

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



**OVERVIEW OF DISTRICT PERFORMANCE IN ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE  
AND  
ANALYSIS OF STUDENT SUBGROUP PERFORMANCE  
for**

**P.S. 53**

**March 2003**

# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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The *New York State District Report Card* is an important part of the Board of Regents effort to raise learning standards for all students. It provides information to the public on student performance and other measures of district performance. Knowledge gained from the district report card on a district's strengths and weaknesses can be used to improve instruction and services to students.

The *New York State District Report Card* consists of three parts: the *Overview of District Performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Analysis of Student Subgroup Performance*, the *Comprehensive Information Report*, and the *District Accountability Report*. The *Overview and Analysis* presents performance data on measures required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act: English, mathematics, science, and graduation rate. Performance data on other State assessments can be found in the *Comprehensive Information Report*. The *District Accountability Report* provides information as to whether a district is making adequate progress toward enabling all students to achieve proficiency in English and mathematics.

State assessments are designed to help ensure that all students reach high learning standards. They show whether students are getting the foundation knowledge they need to succeed at the elementary, middle, and commencement levels and beyond. The State requires that students who are not making appropriate progress toward the standards receive academic intervention services.

In the *Overview*, performance on the elementary- and middle-level assessments in English language arts and mathematics and on the middle-level science test is reported in terms of mean scores and the percentage of students scoring at each of the four levels. These levels indicate performance on the standards from seriously deficient to advanced proficiency. Performance on the elementary-level science test is reported in terms of mean scores and the percentage of students making appropriate progress. Regents examination scores are reported in four score ranges. Scores of 65 to 100 are passing; scores of 55 to 64 earn credit toward a local diploma (with the approval of the local board of education). Though each elementary- and middle-level assessment is administered to students in a specific grade, secondary-level assessments are taken by students when they complete the coursework for the core curriculum. Therefore, the performance of students at the secondary level is measured for a student cohort rather than a group of students at a particular grade level. Students are grouped in cohorts according to the year in which they first entered grade 9.

The assessment data in the *Overview and Analysis* are for all tested students in the district, including general-education students and students with disabilities. In the *Overview*, each district's performance is compared with that of all public schools statewide. In the *Analysis*, performance is disaggregated by race/ethnicity, disability status, gender, LEP status, income level, and migrant status.

Explanations of terms referred to or symbols used in this part of the district report card may be found in the glossary on the last page. Further information on the district report card may be found in the guide, *Understanding Your School Report Card 2003*, available at your district or on the Information and Reporting Services Web site at [www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts).

# Overview of District Performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

## District Profile

Superintendent: Pamela Rutland		Phone: (716)888-7098	
<b>Organization</b> <b>2001-02</b>		School District Staff (both full- and part-time)	
Grade Range	Student Enrollment	Count of Teachers	Count of Other Professionals
PK-8	461	35	5

<b>2000-01 School District Total Expenditure per Pupil</b>	\$12,485
<b>2000-01 NYS Public Schools Total Expenditure per Pupil</b>	

Student Demographics	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Limited English Proficient	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Eligible for Free Lunch	392	78.7%	389	78.4%	379	82.2%

