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

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, AND SCIENCE

AND

ANALYSIS OF STUDENT SUBGROUP PERFORMANCE

for

Follow-Through Urban Learning Laboratory

in

Buffalo City School District

February 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Regents of The University

ROBERT M. BENNETT, *Chancellor*, B.A., M.S.	Tonawanda
ADELAIDE L. SANFORD, *Vice Chancellor*, B.A., M.A., P.D.	Hollis
DIANE O'NEILL MCGIVERN, B.S.N., M.A., Ph.D.	Staten Island
SAUL B. COHEN, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.	New Rochelle
JAMES C. DAWSON, A.A., B.A., M.S., Ph.D.	Peru
ANTHONY S. BOTTAR, B.A., J.D.	North Syracuse
MERRYL H. TISCH, B.A., M.A.	New York
GERALDINE D. CHAPEY, B.A., M.A., Ed.D.	Belle Harbor
ARNOLD B. GARDNER, B.A., LL.B.	Buffalo
HARRY PHILLIPS, 3rd, B.A., M.S.F.S.	Hartsdale
JOSEPH E. BOWMAN, JR., B.A., M.L.S., M.A., M.Ed., Ed.D	Albany
LORRAINE A. CORTÉS-VÁZQUEZ, B.A., M.P.A.	Bronx
JAMES R. TALLON, JR., B.A., M.A.	Binghamton
MILTON L. COFIELD, B.S., M.B.A., Ph.D.	Rochester
JOHN BRADEMAS, B.A., Ph.D.	New York

President of The University and Commissioner of Education
RICHARD P. MILLS

Deputy Commissioner for Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education
JAMES A. KADAMUS

Assistant Commissioner for Standards, Assessment and Reporting
DAVID M. ABRAMS

Coordinator, Information and Reporting Services
MARTHA P. MUSSER

The State Education Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, gender, genetic predisposition or carrier status, or sexual orientation in its educational programs, services and activities. Portions of this publication can be made available in a variety of formats, including braille, large print or audio tape, upon request. Inquiries concerning this policy of nondiscrimination should be directed to the Department's Office for Diversity, Ethics, and Access, Room 530, Education Building, Albany, NY 12234. **Requests for additional copies of this publication may be made by contacting the Publications Sales Desk, Room 309, Education Building, Albany, NY 12234.**

Please address all correspondence about this report that is not related to data corrections to:

School Report Card Coordinator
Information and Reporting Services Team
New York State Education Department
Room 863 EBA
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234
E-mail: *RPTCARD@mail.nysed.gov*

The *New York State School 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 school and district performance. Knowledge gained from the school report card on a school's strengths and weaknesses can be used to improve instruction and services to students.

The *New York State School Report Card* consists of three parts: the *Overview of School Performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Analysis of Student Subgroup Performance,* the *Comprehensive Information Report,* and the *Accountability Status 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 *Accountability Status Report* provides information as to whether a school 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, mathematics, and science 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. 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 school, including general-education students and students with disabilities. In the *Overview*, each school's performance is compared with that of schools similar in grade level, district resources, and student needs as indicated by income and limited English proficiency (LEP) status. 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 school report card may be found in the glossary on the last page. Further information on the school report card may be found in the guide, *Understanding Your School Report Card: February 2005*, available on the Information and Reporting Services Web site at www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts.

Overview of School Performance in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

School Profile

Principal: Kathleen Franklin		Phone: (716)888-7007
Organization 2003–04	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
	PK-8	630

2002–03 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	$13,212

Similar Schools Group	This school is in Similar Schools Group 5. All schools in this group are elementary level schools in large cities other than New York City. The schools in this group are in the middle range of student needs for elementary level schools in these districts.

2003–04 Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers*

Total Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
91	88%

*To meet the federal definition of "highly qualified," public school teachers of core academic subjects must have at least a bachelor's degree and be State certified for and demonstrate subject matter competency in the core academic subject(s) they teach.

