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

Heritage Junior High School

in

Newburgh City School District

April 2006

44-16-00-01-0003

April 2006

### THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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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: Joseph Raiti		Phone: (845)563-3750
Organization	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
2004–05	7-9	901

2003–04 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$12,584
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## 2004–05 Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers\*

Total Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
262	92%

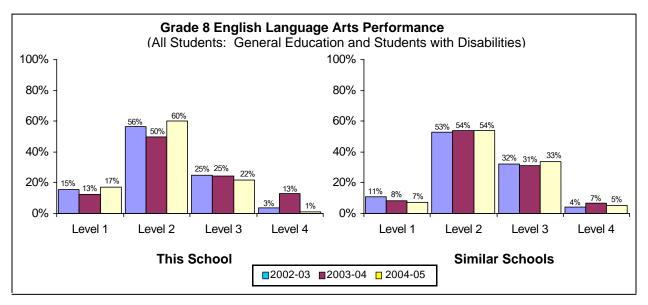
\*To meet the federal definition of "highly qualified," public school teachers of core academic subjects must have at least a bachelor's degree and be State certified for and demonstrate subject matter competency in the core academic subject(s) they teach.

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

Total Number of Teachers	Percent with No Valid Teaching Certificate
67	3%
*	1 PC 14

\*Includes teachers with a modified temporary license.

## English Language Arts



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

Derfermence et	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	41	150	66	9	266	684
January 2004	34	134	66	35	269	691
January 2005	49	172	63	3	287	678

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	Level 2 These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.		
Level 1	These students have serious academic deficiencies.		

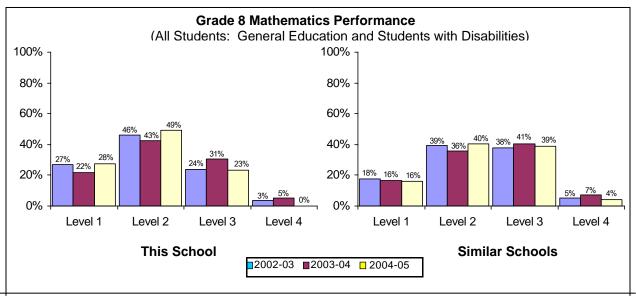
Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

Grade 8	Level 1	Level 2	Levels 3 & 4	Total Tested	
2005	1	4	4	9	

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

### Mathematics



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

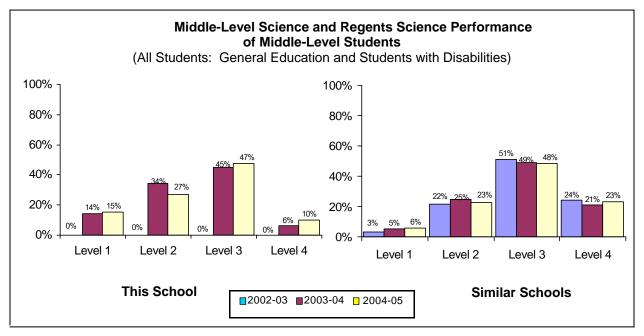
Derfermence et	Counts of Students					
Performance at This School	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total Tested	Mean Score
May 2003	72	122	63	9	266	695
May 2004	60	118	85	14	277	701
May 2005	76	136	64	0	276	693

Middle-L	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	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

#### Science



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

Porform	Performance at This School		Counts of Students Tested						
Fellolli	ance at This School	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total Tested	Mean Score		
January/	Middle-Level Science	12	71	127	25	235	69		
June 2003	Regents Science	#	#	#	#	3	#		
January/	Middle-Level Science	34	79	72	6	191	59		
June 2004	Regents Science	0	2	34	9	45	78		
January/	Middle-Level Science	39	70	104	15	228	63		
June 2005	Regents Science	0	0	18	11	29	81		

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.								

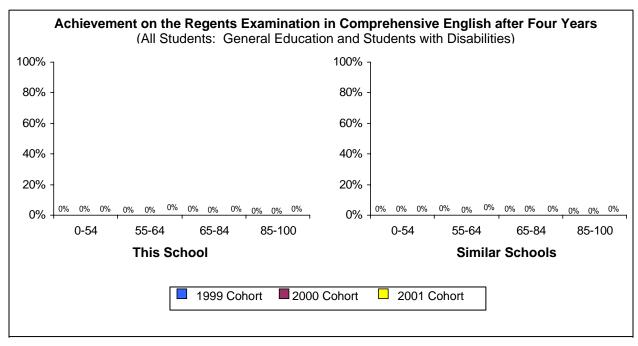
\*Students may demonstrate proficiency in middle-level science by scoring at Level 3 or above on the middle-level science test or by scoring 65 or above on a Regents examination in science.

