

# Benchmarking grade 7 writing performance: Are standards being met?

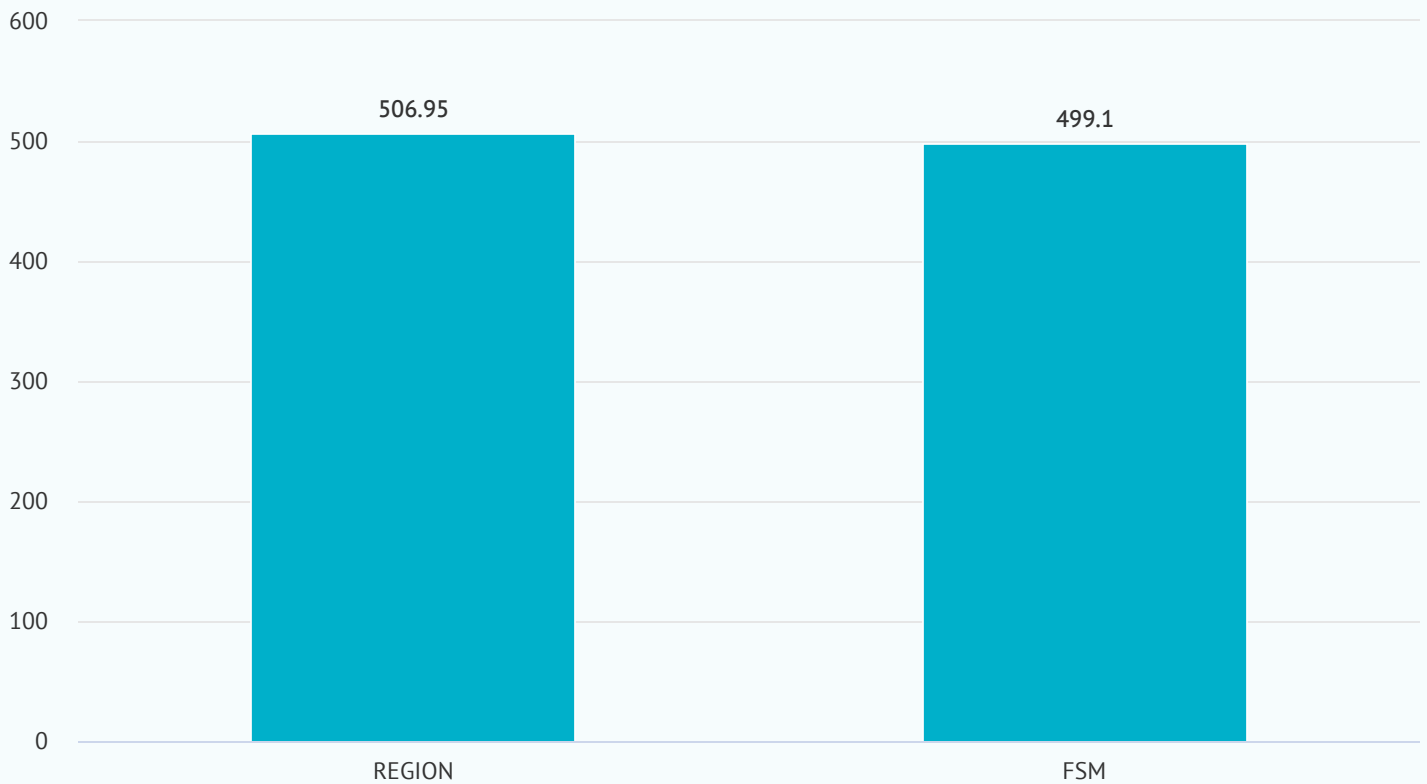
The numeracy and reading sections compare student performance to proficiency scales that describe expected student performance based on the number of years of schooling. A proficiency scale for writing ability is not currently available, although one will be created and the PILNA 2021 writing results 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 [grade seven writing performance](#) section, the average writing score for grade seven students in Federated States of Micronesia in 2021 appears to be slightly lower than it was in 2018, although it is higher than the 2015 score. The average writing score for a grade seven student in 2015 was 455.50 (SD = 89.73), in 2018 it was 518.52 (SD = 85.31), and in 2021 it was 499.10 (SD = 65.67). With grade seven girls scoring higher on average than grade seven boys in writing performance in 2015, 2018 and 2021, girls are more likely to be meeting writing expectations than boys.

Figure CWF7.7

Writing scores relative to the region



Year	Writing Grade 7
REGION	506.95
FSM	499.1

Mean performance of grade 7 students in writing relative to the region, FSM, PILNA 2021

Figure CWF7.7 depicts the average performance of grade seven students in writing relative to the region and Small Island States. It shows that the mean writing performance in Federated States of Micronesia (499.10, SD = 65.67) is slightly below the performance observed for similarly educated students the region (506.95, SD = 47.26).