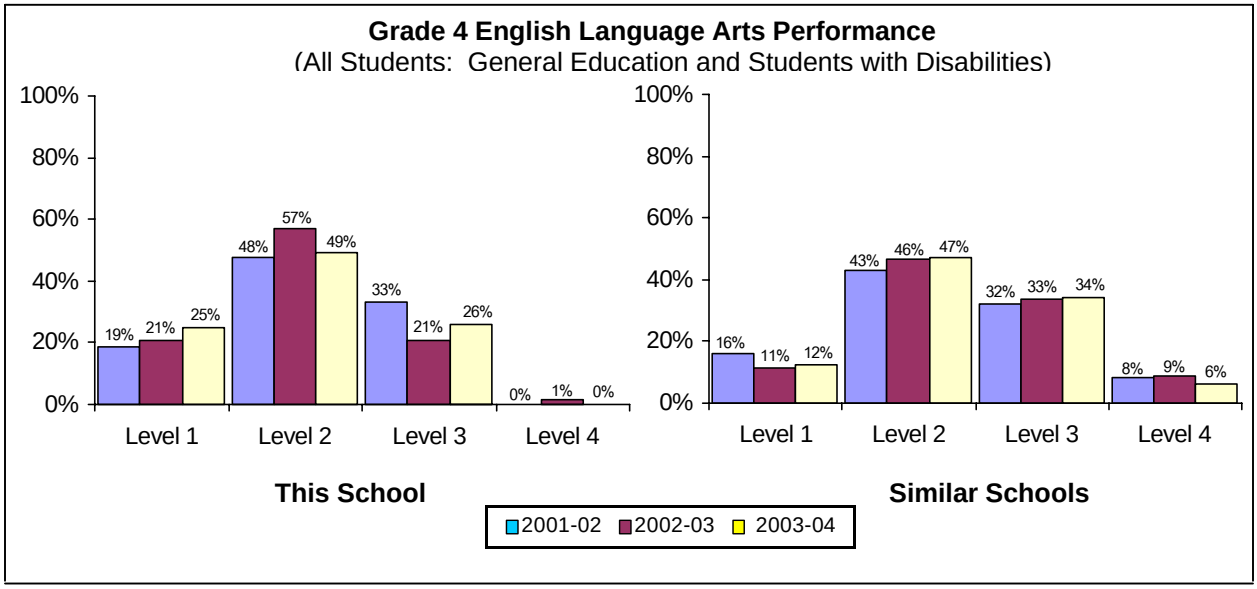
2003–04 Teachers with No Valid Teaching Certificate*

Total Number of Teachers	Percent with No Valid Teaching Certificate
49	0%

*Includes teachers with a modified temporary license.

Elementary Level

English Language Arts



Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 455–602	Level 2 603–644	Level 3 645–691	Level 4 692–800	Total Tested	
Jan–Feb 2002	13	33	23	0	69	627
Feb 2003	16	44	16	1	77	624
Feb 2004	16	32	17	0	65	623

