### 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

North Syracuse Junior High School

in

North Syracuse Central School District

April 2006

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

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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: Constance Turose		Phone: (315)218-3600
Organization	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
2004–05	8-9	1834

2003-04 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$11,143
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Similar
<b>Schools</b>
Group

This school is in Similar Schools Group 32. All schools in this group are middle level schools in school districts with average student needs in relation to district resource capacity. The schools in this group are in the middle range of student needs for middle level schools in these districts.

#### 2004-05 Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers\*

Total Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
456	99%

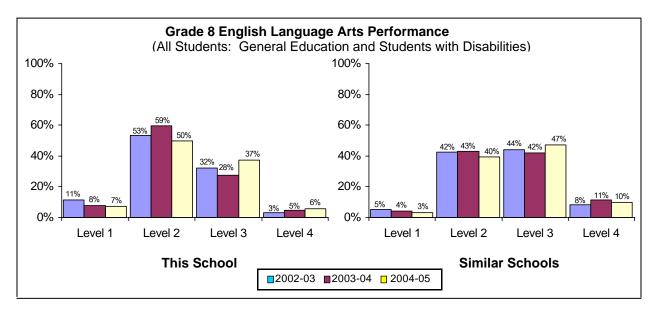
<sup>\*</sup>To meet the federal definition of "highly qualified," public school teachers of core academic subjects must have at least a bachelor's degree and be State certified for and demonstrate subject matter competency in the core academic subject(s) they teach.

#### 2004-05 Teachers with No Valid Teaching Certificate\*

Total Number of Teachers	Percent with No Valid Teaching Certificate
133	2%

<sup>\*</sup>Includes teachers with a modified temporary license.

#### **English Language Arts**



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

Doufourness of	Counts of Students					
Performance at This School	Level 1 527–657	Level 2 658–696	Level 3 697–736	Level 4 737–830	Total Tested	Mean Score
January 2003	87	414	252	26	779	688
January 2004	71	528	246	43	888	691
January 2005	61	432	321	51	865	695

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

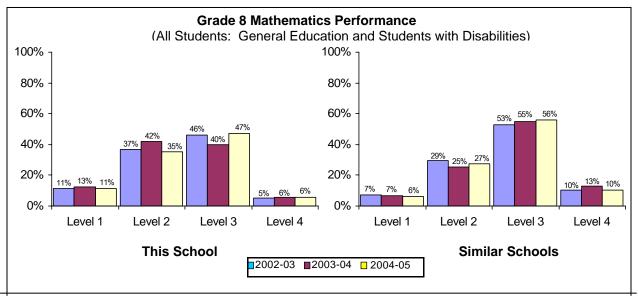
Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

Grade 8	Level 1	Level 2	Levels 3 & 4	Total Tested
2005	0	0	0	0

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	#	#	#	#	4

#### **Mathematics**



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

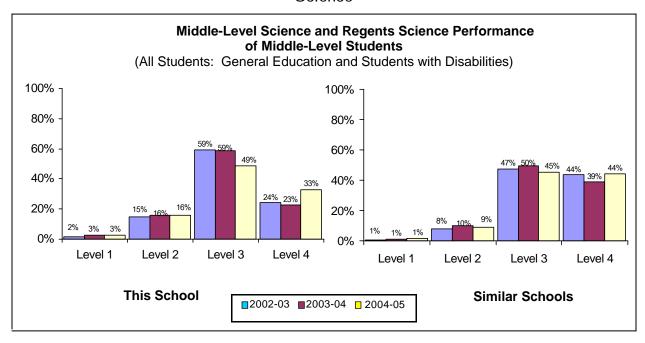
Dorformonos et	Counts of Students					
Performance at This School	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total Tested	Mean Score
May 2003	87	287	359	42	775	715
May 2004	109	363	345	51	868	711
May 2005	97	302	403	49	851	716

Middle-L	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	Level 3 These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.		
Level 2	Level 2 These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.		
Level 1	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	#	#	#	#	4

Science



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

Dorform	Performance at This School		Counts of Students Tested						
Terrormance at This School		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Tested	Mean Score		
January/	Middle-Level Science	11	93	370	152	626	76		
June 2003	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0		
January/	Middle-Level Science	20	119	438	169	746	75		
June 2004	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0		
January/	Middle-Level Science	21	131	398	224	774	76		
June 2005	Regents Science	0	0	2	46	48	94		

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.

