

# Setting Performance Standards: Common Core Regents Exams in Algebra I and ELA

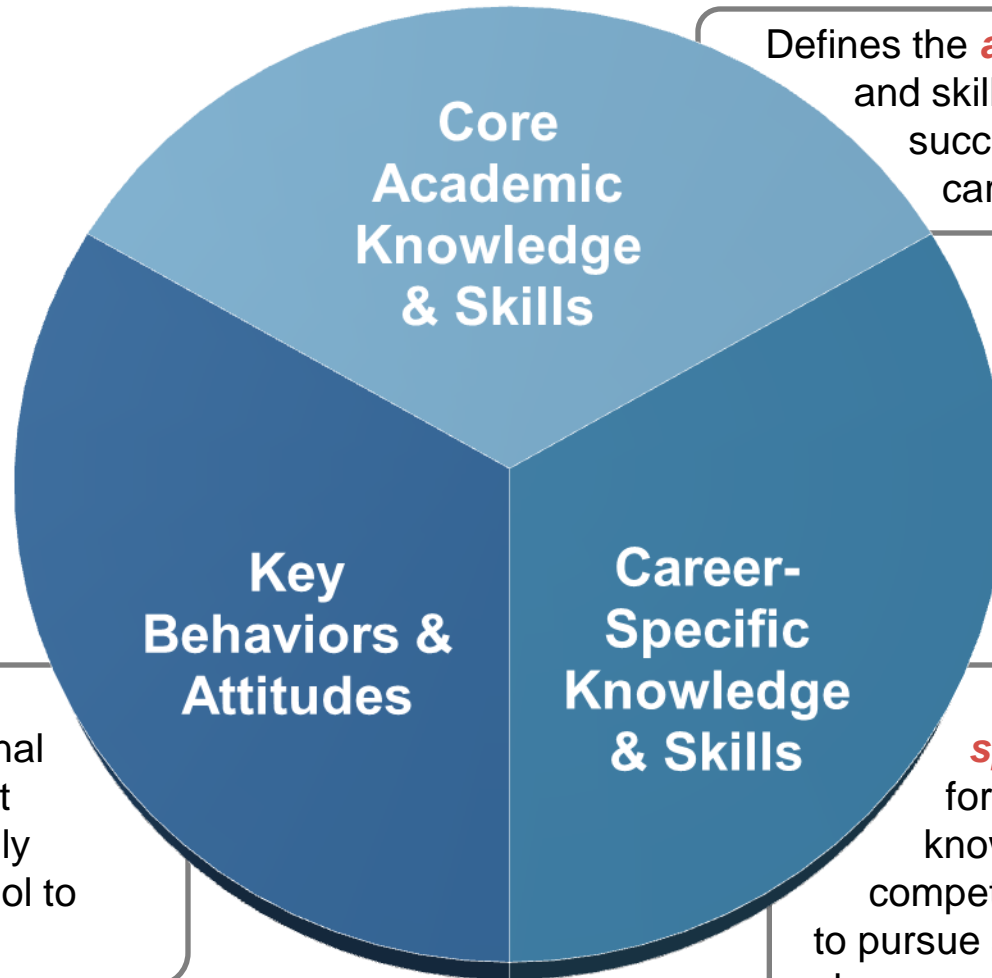
**Board of Regents**  
June 23, 2014



# The Bottom Line

- New York has completed the fourth year of a 12-year Common Core phase-in.
- **The Class of 2022:**
  - Had just completed kindergarten when the Common Core was adopted by the Board in summer 2010;
  - Was enrolled in third grade when student progress on the Common Core was first measured in spring 2013;
  - Will generally take the Common Core Algebra I Regents Exam in five years (2019), the Common Core ELA Regents Exam in seven years (2021), and graduate in eight years (2022).
- **The Board will consider cut scores required for passing Common Core Regents Exams over this transition period.**
- **For our students and their teachers, these cut scores are just one component of a rigorous and relevant course of study for the remaining eight years of the phase-in.**

# Domains of College and Career Readiness



Defines the **academic** knowledge and skills students need to be successful in college and careers.

Specifies the **non-cognitive**, socio-emotional knowledge and skills that help students successfully transition from high school to college or careers.

Describes the **career-specific** opportunities for students to gain the knowledge, skills, and competencies they need to pursue and succeed in their chosen career.

# Completion vs. Readiness

## Defining What Our Students Need for Success

New York's 4-year high school graduation rate is 74.9% for All Students however, the gaps are disturbing.

