## 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

Valley Stream North High School

in

Valley Stream Central High School District

March 2003

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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28-02-51-07-0002 April 10, 2003 2

Valley Stream North High School

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- 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 2003*, available at your school or 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: Dr. 7	Thomas Troisi	Phone: (516)564-5510		
Organization 2001–02		School Staff <sup>1</sup> (both full- and part-time)		
Grade Range	le Range Student Enrollment Count of Teachers		Count of Other Professionals	
7-12	1073	74	11	

2000–01 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$14,220
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Student Demographics	1999-	1999–2000 2		2000–2001		2001–2002	
Used To Determine Similar Schools Group	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
Limited English Proficient	92	10.2%	105	10.9%	134	12.5%	
Eligible for Free Lunch	18	2.0%	18	1.9%	28	2.6%	

Similar
<b>Schools</b>
Group

This school is in Similar Schools Group 54. All schools in this group are secondary level schools in school districts with low student needs in relation to district resource capacity. The schools in this group are in the higher range of student needs for secondary level schools in these districts.

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

Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
236	97%

<sup>\*</sup>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
75	1%

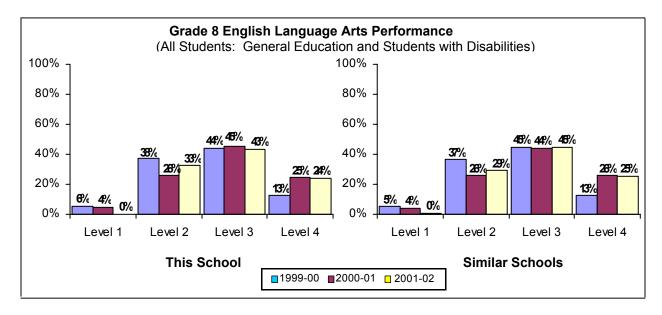
<sup>\*</sup>This count includes teachers with temporary licenses who do not have a valid permanent or provisional teaching certificate.

28-02-51-07-0002 Valley Stream North High School April 10, 2003

4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> District-employed staff who serve in more than one school are not included in these counts.

#### 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 2000	10	68	80	23	181	707
May 2001	7	41	72	39	159	716
	Level 1 527–659	Level 2 660–698	Level 3 699–737	Level 4 738–830	Total	
March 2002	0	59	77	43	179	716

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

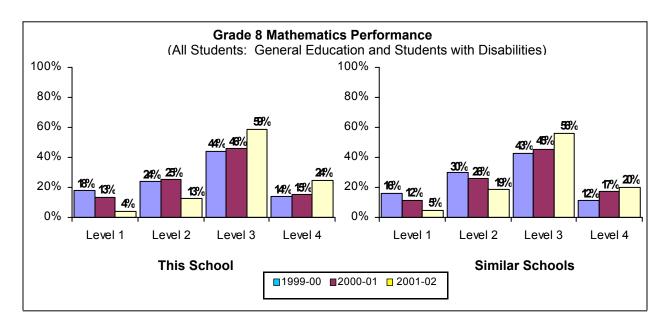
### Performance of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

Grade 8 English Proficiency Below Effective Participation Level		Making Appropriate Progress	
2002	14	0	

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

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

#### Mathematics



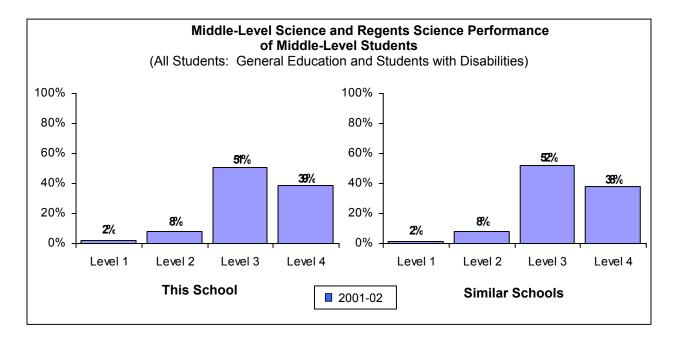
	Counts of Students Tested					
Performance at This School	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total	Mean Score
May 2000	34	46	83	27	190	720
May 2001	23	43	79	26	171	723
May 2002	8	25	113	47	193	739

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

## 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
2001–02	0	0	0	0	0

#### Science



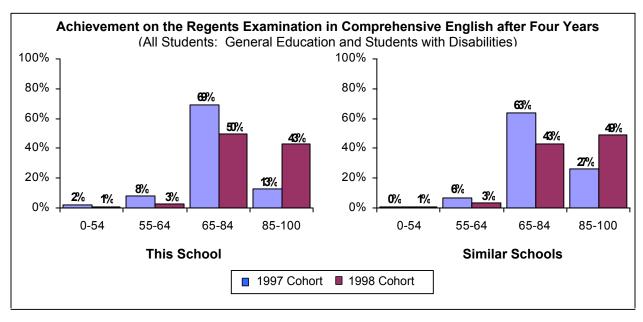
Dorform	ance at This School		Counts	of Students	Tested		Maan Saara
renomi	ance at This School	Level 1	Mean Score 76 85				
	Middle-Level Science	4	16	72	39	131	76
June 2002	Regents Science	0	0	26	36	62	85

Middle-L	evel Science Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards*
Level 4	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.
Level 3	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.
Level 2	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.
Level 1	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.

