



*Savannah-Chatham County Public School System
Executive Summary
Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT)
Fall 2014*

About the GHSWT

The state of Georgia requires all public high school students to pass the Georgia High School Writing Test in order to earn a regular education diploma. The GHSWT is administered for the first time in the fall of the eleventh grade school year and allows the typical student multiple opportunities to pass before the end of the twelfth grade year.

The GHSWT requires students to write a composition of no more than two pages on an assigned persuasive topic. Each essay is scored by at least two trained readers who independently rate the composition on four domains (ideas, organization, style, and conventions) of effective writing.

Scoring

The scoring system is analytic. Analytic scoring simply means that more than one feature (domain) of a paper is evaluated. Each domain itself is scored holistically. The score assigned indicates the test rater's overall impression of the writer's command of the components, using predetermined scoring criteria contained in the Scoring Guidelines for each domain. Holistic scoring requires balancing a writer's strengths and areas of challenge in the various components.

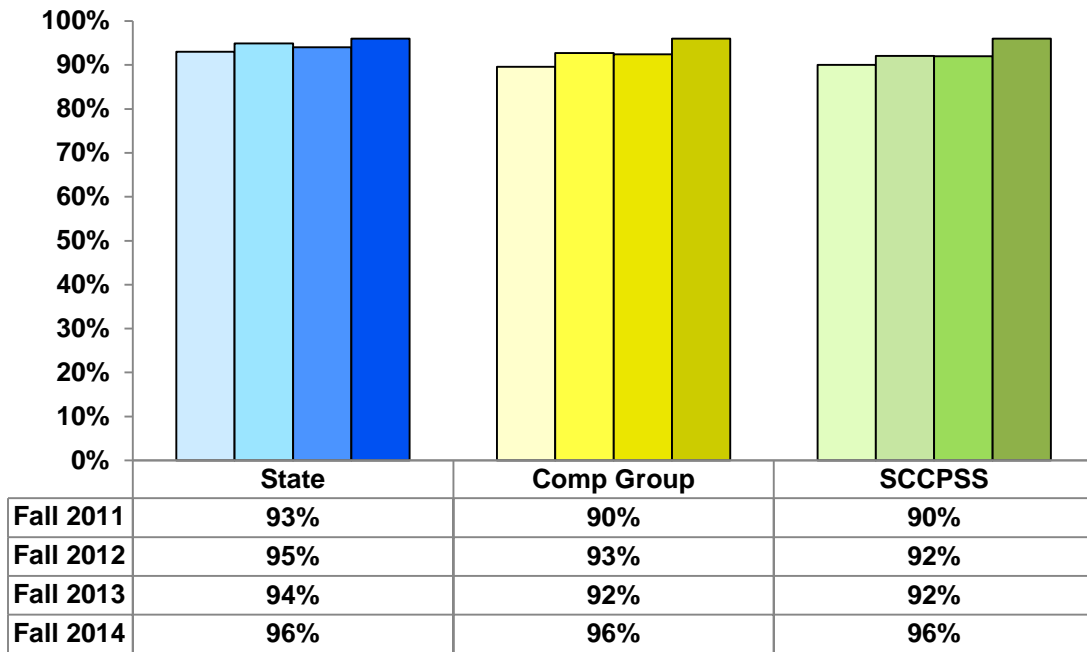
The scale score range for the Georgia High School Writing Test is 100 to 350. A scale score of 200 or higher is required to meet the GHSWT standard in order for a student to meet graduation.

- The scale score range is 100-199 for "Does Not Meet the Standard" (DNM).
- The scale score range is 200-249 for "Meets the Standard" (M).
- The scale score range is 250-350 for "Exceeds the Standard" (EXC).