### June 2013 Graduation Rate

Graduation under Current Requirements  
(Completion)

	% Graduating
<b>All Students</b>	74.9
American Indian	62.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	80.6
Black	59.7
Hispanic	59.2
White	86.5
English Language Learners	31.4
Students with Disabilities	48.7

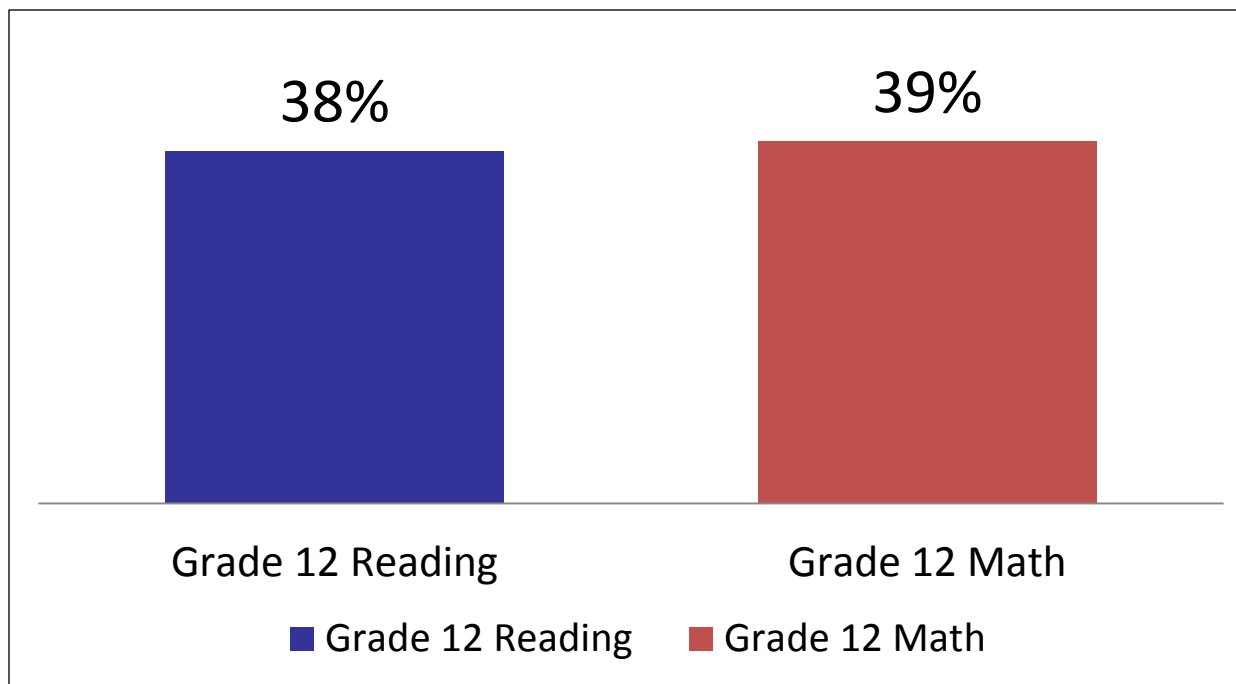
Calculated College and Career Ready\*  
(Readiness)

	% Graduating
<b>All Students</b>	37.2
American Indian	21.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	57.2
Black	14.2
Hispanic	18.0
White	50.4
English Language Learners	5.9
Students with Disabilities	5.4

\*Students graduating with at least a score of 75 on Regents English and 80 on a Math Regents, which correlates with success in first-year college courses.

Source: NYSED Office of Information and Reporting Services

# 2013 National Grade 12 NAEP Results



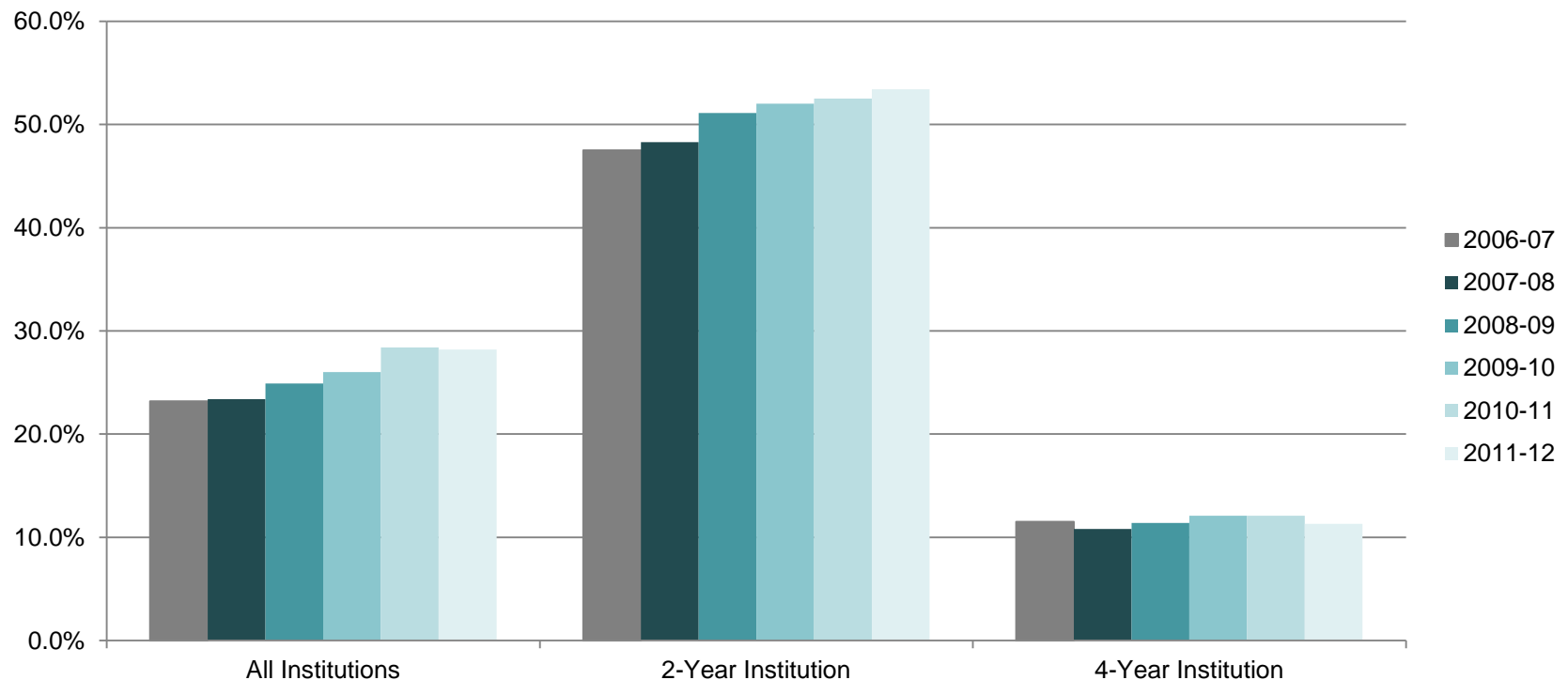
- These data reflect the percentage of students likely to possess the academic knowledge and skills necessary for college.