<sup>\*</sup>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.

## High School English Achievement after Four Years of Instruction

The graph and table below present performance of the 1997 and 1998 cohort members on the Regents English examination four years after entering grade 9. A score of 65 or above on this examination is considered passing. Only the highest score of each student is counted, regardless of how many times the student took the examination. In the graph, students passing approved alternatives to this examination are counted as scoring in the 65 to 84 range. In the table, the numbers of students who met the graduation requirement by passing an approved alternative or the Regents competency tests (RCTs) in reading and writing are listed separately. (RCT results are not included in the graph.) Students who score 55 to 64 on the Regents examination in comprehensive English may be given credit towards a local high school diploma if allowed by the district board of education.

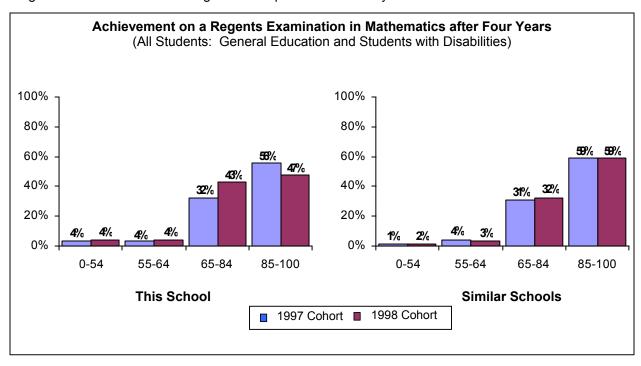


	<b>English Graduati</b>	on Requir	ement Achiev	ement after Fo	ur Years of Hig	gh School*	
	Student Category	Cohort Members	Highest Score Between 55 and 64	Highest Score Between 65 and 84	Highest Score Between 85 and 100	Approved Alternative Credit	Passed RCT
	General Education	97	7	67	14	0	0
1997 Cohort	Students w/ Disabilities	12	2	8	0	0	1
Conort	All Students	109	9	75	14	0	1
	General Education	121	2	57	58	0	0
1998 Cohort	Students w/ Disabilities	14	2	10	0	0	1
COHOIL	All Students	135	4	67	58	0	1

<sup>\*</sup>Assessments used to determine counts in this table include the Regents examination in comprehensive English, the component retest in English, the Regents competency tests in reading and writing, and approved alternatives.

## High School Mathematics Achievement after Four Years of Instruction

The graph and table below present performance of the 1997 and 1998 cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in mathematics. A score of 65 or above on a Regents examination in mathematics is considered passing. Only the highest score of each student is counted, regardless of how many times the student took the examination. In the graph, students passing approved alternatives to these examinations are counted as scoring in the 65 to 84 range. In the table, the numbers of students who met the graduation requirement by passing an approved alternative or the Regents competency test (RCT) in mathematics are listed separately. (RCT results are not included in the graph.) Students who score 55 to 64 on a Regents examination in mathematics may be given credit towards a local high school diploma if allowed by the district board of education.

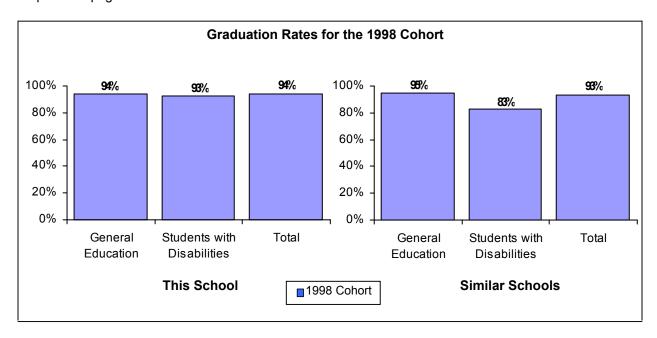


N	lathematics Gradu	ation Req	uirement Achi	evement after	Four Years of	High Scho	ol*
	Student Category	Cohort Members	Highest Score Between 55 and 64	Highest Score Between 65 and 84	Highest Score Between 85 and 100	Approved Alternative Credit	Passed RCT
	General Education	97	1	31	58	0	0
1997 Cohort	Students w/ Disabilities	12	3	4	3	0	0
Conort	All Students	109	4	35	61	0	0
4000	General Education	121	3	49	64	0	0
1998 Cohort	Students w/ Disabilities	14	2	9	0	0	2
Conort	All Students	135	5	58	64	0	2

<sup>\*</sup>Assessments used to determine counts in this table include Regents mathematics examinations, the component retest in mathematics, the Regents competency test in mathematics, and approved alternatives.