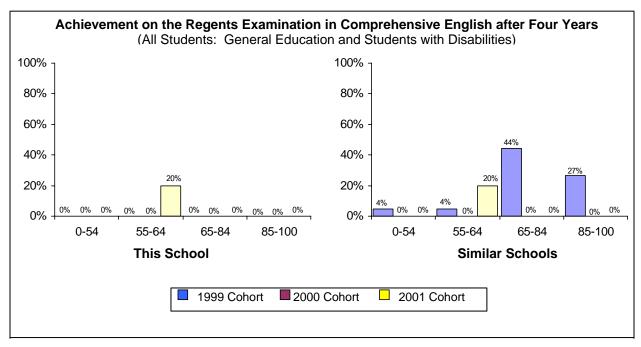
<sup>\*</sup>Students may demonstrate proficiency in middle-level science by scoring at Level 3 or above on the middle-level science test or by scoring 65 or above on a Regents examination in science.

## 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	#	#	#	#	4

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

The graphs and tables below present performance of the 1999, 2000, and 2001 school accountability cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in English. 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. The data in these tables and charts show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.



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

	English Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*											
	Cohort Members Highest Score Highest Score Between 0 and 54 Between 55 and 64 Between 65 and 84 Between 85 and 100 Alternative Cre											
1999 Cohort	5	0	0	0	0	0						
2000 Cohort	2	#	#	#	#	#						
2001 Cohort	5	0	1	0	0	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.

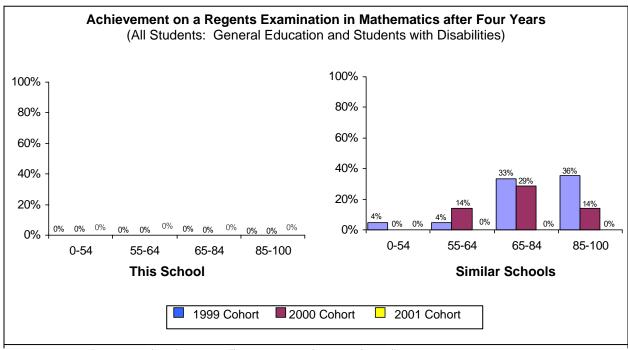
Performance of Students Who Took the Regents Competency Tests in Reading and Writing to Meet the Graduation Requirement*									
	Passed the RCTs Failed RCT in Reading								
	1 dosed the NOTS	and/or Writing							
1999 Cohort	0	0							
2000 Cohort	#	#							
2001 Cohort	0	0							

<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.

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

The graphs and tables below present performance of the 1999, 2000, and 2001 school accountability cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in mathematics. 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. The data in these tables and charts show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.



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

I	Mathematics Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*											
	Cohort Members											
	All Students	Between 0 and 54	Between 55 and 64	Between 65 and 84	Between 85 and 100	Alternative Credit						
1999 Cohort	5	0	0	0	0	0						
2000 Cohort	2	#	#	#	#	#						
2001 Cohort	5	0	0	0	0	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.

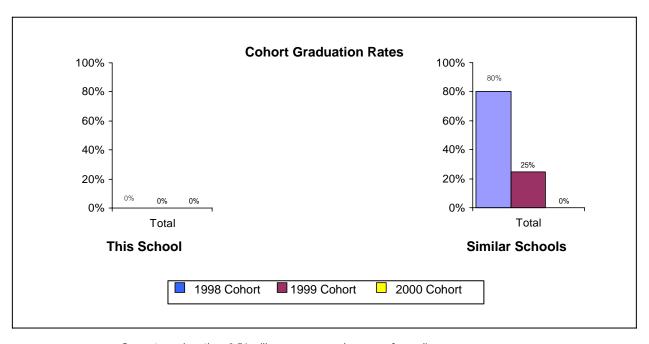
Performance of Students Who Took the Regents Competency Test in Mathematics to Meet the Graduation Requirement*									
	Passed the RCT Failed at Least One RCT								
1999 Cohort	0	0							
2000 Cohort	#	#							
2001 Cohort	1	0							

<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.

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#### **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, 1999, and 2000 school accountability cohorts for English and mathematics.