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

Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

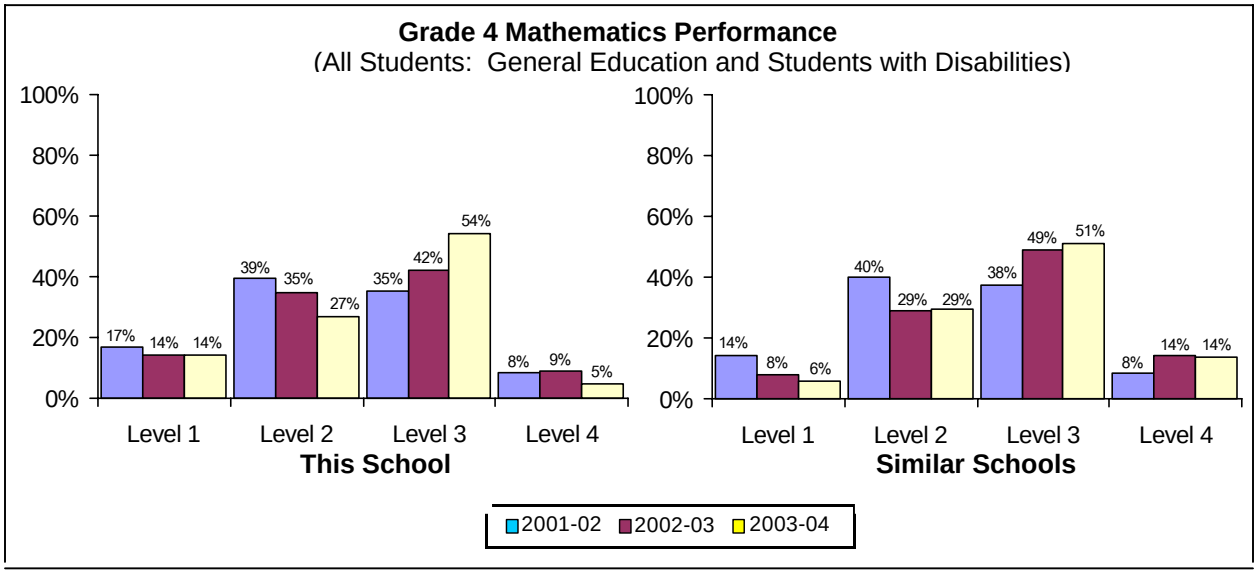
Grade 4	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Tested
2004	0	0	0	0	0

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

Elementary Level	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2003–04	0	0	0	0	0

Elementary Level

Mathematics



Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 448–601	Level 2 602–636	Level 3 637–677	Level 4 678–810	Total Tested	
May 2002	12	28	25	6	71	632
May 2003	11	27	33	7	78	635
May 2004	9	17	34	3	63	634

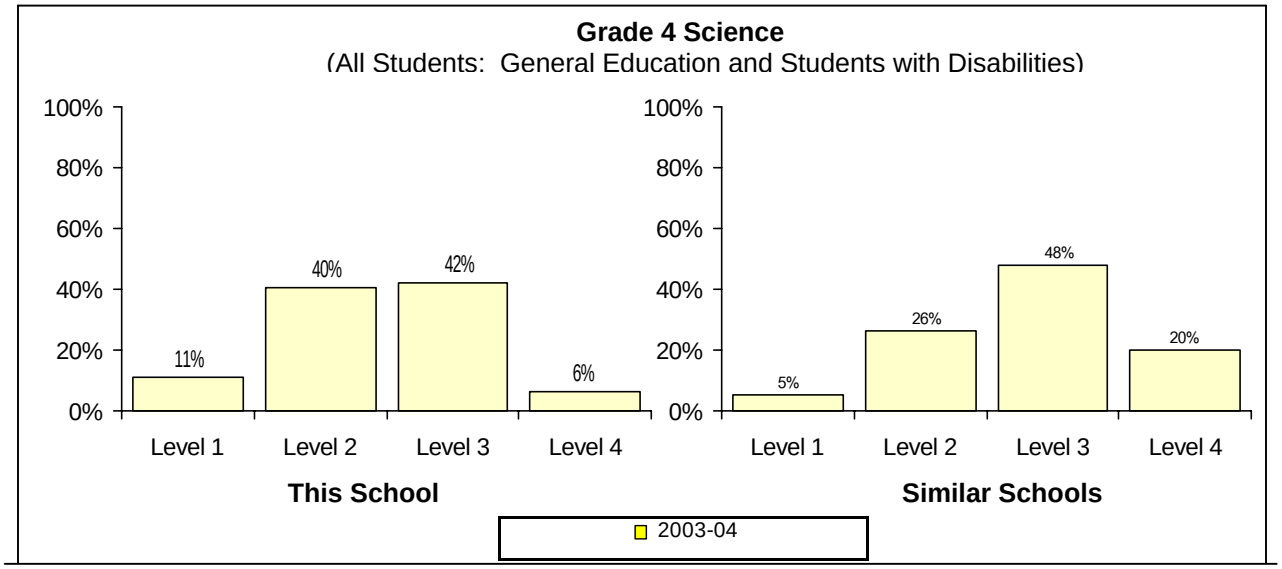
Elementary-Level Mathematics Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards	
Level 4	These students **exceed the standards** and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
Level 3	These students **meet the standards** and, with continued steady growth, should pass the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

