### 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

Poughkeepsie High School

in

Poughkeepsie City School District

February 2004

#### 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
ROBERT M. JOHNSON, B.S., J.D.	Huntington
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
JUDITH O. RUBIN, A.B.	New York
JAMES R. TALLON, JR., B.A., M.A.	Binghamton
MILTON L. COFIELD, B.S., M.B.A., Ph.D.	Rochester

#### President of The University and Commissioner of Education

RICHARD P. MILLS

#### Deputy Commissioner for Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education

JAMES A. KADAMUS

#### **Coordinator, School Operations and Management Services**

CHARLES SZUBERLA

#### **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 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: 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: Robert Murphy	Phone: (845)451-4850			
Organization Grade Range		Student Enrollment		
2002–03	9-12	1119		

2001-02 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$12,945
--	----------

Similar
<b>Schools</b>
Group

This school is in Similar Schools Group 45. All schools in this group are secondary level schools in urban or suburban school districts with high student needs in relation to district resources. The schools in this group are in the higher range of student needs for secondary level 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
227	90%

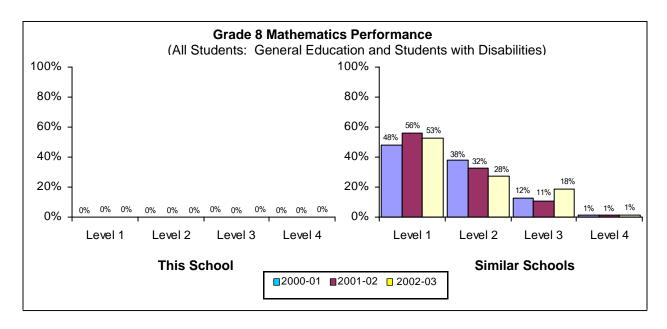
<sup>\*</sup>For the 2002-03 school year, SED is reporting that teachers of core classes are highly qualified if they are certified to teach those classes. However, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) imposes requirements beyond certification for some teachers to be considered highly qualified. In future years, 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
84	4%

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

#### Mathematics



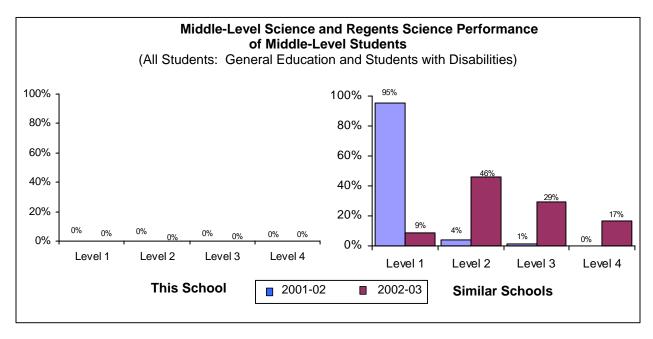
Counts of Students Tested							
Performance at This School	Level 1 517–680	Total					
May 2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	
May 2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	
May 2003	#	#	#	#	1	#	

Middle-Level Mathematics Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards					
Level 4	Level 4 These students exceed the standards 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 Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Mathematics

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

Science



Perform	ance at This School	Counts of Students Tested					Maan Saara		
renomi	ance at This School	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	Mean Score		
June 2002	Middle-Level Science	0	0	0	0	0	0		
June 2002	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0		
January/	Middle-Level Science	#	#	#	#	1	#		
June 2003	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Middle-L	Middle-Level 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.					

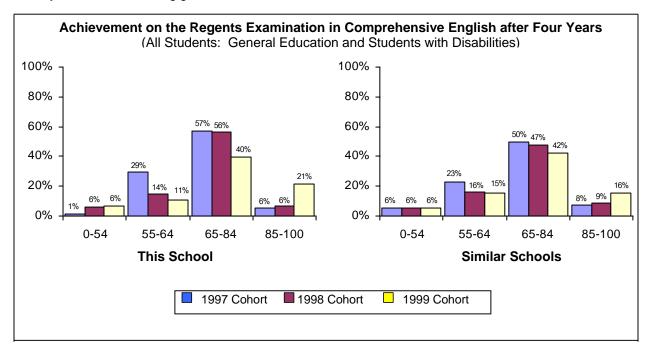
<sup>\*</sup>Students may demonstrate proficiency in middle-level science by scoring at Level 3 or above on the middle-level science test or by scoring 65 or above on a Regents examination in science.