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

	Cohort Graduation Rates										
	Cohort Members* (a)	Transfers to GED (b)	Graduation Rate Cohort Members (a+b)	Number Graduated							
1998 Cohort	7	0	7	0							
1999 Cohort	6	1	7	0							
2000 Cohort	2	1	3	#							

<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 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*.

**English Language Arts** 

			13-04	<u> </u>		200	4–05	
Student Subgroup	Total Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			
	Tested	2–4	3–4	4	Tested	2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	14	93%	14%	0%	14	93%	29%	0%
Black	29	83%	17%	0%	26	96%	23%	0%
Hispanic	6	83%	0%	0%	11	91%	45%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	11	91%	36%	18%	10	90%	30%	0%
White	828	92%	34%	5%	804	93%	44%	6%
Total	888	92%	33%	5%	865	93%	43%	6%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	778	98%	37%	6%	765	97%	48%	7%
Students with disabilities	110	53%	4%	0%	100	60%	4%	0%
Total	888	92%	33%	5%	865	93%	43%	6%
Results by Gender								
Female	447	93%	36%	5%	434	95%	51%	8%
Male	441	91%	29%	5%	431	91%	35%	4%
Total	888	92%	33%	5%	865	93%	43%	6%
Results by English Proficiency	Status							
English proficient	888	92%	33%	5%	864	S	S	S
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S
Total	888	92%	33%	5%	865	93%	43%	6%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	186	84%	24%	2%	180	88%	23%	0%
Not disadvantaged	702	94%	35%	6%	685	94%	48%	7%
Total	888	92%	33%	5%	865	93%	43%	6%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	888	92%	33%	5%	865	93%	43%	6%
Total	888	92%	33%	5%	865	93%	43%	6%

#### Mathematics

		200	3-04			200	4–05	
Student Subgroup	Total Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			
	Tested	2–4	3–4	4	Tested	2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	13	85%	23%	0%	12	83%	25%	0%
Black	30	80%	23%	0%	27	78%	19%	0%
Hispanic	7	71%	14%	0%	10	70%	30%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	10	90%	40%	20%	10	80%	30%	10%
White	808	88%	47%	6%	792	89%	55%	6%
Total	868	87%	46%	6%	851	89%	53%	6%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	762	93%	51%	7%	753	93%	59%	7%
Students with disabilities	106	45%	6%	0%	98	58%	11%	0%
Total	868	87%	46%	6%	851	89%	53%	6%
Results by Gender								
Female	438	88%	43%	5%	426	91%	55%	6%
Male	430	87%	48%	7%	425	86%	51%	5%
Total	868	87%	46%	6%	851	89%	53%	6%
Results by English Proficiency	Status							
English proficient	867	S	S	S	850	S	S	S
Limited English proficient	1	S	S	S	1	S	S	s
Total	868	87%	46%	6%	851	89%	53%	6%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	177	79%	31%	2%	174	82%	39%	2%
Not disadvantaged	691	90%	49%	7%	677	90%	57%	7%
Total	868	87%	46%	6%	851	89%	53%	6%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	868	87%	46%	6%	851	89%	53%	6%
Total	868	87%	46%	6%	851	89%	53%	6%

#### Science

		200	3–04			2004	4–05	
Student Subgroup	Total Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Total	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			
	Tested	2–4	3–4	4	Tested	2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity		•			•		•	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	14	100%	79%	14%	12	100%	75%	17%
Black	26	96%	62%	12%	23	91%	61%	9%
Hispanic	4	S	s	s	9	100%	44%	11%
Asian or Pacific Islander	9	S	S	S	10	90%	60%	10%
White	693	97%	82%	23%	720	98%	82%	30%
Total	746	97%	81%	23%	774	97%	80%	29%
Small Group Totals (s)	13	100%	100%	23%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status		•	•	•			•	
General-education students	662	99%	87%	25%	683	99%	86%	32%
Students with disabilities	84	82%	35%	4%	91	88%	37%	4%
Total	746	97%	81%	23%	774	97%	80%	29%
Results by Gender		I.	l .	l .			l .	
Female	385	98%	79%	16%	395	98%	80%	27%
Male	361	97%	84%	29%	379	96%	80%	31%
Total	746	97%	81%	23%	774	97%	80%	29%
Results by English Proficiency State	us		Į.	l .			Į.	
English proficient	746	97%	81%	23%	773	S	S	S
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	1	S	S	S
Total	746	97%	81%	23%	774	97%	80%	29%
Results by Income Level		•	•		•	•	•	
Economically disadvantaged	143	95%	71%	15%	158	97%	69%	20%
Not disadvantaged	603	98%	84%	24%	616	97%	83%	31%
Total	746	97%	81%	23%	774	97%	80%	29%
Results by Migrant Status		•	•	•	•		•	
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	746	97%	81%	23%	774	97%	80%	29%
Total	746	97%	81%	23%	774	97%	80%	29%