Performance of Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Mathematics

Elementary Level	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2003–04	0	0	0	0	0

Elementary Level

Science*



Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 0–44	Level 2 45–64	Level 3 65–84	Level 4 85–100	Total Tested	
May 2004	7	25	26	4	62	63

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

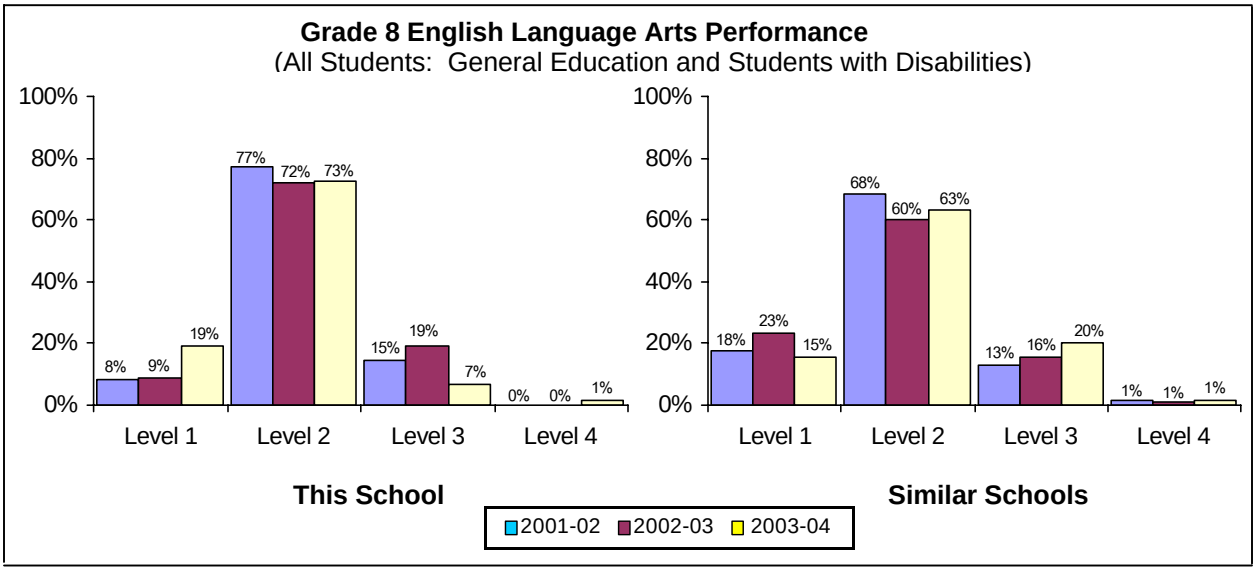
Performance of Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Science

Elementary Level	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2003–04	0	0	0	0	0

*Only one year of data is shown because a new assessment in elementary-level science was administered for the first time in 2003–04.

Middle Level

English Language Arts



Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 527–659	Level 2 660–698	Level 3 699-737	Level 4 738-830	Total Tested	
March 2002	5	48	9	0	62	679
	Level 1 527–657	Level 2 658–696	Level 3 697–736	Level 4 737–830	Total Tested	
January 2003	6	49	13	0	68	680
January 2004	14	53	5	1	73	674