## 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

#### High School English Achievement after Four Years of Instruction

The graph and table below present performance of the 1997, 1998, and 1999 cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in English. A score of 65 or above on the Regents comprehensive examination in English 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. RCT results are not included in the graph. In the first table, the numbers of students who met the graduation requirement by passing an approved alternative are listed separately. The second table shows the competency test performance of students with disabilities eligible for the safety net who did not score 55 or above on a Regents examination or approved alternative. 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. The data in these tables and chart show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.



	English Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*											
	Cohort Members Highest Score Between 0 and 54 Highest Score Between 55 and 64 Highest Score Between 85 and 100 Alternative Applications    Highest Score Between 65 and 84 Between 85 and 100 Alternative Applications    Highest Score Between 85 and 100 Alternative Applications											
1997 Cohort	143	2	42	82	8	0						
1998 Cohort	187	11	27	105	12	0						
1999 Cohort	201	13	22	80	43	0						

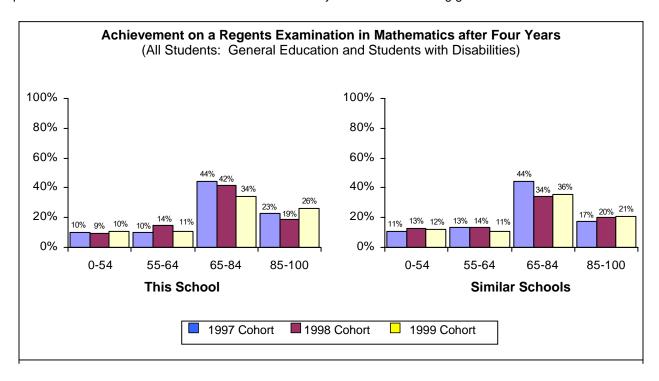
<sup>\*</sup>Assessments used to determine counts in this table include the Regents examination in comprehensive English, the component retest in English, and approved alternatives.

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							
1997 Cohort	0	4							
1998 Cohort	0	0							
1999 Cohort	6	1							

<sup>\*</sup>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 graph and table below present performance of the 1997, 1998, and 1999 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. RCT results are not included in the graph. In the first table, the numbers of students who met the graduation requirement by passing an approved alternative are listed separately. The second table shows the competency test performance of students with disabilities eligible for the safety net who did not score 55 or above on a Regents examination or approved alternative. 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. The data in these tables and chart show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.



	Mathematics Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*												
	Cohort Members Highest Scor		Highest Score	Highest Score	Highest Score	Approved							
	All Students	Between 0 and 54	Between 55 and 64	Between 65 and 84	Between 85 and 100	Alternative Credit							
1997 Cohort	143	14	14	60	33	3							
1998 Cohort	187	17	27	78	35	0							
1999 Cohort	201	21	22	69	52	0							

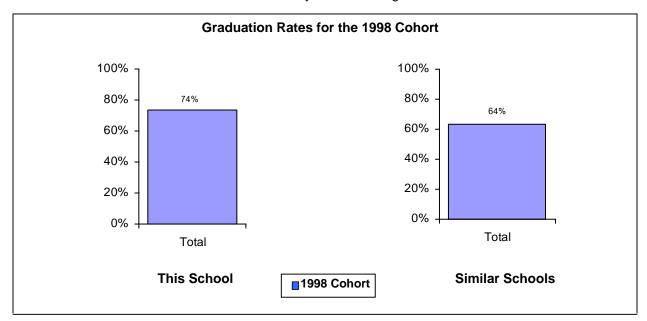
<sup>\*</sup>Assessments used to determine counts in this table include a Regents examination in mathematics, the component retest in mathematics and approved alternatives.

Performance of Students Who Took the Regents Competency Test in Mathematics to Meet the Graduation Requirement*								
	Passed the RCT	Failed at Least One RCT						
1997 Cohort	11	0						
1998 Cohort	10	1						
1999 Cohort	21	1						

<sup>\*</sup>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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 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	185	1	186	137					

<sup>\*</sup>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 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*.

#### Mathematics

		200	01–02		2002–03				
Student Subgroup	Tested		entages of 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	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	S	S	
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
White	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	S	S	
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S	
Results by Disability Status									
General-education students	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S	
Students with disabilities	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	S	S	
Results by Gender									
Female	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S	
Male	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S	
Results by English Proficiency	Status								
English proficient	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S	
Limited English proficient	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	S	S	
Results by Income Level									
Economically disadvantaged	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	
Not disadvantaged	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S	
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S	
Results by Migrant Status									
Migrant family	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S	
Not migrant family	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S	
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S	

#### Science

			1–02			200	2–03	
Student Subgroup	Tested		entages of seconds	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	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	S	S
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	S	S
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S
Students with disabilities	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	S	s
Results by Gender								
Female	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S
Male	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S
Results by English Proficiency State	us							
English proficient	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S
Limited English proficient	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S
Not disadvantaged	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	S	S	S	0	S	S	S
Not migrant family	0	S	S	S	1	S	S	S
Total	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S

#### 1998 and 1999 High School Cohorts

General-education students who first entered ninth grade in 1998 or 1999 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 30<sup>th</sup> of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.

