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

Orchard Park Middle School

in

Orchard Park Central School District

February 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Regents of The University

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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: Joan Thomas		Phone: (716)209-6227
Organization 2003–04	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
	6-8	1322

2002–03 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	$10,857

Similar Schools Group	This school is in Similar Schools Group 35. All schools in this group are middle 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 middle 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
381	98%

*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.

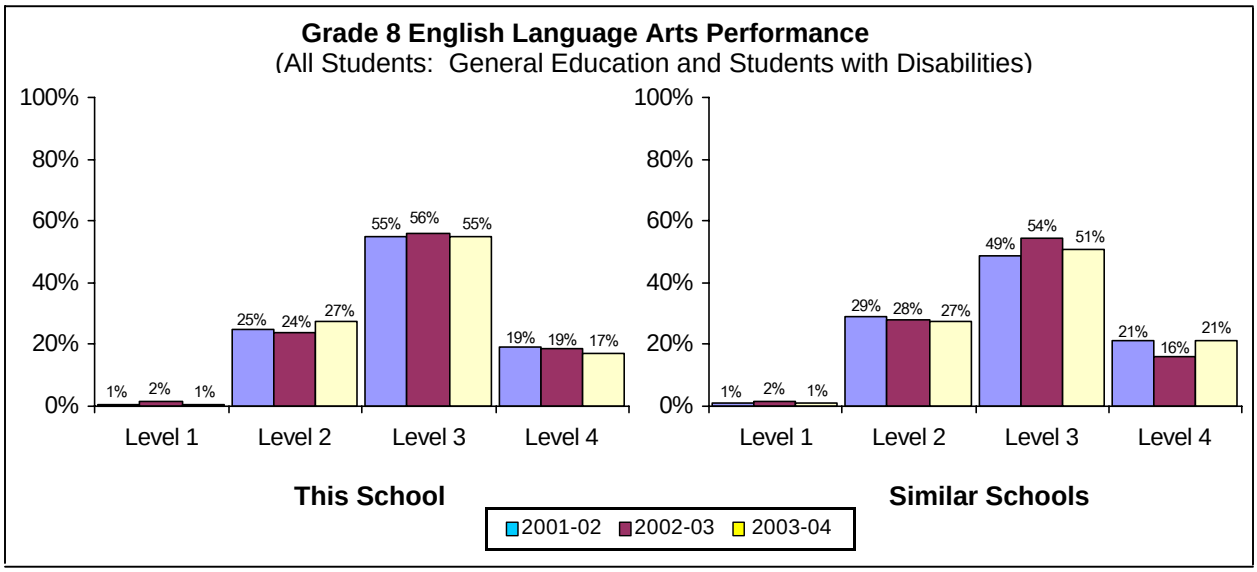
2003–04 Teachers with No Valid Teaching Certificate*

Total Number of Teachers	Percent with No Valid Teaching Certificate
108	0%

*Includes teachers with a modified temporary license.

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	3	111	246	86	446	715
	Level 1 527–657	Level 2 658–696	Level 3 697–736	Level 4 737–830	Total Tested	
January 2003	6	88	204	68	366	714
January 2004	3	110	221	68	402	714

