

Benchmarking year 6 writing performance: Are standards being met?

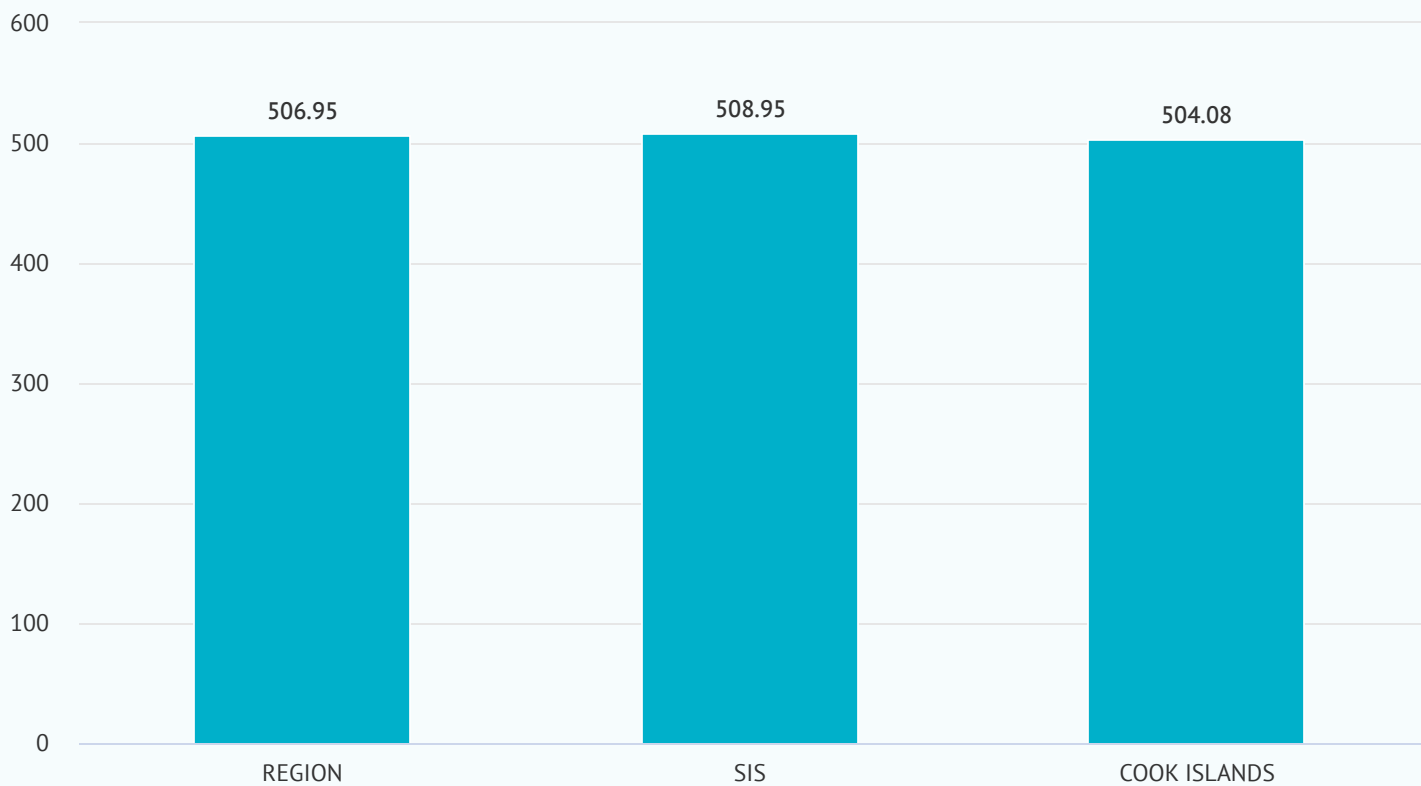
The numeracy and reading sections compare student performance to proficiency scales that describe expected student performance based on the number of years of schooling. A proficiency scale for writing ability is not currently available, although one will be created and the PILNA 2021 writing results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

For now, the average writing performance in PILNA 2021 is compared to writing performance over previous PILNA cycles. This gives an indication of how writing performance is trending 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 six writing performance section](#), the average writing score for year six students in Cook Islands in 2021 is lower than it was in 2015 and 2018. The average writing score for a year six student in 2015 was 543.82 (SD = 57.82), in 2018 it was 525.58 (SD = 71.39), and in 2021 it was 504.08 (SD = 6.68). With year six girls scoring higher on average than year six boys in writing performance in 2015, 2018 and 2021, girls are more likely to be meeting writing expectations than are boys.

Figure CWF6.9

Year 6 Writing performance relative to the region



Year	WRITING YEAR 6
REGION	506.95
SIS	508.95
COOK ISLANDS	504.08

Average writing scores for year 6 students in Cook Is relative to the region, SIS, PILNA 2021

Figure CWF6.9 depicts the average performance of year six students in writing relative to the region and Small Island States. It shows that mean performance in writing for year six students in the Cook Islands is comparable to the performance observed for year six students in the Small Island States and the region.