### 2001-02 Percentage of Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers\*

Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
NA	NA

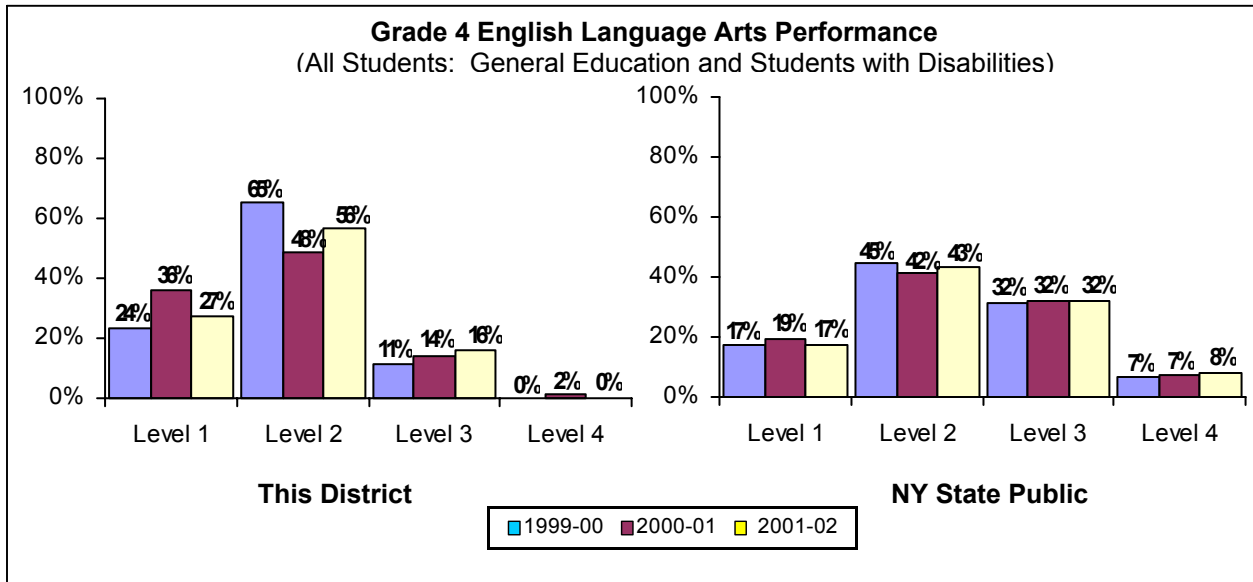
\*For the 2001-02 school year only, teachers of core classes are considered to be highly qualified if they are certified to teach that subject.

### 2001-02 Percentage of Teachers with No Valid Teaching Certificate\*

Number of Teachers	Percent No Valid Teaching Certificate
NA	NA

\*This count includes teachers with temporary licenses who do not have a valid permanent or provisional teaching certificate.

## Elementary Level English Language Arts



Performance at This District	Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
	Level 1 455–602	Level 2 603–644	Level 3 645–691	Level 4 692–800	Total	
Jan–Feb 2000	17	47	8	0	72	618
Jan–Feb 2001	23	31	9	1	64	615
Jan–Feb 2002	17	35	10	0	62	618

Elementary-Level English Language Arts Levels – Listening, Reading, and Writing Standards	
<b>Level 4</b>	These students <b>exceed the standards</b> and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
<b>Level 3</b>	These students <b>meet the standards</b> and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 2</b>	These students <b>need extra help</b> to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 1</b>	These students have <b>serious academic deficiencies</b> .

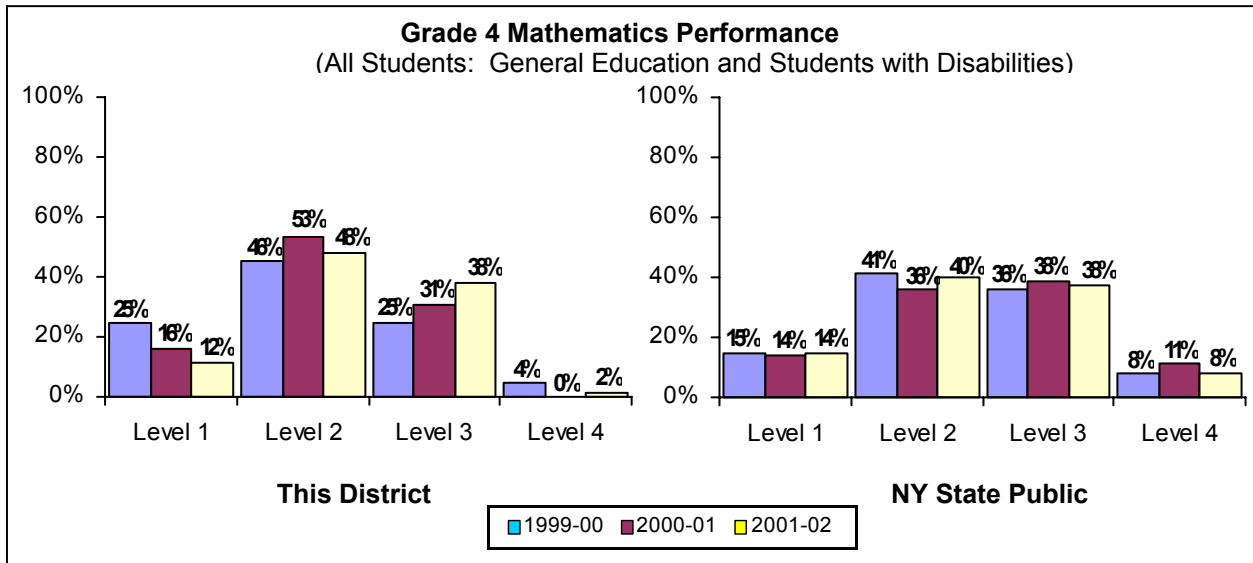
### Performance of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