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

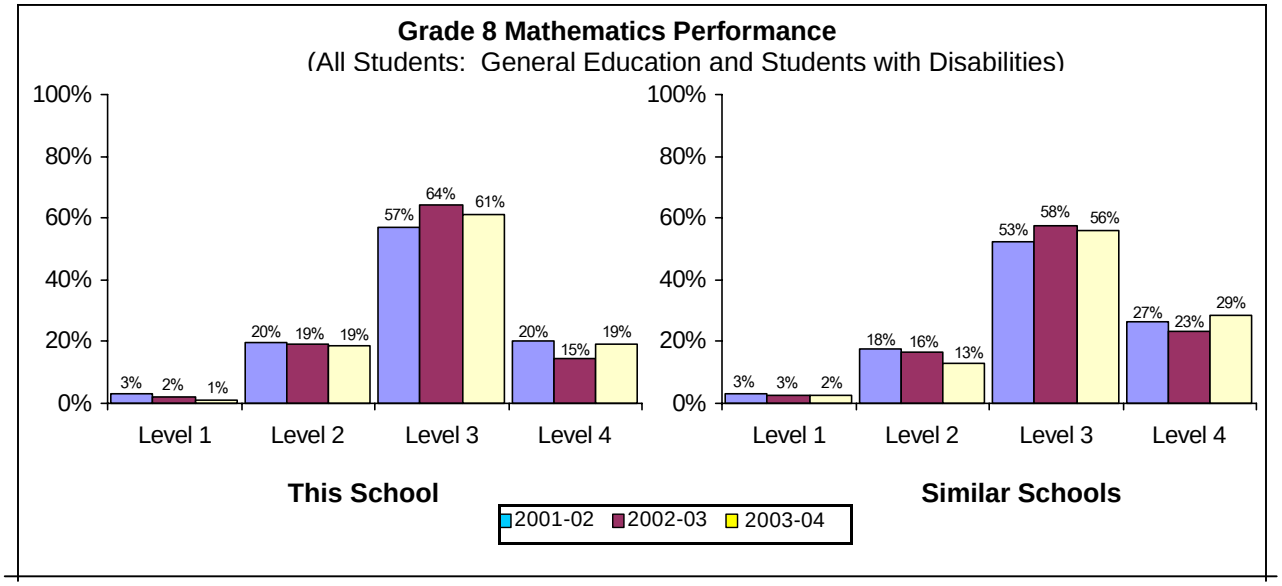
Grade 8	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Tested
2004	#	#	#	#	2

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	13	88	254	91	446	736
May 2003	8	75	253	57	393	735
May 2004	4	76	250	79	409	737

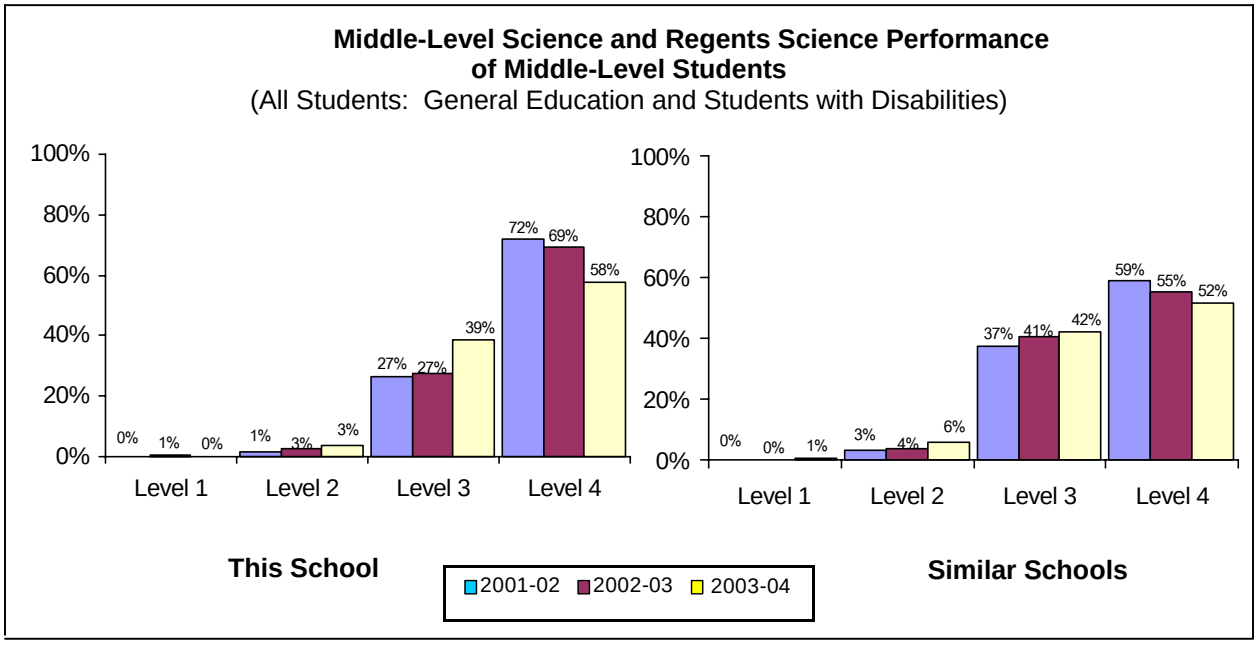
Middle-Level Mathematics Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards	
Level 4	These students **exceed the standards** and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
Level 3	These students **meet the standards** and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents 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	0	6	118	318	442	87
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2003	Middle-Level Science	2	11	105	266	384	87
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2004	Middle-Level Science	0	14	157	234	405	85
	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.

