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

P.S. 69 Houghton Academy

in

Buffalo City School District

February 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Regents of The University

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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 School 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 School Accountability 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 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-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 2004*, 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: Elaine Vandi		Phone: (716)828-4794
Organization	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
2002–03	3-8	349

2001–02 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$12,201
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Similar Schools	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
Group	schools in these districts.

2002–03 Percentage of Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers*

Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
	Teachers
29	66%

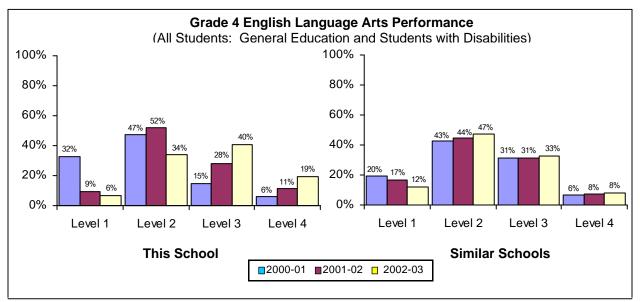
*For the 2002-03 school year, SED is reporting that teachers of core classes are highly qualified if they are certified to teach those classes. However, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) imposes requirements beyond certification for some teachers to be considered highly qualified. In future years, when New York State uses the NCLB criteria for reporting, certified teachers must fulfill all NCLB requirements to be counted as highly qualified.

2002–03 Percentage of Teachers with No Valid Teaching Certificate*

Number of Teachers	Percent with No Valid Teaching Certificate
29	17%

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

English Language Arts



		Counts of Students Tested				
Performance at This School	Level 1 455–602	Level 2 603–644	Level 3 645–691	Level 4 692–800	Total	Mean Score
Jan–Feb 2001	22	32	10	4	68	619
Jan–Feb 2002	5	28	15	6	54	639
Feb 2003	3	16	19	9	47	655

Elementa	Elementary-Level English Language Arts Levels — Listening, Reading, and Writing Standards		
Level 4	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.		

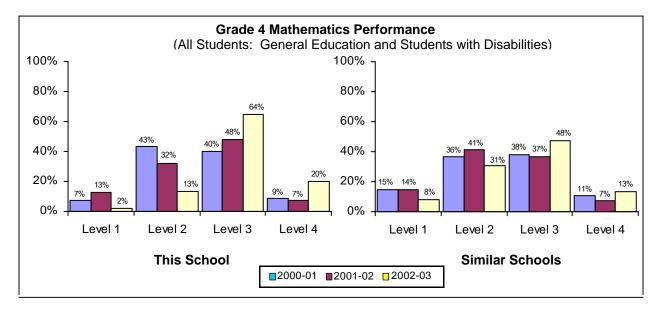
Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

Grade 4	Number Tested	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
2003	0	0	0	0	0

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

Elementary Level	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2002–03	0	0	0	0	0

Mathematics



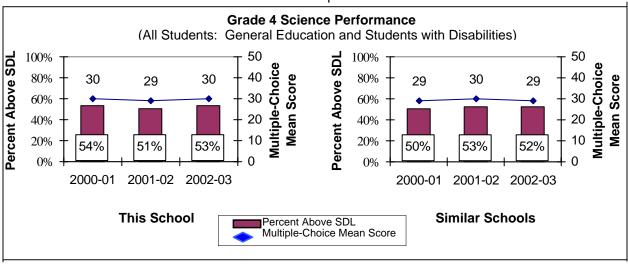
	Counts of Students Tested					
Performance at This School	Level 1 448–601	Level 2 602–636	Level 3 637–677	Level 4 678–810	Total	Mean Score
May 2001	5	29	27	6	67	637
May 2002	7	18	27	4	56	635
May 2003	1	6	29	9	45	662

	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	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2002–03	0	0	0	0	0

Science Multiple-Choice



All Students

	Number Tested	Number Above SDL	Mean Score
May 2001	67	36	30
May 2002	57	29	29
May 2003	45	24	30

Grade 4 Scien	Grade 4 Science — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards					
Multiple-Choice Test Component	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).					
State Designated Level (SDL)	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.					
School Mean Scores	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

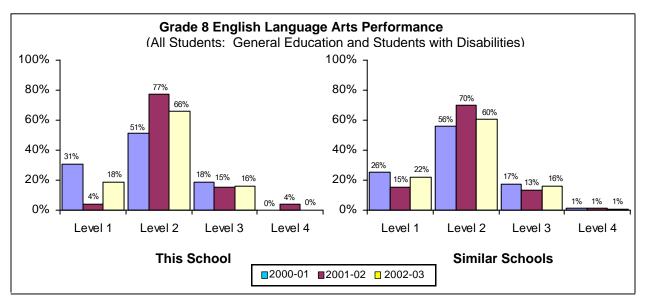
The elementary-level science test is composed of two sections, the multiple-choice section (described above) and the performance test. The performance test is not used to determine the need for academic intervention services or for accountability purposes because not all students are administered the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

All Students						
Number Tested Mean Score						
May 2001	66	31				
May 2002	55	31				
May 2003	42	33				

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

Elementary Level	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2002–03	0	0	0	0	0

English Language Arts



	Counts of Students Tested						
Performance at This School	Level 1 527–661	Level 2 662–700	Level 3 701–738	Level 4 739–830	Total	Mean Score	
May 2001	30	50	18	0	98	674	
	Level 1 527–659	Level 2 660–698	Level 3 699-737	Level 3 738-830	Total		
March 2002	2	41	8	2	53	682	
	Level 1 527–657	Level 2 658–696	Level 3 697–736	Level 4 737–830	Total		
January 2003	14	50	12	0	76	679	

Middle-L	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.				