Grade 4	English Proficiency Below Effective Participation Level	Making Appropriate Progress
2002	0	0

### Performance of Elementary-Level Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in English

	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4
2001–02	0	0	0	0	0

## Elementary Level Mathematics



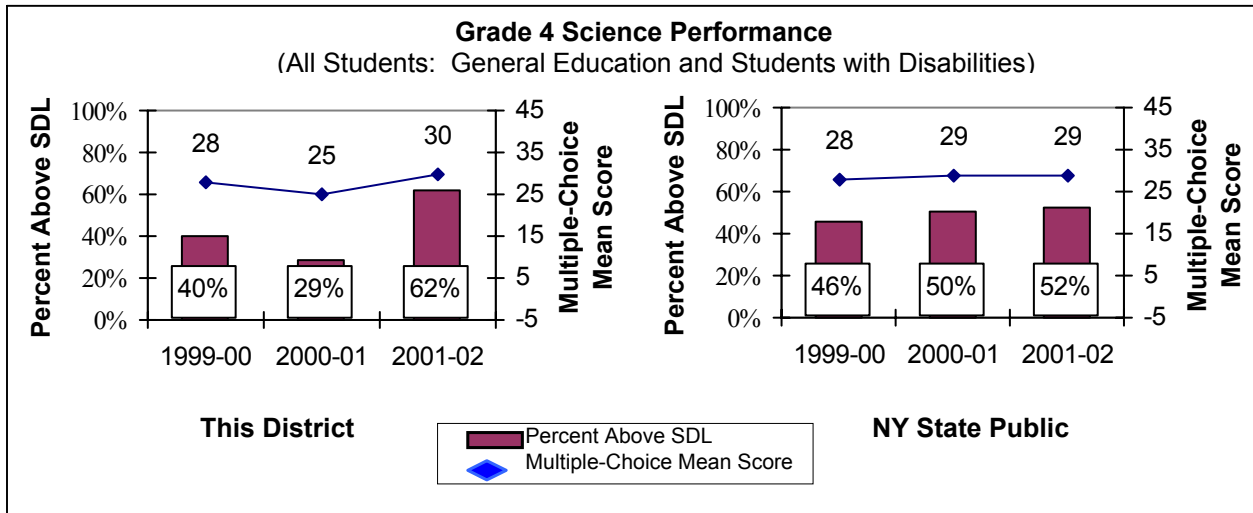
Performance at This District	Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
	Level 1 448-601	Level 2 602-636	Level 3 637-677	Level 4 678-810	Total	
May 2000	17	31	17	3	68	622
May 2001	10	33	19	0	62	623
May 2002	7	29	23	1	60	627

Elementary-Level Mathematics Levels – Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards	
<b>Level 4</b>	These students <b>exceed the standards</b> and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
<b>Level 3</b>	These students <b>meet the standards</b> and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 2</b>	These students <b>need extra help</b> to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 1</b>	These students have <b>serious academic deficiencies</b> .