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

Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

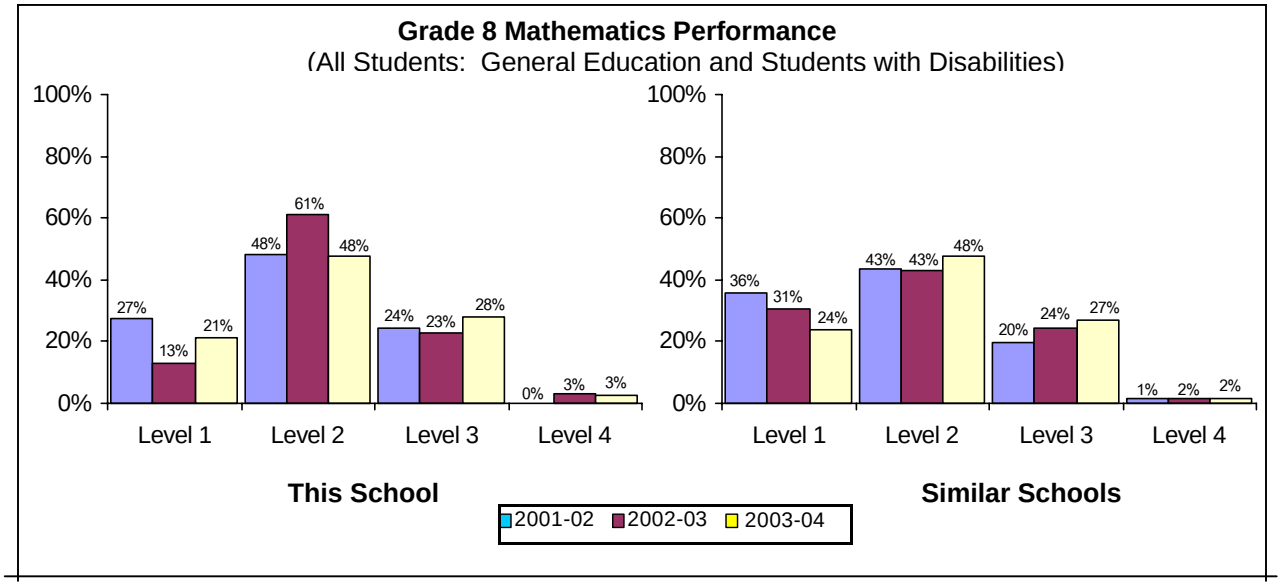
Grade 8	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Tested
2004	0	0	0	0	0

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

Grade 8	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2003–04	0	0	0	0	0

Middle Level

Mathematics



Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total Tested	
May 2002	17	30	15	0	62	696
May 2003	8	38	14	2	62	703
May 2004	15	34	20	2	71	699

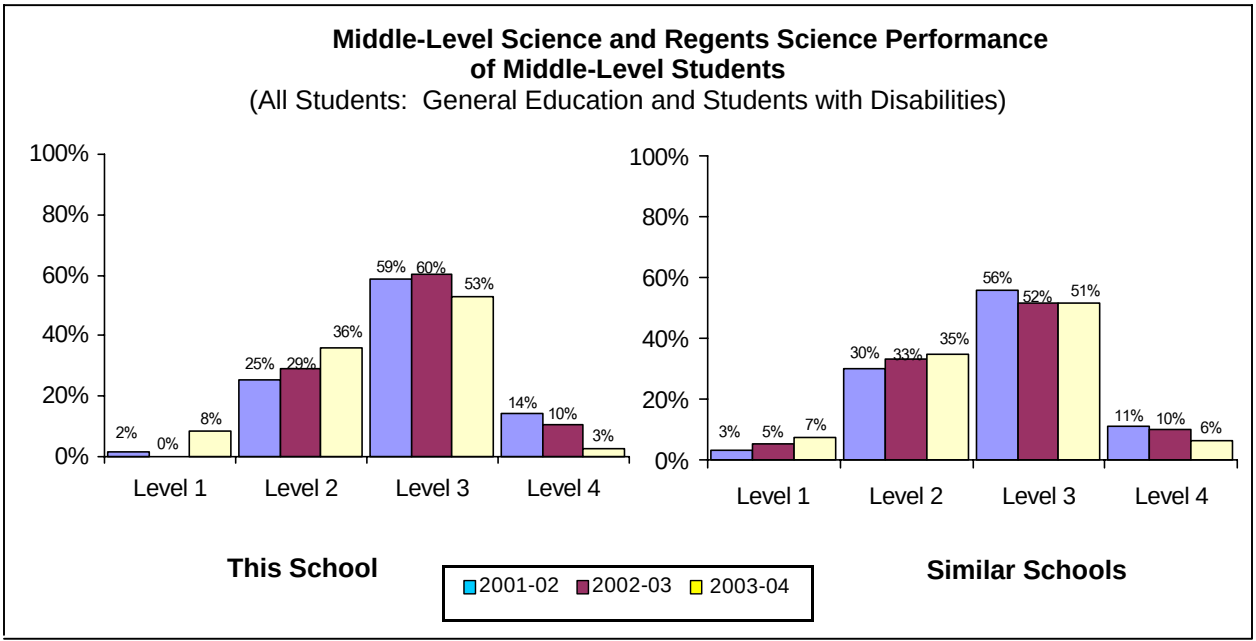
Middle-Level Mathematics Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards	
Level 4	These students **exceed the standards** and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
Level 3	These students **meet the standards** and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents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