## 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

## 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 Highest Score Highest Score Approve   All Students Between 0 and 54 Between 55 and 64 Between 65 and 84 Between 85 and 100 Alternative 0									
1999 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0				
2000 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0				
2001 Cohort	1	#	#	#	#	#				

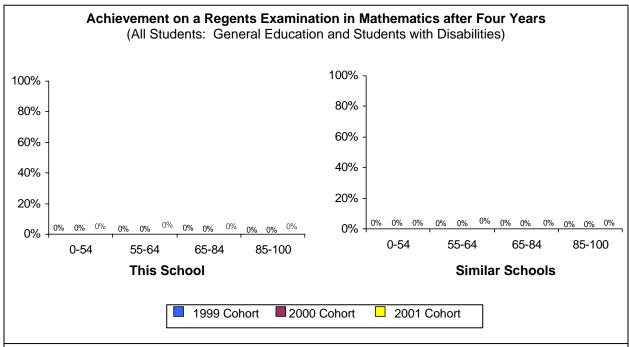
\*Assessments used to determine counts in this table include the Regents examination in comprehensive English, the component retest in English, and approved alternatives.

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								
1999 Cohort	0	0							
2000 Cohort	0	0							
2001 Cohort	#	#							

\*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 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.

	Mathematics Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*										
	Cohort Members	Highest Score	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					
1999 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0					
2000 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0					
2001 Cohort	1	#	#	#	#	#					

<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	0	0						
2001 Cohort	#	#						

\*Includes only students eligible for the safety net who did not score 55 or higher on the Regents examination or an approved alternative.

# 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

		<u> </u>	1 Langua	J		200	4–05	
Student Subgroup	Total		ntages of 1 s Scoring a		Total		ntages of 1 s Scoring a	
	Tested	2–4	3–4	4	Tested	2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	97	82%	27%	6%	94	70%	12%	0%
Hispanic	92	86%	28%	10%	104	86%	26%	1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	4	S	S	S	2	S	S	S
White	76	S	S	S	87	S	S	S
Total	269	87%	38%	13%	287	83%	23%	1%
Small Group Totals (s)	80	95%	61%	25%	89	93%	31%	2%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	232	94%	44%	15%	242	89%	27%	1%
Students with disabilities	37	49%	0%	0%	45	49%	0%	0%
Total	269	87%	38%	13%	287	83%	23%	1%
Results by Gender			•	•				
Female	144	90%	39%	17%	136	85%	27%	1%
Male	125	84%	36%	9%	151	81%	19%	1%
Total	269	87%	38%	13%	287	83%	23%	1%
<b>Results by English Proficiency</b>	Status		•	•				
English proficient	268	S	S	S	287	83%	23%	1%
Limited English proficient	1	S	S	S	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	269	87%	38%	13%	287	83%	23%	1%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	157	83%	27%	6%	163	79%	18%	1%
Not disadvantaged	112	94%	52%	22%	124	89%	30%	2%
Total	269	87%	38%	13%	287	83%	23%	1%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	2	S	S	S	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	267	s	S	S	287	83%	23%	1%
Total	269	87%	38%	13%	287	83%	23%	1%

## Mathematics

			3–04			2004–05			
Student Subgroup	Total		ntages of 1 s Scoring a		Total		entages of 1 s Scoring a		
	Tested	2–4	3–4	4	Tested	2–4	3–4	4	
Results by Race/Ethnicity									
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Black	99	72%	24%	4%	86	64%	14%	0%	
Hispanic	97	73%	30%	4%	104	74%	23%	0%	
Asian or Pacific Islander	4	S	S	S	5	80%	40%	0%	
White	77	S	S	S	81	79%	32%	0%	
Total	277	78%	36%	5%	276	72%	23%	0%	
Small Group Totals (s)	81	93%	57%	7%	0	0%	0%	0%	
Results by Disability Status									
General-education students	241	85%	41%	6%	234	78%	27%	0%	
Students with disabilities	36	31%	0%	0%	42	43%	0%	0%	
Total	277	78%	36%	5%	276	72%	23%	0%	
Results by Gender									
Female	148	78%	39%	5%	132	70%	23%	0%	
Male	129	79%	32%	5%	144	74%	24%	0%	
Total	277	78%	36%	5%	276	72%	23%	0%	
Results by English Proficiency	Status				•				
English proficient	271	79%	36%	5%	266	73%	23%	0%	
Limited English proficient	6	50%	17%	0%	10	70%	20%	0%	
Total	277	78%	36%	5%	276	72%	23%	0%	
Results by Income Level					•				
Economically disadvantaged	160	72%	27%	2%	153	67%	16%	0%	
Not disadvantaged	117	87%	48%	9%	123	80%	32%	0%	
Total	277	78%	36%	5%	276	72%	23%	0%	
Results by Migrant Status									
Migrant family	3	S	S	S	0	0%	0%	0%	
Not migrant family	274	S	S	S	276	72%	23%	0%	
Total	277	78%	36%	5%	276	72%	23%	0%	