### Performance of Elementary-Level Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Mathematics, Science, and Technology

	Number Tested	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2001-02	0	0	0	0	0

## Elementary Level Science Multiple-Choice



### All Students

	Number Tested	Number Above SDL	Mean Score
May 2000	68	27	28
May 2001	62	18	25
May 2002	61	38	30

<b>Grade 4 Science – Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards</b>	
<b>Multiple-Choice Test Component</b>	This component contains 45 multiple-choice questions based upon the New York State <i>Elementary Science Syllabus</i> and referenced to the New York State <i>Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science and Technology</i> (Elementary Level).
<b>State Designated Level (SDL)</b>	Students who correctly answer fewer than 30 of the 45 questions of the multiple-choice test component must receive academic intervention services in the following term of instruction.
<b>School Mean Scores</b>	For the multiple-choice test component, the mean score is the average number of correct answers for students tested. If all tested students answered all questions correctly, this score would be 45.

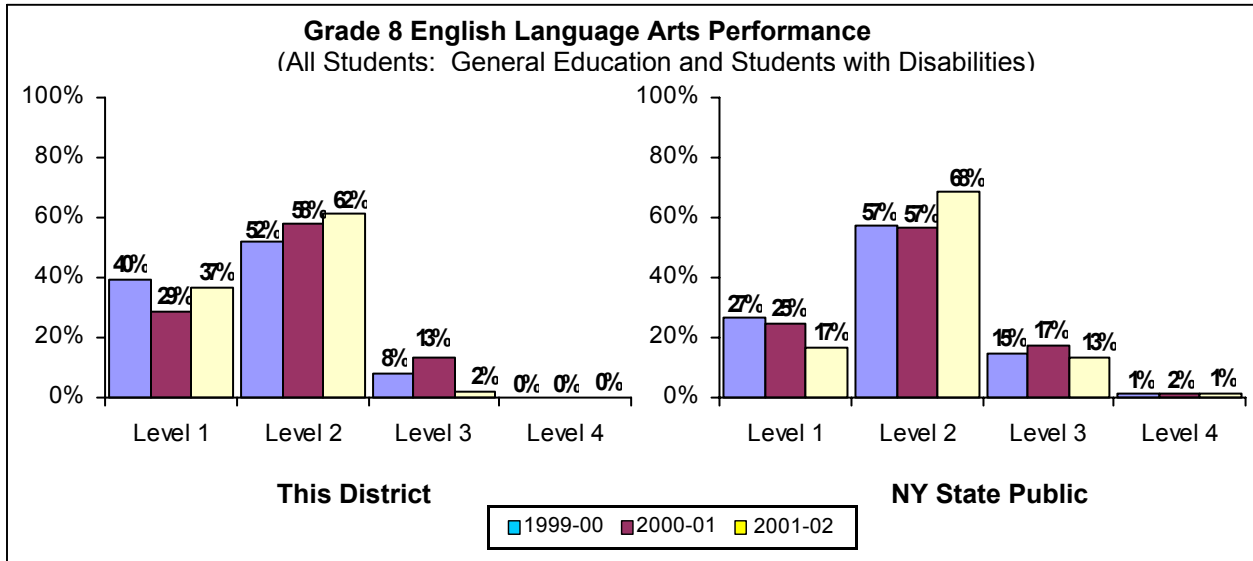
## Elementary Level Science Performance Test

The elementary-level science test is composed of two sections, the multiple-choice section (described above) and the performance test. The performance test is not used to determine the need for academic intervention services or for accountability purposes because not all students are administered the same three tasks.

### All Students

	Number Tested	Mean Score
May 2000	0	0
May 2001	62	29
May 2002	60	35

## Middle Level English Language Arts



Performance at This District	Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
	Level 1 527-661	Level 2 662-700	Level 3 701-738	Level 4 739-830	Total	
May 2000	19	25	4	0	48	666
May 2001	13	26	6	0	45	673
	Level 1 527-659	Level 2 660-698	Level 3 699-737	Level 4 738-830	Total	
March 2002	19	32	1	0	52	665

Middle-Level English Language Arts Levels — Listening, Reading, and Writing Standards	
<b>Level 4</b>	These students <b>exceed the standards</b> and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
<b>Level 3</b>	These students <b>meet the standards</b> and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 2</b>	These students <b>need extra help</b> to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 1</b>	These students have <b>serious academic deficiencies</b> .