#### Graduation Rates for the 1998 Cohort

Students were counted as graduates if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement no later than June 2002. Additional students may have earned diplomas in August 2002. For the purpose of calculating graduation rate, students who transferred to GED programs were included in the count of students in the cohort. These students were not counted as cohort members for other purposes. Therefore, the count in the table below may be higher than the count of cohort members shown on previous pages.



Gradua	ation Rates for the 1998 Coho	ort
Student Category	Graduation Rate Cohort	Number of Graduates
General-education students	123	116
Students with disabilities	14	13
Total	137	129

### 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 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.

English Language Arts

			0-01	<del>5</del>		2001–02			
Student Subgroup	Tested	Perce	ntages of l s Scoring a		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	9	89%	78%	0%	12	100%	58%	33%	
Hispanic	10	80%	40%	0%	10	100%	80%	30%	
Asian or Pacific Islander	6	100%	67%	33%	10	100%	70%	0%	
White	134	97%	72%	28%	147	100%	67%	24%	
Total	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Results by Disability Status									
General-education students	139	97%	76%	27%	160	100%	73%	27%	
Students with disabilities	20	85%	25%	10%	19	100%	16%	0%	
Total	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Results by Gender									
Female	82	95%	76%	32%	81	100%	86%	37%	
Male	77	96%	64%	17%	98	100%	51%	13%	
Total	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Results by English Proficiency	Status								
English proficient	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Total	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Results by Income Level									
Economically disadvantaged	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not disadvantaged	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Total	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Results by Migrant Status									
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not migrant family	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	
Total	159	96%	70%	25%	179	100%	67%	24%	

#### Mathematics

		200	0-01					
Student Subgroup	Tested		ntages of 3 s Scoring a		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	11	82%	64%	0%	15	73%	53%	7%
Hispanic	16	50%	31%	6%	17	82%	53%	24%
Asian or Pacific Islander	10	90%	60%	30%	12	100%	100%	50%
White	134	91%	65%	16%	149	99%	88%	24%
Total	171	87%	61%	15%	193	96%	83%	24%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	152	89%	66%	16%	174	96%	86%	26%
Students with disabilities	19	63%	26%	5%	19	95%	53%	5%
Total	171	87%	61%	15%	193	96%	83%	24%
Results by Gender								
Female	90	84%	63%	13%	85	95%	87%	31%
Male	81	89%	59%	17%	108	96%	80%	19%
Total	171	87%	61%	15%	193	96%	83%	24%
Results by English Proficiency	Status							
English proficient	158	89%	64%	16%	180	98%	87%	26%
Limited English proficient	13	54%	31%	8%	13	62%	23%	8%
Total	171	87%	61%	15%	193	96%	83%	24%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	0	0%	0%	0%	2	S	S	S
Not disadvantaged	171	87%	61%	15%	191	S	S	S
Total	171	87%	61%	15%	193	96%	83%	24%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	171	87%	61%	15%	193	96%	83%	24%
Total	171	87%	61%	15%	193	96%	83%	24%

#### Science

	2001–02						
Student Subgroup	Tested	Perce Student	ntages of 1 s Scoring a	Tested at Levels			
		2–4	3–4	4			
Results by Race/Ethnicity							
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%			
Black	12	75%	58%	17%			
Hispanic	12	92%	58%	25%			
Asian or Pacific Islander	9	100%	89%	56%			
White	98	100%	91%	30%			
Total	131	97%	85%	30%			
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%			
Results by Disability Status							
General-education students	113	96%	88%	35%			
Students with disabilities	18	100%	61%	0%			
Total	131	97%	85%	30%			
Results by Gender		•	•	•			
Female	52	94%	81%	31%			
Male	79	99%	87%	29%			
Total	131	97%	85%	30%			
Results by English Proficiency Statu	us	•	•	•			
English proficient	118	100%	90%	32%			
Limited English proficient	13	69%	38%	8%			
Total	131	97%	85%	30%			
Results by Income Level		•	•	•			
Economically disadvantaged	2	s	s	s			
Not disadvantaged	129	S	S	s			
Total	131	97%	85%	30%			
Results by Migrant Status							
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%			
Not migrant family	131	97%	85%	30%			
Total	131	97%	85%	30%			

### 1997 and 1998 High School Cohorts

General-education students who first entered ninth grade in 1997 or 1998 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 Department did not collect data for the 1997 cohort aggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, income level, or migrant status. It did not collect mathematics data aggregated by English proficiency status.