Source: [http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading\\_math\\_g12\\_2013/#/preparedness](http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading_math_g12_2013/#/preparedness)

# Why Readiness Matters – College Remediation in NYS

Over 50% of students in NYS two-year institutions of higher education take at least one remedial course.

## Remediation Rates for First-time Undergraduates



Source: NYSED Administrative Data for all Public, Independent and Proprietary 2- and 4-year institutions of higher education

# Remedial Enrollment

## First-Time, Full-Time Freshman, Fall 2012

	First-Time, Full-Time Freshman	Math	Reading	Writing
<b>CUNY Community Colleges</b>	15,443	55.6%	19.7%	20.5%
<b>CUNY Senior Colleges*</b>	16,987	17.2%	2.0%	3.9%
<b>SUNY Community Colleges</b>	39,399	39.4%	21.3%	29.5%
<b>SUNY 4-year Colleges**</b>	17,329	7.4%	1.9%	4.7%

\*CUNY policy does not allow students entering bachelor's programs to enroll in remedial courses. The remedial enrollments at the senior colleges represent students enrolled in associate programs offered at three CUNY Senior Colleges.

\*\* Most remediation in the SUNY system occurs at community colleges with the exception of a small percentage of students in the higher education opportunity programs offered at four-year institutions.

# Higher Education Endorses Common Core

- **SUNY Board of Trustees passed a resolution in May 2014 endorsing the Common Core, citing the need to better prepare the next generation of SUNY students and decrease the need for remediation.**
- **In June 2014, 61 SUNY Presidents, the SUNY Chancellor, the CUNY Chancellor joined over 150 College Presidents from across the nation to commit their support to Common Core standards and assessments that measure the student progress on the Common Core.**



***“The Common Core Standards raise the bar for educators and students, and in today’s competitive and increasingly global economy, anything less would be a disservice to our youth.”***

**Nancy L. Zimpher, SUNY Chancellor**

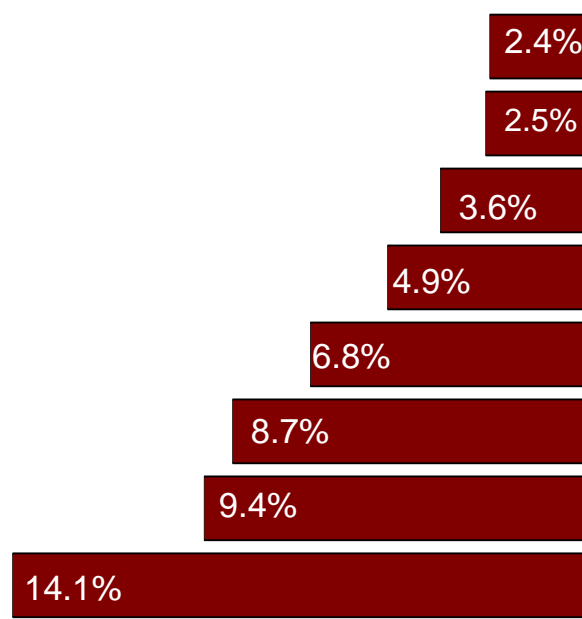
# Why Readiness Matters – Labor Market Is More Demanding

*A post-secondary education is the  
“Passport to the American Dream”*

- Of the projected 47 million job openings between 2009-2018, nearly two-thirds will require workers to have at least some post-secondary education – and experts say this percentage will only increase.
- 14 million job openings will go to people with an associate’s degree or occupational certificate and pay a significant premium over many jobs open to those with just a high school degree.