### Performance of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

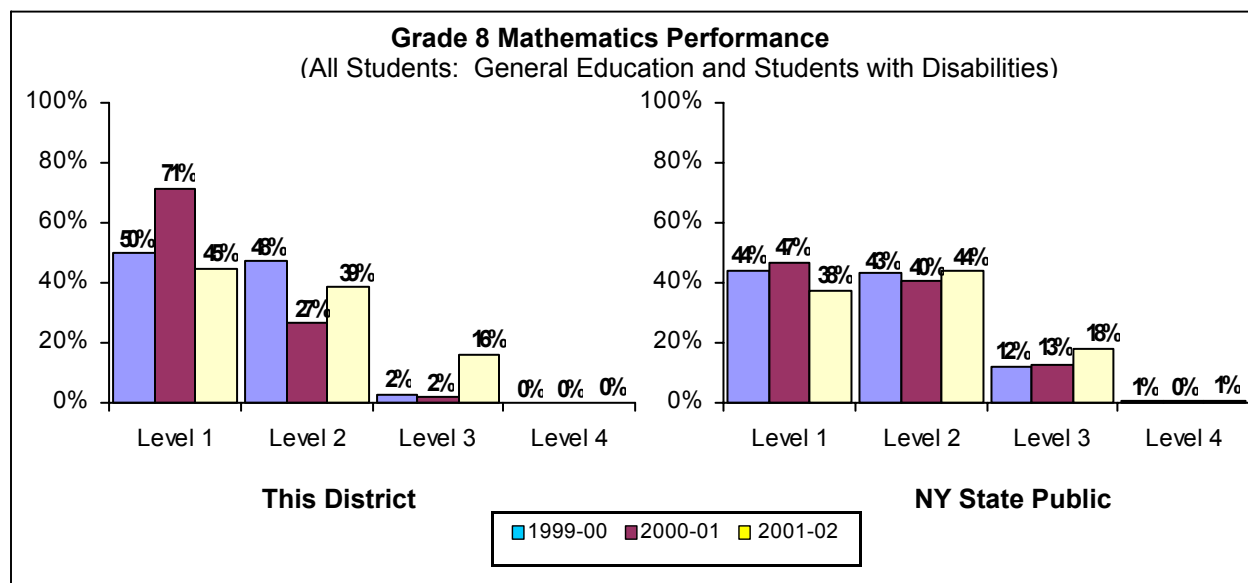
Grade 8	English Proficiency Below Effective Participation Level	Making Appropriate Progress
2002	0	0

### Performance of Middle-Level Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in English

	Number Tested	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2001-02	0	0	0	0	0



## Middle Level Mathematics



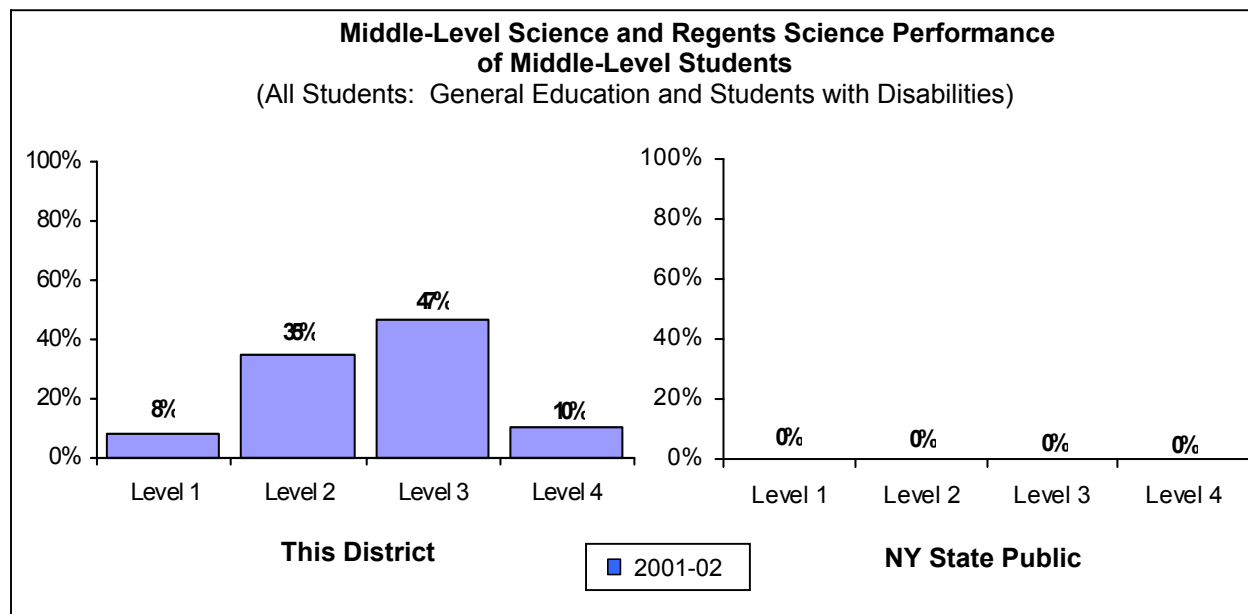
Performance at This District	Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
	Level 1 517-680	Level 2 681-715	Level 3 716-759	Level 4 760-882	Total	
May 2000	21	20	1	0	42	671
May 2001	32	12	1	0	45	663
May 2002	22	19	8	0	49	686