#### 2000 and 2001 High School Cohorts

General-education students who first entered ninth grade in 2000 or 2001 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 Accommodation 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	<u> </u>	2001 Cohort						
		Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting	Students	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting
Student Subgroup	Students in Cohort	Regents		Pass-	Gradu-	in	Regents		Pass-	Gradua-
		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	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	1	S	s	S	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
White	1	s	s	s	S	5	1	0	0	20%
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	1	0	0	20%
Small Group Totals (s)	2	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	2	S	s	S	s	3	S	S	S	S
Students with disabilities	0	s	s	s	S	2	s	s	s	S
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	1	0	0	20%
Results by Gender										
Female	1	S	s	S	S	2	s	S	S	S
Male	1	s	s	S	S	3	s	S	S	S
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	1	0	0	20%
Results by English Proficiency	/ Status									
English proficient	2	S	S	S	S	5	1	0	0	20%
Limited English proficient	0	S	s	S	S	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	2	s	s	S	s	5	1	0	0	20%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	S	S	S	S	2	S	S	S	S
Not disadvantaged	2	S	S	S	S	3	S	S	S	S
Total	2	s	S	s	s	5	1	0	0	20%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	S	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	2	S	S	S	S	5	1	0	0	20%
Total	2	S	S	S	s	5	1	0	0	20%

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

		hort		2001 Cohort						
	Count of Students Percent					Count of Students				Percent
Student Subgroup	Students	by Score			Meeting	Students	by Score		Meeting	
		Regents Pass-		Pass-	Gradu-	in	Regents		Pass-	Gradua-
	Cohort	55- 65-	65-	ed	ation	Cohort	55-	65–	ed	tion
		64	100	RCTs	Require- ment		64	100	RCTs	Require- ment
Results by Race/Ethnicity			1		mem					mem
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Hispanic	1	S	S	S	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
White	1	s	s	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Small Group Totals (s)	2	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	2	S	S	S	S	3	S	S	S	S
Students with disabilities	0	S	s	S	S	2	s	S	S	S
Total	2	S	s	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Results by Gender										
Female	1	s	s	S	S	2	S	s	S	S
Male	1	S	S	S	S	3	S	S	S	S
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Results by English Proficiency	Status									
English proficient	2	S	S	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Limited English proficient	0	S	S	S	S	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	S	S	S	s	2	S	S	S	S
Not disadvantaged	2	S	S	S	S	3	S	s	S	S
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	S	S	S	s	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	2	S	S	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%
Total	2	S	S	S	S	5	0	0	1	20%

#### **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 district accountability cohort for English and mathematics.

	1999 Col	ort as of	2000 Cohort as of				
	August	31, 2003	August 3	31, 2004			
Student Subgroup	Graduation Rate Cohort	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate Cohort	Graduation Rate			
Results by Race/Ethnicity							
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%			
Black	0	0%	0	0%			
Hispanic	0	0%	1	S			
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%			
White	7	0%	3	S			
Total	7	0%	4	S			
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	4	0%			
Results by Disability Status							
General-education students	5	S	3	S			
Students with disabilities	2	s	1	S			
Total	7	0%	4	S			
Results by Gender							
Female	2	S	1	S			
Male	5	S	3	S			
Total	7	0%	4	S			
Results by English Proficiency S	tatus						
English proficient	7	0%	4	S			
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0	S			
Total	7	0%	4	S			
Results by Income Level							
Economically disadvantaged	2	S	1	S			
Not disadvantaged	5	S	3	S			
Total	7	0%	4	S			
Results by Migrant Status							
Migrant family	0	0%	0	S			
Not migrant family	7	0%	4	S			
Total	7	0%	4	S			

#### 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 <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.