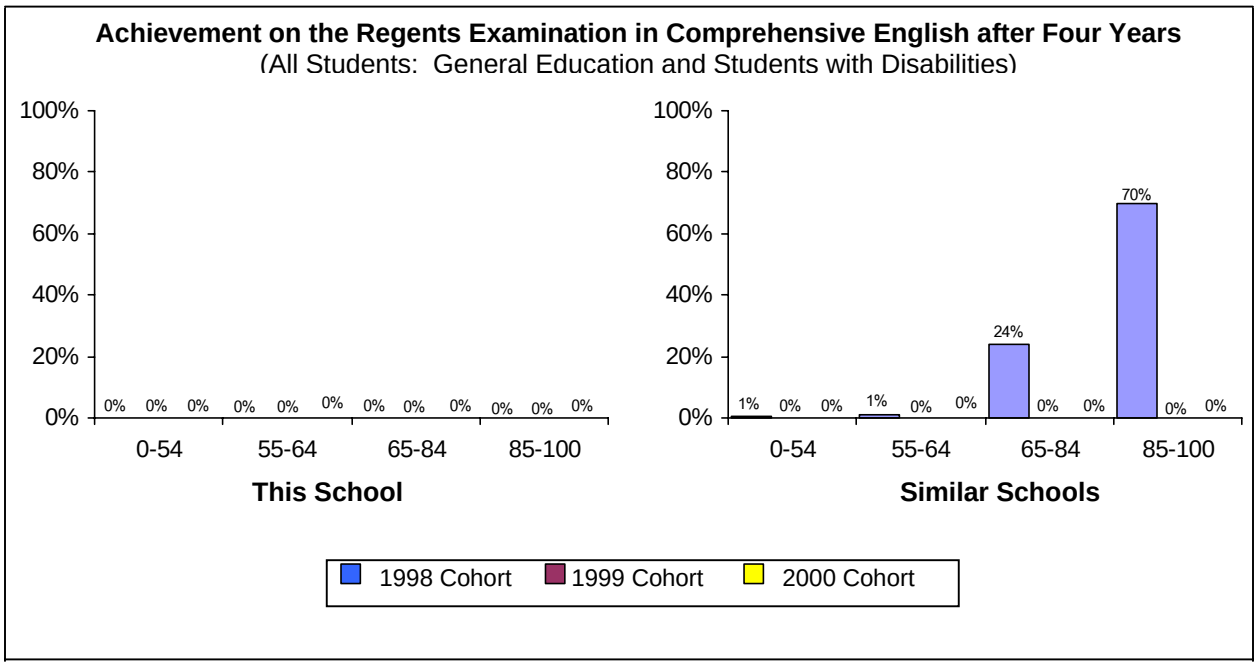
*Students may demonstrate proficiency in middle-level science by scoring at Level 3 or above on the middle-level science test or by scoring 65 or above on a Regents examination in science.

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

High School English Achievement after Four Years of Instruction

The graphs and tables below present performance of the 1998, 1999, and 2000 cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in English. In the graph, students passing approved alternatives to this examination are counted as scoring in the 65 to 84 range. RCT results are not included in the graph. The data in these tables and charts show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30th of the fourth year after first entering grade 9. Data for the 1999 and 2000 cohorts include all students in cohorts in the district's schools, students continuously enrolled in the district who transferred between schools within the district, and students placed outside the district but who are the reporting responsibility of the district. Data for the 1998 cohort include all students in the cohort in the district's schools.



English Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*						
	Cohort Members All Students	Highest Score Between 0 and 54	Highest Score Between 55 and 64	Highest Score Between 65 and 84	Highest Score Between 85 and 100	Approved Alternative Credit
1998 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999 Cohort	1	#	#	#	#	#
2000 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0

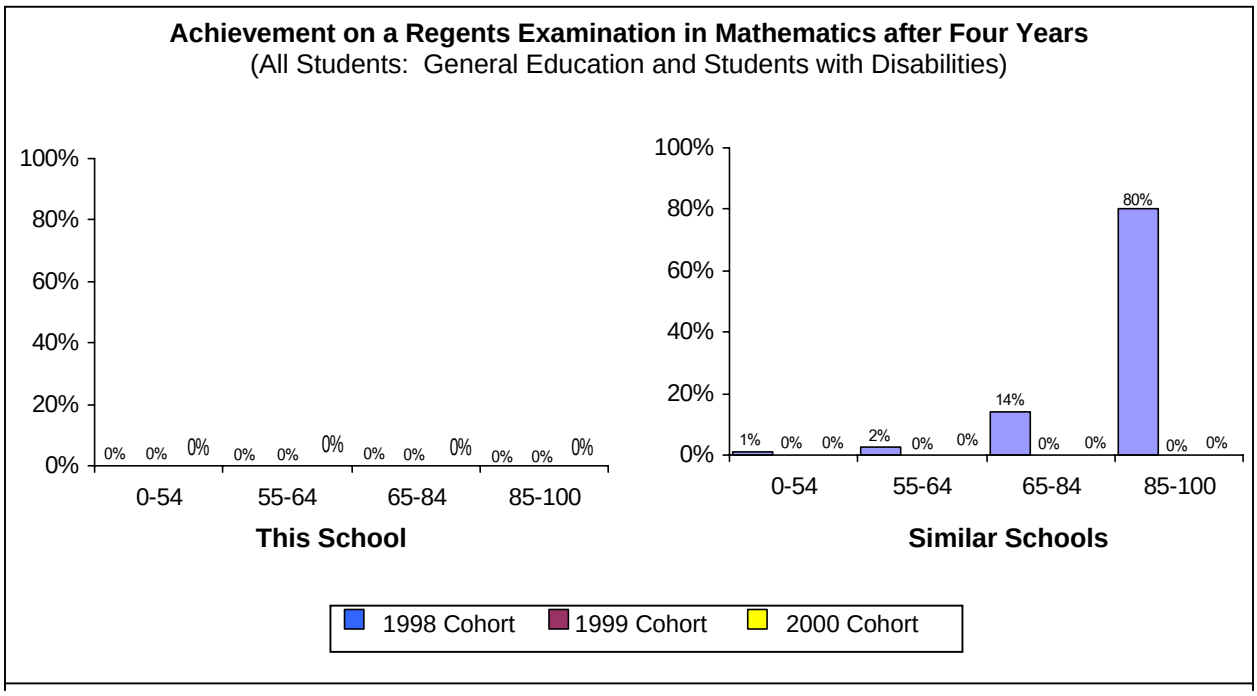
*Assessments used to determine counts in this table include the Regents examination in comprehensive English, the component retest in English, and approved alternatives.

Performance of Students Who Took the Regents Competency Tests in Reading and Writing to Meet the Graduation Requirement*		
	Passed the RCTs	Failed RCT in Reading and/or Writing
1998 Cohort	0	0
1999 Cohort	#	#
2000 Cohort	0	0

*Includes only students eligible for the safety net who did not score 55 or higher on the Regents examination or an approved alternative.

High School Mathematics Achievement after Four Years of Instruction

The graphs and tables below present performance of the 1998, 1999, and 2000 cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in mathematics. In the graph, students passing approved alternatives to these examinations are counted as scoring in the 65 to 84 range. RCT results are not included in the graph. The data in these tables and charts show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30th of the fourth year after first entering grade 9. Data for the 1999 and 2000 cohorts include all students in cohorts in the district's schools, students continuously enrolled in the district who transferred between schools within the district, and students placed outside the district but who are the reporting responsibility of the district. Data for the 1998 cohort include all students in the cohort in the district's schools.



Mathematics Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*						
	Cohort Members All Students	Highest Score Between 0 and 54	Highest Score Between 55 and 64	Highest Score Between 65 and 84	Highest Score Between 85 and 100	Approved Alternative Credit
1998 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999 Cohort	1	#	#	#	#	#
2000 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0