Middle-Level Mathematics Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards	
<b>Level 4</b>	These students <b>exceed the standards</b> and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
<b>Level 3</b>	These students <b>meet the standards</b> and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 2</b>	These students <b>need extra help</b> to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.
<b>Level 1</b>	These students have <b>serious academic deficiencies</b> .

### Performance of Middle-Level Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Mathematics, Science, and Technology

	Number Tested	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
<b>2001-02</b>	0	0	0	0	0

## Middle Level Science



Performance at This District		Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	
June 2002	Middle-Level Science	4	17	23	5	49	67
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0

Middle-Level Science Levels – Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards*	
<b>Level 4</b>	These students <b>exceed the standards</b> on the middle-level science test and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examinations <u>or</u> score 85–100 on a Regents science examination.
<b>Level 3</b>	These students <b>meet the standards</b> on the middle-level science test and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examinations <u>or</u> score 65–84 on a Regents science examination.
<b>Level 2</b>	These students <b>need extra help</b> to meet the standards for middle-level science and to pass the Regents examinations <u>or</u> score 55–64 on a Regents science examination.
<b>Level 1</b>	These students have <b>serious academic deficiencies</b> as evidenced in the middle-level science test <u>or</u> score 0–54 on a Regents science examination.

\*Students may demonstrate proficiency in middle-level science by scoring at level 3 or above on the middle-level science test or by scoring 65 or above on a Regents examination in science.

## **Analysis of Student Subgroup Performance**

Historically, on State assessments the average performance of Black, Hispanic, and Native American students has been lower than that of White and Asian students. Similarly, students from low-income families have not performed as well as those from higher income families. A high priority of the Board of Regents is to eliminate these gaps in student performance. In addition, Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act includes explicit requirements “to ensure that students served by Title I are given the same opportunity to achieve to high standards and are held to the same high expectations as all students in each State.”

This section of the district report card provides performance data by racial/ethnic group, disability status, gender, English proficiency status, income level, and migrant status. The purpose of the student subgroup analyses is to determine if students who perform below the standards in any district tend to fall into particular groups, such as minority students, limited English proficient students, or economically disadvantaged students. If these analyses provide evidence that students in one of the groups achieve at a lower level than other students, the district and community should examine the reasons for this lower performance and make necessary changes in curriculum, instruction, and student support services to remedy these performance gaps.