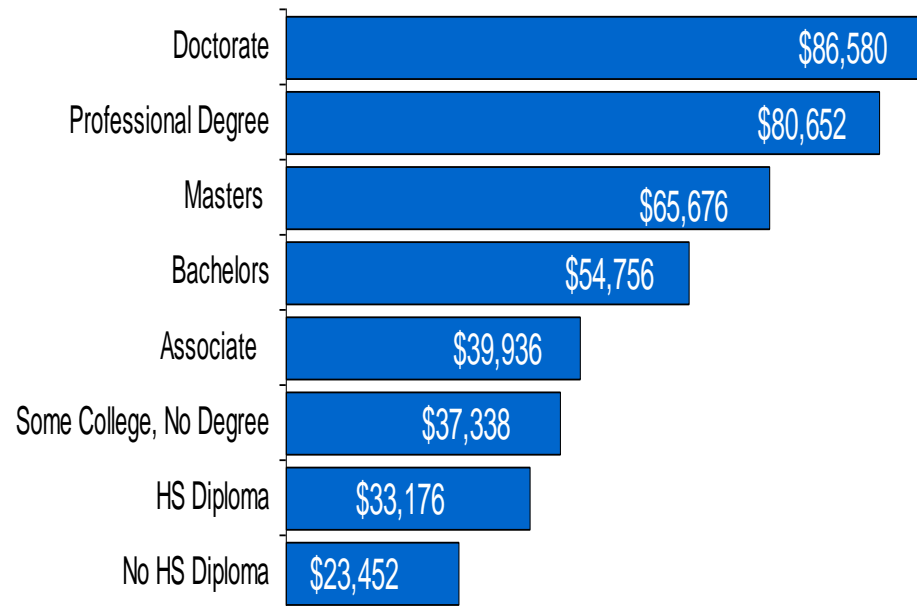
# Why Readiness Matters – Earnings and Unemployment

Unemployment Rate By Degree: 2011



Average 7.6%

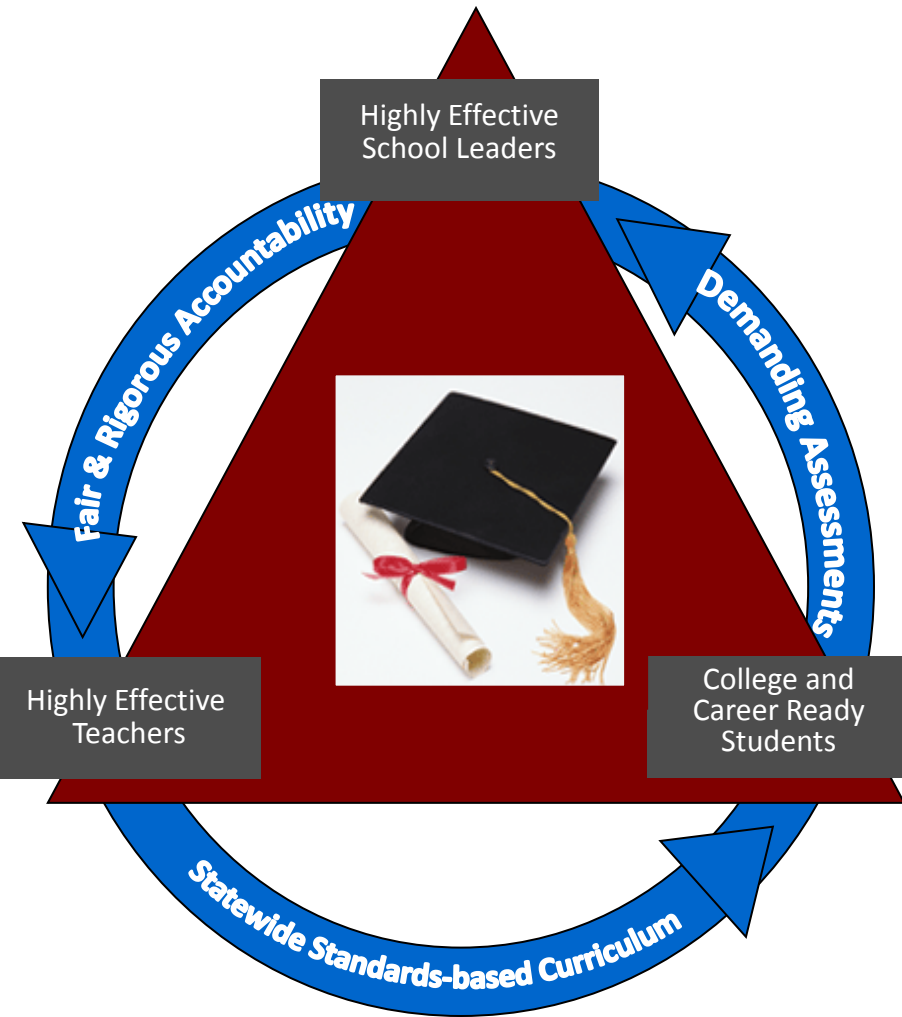
Median Annual Earnings by Educational Degree: 2011



Average \$41,444

Education pays in higher overall earnings and lower unemployment rates.

# Regents Reform Agenda



- Implementing **Common Core standards** and developing **curriculum and assessments** aligned to these standards to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.
- Supporting **instructional data systems** that measure student success and inform teacher and principals how they can improve their practice in real time.
- Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding **effective teachers and principals**.
- **Turning around the lowest-achieving schools**.

# What is the Common Core?

- **The development of the Common Core was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear educational standards.**
  - **42 states and the District of Columbia are implementing the Common Core\***
- **The Common Core Standards are the first learning standards to be back-mapped from the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college and careers, grade-by-grade all the way back to kindergarten.**
- **The Common Core Standards are benchmarked to international standards and informed by the best evidence and research.**

\* In addition to the 42 states that fully adopted the Common Core, Minnesota adopted the Common Core English Language Arts standards.

