

**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
Dr Antonia Pantoja Community School Of Academic Excellence
in
Buffalo City School District**

April 2006

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 *Accountability Status Report*. The *Overview and Analysis* presents performance data on measures required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act: English, mathematics, science, and graduation rate. Performance data on other State assessments can be found in the *Comprehensive Information Report*. The *Accountability Status Report* provides information as to whether a school is making adequate progress toward enabling all students to achieve proficiency in English and mathematics.

State assessments are designed to help ensure that all students reach high learning standards. They show whether students are getting the foundation knowledge they need to succeed at the elementary, middle, and commencement levels and beyond. The State requires that students who are not making appropriate progress toward the standards receive academic intervention services.

In the *Overview*, performance on the elementary- and middle-level assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science is reported in terms of mean scores and the percentage of students scoring at each of the four levels. These levels indicate performance on the standards from seriously deficient to advanced proficiency. Regents examination scores are reported in four score ranges. Scores of 65 to 100 are passing; scores of 55 to 64 earn credit toward a local diploma (with the approval of the local board of education). Though each elementary- and middle-level assessment is administered to students in a specific grade, secondary-level assessments are taken by students when they complete the coursework for the core curriculum. Therefore, the performance of students at the secondary level is measured for a student cohort rather than a group of students at a particular grade level. Students are grouped in cohorts according to the year in which they first entered grade 9.

The assessment data in the *Overview and Analysis* are for all tested students in the school, including general-education students and students with disabilities. In the *Overview*, each school's performance is compared with that of schools similar in grade level, district resources, and student needs as indicated by income and limited English proficiency (LEP) status. Each district's performance is compared with that of all public schools statewide. In the *Analysis*, performance is disaggregated by race/ethnicity, disability status, gender, LEP status, income level, and migrant status.

Explanations of terms referred to or symbols used in this part of the school report card may be found in the glossary on the last page. Further information on the school report card may be found in the guide, *Understanding Your School Report Card: April 2006*, 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: Valarie Kent		Phone: (716)816-3160
Organization 2004–05	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
	PK-8	544

2003–04 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$14,048
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Similar Schools Group	This school is in Similar Schools Group 6. 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 higher range of student needs for elementary level schools in these districts.
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2004–05 Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers*

Total Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
108	92%

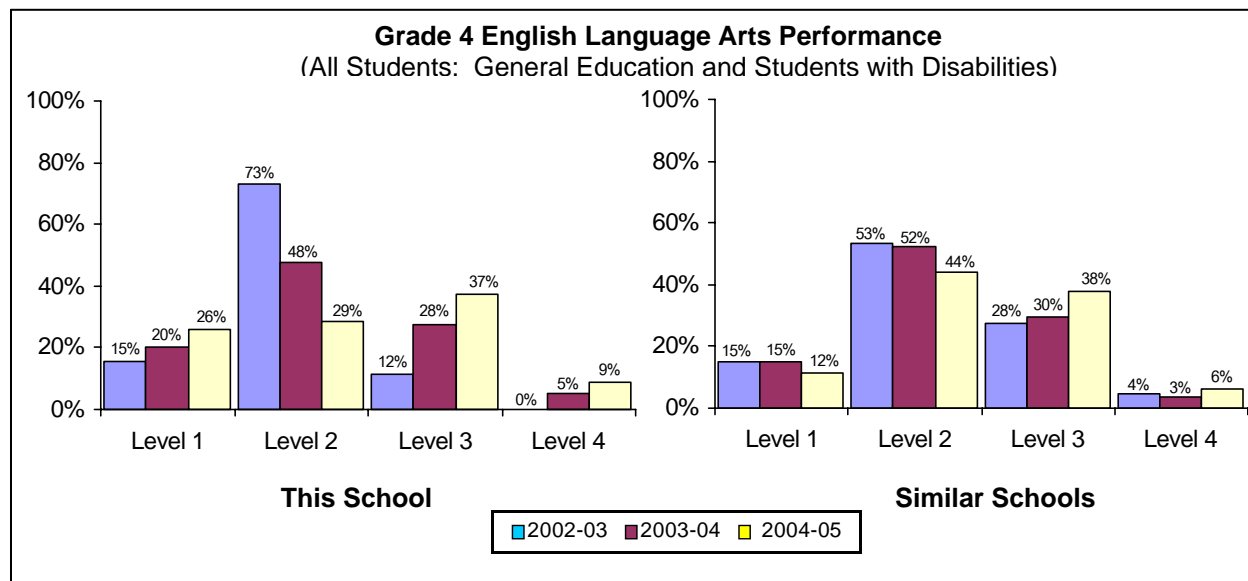
*To meet the federal definition of "highly qualified," public school teachers of core academic subjects must have at least a bachelor's degree and be State certified for and demonstrate subject matter competency in the core academic subject(s) they teach.