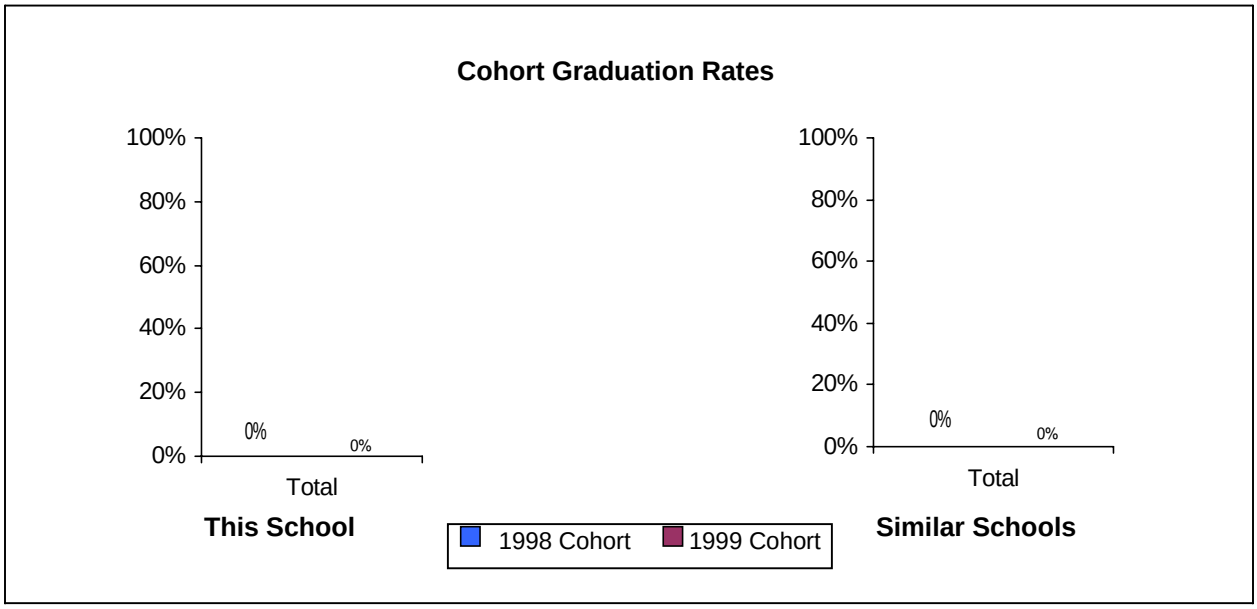
*Assessments used to determine counts in this table include a Regents examination in mathematics, the component retest in mathematics and approved alternatives.

Performance of Students Who Took the Regents Competency Test in Mathematics to Meet the Graduation Requirement*		
	Passed the RCT	Failed at Least One RCT
1998 Cohort	0	0
1999 Cohort	#	#
2000 Cohort	0	0

*Includes only students eligible for the safety net who did not score 55 or higher on the Regents examination or an approved alternative.

Cohort Graduation Rates

Students were counted as graduates if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement by August 31st of the fourth year after first entering grade 9. The graduation-rate cohort includes students who transferred to general education development (GED) programs. These students were not counted in the 1998 and 1999 school accountability cohort for English and mathematics.



Cohort Graduation Rates				
	Cohort Members* (a)	**Transfers to GED (b)**	**Graduation Rate Cohort Members (a+b)**	**Number Graduated**
1998 Cohort	0	0	0	0
1999 Cohort	1	0	1	#

*Count as of August 31st of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.

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*.

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	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	1	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Hispanic	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	s	s
White	362	s	s	s	399	s	s	s
Total	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	311	100%	82%	21%	346	100%	79%	19%
Students with disabilities	55	91%	29%	4%	56	95%	27%	2%
Total	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Results by Gender								
Female	178	100%	79%	21%	192	99%	76%	22%
Male	188	97%	70%	16%	210	99%	68%	12%
Total	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	27	89%	48%	15%	23	100%	39%	0%
Not disadvantaged	339	99%	76%	19%	379	99%	74%	18%
Total	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%
Total	366	98%	74%	19%	402	99%	72%	17%

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	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	2	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Hispanic	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
White	387	98%	79%	14%	405	s	s	s
Total	393	98%	79%	15%	409	99%	80%	19%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	6	100%	67%	17%	409	99%	80%	19%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	334	99%	86%	16%	353	100%	86%	22%
Students with disabilities	59	90%	41%	5%	56	95%	46%	0%
Total	393	98%	79%	15%	409	99%	80%	19%
Results by Gender								
Female	189	98%	79%	12%	195	99%	79%	18%
Male	204	98%	79%	17%	214	99%	82%	21%
Total	393	98%	79%	15%	409	99%	80%	19%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	393	98%	79%	15%	407	s	s	s
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	2	s	s	s
Total	393	98%	79%	15%	409	99%	80%	19%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	30	87%	57%	10%	22	95%	59%	5%
Not disadvantaged	363	99%	81%	15%	387	99%	82%	20%
Total	393	98%	79%	15%	409	99%	80%	19%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	393	98%	79%	15%	409	99%	80%	19%
Total	393	98%	79%	15%	409	99%	80%	19%