# Common Core Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments

- **Common Core curriculum, instruction, and assessments are rigorous and focus on priority knowledge and skills to ensure College and Career Readiness.**

## 6 *Shifts* in ELA/Literacy

Balancing informational and literary text  
Building knowledge in the disciplines  
Staircase of complexity  
Text-based answers  
Writing from sources  
Academic vocabulary

## 6 *Shifts* in Mathematics

Focus  
Coherence  
Fluency  
Deep understanding  
Applications  
Dual intensity

# NYS Educator Involvement in NYS Common Core Assessments

**NYS Educators are represented on the following panels:**

- **New York State Content Advisory Panels**
  - Spans early childhood and P12 through CUNY, SUNY and CICU faculty
- **Item Development, Item Review, Final Form Review**
- **Performance Standards (cut scores)**
  - Teachers, faculty and district-level

**These panels are informing:**

- **College and Career Ready Determinations**
- **Test specifications, policies, and item development**
- **NYS policy-level and grade-level performance level descriptions**
- **Setting performance standards**

# Common Core Regents Development

## Every item:

- Developed from scratch by NYS-certified teachers to measure Common Core Learning Standards
- Field-tested
- Reviewed multiple times in development cycle by multiple NYS-Certified Teachers
- Meets industry best practice for item quality, fairness and accessibility
- Meets rigorous criteria developed by NYSED
- Educator participation opportunities:
  - <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/teacher/home.html#teacher-op>



# Common Core in New York

**2010:** Board of Regents adopted Common Core

**2013:** Common Core Assessments administered in Grades 3-8  
English Language Arts (ELA) and Math

**2014:** Roll-out of Common Core Regents Exams begins

- June 2014: Algebra I (ELA offered, but not required)
- June 2015: Geometry (ELA offered, but not required)
- June 2016: Algebra II and ELA (required for 1<sup>st</sup> time)

**Class of 2017:** First cohort of high school graduates required to pass Common Core Regents Exams for graduation at the current score of 65 (partial proficiency).

**Class of 2022:** First cohort of high school graduates required to pass Common Core Regents Exams for graduation at the aspirational college- and career ready score (proficiency).

***Transition to New York Common Core Assessments is a 12-year phase-in***

# Regents Common Core Transition Flexibility

**Common Core rollout in high school contains three features to ensure that students have every opportunity to graduate during this transition period.**

- The initial group of students required to pass a Common Core Regents Exam (this year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders in ELA and any student first enrolled in Algebra this year) is not expected to graduate until June 2017 or later, seven years after the standards were adopted in 2010;
- During the first year of test rollout, students enrolled in Common Core courses will have the option to take the old test in addition to the new test and have the higher score count for grading and other purposes; and
- The Department intends to maintain a zero to 100 point scale and distinct performance standards (or cut scores) that are comparable to the current 65 Regents Exam cut score for graduation purposes (Performance Level 3) and an aspirational college- and career-readiness cut score (Performance Level 4). As a result, we expect that the percentage of students passing (for graduation purposes) the new Common Core Regents Exams will likely be similar to the pass rates on existing Regents Exams at a score of 65.

# Full Implementation for the Class of 2022

- The Board's intent is to phase in over time the graduation requirement to demonstrate proficiency on the Common Core standards in high school courses.
- Specifically, the class of 2022 would be the first group of students required to pass Common Core Regents Exams (ELA and one exam in math) at the level of meeting Common Core course-level expectations (i.e., Level 4 of five levels).

# Performance Levels

## Performance Levels on Common Core Regents Exams

**Level 5: Exceeds Common Core expectations**

**Level 4: Meets Common Core expectations  
(First required for Regents Diploma purposes with the Class of 2022)**

**Level 3: Partially meets Common Core expectations  
(Required for current Regents Diploma purposes. We expect comparable percentages of students to attain Level 3 or above as do students who pass current Regents Exams (2005 Standards) with a score of 65 or above)**

**Level 2 (Safety Net): Partially meets Common Core expectations  
(Required for Local Diploma purposes. We expect comparable percentages of students to attain Level 2 or above as do students who pass current Regents Exams (2005 Standards) with a score of 55 or above)**

**Level 1: Does not demonstrate Knowledge and Skills for Level 2**

# Performance Levels 2 and 3

The standard setting process for these performance levels was designed to maintain continuity with prior-year passing rates.