2004–05 Teachers with No Valid Teaching Certificate*

Total Number of Teachers	Percent with No Valid Teaching Certificate
43	0%

*Includes teachers with a modified temporary license.

Elementary Level English Language Arts



Percentages less than 0.51 will appear as zero because of rounding.

Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 455–602	Level 2 603–644	Level 3 645–691	Level 4 692–800	Total Tested	
Feb 2003	8	38	6	0	52	621
Feb 2004	8	19	11	2	40	630
Feb 2005	9	10	13	3	35	636

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 .

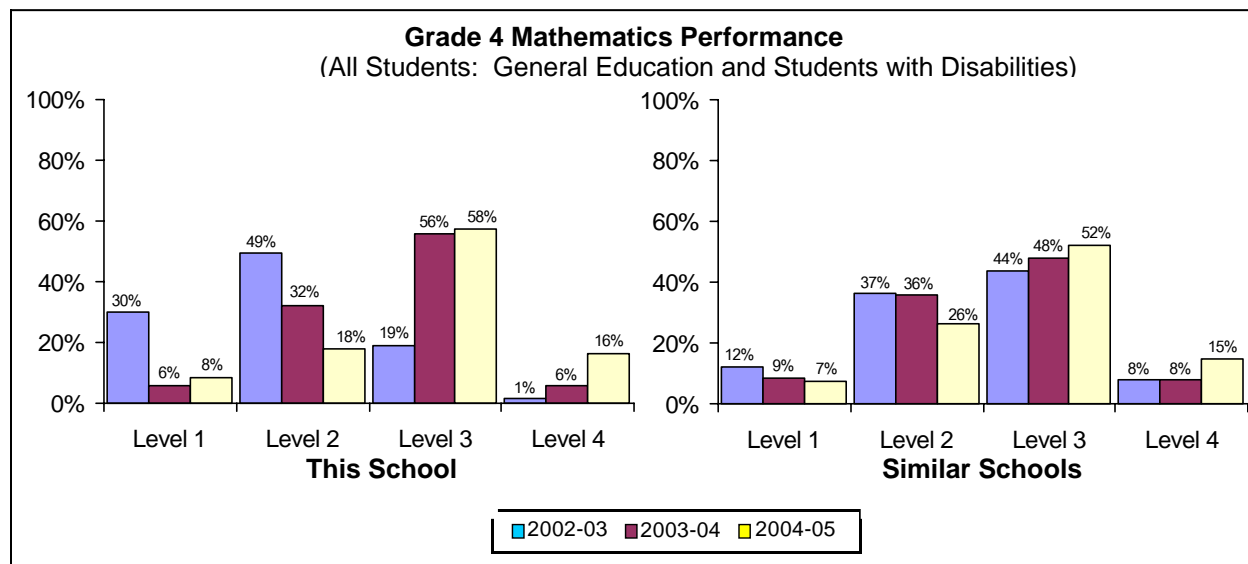
Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

Grade 4	Level 1	Level 2	Levels 3 & 4	Total Tested
2005	14	6	15	35

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

Elementary Level	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4	Total Tested
2004–05	0	0	0	0	0

Elementary Level Mathematics



Percentages less than 0.51 will appear as zero because of rounding.

