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

Hughes Academic Magnet School

in

Syracuse City School District

March 2003

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

Chief Operating Officer

RICHARD H. CATE

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

42-18-00-01-0025 April 10, 2003 2

Hughes Academic Magnet 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: Brian Pulvino Phone: (315)435-4404					
Organizatio 2001–02	n	School Staff ¹ (bot	th full- and part-time)		
Grade Range Student Enrollment		Count of Teachers	Count of Other Professionals		
K-8	764	73	17		

2000–01 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$10,784
--	----------

Student Demographics	1999–2000		2000–2001		2001–2002	
Used To Determine Similar Schools Group	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Limited English Proficient	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Eligible for Free Lunch	480	60.8%	506	68.0%	501	65.6%

Similar
Schools
Group

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

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

Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
127	82%

^{*}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*

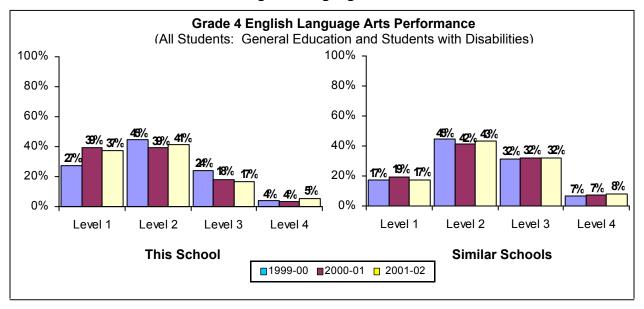
Number of Teachers	Percent No Valid Teaching Certificate
67	1%

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

42-18-00-01-0025 Hughes Academic Magnet School April 10, 2003

¹ 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 1 455–602	Level 2 603–644	Level 3 645–691	Level 4 692–800	Total	Mean Score
Jan-Feb 2000	28	46	25	4	103	624
Jan-Feb 2001	33	33	15	3	84	612
Jan-Feb 2002	29	32	13	4	78	620

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

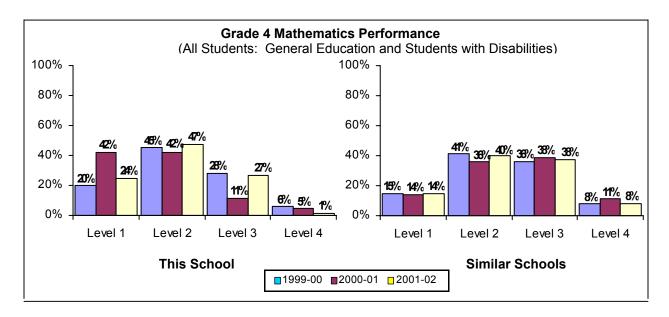
Performance of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

Grade 4	English Proficiency Below Effective Participation Level	Making Appropriate Progress
2002	0	0

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

	Number Tested	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2001–02	3	#	#	#	#

Mathematics



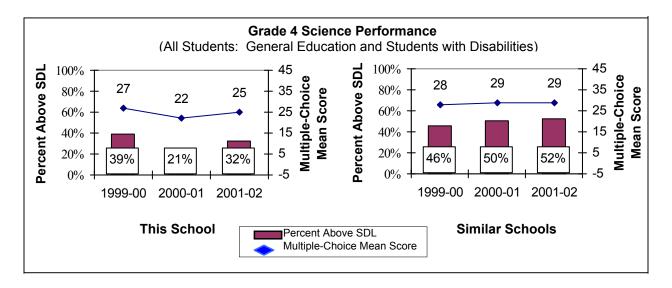
	Counts of Students Tested					
Performance at This School	Level 1 448–601	Level 2 602–636	Level 3 637–677	Level 4 678–810	Total	Mean Score
May 2000	20	45	28	6	99	625
May 2001	34	34	9	4	81	606
May 2002	19	37	21	1	78	618

	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 Elementary-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	3	#	#	#	#

Science Multiple-Choice



All Students

	Number Tested	Number Above SDL	Mean Score
May 2000	103	40	27
May 2001	84	18	22
May 2002	74	24	25