**Level 3: Partially meets Common Core expectations**  
(Required for current Regents Diploma purposes. We expect comparable percentages of students to attain Level 3 or above as do students who pass current Regents Exams (2005 Standards) with a score of 65 or above)

**Level 2 (Safety Net): Partially meets Common Core expectations**  
(Required for Local Diploma purposes. We expect comparable percentages of students to attain Level 2 or above as do students who pass current Regents Exams (2005 Standards) with a score of 55 or above)

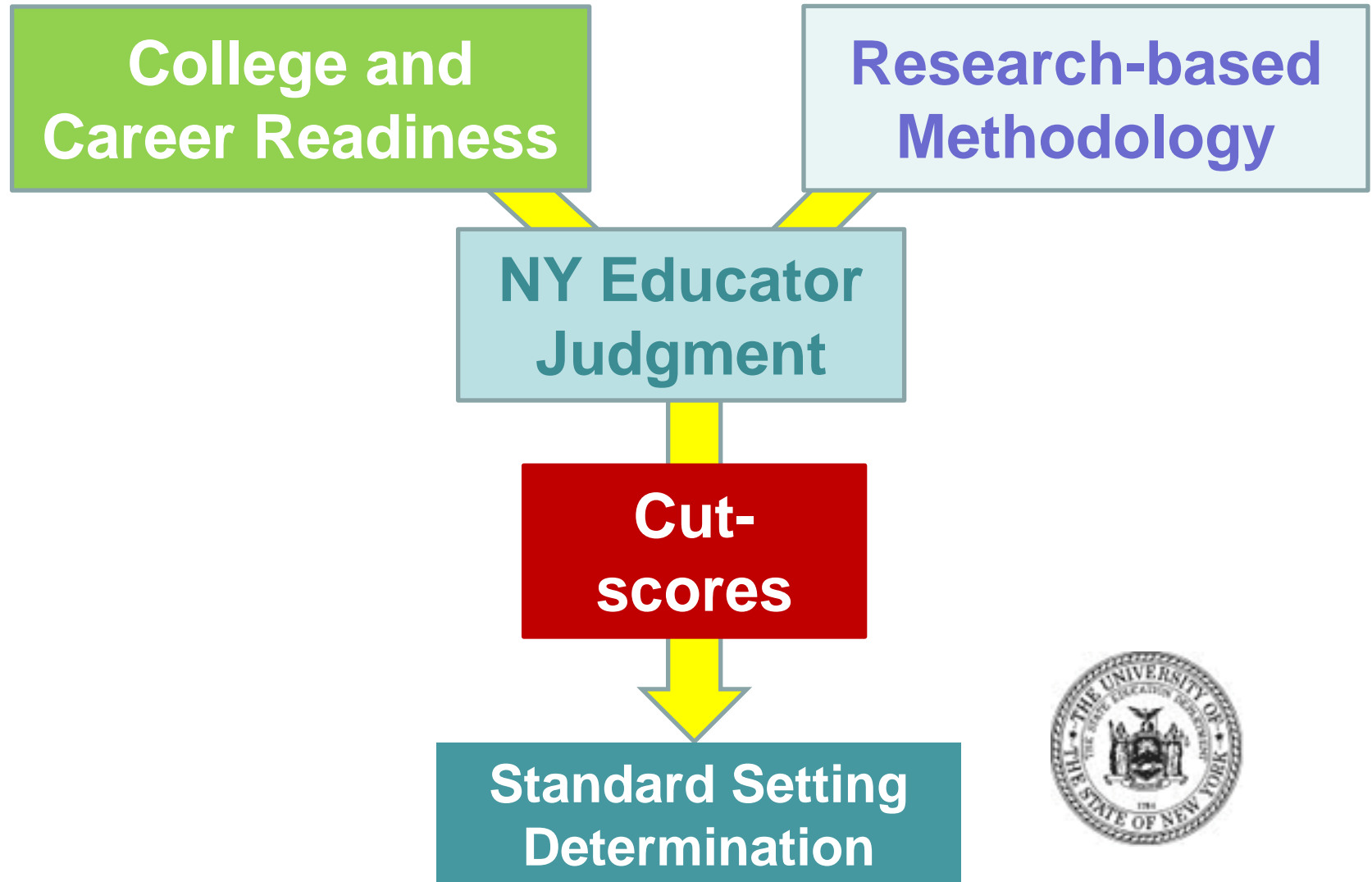
# Performance Levels 4 and 5

The standard setting process for these performance levels was based on educator judgment, the standards, and the performance-level descriptions.

**Level 5: Exceeds Common Core expectations**

**Level 4: Meets Common Core expectations  
(First required for Regents Diploma purposes with the  
Class of 2022)**

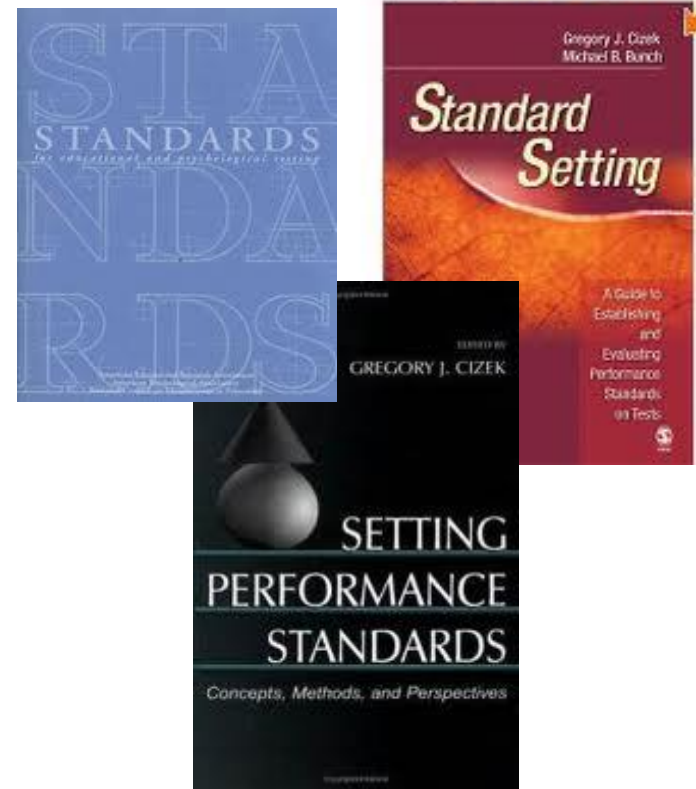
# SETTING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS for Common Core Assessments