## Elementary Level English Language Arts

Student Subgroup	2000-01				2001-02			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2-4	3-4	4		2-4	3-4	4
<b>Results by Race/Ethnicity</b>								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	63	s	s	s	62	73%	16%	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	64	64%	16%	2%	0	0%	0%	0%
<b>Results by Disability Status</b>								
General-education students	49	73%	18%	2%	41	76%	20%	0%
Students with disabilities	15	33%	7%	0%	21	67%	10%	0%
Total	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%
<b>Results by Gender</b>								
Female	34	74%	18%	0%	31	77%	23%	0%
Male	30	53%	13%	3%	31	68%	10%	0%
Total	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%
<b>Results by English Proficiency Status</b>								
English proficient	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%
<b>Results by Income Level</b>								
Economically disadvantaged	40	63%	13%	0%	21	67%	14%	0%
Not disadvantaged	24	67%	21%	4%	41	76%	17%	0%
Total	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%
<b>Results by Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%
Total	64	64%	16%	2%	62	73%	16%	0%

## Elementary Level Mathematics

Student Subgroup	2000-01				2001-02			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2-4	3-4	4		2-4	3-4	4
<b>Results by Race/Ethnicity</b>								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	60	s	s	s	59	s	s	s
Hispanic	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	1	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Total	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
Small Group Totals (s)	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
<b>Results by Disability Status</b>								
General-education students	48	83%	31%	0%	40	93%	48%	3%
Students with disabilities	14	86%	29%	0%	20	80%	25%	0%
Total	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
<b>Results by Gender</b>								
Female	35	89%	29%	0%	30	93%	43%	3%
Male	27	78%	33%	0%	30	83%	37%	0%
Total	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
<b>Results by English Proficiency Status</b>								
English proficient	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
<b>Results by Income Level</b>								
Economically disadvantaged	38	84%	34%	0%	18	83%	39%	0%
Not disadvantaged	24	83%	25%	0%	42	90%	40%	2%
Total	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
<b>Results by Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%
Total	62	84%	31%	0%	60	88%	40%	2%

## Elementary Level Science Multiple-Choice

Student Subgroup	2000-01		2001-02	
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring above the SDL	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring above the SDL
<b>Results by Race/Ethnicity</b>				
American Indian/Alaskan Native			0	0%
Black			60	s
Hispanic			0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander			0	0%
White			1	s
Total			61	62%
Small Group Totals (s)			61	62%
<b>Results by Disability Status</b>				
General-education students	48	27%	41	68%
Students with disabilities	14	36%	20	50%
Total	62	29%	61	62%
<b>Results by Gender</b>				
Female			30	67%
Male			31	58%
Total			61	62%
<b>Results by English Proficiency Status</b>				
English proficient			61	62%
Limited English proficient			0	0%
Total			61	62%
<b>Results by Income Level</b>				
Economically disadvantaged			19	68%
Not disadvantaged			42	60%
Total			61	62%
<b>Results by Migrant Status</b>				
Migrant family			0	0%
Not migrant family			61	62%
Total			61	62%

**Middle Level**  
**English Language Arts**

Student Subgroup	2000-01				2001-02			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2-4	3-4	4		2-4	3-4	4
<b>Results by Race/Ethnicity</b>								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	44	s	s	s	52	63%	2%	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	45	71%	13%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
<b>Results by Disability Status</b>								
General-education students	34	82%	18%	0%	40	68%	3%	0%
Students with disabilities	11	36%	0%	0%	12	50%	0%	0%
Total	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%
<b>Results by Gender</b>								
Female	25	76%	20%	0%	29	55%	3%	0%
Male	20	65%	5%	0%	23	74%	0%	0%
Total	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%
<b>Results by English Proficiency Status</b>								
English proficient	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%
<b>Results by Income Level</b>								
Economically disadvantaged	44	s	s	s	44	61%	2%	0%
Not disadvantaged	1	s	s	s	8	75%	0%	0%
Total	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%
<b>Results by Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%
Total	45	71%	13%	0%	52	63%	2%	0%

## Middle Level Mathematics

Student Subgroup	2000-01				2001-02			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2-4	3-4	4		2-4	3-4	4
<b>Results by Race/Ethnicity</b>								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	44	s	s	s	49	55%	16%	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	s	0	0%	0%	0%
White	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	45	29%	2%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
<b>Results by Disability Status</b>								
General-education students	34	26%	3%	0%	37	68%	22%	0%
Students with disabilities	11	36%	0%	0%	12	17%	0%	0%
Total	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%
<b>Results by Gender</b>								
Female	25	28%	0%	0%	29	55%	10%	0%
Male	20	30%	5%	0%	20	55%	25%	0%
Total	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%
<b>Results by English Proficiency Status</b>								
English proficient	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%
<b>Results by Income Level</b>								
Economically disadvantaged	44	s	s	s	42	55%	17%	0%
Not disadvantaged	1	s	s	s	7	57%	14%	0%
Total	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%
<b>Results by Migrant Status</b>								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%
Total	45	29%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	0%



