

Step Up to Writing

Strong Growth in Student Writing from 3rd to 5th Grade

Over the past three years, we've used a program called **Step Up to Writing** to help students in grades 3–5 learn how to organize their thoughts and clearly explain their ideas in writing. We recently looked at how the *same group of students* performed over time on the state writing test—and the results are encouraging.

Informational Writing (Same Cohort from 3rd to 5th grade)

Year	Beginning (0–1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Distinguished (4)
2022	29.7%	46.4%	23.9%	0.0%
2023	14.4%	41.8%	35.2%	0.0%
2024	10.9%	46.0%	27.0%	8.2%

Impact:

- Students scoring in the lowest band (Beginning) decreased by nearly **19 points** from 2022 to 2024.
- Proficiency and advanced performance combined rose from **23.9%** to **35.2%**.
- **Distinguished performance** emerged by 5th grade (**8.2%** in 2024), showing strong growth in high-level writing skills.

Opinion Writing (Same Cohort from 3rd to 5th grade)

Year	Beginning (0–1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Distinguished (4)
2022	26.8%	43.1%	30.1%	0.0%
2023	12.2%	56.2%	31.6%	0.0%
2024	8.9%	49.1%	33.1%	8.9%

Impact:

- Students in the lowest band dropped by **18 points** between 3rd and 5th grade.
- Proficient and Distinguished writers combined increased to over **42%** by 2024.
- Like informational writing, **high-level writing performance (score of 4)** began to emerge, reaching **8.9%** in 2024.