# SETTING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Required by USED and Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing to use research-based methodology
- National experts in standard setting monitored planning, materials and process

## Research-based Methodology





# Selection of Panelists

Letters sent to key New York educator organizations, BOCES and Big 5 seeking nominations of educators who:

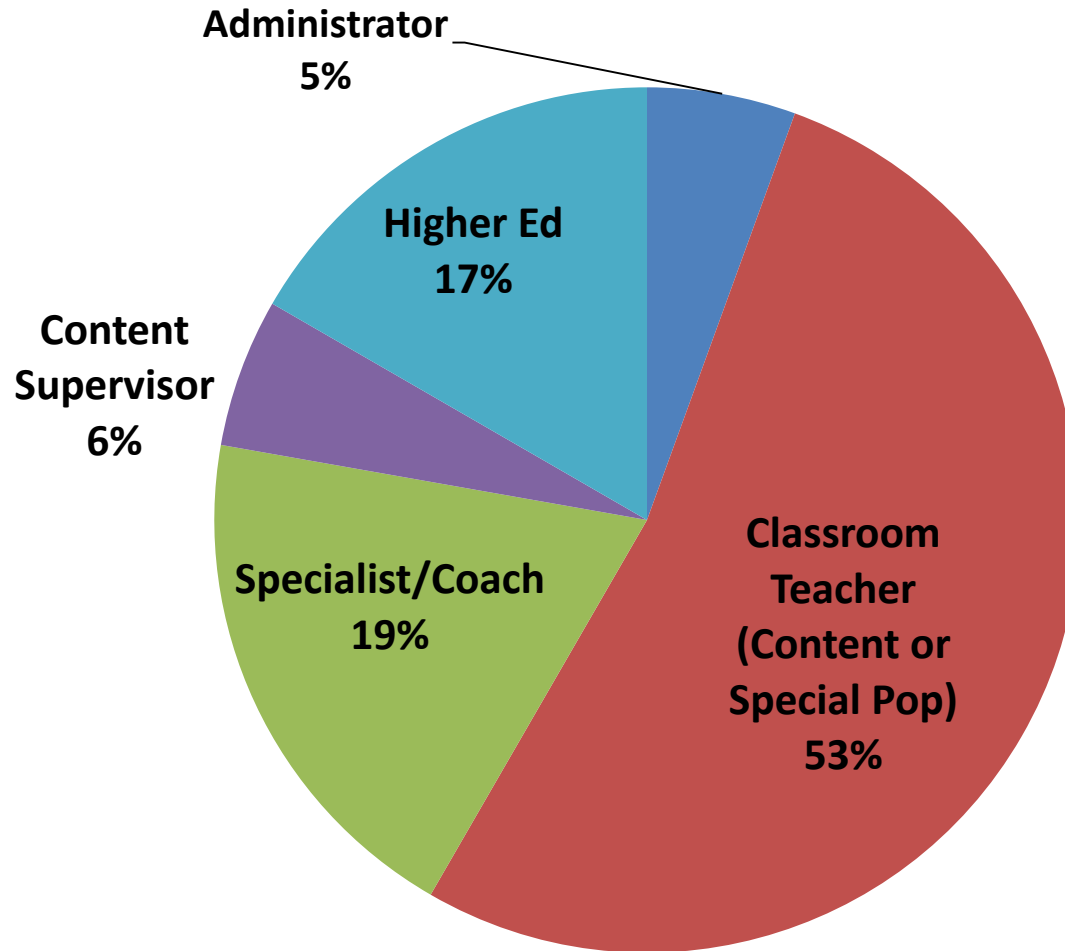
- have a deep knowledge of the Common Core standards
- have experience teaching different student populations
- represent the diversity of New York State
- include urban/rural/suburban schools
- include various geographic areas of the state

Resumes were reviewed carefully to ensure rich representation for each ELA and Math grade band