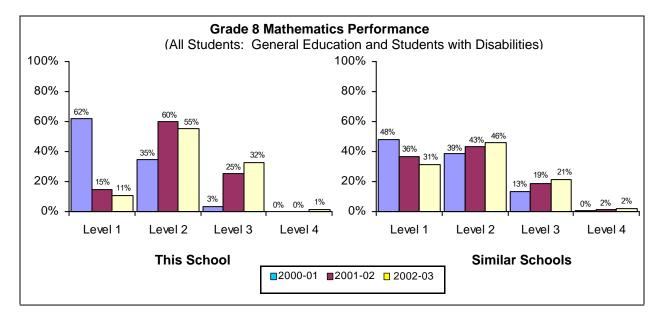
Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

Grade 8	Number Tested	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
2003	0	0	0	0	0

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

Grade 8	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA–Level 4
2002–03	0	0	0	0	0

Mathematics



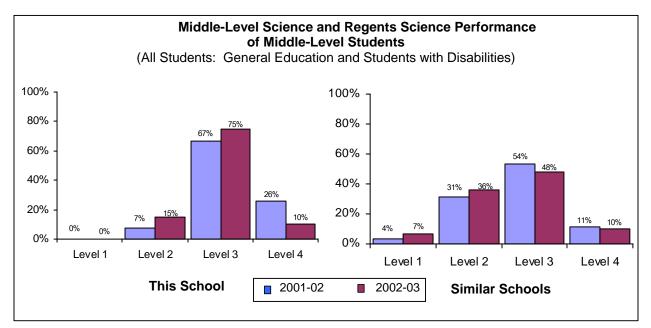
	Counts of Students Tested					
Performance at This School	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total	Mean Score
May 2001	61	34	3	0	98	665
May 2002	8	33	14	0	55	700
May 2003	8	41	24	1	74	708

Middle-L	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 L	evel	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2002–	03	0	0	0	0	0

Science



Performance at This School			Maan Caana				
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	Mean Score
June 2002	Middle-Level Science	0	4	36	14	54	76
June 2002	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/	Middle-Level Science	0	10	50	7	67	74
June 2003	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0

Middle-L	evel 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 <u>or</u> 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 <u>or</u> 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 <u>or</u> score 55–64 on a Regents science examination.
Level 1	These students have serious academic deficiencies 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.

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

Middle-Level	Number Tested	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2002–03	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 2002-03 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*.

English Language Arts

		<u> </u>	1–02	5		2002–03				
Student Subgroup	Percentages of Tested Tested Students Scoring at Levels				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%	1	S	S	S		
Black	31	87%	29%	3%	23	96%	48%	13%		
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	2	S	S	S		
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%		
White	23	96%	52%	22%	21	S	S	S		
Total	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	24	92%	71%	25%		
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	37	89%	43%	16%	34	100%	76%	26%		
Students with disabilities	17	94%	29%	0%	13	77%	15%	0%		
Total	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		
Results by Gender										
Female	27	96%	52%	19%	24	100%	71%	29%		
Male	27	85%	26%	4%	23	87%	48%	9%		
Total	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		
Results by English Proficiency	Status			•			•			
English proficient	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%		
Total	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	36	89%	25%	8%	41	93%	56%	20%		
Not disadvantaged	18	94%	67%	17%	6	100%	83%	17%		
Total	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%		
Not migrant family	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		
Total	54	91%	39%	11%	47	94%	60%	19%		

Mathematics

		200	1–02		2002–03				
Student Subgroup	Percentages of Tested Tested Students Scoring at Level				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%	1	s	S	S	
Black	30	87%	43%	3%	23	100%	83%	13%	
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	2	s	S	S	
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
White	26	88%	69%	12%	19	S	S	S	
Total	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	22	95%	86%	27%	
Results by Disability Status									
General-education students	38	95%	66%	11%	33	100%	85%	24%	
Students with disabilities	18	72%	33%	0%	12	92%	83%	8%	
Total	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	
Results by Gender					•		•	•	
Female	29	86%	48%	3%	22	100%	86%	18%	
Male	27	89%	63%	11%	23	96%	83%	22%	
Total	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	
Results by English Proficiency	Status				•		•	•	
English proficient	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Total	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	
Results by Income Level									
Economically disadvantaged	36	86%	50%	0%	38	97%	84%	18%	
Not disadvantaged	20	90%	65%	20%	7	100%	86%	29%	
Total	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	
Results by Migrant Status	•								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not migrant family	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	
Total	56	88%	55%	7%	45	98%	84%	20%	