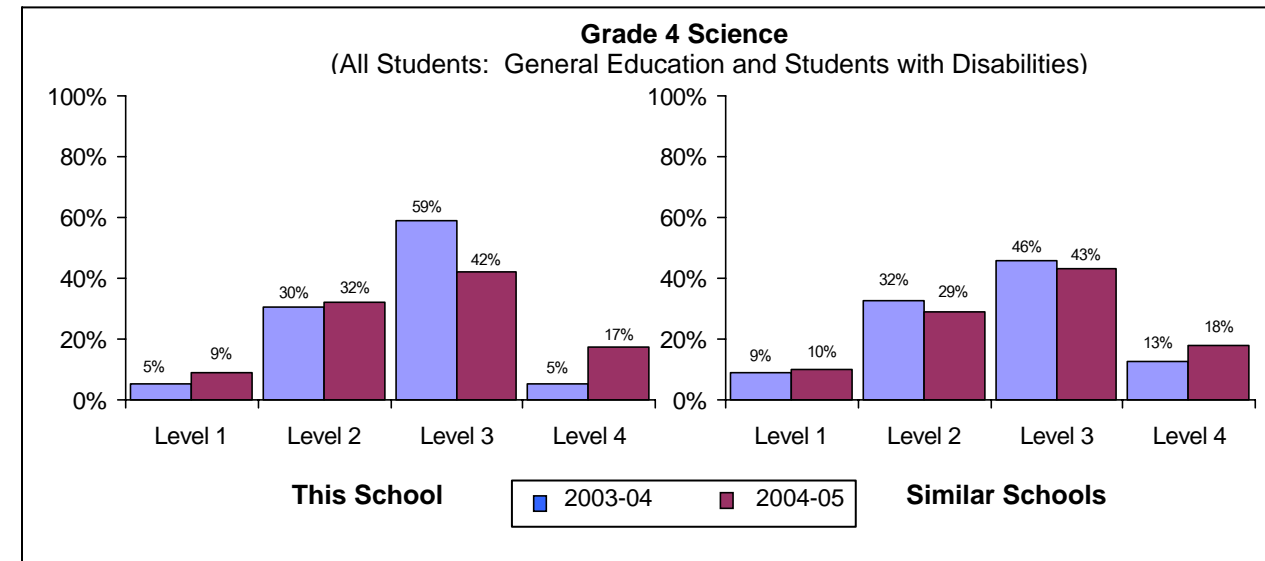
Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 448–601	Level 2 602–636	Level 3 637–677	Level 4 678–810	Total Tested	
May 2003	22	36	14	1	73	616
May 2004	4	22	38	4	68	641
May 2005	6	13	42	12	73	651

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	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4	Total Tested
2004–05	0	0	0	0	0

Elementary Level Science*



Percentages less than 0.51 will appear as zero because of rounding.

Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 0–44	Level 2 45–64	Level 3 65–84	Level 4 85–100	Total Tested	
May 2004	3	17	33	3	56	67
May 2005	6	22	29	12	69	68