Performance of Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Mathematics

Middle Level	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2003–04	0	0	0	0	0

Middle Level

Science



Performance at This School		Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Tested	
June 2002	Middle-Level Science	1	16	37	9	63	71
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2003	Middle-Level Science	0	17	35	6	58	69
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2004	Middle-Level Science	6	26	38	2	72	64
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

Performance of Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Science

Middle-Level	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2003–04	0	0	0	0	0

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 school report card provides performance data for two years 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 school 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 school 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. If your school did not report data for the 2003–04 school year for a subject and grade, a table showing data for subgroups in that subject and grade will not be included in the *Analysis*.

Elementary Level

English Language Arts

Student Subgroup	2002–03				2003–04			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	60	75%	20%	2%	58	74%	21%	0%
Hispanic	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
White	14	s	s	s	6	s	s	s
Total	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	17	94%	29%	0%	7	86%	71%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	61	85%	25%	2%	52	83%	31%	0%
Students with disabilities	16	56%	13%	0%	13	46%	8%	0%
Total	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%
Results by Gender								
Female	38	87%	29%	3%	37	84%	22%	0%
Male	39	72%	15%	0%	28	64%	32%	0%
Total	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	62	77%	23%	2%	62	s	s	s
Not disadvantaged	15	87%	20%	0%	3	s	s	s
Total	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%
Total	77	79%	22%	1%	65	75%	26%	0%

Elementary Level

Mathematics

Student Subgroup	2002–03				2003–04			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	61	84%	43%	5%	58	84%	55%	2%
Hispanic	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
White	14	s	s	s	4	s	s	s
Total	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	17	94%	82%	24%	5	100%	100%	40%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	62	89%	55%	10%	51	90%	67%	6%
Students with disabilities	16	75%	38%	6%	12	67%	25%	0%
Total	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%
Results by Gender								
Female	38	87%	55%	11%	37	89%	57%	5%
Male	40	85%	48%	8%	26	81%	62%	4%
Total	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	63	86%	48%	6%	59	s	s	s
Not disadvantaged	15	87%	67%	20%	4	s	s	s
Total	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%
Total	78	86%	51%	9%	63	86%	59%	5%

Elementary Level

Science*

Student Subgroup	2003–04			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	57	88%	46%	4%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s
White	4	s	s	s
Total	62	89%	48%	6%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	5	100%	80%	40%
Results by Disability Status				
General-education students	50	90%	52%	8%
Students with disabilities	12	83%	33%	0%
Total	62	89%	48%	6%
Results by Gender				
Female	36	89%	47%	6%
Male	26	88%	50%	8%
Total	62	89%	48%	6%
Results by English Proficiency Status				
English proficient	62	89%	48%	6%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	62	89%	48%	6%
Results by Income Level				
Economically disadvantaged	58	s	s	s
Not disadvantaged	4	s	s	s
Total	62	89%	48%	6%
Results by Migrant Status				
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	62	89%	48%	6%
Total	62	89%	48%	6%

*Only one year of data is shown because a new assessment in elementary-level science was administered for the first time in 2003–04.