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

		hort	g c	1999 Cohort						
		Count of Students			Percent		Count of Students			Percent
		by Score		Meeting	Students		by Scor	e	Meeting	
Student Subgroup	Students	Reg	ents	Pass-	Gradu-	in	Reg	ents	Pass-	Gradua-
	in Cohort	55– 64	65– 100	ed RCTs	ation Require- ment	Cohort	55– 64	65– 100	ed RCTs	tion Require- ment
Results by Race/Ethnicity										
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Black	123	22	72	0	76%	124	15	70	6	73%
Hispanic	22	S	S	S	S	14	S	S	S	S
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	S	s	S	S	1	S	s	S	S
White	41	2	35	0	90%	62	4	47	0	82%
Total	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%
Small Group Totals (s)	23	3	10	0	57%	15	3	6	0	60%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	171	24	110	0	78%	166	18	113	0	79%
Students with disabilities	16	3	7	0	63%	35	4	10	6	57%
Total	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%
Results by Gender										
Female	89	15	57	0	81%	103	13	69	3	83%
Male	98	12	60	0	73%	98	9	54	3	67%
Total	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%
Results by English Proficiency	/ Status									
English proficient	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%
Limited English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	25	5	6	1	48%
Not disadvantaged	187	27	117	0	77%	176	17	117	5	79%
Total	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%
Total	187	27	117	0	77%	201	22	123	6	75%

March 18, 2004

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

		nort		1999 Cohort						
		Cour	t of St	udents	Percent		Count of Students			Percent
	Students	by Score		Meeting	Students	by Score			Meeting	
Student Subgroup	in	Reg	ents	Pass-	Gradu-	in	Reg	ents	Pass-	Gradua-
	Cohort	55-	65–	ed	ation	Cohort	55-	65-	ed	tion
		64	100	<b>RCTs</b>	Require- ment		64	100	RCTs	Require- ment
Results by Race/Ethnicity					ment					mem
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Black	123	21	68	8	79%	124	16	65	17	79%
Hispanic	22	S	S	S	s	14	S	S	S	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	S	S	S	S	1	S	s	S	s
White	41	0	35	2	90%	62	3	49	2	87%
Total	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%
Small Group Totals (s)	23	6	10	0	70%	15	3	7	2	80%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	171	26	111	0	80%	166	20	111	3	81%
Students with disabilities	16	1	2	10	81%	35	2	10	18	86%
Total	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%
Results by Gender										
Female	89	14	50	3	75%	103	13	68	5	83%
Male	98	13	63	7	85%	98	9	53	16	80%
Total	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%
Results by English Proficiency	Status									
English proficient	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%
Limited English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	25	3	9	5	68%
Not disadvantaged	187	27	113	10	80%	176	19	112	16	84%
Total	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%
Total	187	27	113	10	80%	201	22	121	21	82%

#### **Cohort Graduation Rates**

Students were counted as graduates in the first two columns of this table if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the fourth year after first entering grade 9 and in the second two columns if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement by August 31<sup>st</sup> 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 school accountability cohort for English and mathematics.

	June 30, 2002 Graduation Graduation Grad		1998 Coh August	
Student Subgroup			Graduation Rate Cohort	Graduation Rate
Results by Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%
Black	123	73%	122	74%
Hispanic	22	S	22	S
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	S	1	S
White	41	83%	41	83%
Total	187	74%	186	74%
Small Group Totals (s)	23	61%	23	57%
Results by Disability Status				
General-education students	171	77%	167	78%
Students with disabilities	16	44%	19	37%
Total	187	74%	186	74%
Results by Gender				
Female	89	80%	89	80%
Male	98	68%	97	68%
Total	187	74%	186	74%
Results by English Proficiency S	tatus			
English proficient	187	74%	186	74%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0	0%
Total	187	74%	186	74%
Results by Income Level				
Economically disadvantaged	0	0%	2	S
Not disadvantaged	187	74%	184	S
Total	187	74%	186	74%
Results by Migrant Status				
Migrant family	0	0%	0	0%
Not migrant family	187	74%	186	74%
Total	187	74%	186	74%

#### **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 40<sup>th</sup> 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.