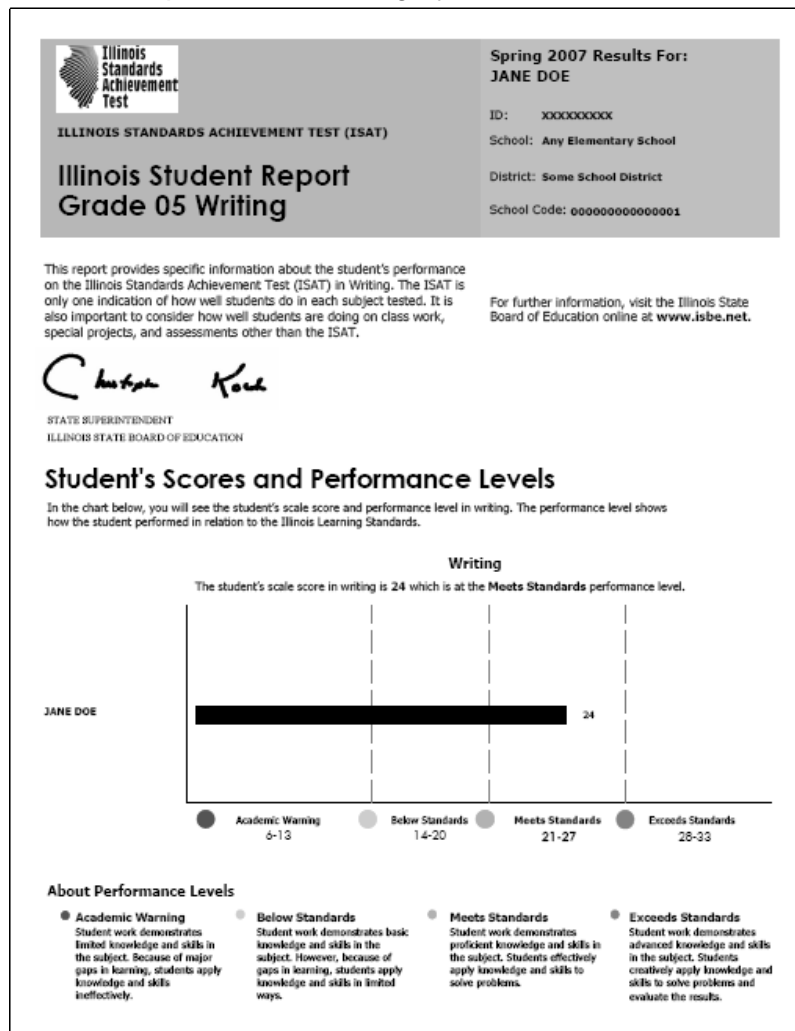

Figure 1: Illinois Student Report, page 1.

The second page of the Illinois Student Report includes information on how the scale score is derived, a synopsis of the prompt[s] used in the assessment, and 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.

	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	75%	72%	66%
		4	20%	11%	12%
		3	0%	7%	9%
		2	0%	2%	2%
		1	5%	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	45%	35%	35%
		3	50%	37%	43%
		2	0%	7%	8%
		1	5%	4%	2%
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	45%	34%	35%
		3	50%	35%	41%
		2	0%	8%	9%
		1	5%	4%	2%
Conventions — The degree to which standard English is used.	3	3	25%	43%	44%
		2	70%	53%	47%
		1	5%	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	45%	35%	36%
		3	50%	36%	40%
		2	0%	7%	8%
		1	5%	4%	2%

	Student Scale Score	Perf. Level Scale Score Range		% of Responses at each Performance Level*		
				School	District	State
Performance Level — Student performance level in comparison to the School, District, and State.	24	Exceeds	28 - 33	0%	15%	11%
		Meets	21 - 27	45%	39%	39%
		Below	14 - 20	50%	35%	40%
	Meets Standards	AW	6 - 13	5%	11%	9%

* Percents may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 2: Illinois Student Report, page 2.