Highlights

- 96% of SCCPSS 11th graders passed the test on the first attempt.
- SCCPSS percentage of students meeting/exceeding is equal to that of the state.
- The percentage of first time test-takers at Beach, Islands, Jenkins, Johnson, New Hampstead, Savannah Arts, SHS-Liberal Studies, Windsor Forest and Woodville-Tompkins all showed increase.
- SCCPSS females pass rate increased this year by 3 percentage points and males increased by 8 points.
- Beach High School increased their first time test-takers pass rate by 8 percentage points.
- Savannah Arts Academy and Woodville-Tompkins are both celebrating a 100% pass rate. Beach High School and Islands High School follow with a rate of 99% and 98% respectively. Windsor Forest High School shows an increase at 97%. These schools are all above the state's percentage.
- There were 1,627 eleventh grade first time test-takers.

Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) Percentage of First Time Test-Takers Who Meet/Exceed by State, Comp Group, and System



Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) Percentage of First Time Test-Takers Who Meet/Exceed by School

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 1-Yr Change | 4-Yr Change |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------|-------------|
| State | 93% | 95% | 94% | 96% | 2 | 3 |
| Comp Group* | 90% | 93% | 92% | 96% | 4 | 6 |
| SCCPSS | 90% | 92% | 92% | 96% | 4 | 6 |
| Beach | 83% | 90% | 91% | 99% | 8 | 16 |
| Groves | 85% | 90% | 93% | 93% | 0 | 8 |
| Islands | 98% | 92% | 95% | 98% | 3 | 0 |
| Jenkins | 92% | 90% | 90% | 94% | 4 | 2 |
| Johnson | 86% | 94% | 93% | 95% | 2 | 9 |
| New Hampstead | | 94% | 90% | 93% | 3 | NA |
| Savannah Arts | 100% | 100% | 99% | 100% | 1 | 0 |
| SHS-Liberal Studies | 87% | 82% | 83% | 90% | 7 | 3 |
| Windsor Forest | 95% | 96% | 91% | 97% | 6 | 2 |
| Woodville-Tompkins | | | 97% | 100% | 3 | NA |

At or above the state standard
 Gain or increase
 School not in existence

*Comparison group data for SY 2014 has been updated to reflect those districts most similar to SCCPSS and is not comparable to previous years. Comp Group: Bibb, Clayton, Douglas, Henry, Muscogee, Richmond, and Atlanta Public Schools

**Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT)
Percentage of Students Meeting/Exceeding by Subgroup**

| Subgroups | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 1-Yr Change | 4-Yr Change |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|----------------|----------------|
| Asian/Pacific Isl. | 93% | 93% | 91% | 97% | 6 | 4 |
| Black | 84% | 87% | 87% | 94% | 7 | 10 |
| Hispanic | 81% | 93% | 85% | 88% | 3 | 7 |
| White | 93% | 94% | 94% | 97% | 3 | 4 |
| Multi-Racial | 91% | 96% | 94% | 98% | 4 | 7 |
| Students with Disabilities | 42% | 57% | 59% | 76% | 17 | 34 |
| English Learners | 71% | * | * | * | NA | NA |

Gain or increase
Less than 10 students tested

Central Strategies

- Professional Learning Coaches, in partnership with the Content Specialists will develop and implement a comprehensive Interdisciplinary Literacy/Writing Plan (ILWP) for grades 2 through 12 to include digital writing portfolios based on the established Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) rubrics in preparation for the Georgia Milestones Assessments.
- Professional Learning Coaches will work with schools to train school leaders and teachers on literacy/writing strategies and portfolio assessments as outlined in the ILWP.
- Executive Directors of School Governance will evaluate the effectiveness of the ILWP using Wilson Foundations, SRA Reading Mastery, SRI, and portfolio assessments as measure by formative and summative assessment data.
- Executive Directors of School Governance will monitor the formative data, meet with the school level data teams to analyze results, and recommend instructional delivery adjustments to ensure program effectiveness. The Executive Directors and principals will also monitor the implementation of the recommended adjustments to improve student performance/growth.