Middle Level

English Language Arts

Student Subgroup	2002–03				2003–04			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	48	90%	19%	0%	51	73%	6%	2%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	20	95%	20%	0%	22	100%	14%	0%
Total	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	59	90%	22%	0%	51	86%	12%	2%
Students with disabilities	9	100%	0%	0%	22	68%	0%	0%
Total	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%
Results by Gender								
Female	40	93%	25%	0%	37	86%	11%	0%
Male	28	89%	11%	0%	36	75%	6%	3%
Total	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	58	90%	17%	0%	59	80%	7%	0%
Not disadvantaged	10	100%	30%	0%	14	86%	14%	7%
Total	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%
Total	68	91%	19%	0%	73	81%	8%	1%

Middle Level

Mathematics

Student Subgroup	2002–03				2003–04			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	42	81%	24%	2%	49	69%	20%	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	20	100%	30%	5%	22	100%	55%	9%
Total	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	53	87%	21%	4%	49	88%	41%	4%
Students with disabilities	9	89%	56%	0%	22	59%	9%	0%
Total	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%
Results by Gender								
Female	34	88%	21%	6%	35	86%	26%	0%
Male	28	86%	32%	0%	36	72%	36%	6%
Total	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	53	85%	25%	2%	57	77%	32%	4%
Not disadvantaged	9	100%	33%	11%	14	86%	29%	0%
Total	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%
Total	62	87%	26%	3%	71	79%	31%	3%

Middle Level

Science

Student Subgroup	2002–03				2003–04			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	39	100%	59%	8%	50	88%	44%	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	19	100%	95%	16%	22	100%	82%	9%
Total	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	50	100%	70%	10%	49	94%	63%	4%
Students with disabilities	8	100%	75%	13%	23	87%	39%	0%
Total	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%
Results by Gender								
Female	33	100%	73%	12%	35	94%	57%	3%
Male	25	100%	68%	8%	37	89%	54%	3%
Total	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	50	100%	70%	8%	58	91%	60%	2%
Not disadvantaged	8	100%	75%	25%	14	93%	36%	7%
Total	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%
Total	58	100%	71%	10%	72	92%	56%	3%

Glossary

Accountability Cohort: An accountability cohort is all students, regardless of grade status, who were enrolled in school on BEDS day two years after the year in which they first entered grade 9, or, in the case of ungraded students with disabilities, the year in which they reached their seventeenth birthday. (For example, the 1999 accountability cohort consists of all students who first entered grade 9 in the fall of 1999 who were enrolled on October 3, 2001). Certain students are not included in the school accountability cohort. Cohort is defined in Section 100.2 (p) (8) of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Component Retests: Component retests were offered in Regents English and Mathematics A to certain students 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 on the Regents examination, as determined by the component retest results.

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

Graduation-Rate Cohort: Graduation-rate cohort for each year includes all students in the accountability cohort in the previous year plus all students excluded from that accountability cohort solely because they transferred to a general education development (GED) program.

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students: Schools provide special English instruction to students for whom English is a second language so they can participate effectively in the academic program. In 2002–03 and in previous years, students were considered LEP if, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, they spoke a language other than English and (1) either understood and spoke little or no English or (2) scored at or below the 40th percentile on an English language assessment instrument. Beginning in 2003–04, 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 below a state-designated level of proficiency on the Language Assessment Battery-Revised (LAB-R) or the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). The United States Department of Education has approved the use of the NYSESLAT as the required measure of language arts proficiency for LEP students in grades 4 and 8 who have attended school in the United States (not including Puerto Rico) for fewer than three consecutive years and for LEP students who have attended for four or five years and have received an exemption from the general assessment requirement.

New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA): The district Committee on Special Education designates students with severe disabilities 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 are 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 30 students in a group may be neither valid nor reliable. If a school does not have 30 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.