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The New York State School Report Card
for
Birch School
in
Merrick Union Free School District

An Overview of Academic Performance



February 2000



The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department

March 6, 2000

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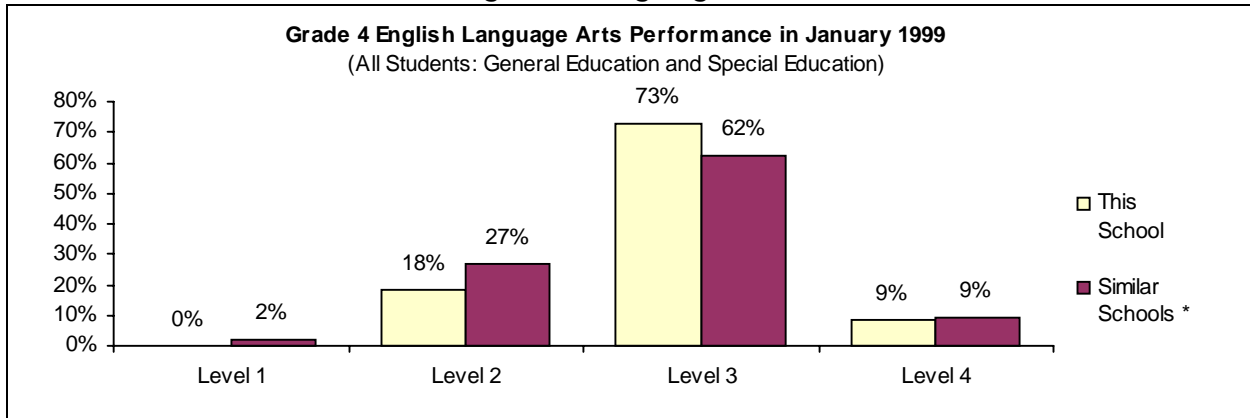
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Grade 4

English Language Arts



Performance at This School		Counts of Students							Mean Score	
		Not Tested			Tested					
		IEP ¹	ELL ²	Absent ³	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4		Total
Jan 1999	General Education		0	0	0	12	61	5	78	663
	Special Education	0	0	0	0	5	6	3	14	660
	All Students	0	0	0	0	17	67	8	92	662

Grade 4 English Language Arts Levels - Listening, Reading, and Writing Standards

Level 4 (692-800)	These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination. They show superior knowledge and skill for each standard for elementary students, and proficient intermediate-level skills in listening, reading and writing. Students show thorough understanding of written and oral text. Students' writing is well organized, with minor errors that do not interfere with readability.
Level 3 (645-691)	These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination. They show knowledge and skill for each standard for elementary students, and show some intermediate-level skills in listening, reading and writing. Students show understanding of written and oral text. Students' writing is generally focused and organized, with minor errors that do not interfere with readability.
Level 2 (603-644)	These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination. They show some knowledge and skill for each standard for elementary students, but none of the intermediate-level skills in listening, reading and writing. Students show partial understanding of written and oral text. Students' writing has some focus and basic organization and uses simple sentences and vocabulary. Errors sometimes interfere with readability.
Level 1 (455-602)	These students have serious academic deficiencies. They show no evidence of any proficiency in one or more of the elementary standards and incomplete proficiency in all three of the standards. Students show minimal understanding of written and oral text. Students' writing is brief, general, or uses repetitive statements, and reveals difficulty in organizing thoughts. Errors interfere with readability.

Performance of English Language Learners (ELL)

English language learners (ELL), formerly referred to as limited English proficient (LEP), are students for whom English is a second language. Schools assist these students in learning English so they can participate effectively in the academic program. ELL students without sufficient proficiency in English are not required to take the grade 4 ELA test. Their progress in learning English is measured, using standardized tests, and reported.

Grade 4	English Proficiency Below Effective Participation Level	Making Appropriate Progress
January 1999	0	0

* Similar Schools are schools grouped by district and student demographic characteristics. More information is on the School Profile page of this report. Further explanation is available at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/reprcd2000/similar.html>.