## Science

			3–04			2004	4–05	
Student Subgroup	Total Tested		ntages of T s Scoring a		Total			
	Tested	2–4	3–4	4	Tested	2–4	4-05   stages of Tested   s Scoring at Levels   3-4 4   0% 0%   55% 7%   60% 0%   55% 7%   60% 0%   70% 9%   52% 7%   0% 0%   56% 8%   33% 0%   52% 7%   48% 6%   56% 7%   52% 7%   48% 6%   56% 7%   52% 7%   48% 6%   52% 7%   445% 5%   61% 9%   52% 7%	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Black	63	83%	29%	0%	84	74%	37%	5%
Hispanic	78	74%	33%	4%	82	85%	55%	7%
Asian or Pacific Islander	3	S	S	S	5	80%	60%	0%
White	47	S	S	S	57	93%	70%	9%
Total	191	82%	41%	3%	228	83%	52%	7%
Small Group Totals (s)	50	94%	68%	6%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status			•	•	•			
General-education students	163	87%	47%	4%	188	86%	56%	8%
Students with disabilities	28	54%	7%	0%	40	68%	33%	0%
Total	191	82%	41%	3%	228	83%	52%	7%
Results by Gender								
Female	98	83%	38%	2%	111	84%	48%	6%
Male	93	82%	44%	4%	117	82%	56%	7%
Total	191	82%	41%	3%	228	83%	52%	7%
Results by English Proficiency State	us							
English proficient	186	83%	41%	3%	221	83%	53%	7%
Limited English proficient	5	60%	20%	0%	7	71%	14%	0%
Total	191	82%	41%	3%	228	83%	52%	7%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	119	78%	34%	3%	132	79%	45%	5%
Not disadvantaged	72	89%	53%	4%	96	89%	61%	9%
Total	191	82%	41%	3%	228	83%	52%	7%
Results by Migrant Status				•				
Migrant family	3	S	S	S	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	188	S	S	S	228	83%	52%	7%
Total	191	82%	41%	3%	228	83%	52%	7%

## 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

		20	00 Col	nort	<u> </u>		20	001 Coh	ort	
			by Sco	udents re	Percent Meeting	Students		nt of Stu by Scor		Percent Meeting
Student Subgroup	Students in Cohort	Reg 55–	ents 65–	Pass- ed	Gradu- ation	in Cohort	Reg 55–	ents 65–	Pass- ed	Gradua- tion
		64	100	RCTs	Require- ment	Conort	55- 64	100	RCTs	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%	1	s	S	S	S
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
White	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0	0	0	0%	1	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status		-	_	-						
General-education students	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Students with disabilities	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S
Results by Gender										
Female	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	s	s	S
Male	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Results by English Proficiency	v Status									
English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S
Limited English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S
Not disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	0	s	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Not migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S

## after Four Years of High School

# Performance on the Mathematics Assessment Requirement

10	r Gradua				rears of	High Sc				
	2000 Cohort					2001 Cohort				
Student Subgroup		Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting		Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting
	Students in Cohort					Students				
		Regents		Pass-	Gradu-	in	Regents		Pass-	Gradua- tion
		55– 64	65– 100	ed RCTs	ation Require- ment	Cohort	55– 64	65– 100	ed RCTs	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%	1	s	S	S	S
Hispanic	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
White	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0	0	0	0%	1	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Students with disabilities	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	s	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Results by Gender										
Female	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	s
Male	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Results by English Proficiency	Status									
English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S
Limited English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	s	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S
Not disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	S	S	S	S
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	S	S	S	S
Not migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	1	s	S	S	S

## for Graduation after Four Years of High School

#### 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.