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

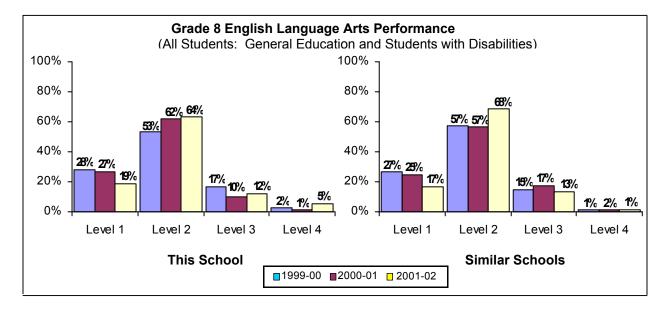
Science Performance Test

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 2000	98	24
May 2001	84	21
May 2002	73	23

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	23	44	14	2	83	677
May 2001	19	44	7	1	71	675
	Level 1 527–659	Level 2 660–698	Level 3 699–737	Level 4 738–830	Total	
March 2002	14	47	9	4	74	677

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.					

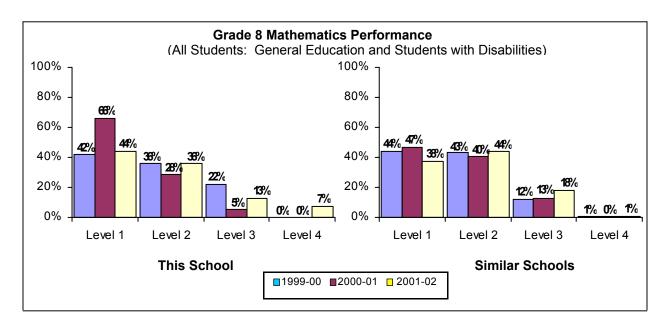
Performance of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

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

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

	Number Tested	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4
2001–02	0	0	0	0	0

Mathematics



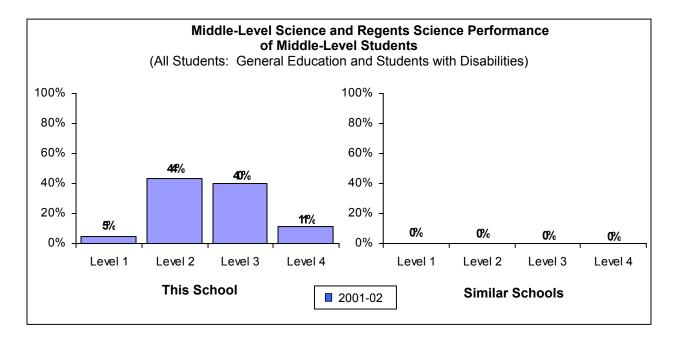
	Counts of Students Tested					
Performance at This School	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total	Mean Score
May 2000	35	30	18	0	83	687
May 2001	49	21	4	0	74	667
May 2002	31	25	9	5	70	689

${\it Middle-Level \ Mathematics \ Levels - Knowledge, \ Reasoning, \ and \ Problem-Solving \ Standards}$				
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 Middle-Level Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Mathematics, Science, and Technology

	Number Tested		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		Mean Score
renomi	ance at This School	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	Mean Score
June 2002	Middle-Level Science	3	27	25	7	62	67
June 2002	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.

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

			10-01			200	1–02	
Student Subgroup	Tested Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested			ges of Tested coring at Levels	
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	61	61%	20%	0%	59	59%	20%	7%
Hispanic	3	s	s	s	4	s	s	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	20	S	S	S	15	S	S	S
Total	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%
Small Group Totals (s)	23	61%	26%	13%	19	74%	26%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	62	73%	29%	5%	64	70%	27%	6%
Students with disabilities	22	27%	0%	0%	14	29%	0%	0%
Total	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%
Results by Gender								
Female	41	66%	34%	5%	36	61%	25%	6%
Male	43	56%	9%	2%	42	64%	19%	5%
Total	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%
Results by English Proficiency	Status							
English proficient	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	67	57%	13%	1%	67	64%	22%	4%
Not disadvantaged	17	76%	53%	12%	11	55%	18%	9%
Total	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%
Total	84	61%	21%	4%	78	63%	22%	5%

Mathematics

		200	0-01			200	1–02	
Student Subgroup	Tested	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	60	57%	13%	0%	60	73%	25%	2%
Hispanic	3	S	S	S	4	S	s	S
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	18	S	S	S	14	S	S	S
Total	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%
Small Group Totals (s)	21	62%	24%	19%	18	83%	39%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	59	68%	19%	7%	65	78%	34%	2%
Students with disabilities	22	32%	9%	0%	13	62%	0%	0%
Total	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%
Results by Gender								
Female	39	64%	21%	8%	36	75%	31%	3%
Male	42	52%	12%	2%	42	76%	26%	0%
Total	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%
Results by English Proficiency	Status							
English proficient	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	64	55%	13%	2%	64	80%	30%	2%
Not disadvantaged	17	71%	29%	18%	14	57%	21%	0%
Total	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%
Total	81	58%	16%	5%	78	76%	28%	1%