School Roster for 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 gird 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.

Figure 3: School Roster for Writing.

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School Performance Profile for Writing

The School Performance Profile for Writing is a two-page document presenting a variety of aggregate data elements summarizing the school performance on the ISAT Writing test. 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 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: School Performance Profile, page 1.

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 key 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
Key data reporting populations are used to identify groups of students in the school for which the number of students and percent of students in each particular performance level are reported, as well as the percent meeting and exceeding standards.

The School Performance Profile

Grade 05 Writing ISAT

School: Any Elementary School   District: Some School District   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.

		6	5	4	3	2	1
		% of student scores at each score point*
Focus	School	2%	78%	11%	6%	2%	0%
	District	7%	72%	12%	8%	2%	1%
	State	9%	66%	12%	9%	2%	1%
Support	School	0%	1%	37%	57%	5%	0%
	District	2%	5%	34%	50%	8%	1%
	State	2%	10%	35%	43%	8%	2%
Organization	School	0%	2%	35%	54%	8%	0%
	District	1%	6%	34%	49%	9%	1%
	State	3%	11%	35%	41%	9%	2%
Conventions	School				52%	47%	1%
	District				44%	50%	6%
	State				44%	47%	9%
Integration	School	0%	2%	37%	55%	5%	0%
	District	2%	6%	35%	49%	8%	1%
	State	3%	11%	36%	40%	8%	2%

* 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	■ Meets Or Exceeds Standards	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Average
Overview	83	40	5	55	37	2	20.6
Male	42	40	10	50	40	0	20.2
Female	41	39	0	61	34	5	21.1
American Indian or Alaskan Native	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Asian / Pacific Islander	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Black or African American	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Hispanic	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
White	74	39	5	55	36	3	20.5
Multiracial / Ethnic	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Low Income	17	24	6	71	24	0	19.8
Non-Low Income	66	44	5	52	41	3	20.9
LEP	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Non-LEP	83	40	5	55	37	2	20.6
IEP	16	19	19	63	19	0	18.3
Non-IEP	67	45	1	54	42	3	21.2

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.

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.
2 Percents may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 5: School Performance Profile, page 2.

District Performance Profile for Writing

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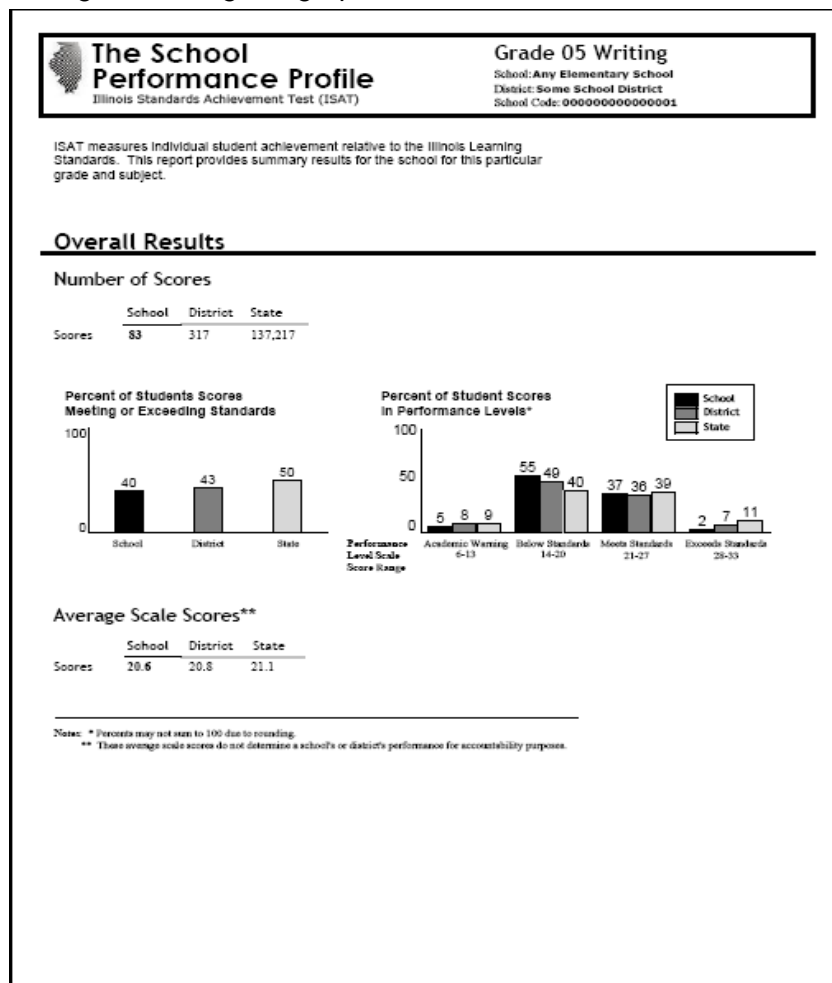Average scale scores for the district and state level are compared in the table below the Meeting/Exceeding bar graph.