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

			97 Col		, ,g., C		1998 Cohort					
		Cour	t of St	udents				unt of Students		Percent		
			by Sco	re	Meeting	Students		by Scor	e e	Meeting		
Student Subgroup	Students	Reg	ents	Pass-	Gradu-	in	Reg	ents	Pass-	Gradua-		
	in Cohort	55-	65-	ed	ation	Cohort	55-	65-	ed	tion Require-		
		64	100	RCTs	Require- ment		64	100	RCTs	ment		
Results by Race/Ethnicity					mont	<u> </u>			<u> </u>	mont		
American Indian/Alaskan Native						0	0	0	0	0%		
Black						13	0	12	0	92%		
Hispanic						14	0	13	0	93%		
Asian or Pacific Islander						8	1	7	0	100%		
White						100	3	93	1	97%		
Total						135	4	125	1	96%		
Small Group Totals (s)						0	0	0	0	0%		
Results by Disability Status												
General-education students	97	7	81	0	91%	121	2	115	0	97%		
Students with disabilities	12	2	8	1	92%	14	2	10	1	93%		
Total	109	9	89	1	91%	135	4	125	1	96%		
Results by Gender												
Female						56	1	54	0	98%		
Male						79	3	71	1	95%		
Total						135	4	125	1	96%		
Results by English Proficiency	/ Status											
English proficient	104	7	88	1	92%	122	2	116	1	98%		
Limited English proficient	5	2	1	0	60%	13	2	9	0	85%		
Total	109	9	89	1	91%	135	4	125	1	96%		
Results by Income Level												
Economically disadvantaged						2	S	S	S	s		
Not disadvantaged						133	S	S	S	s		
Total						135	4	125	1	96%		
Results by Migrant Status												
Migrant family						0	0	0	0	0%		
Not migrant family						135	4	125	1	96%		
Total						135	4	125	1	96%		

28-02-51-07-0002 April 10, 2003 15

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

10					,	riigh 30				
			97 Col					998 Coh		
				udents	Percent			nt of Stu		Percent
0, 1, 4, 6, 1			by Sco	re	Meeting	Students		by Scor	e	Meeting
Student Subgroup	Students	Reg	ents	Pass-	Gradu-	in	Regents		Pass-	Gradua-
	in Cohort	55-	65–	ed	ation	Cohort	55-	65-	ed	tion
		64	100	RCTs	Require- ment		64	100	RCTs	Require- ment
Results by Race/Ethnicity					ment					ment
American Indian/Alaskan Native						0	0	0	0	0%
Black						13	2	10	0	92%
Hispanic						14	1	10	0	79%
Asian or Pacific Islander						8	0	8	0	100%
White						100	2	94	2	98%
Total						135	5	122	2	96%
Small Group Totals (s)						0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	97	1	89	0	93%	121	3	113	0	96%
Students with disabilities	12	3	7	0	83%	14	2	9	2	93%
Total	109	4	96	0	92%	135	5	122	2	96%
Results by Gender										
Female						56	2	52	0	96%
Male						79	3	70	2	95%
Total						135	5	122	2	96%
Results by English Proficiency	/ Status									
English proficient						122	4	113	2	98%
Limited English proficient						13	1	9	0	77%
Total						135	5	122	2	96%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged						2	S	S	S	S
Not disadvantaged						133	S	S	S	S
Total						135	5	122	2	96%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family						0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family						135	5	122	2	96%
Total						135	5	122	2	96%

#### Graduation Rates for the 1998 Cohort

Students were counted as graduates if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement no later than June 2002. Additional students may have earned diplomas in August 2002. For the purpose of calculating graduation rate, students who transferred to GED programs were included in the count of students in the cohort. These students were not counted as cohort members for other purposes. Therefore, the count in the table below may be higher than the count of cohort members shown on previous pages.

Student Subgroup	Graduation Rate Cohort	Graduation Rate
Results by Race/Ethnicity		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%
Black	13	92%
Hispanic	14	93%
Asian or Pacific Islander	8	100%
White	102	94%
Total	137	94%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%
Results by Disability Status		
General-education students	123	94%
Students with disabilities	14	93%
Total	137	94%
Results by Gender	·	
Female	57	93%
Male	80	95%
Total	137	94%
Results by English Proficiency S	Status	
English proficient	124	95%
Limited English proficient	13	85%
Total	137	94%
Results by Income Level		
Economically disadvantaged	2	s
Not disadvantaged	135	S
Total	137	94%
Results by Migrant Status		
Migrant family	0	0%
Not migrant family	137	94%
Total	137	94%

#### 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).

**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 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.