

# Benchmarking year 4 writing performance: Are standards being met?

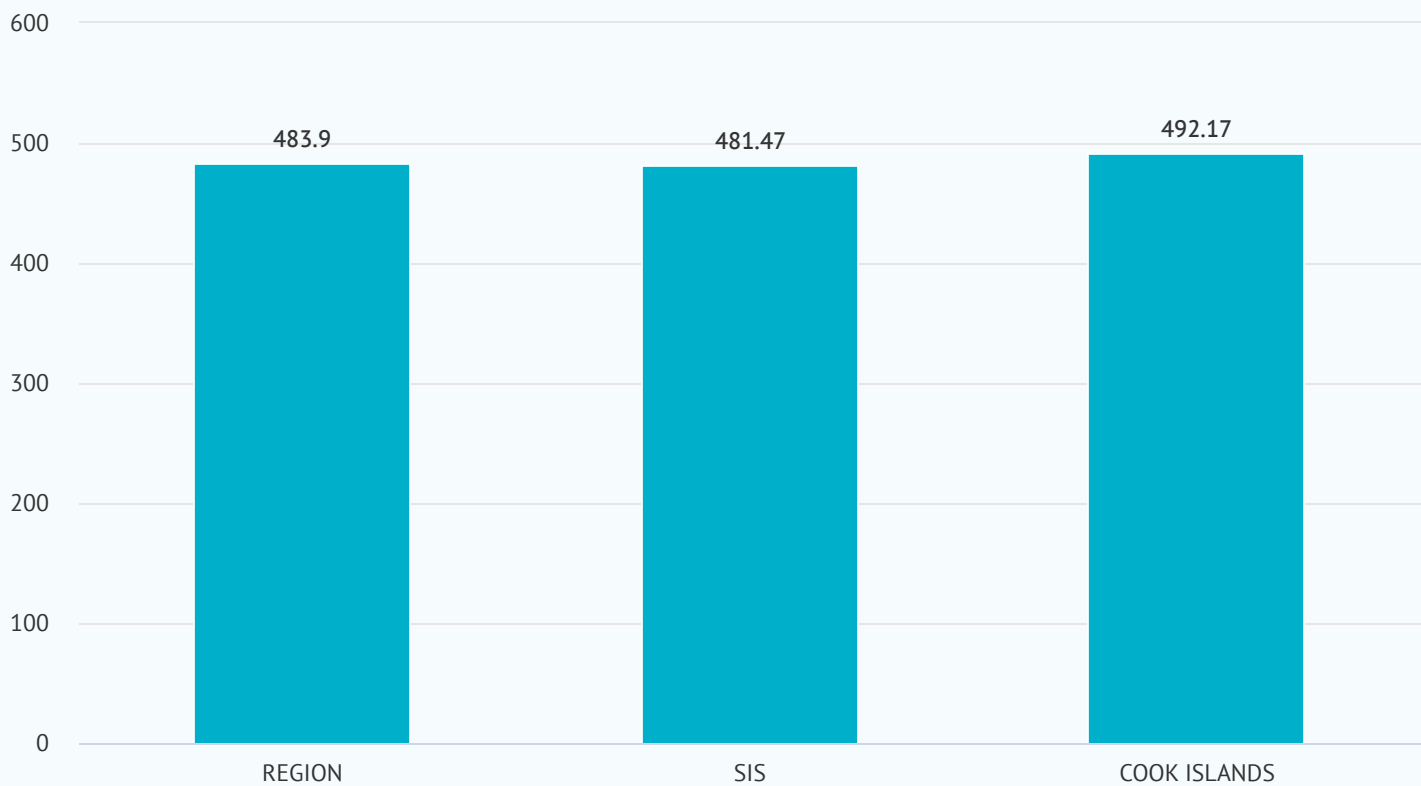
The numeracy and reading sections compare student performance to proficiency scales that describe expected student performance, based on the number of years of schooling. A proficiency scale for writing ability is not, however, currently available, although one will be created and the PILNA 2021 writing results will be compared to it.

For now, the average writing performance in PILNA 2021 is compared to writing performance over previous PILNA cycles. This gives an indication of writing performance over time, but it does not show whether writing performance is at the level Pacific stakeholders expect it to be.

As shown in the [year four writing performance](#) section, the average writing score for year four students in Cook Islands has decreased by 20 points from 2015 but has seen a slight increase from the 2018 PILNA cycle. The average writing score for a year four student in 2015 was 508.71 (SD = 67.27), in 2018 it was 484.39 (SD = 91.73), and in 2021 it was 492.17 (SD = 45.20). With year four girls scoring higher on average than year four boys in writing performance in 2015, 2018 and 2021, girls are more likely to be meeting writing performance expectations than are boys.

Figure CWF4.9

Writing scores relative to the region and SIS



Year	WRITING YEAR 4
REGION	483.9
SIS	481.47
COOK ISLANDS	492.17

Average writing scores for year 4 students in Cook Is relative to the region, SIS, PILNA 2021

Figure CWF4.9 depicts the average performance of year four students in writing relative to the region and Small Island States. It shows that the mean performance of year four Cook Island students is slightly better than that of year four students in Small Island States and the region.