Figure 6: District Performance Profile, page 1.

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.
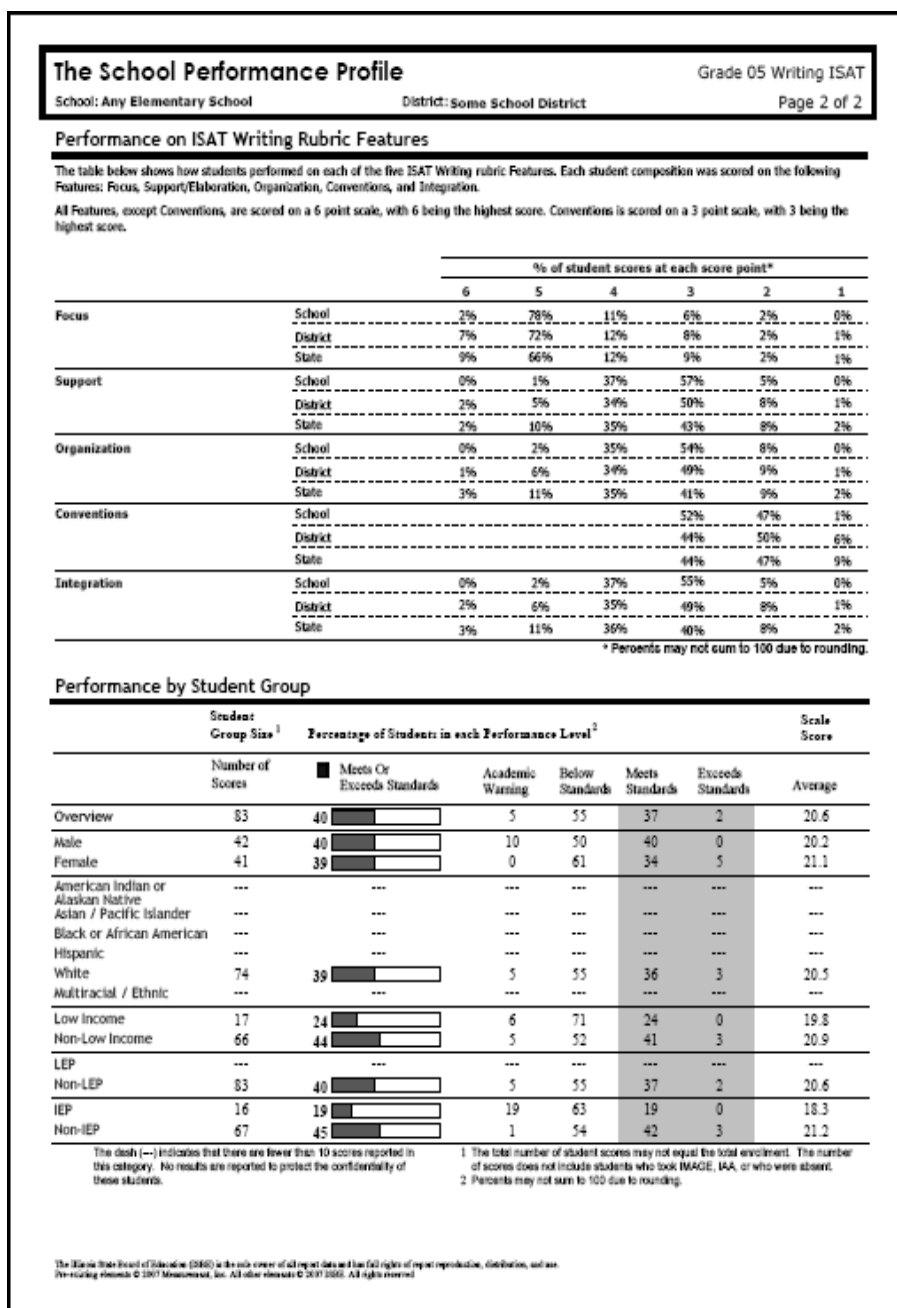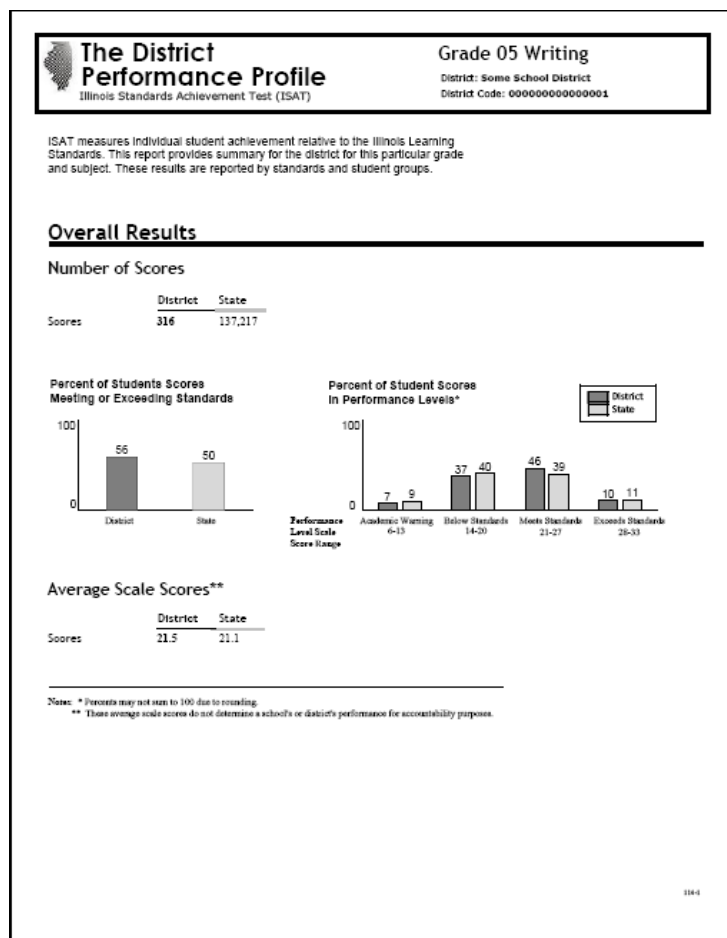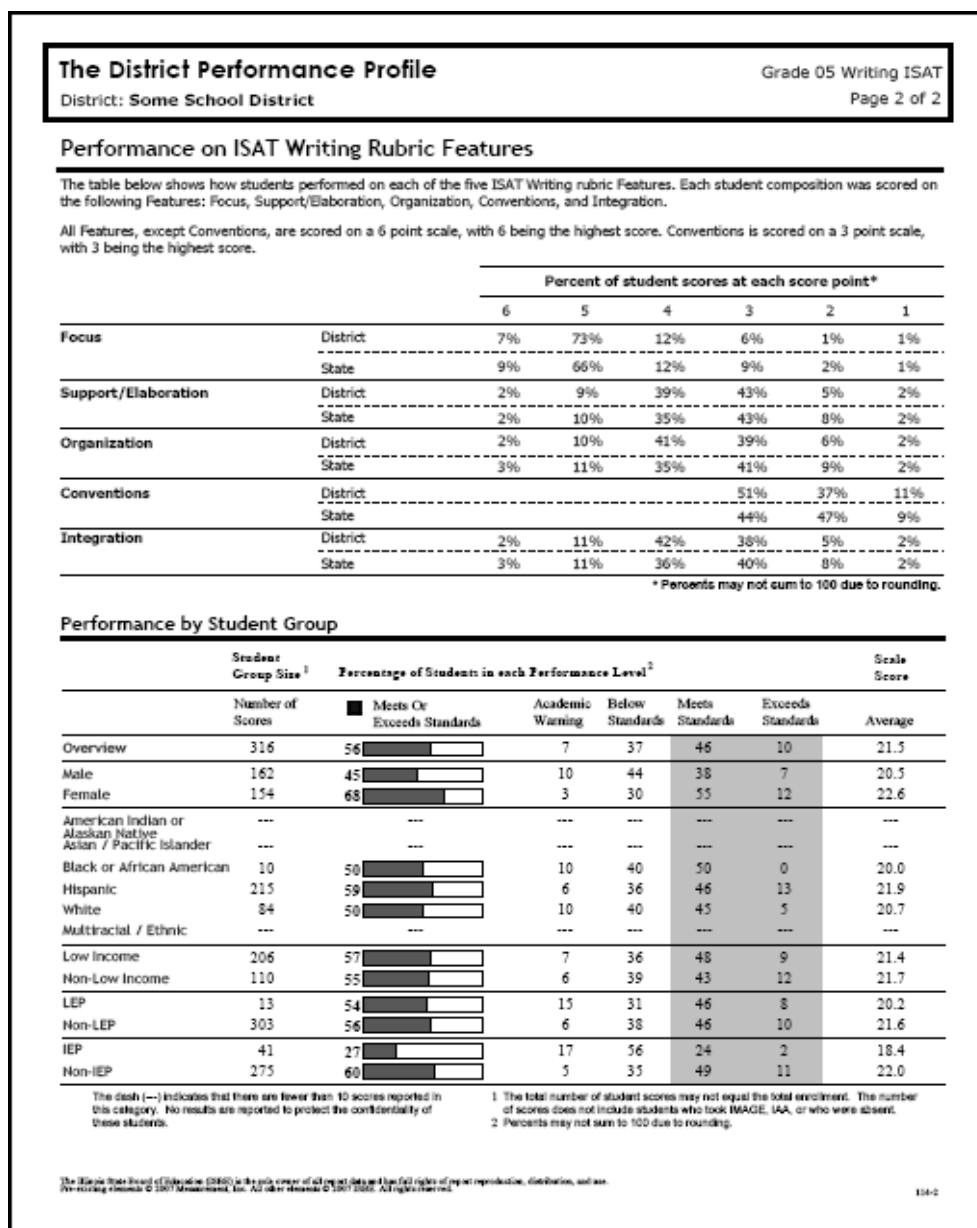
The District Performance Profile Grade 05 Writing ISAT
District: **Some School District** Page 2 of 2