Science Multiple-Choice

	2000	-01	200	1–02
Student Subgroup	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring above the SDL	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring above the SDL
Results by Race/Ethnicity		l l		I
American Indian/Alaskan Native			0	0%
Black			57	32%
Hispanic			4	S
Asian or Pacific Islander			0	0%
White			13	S
Total			74	32%
Small Group Totals (s)			17	35%
Results by Disability Status				
General-education students	61	28%	61	38%
Students with disabilities	23	4%	13	8%
Total	84	21%	74	32%
Results by Gender				
Female			35	26%
Male			39	38%
Total			74	32%
Results by English Proficiency	Status			
English proficient			74	32%
Limited English proficient			0	0%
Total			74	32%
Results by Income Level				
Economically disadvantaged			63	35%
Not disadvantaged			11	18%
Total			74	32%
Results by Migrant Status				
Migrant family			0	0%
Not migrant family			74	32%
Total			74	32%

English Language Arts

			10-01			200	1–02	
Student Subgroup	Tested	Percentages of 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	55	71%	9%	0%	49	84%	14%	2%
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	2	s	S	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
White	16	81%	19%	6%	23	S	S	S
Total	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	25	76%	24%	12%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	52	83%	15%	2%	62	90%	21%	6%
Students with disabilities	19	47%	0%	0%	12	33%	0%	0%
Total	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%
Results by Gender								
Female	37	73%	14%	3%	35	89%	14%	11%
Male	34	74%	9%	0%	39	74%	21%	0%
Total	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%
Results by English Proficiency	Status							
English proficient	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	45	71%	11%	2%	51	76%	12%	2%
Not disadvantaged	26	77%	12%	0%	23	91%	30%	13%
Total	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%
Total	71	73%	11%	1%	74	81%	18%	5%

Mathematics

		200	0-01			200	1–02		
Student Subgroup	Tested	Percentages of Tested Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested			ges of Tested coring 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	55	29%	4%	0%	47	53%	15%	4%	
Hispanic	0	0%	0%	0%	2	S	S	S	
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
White	19	47%	11%	0%	21	S	S	S	
Total	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	23	61%	30%	13%	
Results by Disability Status									
General-education students	51	47%	8%	0%	60	58%	23%	8%	
Students with disabilities	23	4%	0%	0%	10	40%	0%	0%	
Total	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	
Results by Gender			•	•				•	
Female	37	38%	5%	0%	36	50%	19%	11%	
Male	37	30%	5%	0%	34	62%	21%	3%	
Total	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	
Results by English Proficiency	Status		•	•				•	
English proficient	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Total	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	
Results by Income Level							•		
Economically disadvantaged	46	26%	2%	0%	49	55%	16%	4%	
Not disadvantaged	28	46%	11%	0%	21	57%	29%	14%	
Total	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	
Results by Migrant Status									
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not migrant family	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	
Total	74	34%	5%	0%	70	56%	20%	7%	

Science

	2001–02					
Student Subgroup	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Leve				
		2–4	3–4	4		
Results by Race/Ethnicity						
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%		
Black	41	93%	49%	5%		
Hispanic	2	s	s	s		
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%		
White	19	S	S	S		
Total	62	95%	52%	11%		
Small Group Totals (s)	21	100%	57%	24%		
Results by Disability Status						
General-education students	53	94%	58%	13%		
Students with disabilities	9	100%	11%	0%		
Total	62	95%	52%	11%		
Results by Gender						
Female	29	93%	52%	14%		
Male	33	97%	52%	9%		
Total	62	95%	52%	11%		
Results by English Proficiency State	us					
English proficient	62	95%	52%	11%		
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%		
Total	62	95%	52%	11%		
Results by Income Level						
Economically disadvantaged	45	96%	47%	7%		
Not disadvantaged	17	94%	65%	24%		
Total	62	95%	52%	11%		
Results by Migrant Status						
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%		
Not migrant family	62	95%	52%	11%		
Total	62	95%	52%	11%		

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 40th 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.