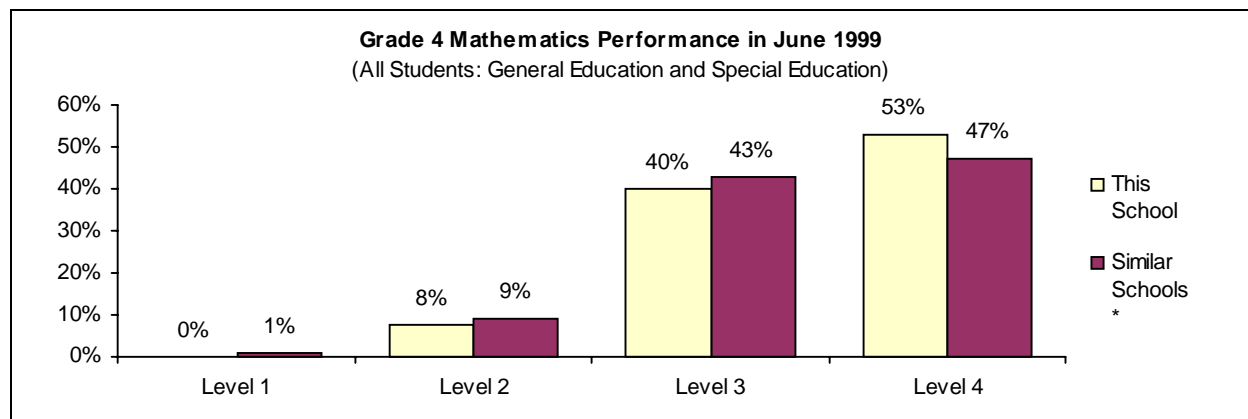
1 These students with disabilities were exempt from this test because of their disability. This exemption is stated in their Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

2 These students were not required to take the grade 4 ELA test because they were English Language Learners (ELL) who performed below the 30th percentile on another appropriate English reading assessment. Other grade 4 ELL students must take this test.

3 These students were enrolled at the time of testing, but were not present to complete some part of the ELA assessment.

To protect student confidentiality, the pound character (#) appears when fewer than five students in a group were tested. If fewer than five were tested in one subgroup, then counts appear only in the "All Students" category.

Grade 4 Mathematics



Performance at This School		Counts of Students								Mean Score
		Not Tested			Tested					
		IEP ¹	ELL ²	Absent ³	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	
June 1999	General Education	#	0	0	0	5	29	45	79	686
	Special Education	0	0	0	0	2	8	4	14	665
	All Students	0	0	0	0	7	37	49	93	683

Grade 4 Mathematics Levels - Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem Solving Standards	
Level 4 (678-810)	These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination. They show superior knowledge and skill for each key idea for elementary students, and proficient knowledge and skills for each key idea for intermediate students. They work with decimals and use percentages; measure length, area, and volume; and apply concepts of probability. They analyze situations, explain reasoning, and draw conclusions.
Level 3 (637-677)	These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination. They show knowledge and skill for each key idea for elementary students, and some knowledge and skills for each key idea for intermediate students. They have a basic understanding of real world data, use appropriate units of measure, and understand fundamentals of geometry. They can justify a reasonable solution.
Level 2 (602-636)	These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination. They show some knowledge and skill for each key idea for elementary students, but no knowledge and skills for the key ideas for intermediate students. They use basic mathematics facts, work with whole numbers, and identify units of measurement. They can use manipulatives to solve for an unknown.
Level 1 (448-601)	These students have serious academic deficiencies. They show no evidence of proficiency in one or more of the elementary key ideas and incomplete proficiency in all seven key ideas. They know some basic addition and subtraction, how to count to find answers, and understand that some events are more likely than others.

* Similar Schools are schools grouped by district and student demographic characteristics. More information is on the **School Profile** page of this report. Further explanation is available at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/reprcd2000/similar.html>.

1 These students with disabilities were exempt from this test because of their disability. This exemption is stated in their Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

2 These students were not required to take this test because they were English language learners (ELL) who perform below the 30th percentile on an appropriate English reading assessment and there was no test form available in their native language. Other ELL students must take this test, but may take an alternative language form if such is available.