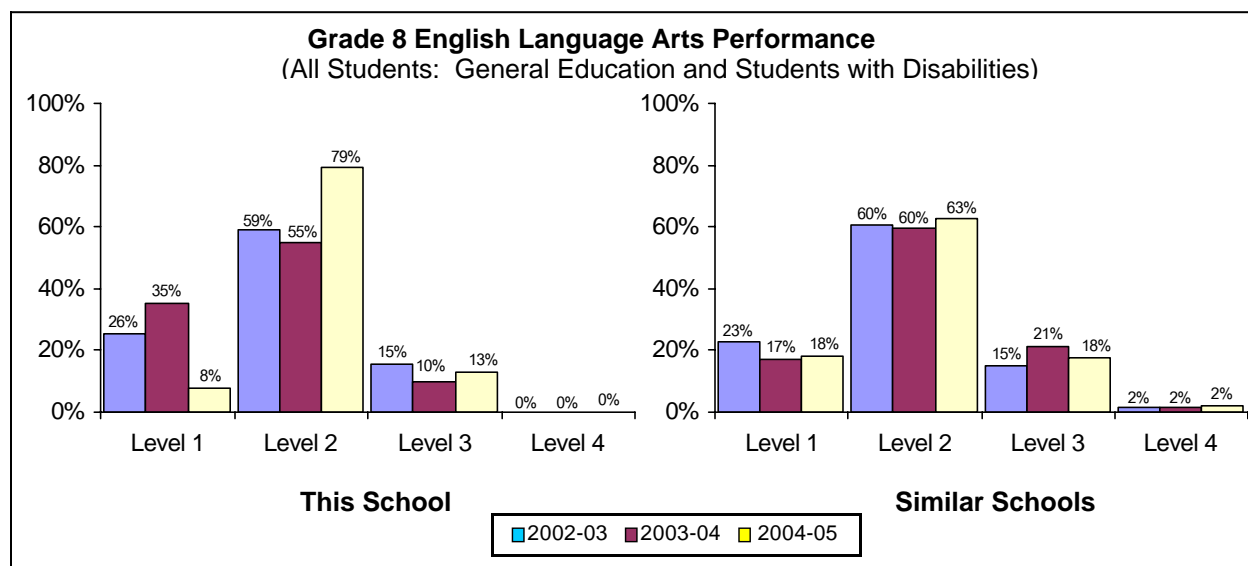
Elementary-Level Science Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards	
Level 4	These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
Level 3	These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.
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 Science

Elementary Level	AA-Level 1	AA-Level 2	AA-Level 3	AA-Level 4	Total Tested
2004–05	0	0	0	0	0

*Only two years of data are shown because a new assessment in elementary-level science was administered for the first time in 2003–04.

Middle Level English Language Arts



Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 527–657	Level 2 658–696	Level 3 697–736	Level 4 737–830	Total Tested	
January 2003	10	23	6	0	39	669
January 2004	25	39	7	0	71	668
January 2005	4	42	7	0	53	678

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

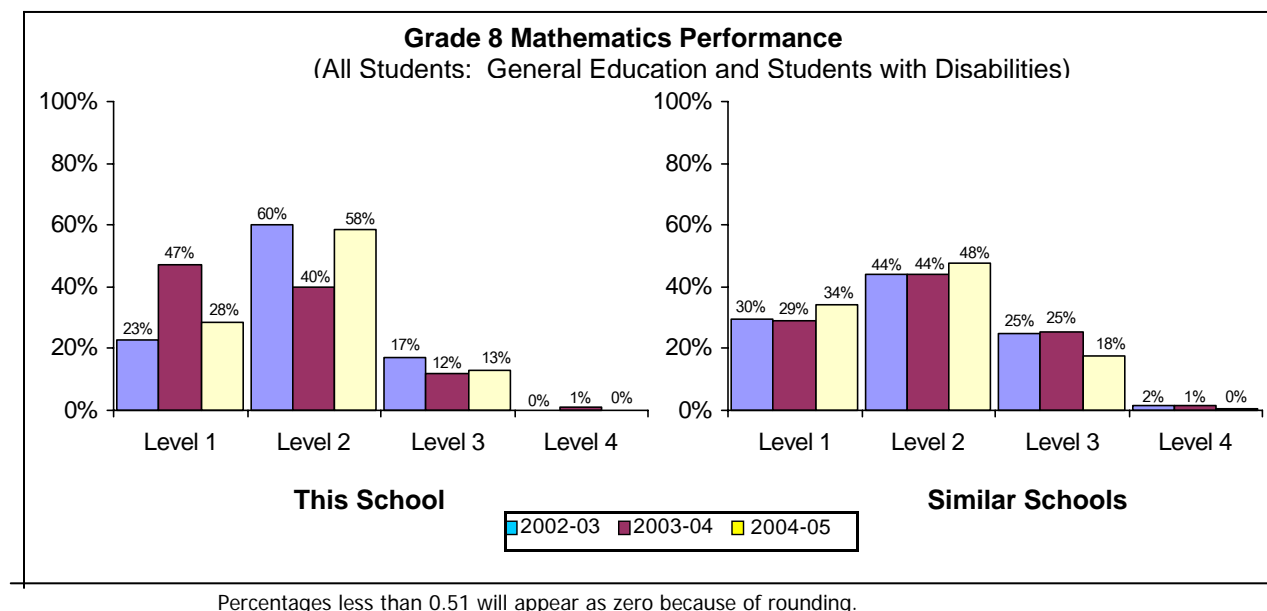
Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