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.

		Percent of student scores at each score point*					
		6	5	4	3	2	1
Focus	District	7%	73%	12%	6%	1%	1%
	State	9%	66%	12%	9%	2%	1%
Support/Elaboration	District	2%	9%	39%	43%	5%	2%
	State	2%	10%	35%	43%	8%	2%
Organization	District	2%	10%	41%	39%	6%	2%
	State	3%	11%	35%	41%	9%	2%
Conventions	District				51%	37%	11%
	State				44%	47%	9%
Integration	District	2%	11%	42%	38%	5%	2%
	State	3%	11%	36%	40%	8%	2%

* 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	■ Meets Or Exceeds Standards	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards		Average
Overview	316	56	7	37	46	10		21.5
Male	162	45	10	44	38	7		20.5
Female	154	68	3	30	55	12		22.6
American Indian or Alaskan Native	---	---	---	---	---	---		---
Asian / Pacific Islander	---	---	---	---	---	---		---
Black or African American	10	50	10	40	50	0		20.0
Hispanic	215	59	6	36	46	13		21.9
White	84	50	10	40	45	5		20.7
Multiracial / Ethnic	---	---	---	---	---	---		---
Low Income	206	57	7	36	48	9		21.4
Non-Low Income	110	55	6	39	43	12		21.7
LEP	13	54	15	31	46	8		20.2
Non-LEP	303	56	6	38	46	10		21.6
IEP	41	27	17	56	24	2		18.4
Non-IEP	275	60	5	35	49	11		22.0

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.

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.
2 Percents may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Figure 7: District Performance Profile, page 2.

District Roster - By School for Writing

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 2007

District: **Some School District**
District Code: **100000000000000**

| | Group Size | Percent in Each Performance Level* | | | | | Scale |
	Number of Scores	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Meets or Exceeds Standards	Scale Score Average
A B Elementary School 100000000000001							
Grade 05	44	7	25	34	34	68	24.0
Anytown School 100000000000002							
Grade 05	38	3	32	55	11	66	22.9
Everytown School 100000000000003							
Grade 08	195	4	18	63	15	78	23.0
Some Elementary School 100000000000004							
Grade 05	80	10	41	41	8	49	20.7

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

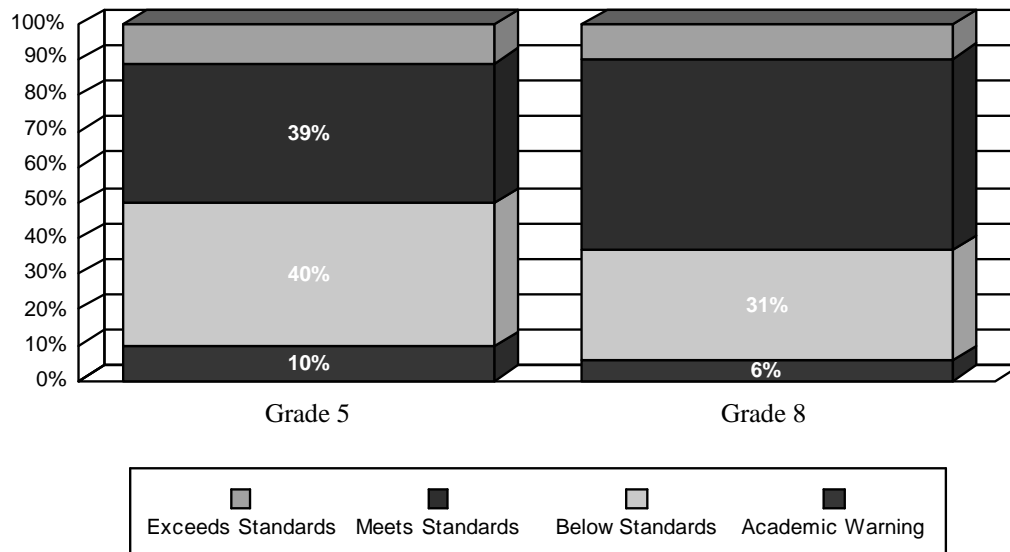| Grade 8	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards	Meets + Exceeds
2000	3	27	59	11	70
2001	6	32	55	7	62
2002	5	32	57	5	62
2003	6	35	55	4	59
2004	5	32	59	5	66
2007	6	31	54	9	63

Figure 9: Bar Graph of ISAT 2007 Writing by Performance level.