**Middle Level**  
Science

Student Subgroup	2001-02			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2-4	3-4	4
<b>Results by Race/Ethnicity</b>				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	49	92%	57%	10%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%
White	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	49	92%	57%	10%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%
<b>Results by Disability Status</b>				
General-education students	38	97%	68%	13%
Students with disabilities	11	73%	18%	0%
Total	49	92%	57%	10%
<b>Results by Gender</b>				
Female	29	100%	55%	7%
Male	20	80%	60%	15%
Total	49	92%	57%	10%
<b>Results by English Proficiency Status</b>				
English proficient	49	92%	57%	10%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	49	92%	57%	10%
<b>Results by Income Level</b>				
Economically disadvantaged	43	91%	53%	9%
Not disadvantaged	6	100%	83%	17%
Total	49	92%	57%	10%
<b>Results by Migrant Status</b>				
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	49	92%	57%	10%
Total	49	92%	57%	10%

## Glossary

**Cohort Data:** A student cohort is all students, regardless of grade status, who were enrolled in school on BEDS day two years after the year in which they entered grade 9, or, in the case of ungraded students with disabilities, the year in which they reached their seventeenth birthday. (For example, the 1998 cohort consists of all students who first entered grade 9 in the fall of 1998 who were enrolled on October 4, 2000). Certain severely disabled students, new immigrants, and students who transfer to programs leading to a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma are not included in the school cohort. Cohort is defined in Section 100.2 (p) (8) (iii) of the Commissioner's Regulations. Data for the 1997 cohort are based on the Special Regents Examination Report for the 1997 Cohort. Data for the 1998 cohort are based on the 2002 STEP file submitted by each district.

**Component Retests:** Component retests were offered in Regents English and Mathematics A to graduating seniors who were at risk of not meeting the State learning Standards. Component retesting is the process by which a student who has failed a Regents examination in English or Mathematics A twice is retested only on the areas of the learning standards in which the student has been proven deficient. Component retesting eliminates the need for the student to retake the full Regents examination multiple times. Students who earn credit through component retesting are counted as if they scored in the 55–64 range or in the 65–84 range, as determined by the results of the component retest.

**Counts of Students Tested:** "Counts of Students Tested" includes only students who completed sufficient test questions to receive a score.

**Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students:** Schools teach English to students for whom English is a second language so they can participate effectively in the academic program. Students are considered LEP if, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, they speak a language other than English and (1) either understand and speak little or no English or (2) score at or below the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile on an English language assessment instrument. LEP students without sufficient proficiency in English were not required to take the grade 4 or grade 8 English language arts test. Their reported progress in learning English was measured using standardized tests.

**New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA):** The district Committee on Special Education designates severely disabled students who meet criteria established in Commissioner's Regulations to take the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

**Student Confidentiality/Suppressed Data (# and s):** To ensure student confidentiality, the Department does *not* publish data for groups with fewer than five students or data that would allow readers to easily determine the performance of a group with fewer than five students. In the *Overview*, the pound character (#) appears when fewer than five students in a group were tested. In the *Analysis*, when fewer than five students in a group (e.g., Hispanic) were tested, percentages of tested students scoring at various levels were suppressed for that group and the next smallest group. Suppressed data are indicated with an (s). However, the performance of tested students in these groups is aggregated and shown in the Small Group Total row.

**Validity and Reliability of Small Group Data:** It is important that programmatic decisions are based on valid and reliable data. Data for fewer than 40 students in a group are neither valid nor reliable. If a school does not have 40 students in a grade or a subgroup in a given year, the school should evaluate results for students in this group over a period of years to make programmatic decisions.