Grade 8	Level 1	Level 2	Levels 3 & 4	Total Tested
2005	#	#	#	4

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

Middle Level	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2004–05	0	0	0	0	0

Middle Level Mathematics



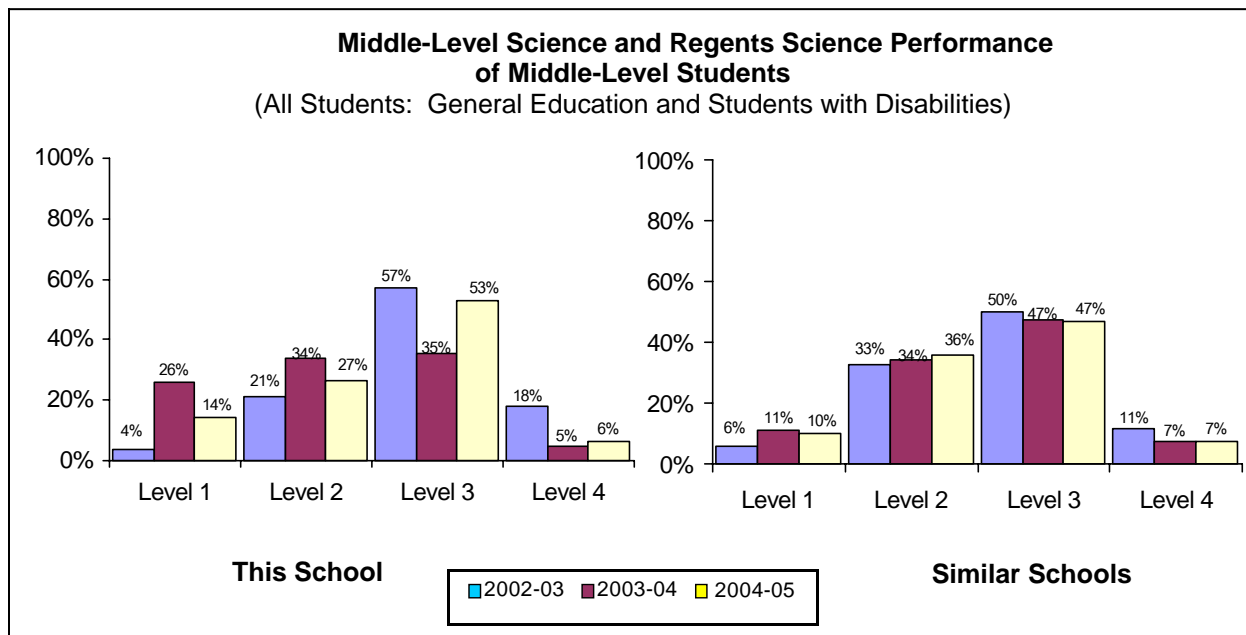
Performance at This School	Counts of Students					Mean Score
	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total Tested	
May 2003	8	21	6	0	35	696
May 2004	40	34	10	1	85	675
May 2005	15	31	7	0	53	692