Science Multiple-Choice

		01–02	20	02–03
Student Subgroup	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring above the SDL	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring above the SDL
Results by Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	1	S
Black	31	45%	23	48%
Hispanic	0	0%	2	S
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%
White	26	58%	19	S
Total	57	51%	45	53%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	22	59%
Results by Disability Status				
General-education students	38	50%	33	55%
Students with disabilities	19	53%	12	50%
Total	57	51%	45	53%
Results by Gender				
Female	30	63%	22	55%
Male	27	37%	23	52%
Total	57	51%	45	53%
Results by English Proficiency S	tatus			
English proficient	57	51%	45	53%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0	0%
Total	57	51%	45	53%
Results by Income Level				
Economically disadvantaged	37	38%	38	53%
Not disadvantaged	20	75%	7	57%
Total	57	51%	45	53%
Results by Migrant Status				
Migrant family	0	0%	0	0%
Not migrant family	57	51%	45	53%
Total	57	51%	45	53%

English I	Language	Arts
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		<u> </u>	1–02	0	2002–03				
Student Subgroup	Percentages of TestedTestedStudents Scoring at Levels				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	28	93%	11%	0%	31	s	S	s	
Hispanic	1	S	S	S	3	S	S	S	
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
White	24	S	S	S	42	83%	24%	0%	
Total	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	
Small Group Totals (s)	25	100%	28%	8%	34	79%	6%	0%	
Results by Disability Status									
General-education students	32	100%	31%	6%	54	96%	22%	0%	
Students with disabilities	21	90%	0%	0%	22	45%	0%	0%	
Total	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	
Results by Gender									
Female	26	96%	31%	8%	32	94%	19%	0%	
Male	27	96%	7%	0%	44	73%	14%	0%	
Total	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	
Results by English Proficiency	Status								
English proficient	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Total	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	
Results by Income Level									
Economically disadvantaged	40	95%	13%	3%	62	82%	16%	0%	
Not disadvantaged	13	100%	38%	8%	14	79%	14%	0%	
Total	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	
Results by Migrant Status									
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not migrant family	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	
Total	53	96%	19%	4%	76	82%	16%	0%	

Mathematics

		200	1–02		2002–03				
Student Subgroup	Percentages of TestedTestedStudents Scoring at Levels				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	30	83%	20%	0%	31	S	S	s	
Hispanic	1	S	S	S	2	S	S	S	
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
White	24	S	S	S	41	90%	49%	2%	
Total	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	
Small Group Totals (s)	25	88%	32%	0%	33	88%	15%	0%	
Results by Disability Status									
General-education students	33	76%	30%	0%	52	90%	42%	2%	
Students with disabilities	22	100%	18%	0%	22	86%	14%	0%	
Total	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	
Results by Gender			•	•					
Female	26	81%	19%	0%	33	94%	33%	0%	
Male	29	90%	31%	0%	41	85%	34%	2%	
Total	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	
Results by English Proficiency	Status		•	•			•		
English proficient	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Total	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	
Results by Income Level			•	•					
Economically disadvantaged	42	86%	21%	0%	60	90%	30%	2%	
Not disadvantaged	13	85%	38%	0%	14	86%	50%	0%	
Total	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	
Results by Migrant Status									
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not migrant family	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	
Total	55	85%	25%	0%	74	89%	34%	1%	

Science

		200	1–02		2002–03				
Student Subgroup	Percentages of Tested Tested Students Scoring at Levels				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	29	100%	86%	7%	27	S	S	S	
Hispanic	1	S	S	S	2	S	S	S	
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
White	24	S	S	S	38	100%	87%	16%	
Total	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	
Small Group Totals (s)	25	100%	100%	48%	29	100%	83%	3%	
Results by Disability Status			•	•	•		•		
General-education students	32	100%	94%	38%	49	100%	86%	12%	
Students with disabilities	22	100%	91%	9%	18	100%	83%	6%	
Total	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	
Results by Gender			•	•	•		•		
Female	26	100%	88%	31%	30	100%	83%	3%	
Male	28	100%	96%	21%	37	100%	86%	16%	
Total	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	
Results by English Proficiency Statu	JS								
English proficient	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Total	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	
Results by Income Level							•		
Economically disadvantaged	41	100%	90%	20%	55	100%	87%	9%	
Not disadvantaged	13	100%	100%	46%	12	100%	75%	17%	
Total	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	
Results by Migrant Status			•						
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not migrant family	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	
Total	54	100%	93%	26%	67	100%	85%	10%	

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 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 accountability cohort consists of all students who first entered grade 9 in the fall of 1998 who were enrolled on October 4, 2000). Certain students with severe disabilities, 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 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 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.

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. The United States Department of Education has approved the use of the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (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).

Similar Schools: Similar schools are schools that are grouped by common district and student demographic characteristics, including grade range of students served by the school, school district financial resources, and needs of the school student population. More information about similar school groups may be found on the Web at http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/repcrd2002/similar.html.

Student Confidentiality/Suppressed Data (# and s): To ensure student confidentiality, the Department does <u>not</u> 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.