3 These students were enrolled at the time of testing, but were not present to complete some part of this mathematics assessment.

To protect student confidentiality, the pound character (#) appears when fewer than five students in a group were tested. If fewer than five were tested in one subgroup, then counts appear only in the "All Students" category.

School Profile

Principal: Ms. Rita Ratner			Phone: (516)378-3900	
Organization 1998-99		School Staff ¹ (both full- and part-time)		
Grade Range	Student Enrollment	Count of Teachers	Count of Other Professionals	Count of Paraprofessionals
K-6	655	43	4	15

1997-98 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$11,381
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Student Enrollment			
Grade Level	October 1998	Grade Level	October 1998
Pre-Kindergarten	0	Grade 7	0
Kindergarten	91	Grade 8	0
Grade 1	99	Grade 9	0
Grade 2	84	Grade 10	0
Grade 3	104	Grade 11	0
Grade 4	91	Grade 12	0
Grade 5	100	Ungraded Elementary with Disabilities	11
Grade 6	75	Ungraded Secondary with Disabilities	0

Student Demographics Used To Determine Similar School Groups	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
English Language Learners	5	0.8%	5	0.8%	6	0.9%
Eligible For Free Lunch	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Estimated Free Lunch Participation	This school reported no free lunch program participation for 1998-99. This statistic is used to estimate educational need, so the Education Department predicted a value for this school. Using 1990 census data, grades served, and the reported free lunch program participation of other New York State public schools, it is estimated that in 1998-99 7.9% of students would have participated in a free lunch program at this school.					

Similar Schools Group	This school is in Similar Schools Group 17. All schools in this group are elementary level schools in school districts with low student needs in relation to district resource capacity. The schools in this group are in the middle range of student needs for elementary level schools in these districts.
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¹ Some district-employed staff serve in more than one school. These shared people are not reported here.

School Accountability Measures

The Regents expect schools to meet or exceed 90 percent on each benchmark shown here. Regulations require school districts to develop and implement local assistance plans (LAP) to bring every public school up to these levels. These plans must include activities to improve the performance of all students, including students with disabilities. LAP for district public schools are available for public review at the district office.

All students continuously enrolled from October until the date of State testing at this school are included in these measures. Students with disabilities are included¹. Also, schools with fewer than 20 students in a grade may combine results for three consecutive years to reduce the impact of small-population variability. Local school officials have this information.

English Language Arts Performance of Students in Grades 4 and 8 for 1998-99

	Continuously Enrolled Students Required To Take State ELA Tests		English Language Learners Reported Using Alternative Measure		Benchmark Percentage (b+d)/(a+c)
	Tested (a)	At Or Above Level 2 In English Language Arts (b)	English Language Proficiency Below Effective Participation Level (c)	Making Satisfactory Progress (d)	
Grade 4	90	90	0	0	100%
Grade 8					NA

Mathematics Performance of Students in Grades 4 and 8 for 1998-99

	Continuously Enrolled Students		Benchmark Percentage (b/a)
	Tested (a)	At Or Above Level 2 In Math (b)	
Grade 4	90	90	100%
Grade 8			NA

Demonstrated Competency of Students in Grade 11 for 1998-99

Competency Area	Grade 11 Enrollment June 1999 (a)	Regents Level (higher) (b)	RCT Level (lower) (c)	Benchmark Percentage ² (b+c)/a
Reading				NA
Writing				NA
Mathematics				NA

¹ All students with disabilities who are enrolled in this school are included in these measures along with general education students, regardless of classroom environment and level of special education services. These calculations match those used to identify the schools farthest from State standards [potential schools under registration review (SURR)] and Title I schools that are making adequate yearly progress.

² The State data system does not separate these Grade 11 results based on duration of enrollment. Some schools with high mobility grade 11 populations may not have their LAP status correctly identified in this report. These numbers are, however, indicative of performance in all schools.

To protect student confidentiality, the pound character (#) appears when there are fewer than five students in a grade tested or enrolled. If fewer than five English language learners were reported (English Language Arts Performance table), the counts are replaced by the pound character (#).