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

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

Middle Level	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2004–05	0	0	0	0	0

Middle Level Science



Performance at This School		Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Tested	
January/ June 2003	Middle-Level Science	1	6	16	5	28	71
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2004	Middle-Level Science	17	22	23	3	65	58
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2005	Middle-Level Science	7	13	26	3	49	65
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0

Middle-Level Science Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards*	
Level 4	These students exceed the standards on the middle-level science test and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examinations <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	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4	Total Tested
2004–05	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 2004–05 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*.

Elementary Level

English Language Arts

Student Subgroup	2003–04				2004–05			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	8	75%	13%	0%	9	56%	33%	0%
Hispanic	23	78%	30%	4%	21	76%	43%	14%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
White	5	s	s	s	5	100%	80%	0%
Total	40	80%	33%	5%	35	74%	46%	9%
Small Group Totals (s)	9	89%	56%	11%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	29	86%	41%	7%	22	95%	68%	14%
Students with disabilities	11	64%	9%	0%	13	38%	8%	0%
Total	40	80%	33%	5%	35	74%	46%	9%
Results by Gender								
Female	12	100%	42%	8%	16	94%	63%	19%
Male	28	71%	29%	4%	19	58%	32%	0%
Total	40	80%	33%	5%	35	74%	46%	9%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	32	88%	34%	6%	29	83%	52%	10%
Limited English proficient	8	50%	25%	0%	6	33%	17%	0%
Total	40	80%	33%	5%	35	74%	46%	9%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	35	83%	31%	3%	28	79%	43%	7%
Not disadvantaged	5	60%	40%	20%	7	57%	57%	14%
Total	40	80%	33%	5%	35	74%	46%	9%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	40	80%	33%	5%	35	74%	46%	9%
Total	40	80%	33%	5%	35	74%	46%	9%

Elementary Level Mathematics

Student Subgroup	2003–04				2004–05			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	13	92%	46%	0%	12	75%	50%	0%
Hispanic	46	93%	63%	4%	55	95%	76%	20%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
White	5	s	s	s	6	100%	100%	17%
Total	68	94%	62%	6%	73	92%	74%	16%
Small Group Totals (s)	9	100%	78%	22%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	49	96%	71%	4%	43	98%	79%	19%
Students with disabilities	19	89%	37%	11%	30	83%	67%	13%
Total	68	94%	62%	6%	73	92%	74%	16%
Results by Gender								
Female	26	96%	65%	4%	34	91%	76%	12%
Male	42	93%	60%	7%	39	92%	72%	21%
Total	68	94%	62%	6%	73	92%	74%	16%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	37	97%	54%	5%	31	94%	87%	23%
Limited English proficient	31	90%	71%	6%	42	90%	64%	12%
Total	68	94%	62%	6%	73	92%	74%	16%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	54	96%	63%	7%	55	96%	78%	15%
Not disadvantaged	14	86%	57%	0%	18	78%	61%	22%
Total	68	94%	62%	6%	73	92%	74%	16%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	1	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Not migrant family	67	s	s	s	71	s	s	s
Total	68	94%	62%	6%	73	92%	74%	16%