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	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	2	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Hispanic	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
White	378	99%	97%	70%	401	s	s	s
Total	384	99%	97%	69%	405	100%	97%	58%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	6	100%	83%	50%	405	100%	97%	58%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	326	100%	99%	75%	349	100%	99%	63%
Students with disabilities	58	98%	83%	38%	56	100%	84%	27%
Total	384	99%	97%	69%	405	100%	97%	58%
Results by Gender								
Female	187	99%	97%	61%	193	100%	94%	49%
Male	197	99%	96%	77%	212	100%	99%	66%
Total	384	99%	97%	69%	405	100%	97%	58%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	384	99%	97%	69%	404	s	s	s
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	s	s
Total	384	99%	97%	69%	405	100%	97%	58%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	30	93%	83%	43%	21	100%	76%	29%
Not disadvantaged	354	100%	98%	71%	384	100%	98%	59%
Total	384	99%	97%	69%	405	100%	97%	58%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	384	99%	97%	69%	405	100%	97%	58%
Total	384	99%	97%	69%	405	100%	97%	58%

1999 and 2000 High School Cohorts

General-education students who first entered ninth grade in 1999 or 2000 must score 55 or higher on Regents English and mathematics examinations to graduate. During the phase-in of the Regents examination graduation requirements, all students (with district board of education approval) may qualify for a local diploma by earning a score of 55–64 on the required Regents examinations; a score of 65 or higher is required for a Regents diploma. Students with disabilities and certain students with a Section 504 Accomodation Plan may qualify for a local diploma by passing Regents competency tests. The data in these tables show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30th of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.

Performance on the English Assessment Requirement for Graduation after Four Years of High School

Student Subgroup	1999 Cohort					2000 Cohort				
	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement
		Regents		Passed RCTs			Regents		Passed RCTs	
		55–64	65–100				55–64	65–100		
Results by Race/Ethnicity										
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
White	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	1	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Students with disabilities	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Gender										
Female	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Male	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status										
English proficient	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Limited English proficient	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Not disadvantaged	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%

Performance on the Mathematics Assessment Requirement for Graduation after Four Years of High School

Student Subgroup	1999 Cohort					2000 Cohort				
	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement
		Regents		Passed RCTs			Regents		Passed RCTs	
		55–64	65–100				55–64	65–100		
Results by Race/Ethnicity										
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
White	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	1	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Students with disabilities	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Gender										
Female	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Male	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status										
English proficient	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Limited English proficient	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Not disadvantaged	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	1	s	s	s	s	0	0	0	0	0%

Cohort Graduation Rates

Students were counted as graduates if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement by August 31st of the fourth year after first entering grade 9. The graduation-rate cohort includes students who transferred to general education development (GED) programs. These students were not counted in the district accountability cohort for English and mathematics.

	1998 Cohort as of August 31, 2002		1999 Cohort as of August 31, 2003	
Student Subgroup	**Graduation Rate Cohort**	**Graduation Rate**	**Graduation Rate Cohort**	**Graduation Rate**
Results by Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%
Black	0	0%	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%
White	0	0%	1	s
Total	0	0%	1	s
Small Group Totals **(s)**	0	0%	1	0%
Results by Disability Status				
General-education students	0	0%	0	s
Students with disabilities	0	0%	1	s
Total	0	0%	1	s
Results by Gender				
Female	0	0%	0	s
Male	0	0%	1	s
Total	0	0%	1	s
Results by English Proficiency Status				
English proficient	0	0%	1	s
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0	s
Total	0	0%	1	s
Results by Income Level				
Economically disadvantaged	0	0%	0	s
Not disadvantaged	0	0%	1	s
Total	0	0%	1	s
Results by Migrant Status				
Migrant family	0	0%	0	s
Not migrant family	0	0%	1	s
Total	0	0%	1	s

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.