Elementary Level Science

	2003–04				2004–05			
Student Subgroup	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2-4	3-4	4		2-4	3-4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	11	91%	45%	0%	9	89%	44%	33%
Hispanic	37	95%	68%	3%	54	91%	57%	13%
Asian or Pacific Islander	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
White	4	s	s	s	6	100%	100%	33%
Total	56	95%	64%	5%	69	91%	59%	17%
Small Group Totals (s)	8	100%	75%	25%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	40	98%	70%	3%	40	93%	63%	25%
Students with disabilities	16	88%	50%	13%	29	90%	55%	7%
Total	56	95%	64%	5%	69	91%	59%	17%
Results by Gender								
Female	20	100%	60%	0%	32	84%	63%	22%
Male	36	92%	67%	8%	37	97%	57%	14%
Total	56	95%	64%	5%	69	91%	59%	17%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	32	100%	66%	6%	28	100%	79%	39%
Limited English proficient	24	88%	63%	4%	41	85%	46%	2%
Total	56	95%	64%	5%	69	91%	59%	17%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	46	98%	65%	7%	54	93%	63%	17%
Not disadvantaged	10	80%	60%	0%	15	87%	47%	20%
Total	56	95%	64%	5%	69	91%	59%	17%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	2	s	s	s
Not migrant family	56	95%	64%	5%	67	s	s	s
Total	56	95%	64%	5%	69	91%	59%	17%

Middle Level

English Language Arts

Student Subgroup	2003–04				2004–05			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Black	19	68%	0%	0%	16	94%	6%	0%
Hispanic	36	64%	11%	0%	25	92%	16%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s	3	s	s	s
White	13	s	s	s	8	s	s	s
Total	71	65%	10%	0%	53	92%	13%	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	16	63%	19%	0%	12	92%	17%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	53	74%	11%	0%	48	94%	13%	0%
Students with disabilities	18	39%	6%	0%	5	80%	20%	0%
Total	71	65%	10%	0%	53	92%	13%	0%
Results by Gender								
Female	31	65%	6%	0%	29	100%	10%	0%
Male	40	65%	13%	0%	24	83%	17%	0%
Total	71	65%	10%	0%	53	92%	13%	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	58	71%	10%	0%	47	91%	15%	0%
Limited English proficient	13	38%	8%	0%	6	100%	0%	0%
Total	71	65%	10%	0%	53	92%	13%	0%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	56	63%	7%	0%	39	95%	18%	0%
Not disadvantaged	15	73%	20%	0%	14	86%	0%	0%
Total	71	65%	10%	0%	53	92%	13%	0%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	4	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Not migrant family	67	s	s	s	52	s	s	s
Total	71	65%	10%	0%	53	92%	13%	0%

Middle Level Mathematics

Student Subgroup	2003–04				2004–05			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Black	21	57%	10%	0%	17	71%	12%	0%
Hispanic	47	53%	15%	0%	23	65%	9%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s	3	s	s	s
White	14	s	s	s	9	s	s	s
Total	85	53%	13%	1%	53	72%	13%	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	17	47%	12%	6%	13	85%	23%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	66	61%	15%	2%	48	75%	15%	0%
Students with disabilities	19	26%	5%	0%	5	40%	0%	0%
Total	85	53%	13%	1%	53	72%	13%	0%
Results by Gender								
Female	39	46%	13%	3%	29	69%	3%	0%
Male	46	59%	13%	0%	24	75%	25%	0%
Total	85	53%	13%	1%	53	72%	13%	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	60	58%	17%	2%	44	77%	16%	0%
Limited English proficient	25	40%	4%	0%	9	44%	0%	0%
Total	85	53%	13%	1%	53	72%	13%	0%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	58	53%	17%	2%	37	78%	19%	0%
Not disadvantaged	27	52%	4%	0%	16	56%	0%	0%
Total	85	53%	13%	1%	53	72%	13%	0%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	8	50%	13%	0%	1	s	s	s
Not migrant family	77	53%	13%	1%	52	s	s	s
Total	85	53%	13%	1%	53	72%	13%	0%

Middle Level

Science

Student Subgroup	2003–04				2004–05			
	Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Black	17	82%	35%	6%	14	86%	57%	7%
Hispanic	35	69%	46%	6%	22	77%	55%	5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1	s	s	s	3	s	s	s
White	11	s	s	s	9	s	s	s
Total	65	74%	40%	5%	49	86%	59%	6%
Small Group Totals (s)	13	77%	31%	0%	13	100%	69%	8%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	53	74%	43%	6%	46	s	s	s
Students with disabilities	12	75%	25%	0%	3	s	s	s
Total	65	74%	40%	5%	49	86%	59%	6%
Results by Gender								
Female	31	68%	35%	0%	26	81%	46%	0%
Male	34	79%	44%	9%	23	91%	74%	13%
Total	65	74%	40%	5%	49	86%	59%	6%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	50	82%	42%	6%	41	90%	63%	7%
Limited English proficient	15	47%	33%	0%	8	63%	38%	0%
Total	65	74%	40%	5%	49	86%	59%	6%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	47	77%	36%	6%	35	89%	66%	9%
Not disadvantaged	18	67%	50%	0%	14	79%	43%	0%
Total	65	74%	40%	5%	49	86%	59%	6%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	5	80%	80%	20%	1	s	s	s
Not migrant family	60	73%	37%	3%	48	s	s	s
Total	65	74%	40%	5%	49	86%	59%	6%

Glossary

Accountability Cohort: An accountability cohort is all students, regardless of grade status, who were enrolled in school on BEDS day two years after the year in which they first entered grade 9, or, in the case of ungraded students with disabilities, the year in which they reached their seventeenth birthday. (For example, the 2001 accountability cohort consists of all students who first entered grade 9 in the fall of 2001 who were enrolled on October 8, 2003). Certain students are not included in the school accountability cohort. Cohort is defined in Section 100.2 (p) (16) of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Component Retests: Component retests were offered in Regents English and Mathematics A to certain students who were at risk of not meeting the State learning standards. Component retesting is the process by which a student who has failed a Regents examination in English or Mathematics A twice is retested only on the areas of the learning standards in which the student has been proven deficient. Component retesting eliminates the need for the student to retake the full Regents examination multiple times. Students who earn credit through component retesting are counted as if they scored in the 55–64 range or in the 65–84 range on the Regents examination, as determined by the component retest results.

Counts of Students Tested: "Counts of Students Tested" includes only students who completed sufficient test questions to receive a score.

Graduation-Rate Cohort: Graduation-rate cohort for each year includes all students in the accountability cohort in the previous year plus all students excluded from that accountability cohort solely because they transferred to a general education development (GED) program.

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students: Schools provide special English instruction to students for whom English is a second language so they can participate effectively in the academic program. Beginning in 2003–04, students are considered LEP if, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, they speak a language other than English and (1) either understand and speak little or no English or (2) score below a state-designated level of proficiency on the Language Assessment Battery-Revised (LAB-R) or the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). The United States Department of Education has approved the use of the NYSESLAT as the required measure of language arts proficiency for LEP students in grades 4 and 8 who have attended school in the United States (not including Puerto Rico) for fewer than three consecutive years and for LEP students who have attended for four or five years and have received an exemption from the general assessment requirement.

New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA): The district Committee on Special Education designates students with severe cognitive disabilities who meet criteria established in Commissioner's Regulations to take the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

Student Confidentiality/Suppressed Data (# and s): To ensure student confidentiality, the Department does *not* publish data for groups with fewer than five students or data that would allow readers to easily determine the performance of a group with fewer than five students. In the *Overview*, the pound character (#) appears when fewer than five students in a group were tested. In the *Analysis*, when fewer than five students in a group (e.g., Hispanic) were tested, percentages of tested students scoring at various levels are suppressed for that group and the next smallest group. Suppressed data are indicated with an (s). However, the performance of tested students in these groups is aggregated and shown in the Small Group Total row.

Validity and Reliability of Small Group Data: It is important that programmatic decisions are based on valid and reliable data. Data for fewer than 30 students in a group may be neither valid nor reliable. If a school does not have 30 students in a grade or a subgroup in a given year, the school should evaluate results for students in this group over a period of years to make programmatic decisions.