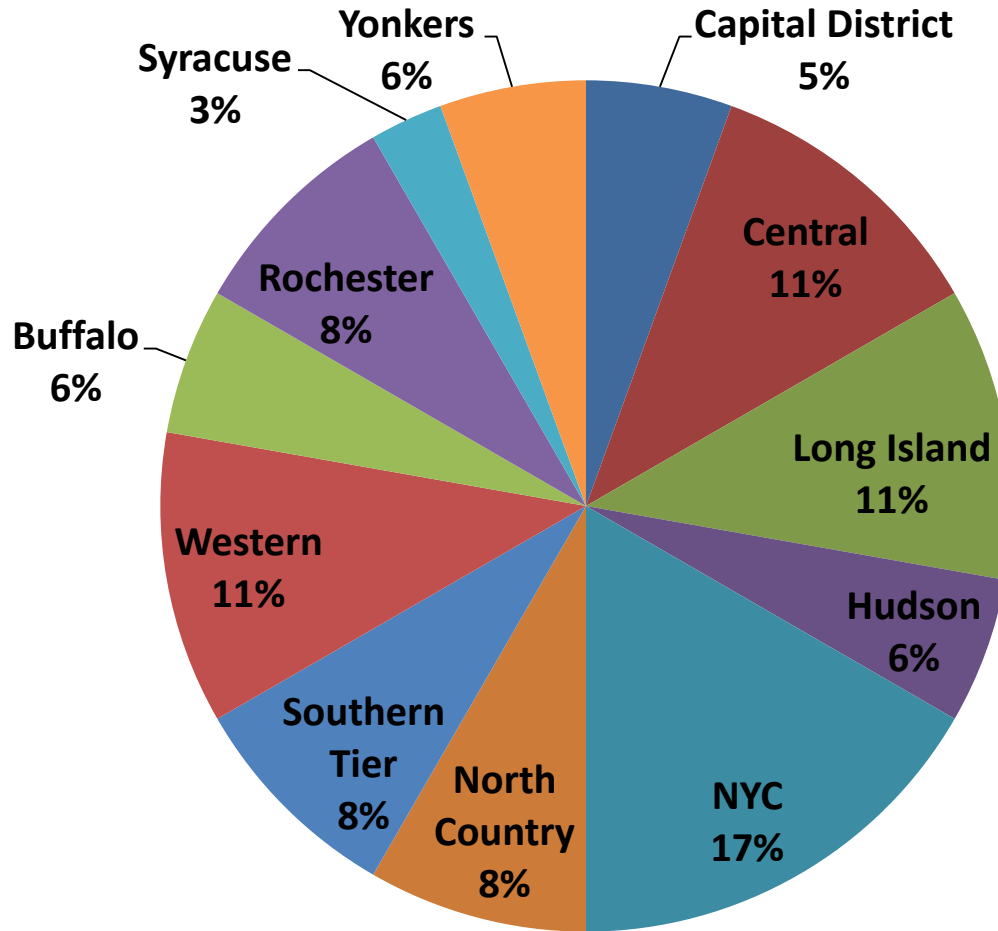
# New York Educators are Essential to Setting Standards

- 69 New York educators served as panelists
  - 34 panelists for ELA
  - 35 panelists for Algebra I
- Variety of educators represented:
  - K-12 ELA and Math Teachers
  - BOCES
  - ELL and SwD specialists
  - Higher Education
  - K-12 Administration

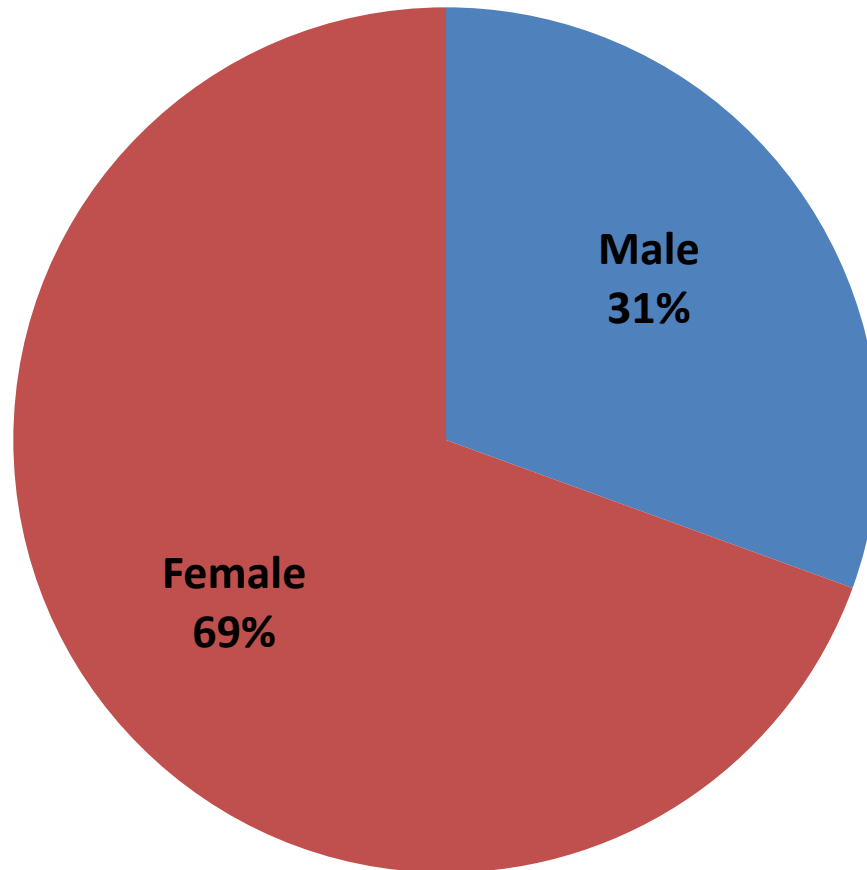
# ELA Panelist Role



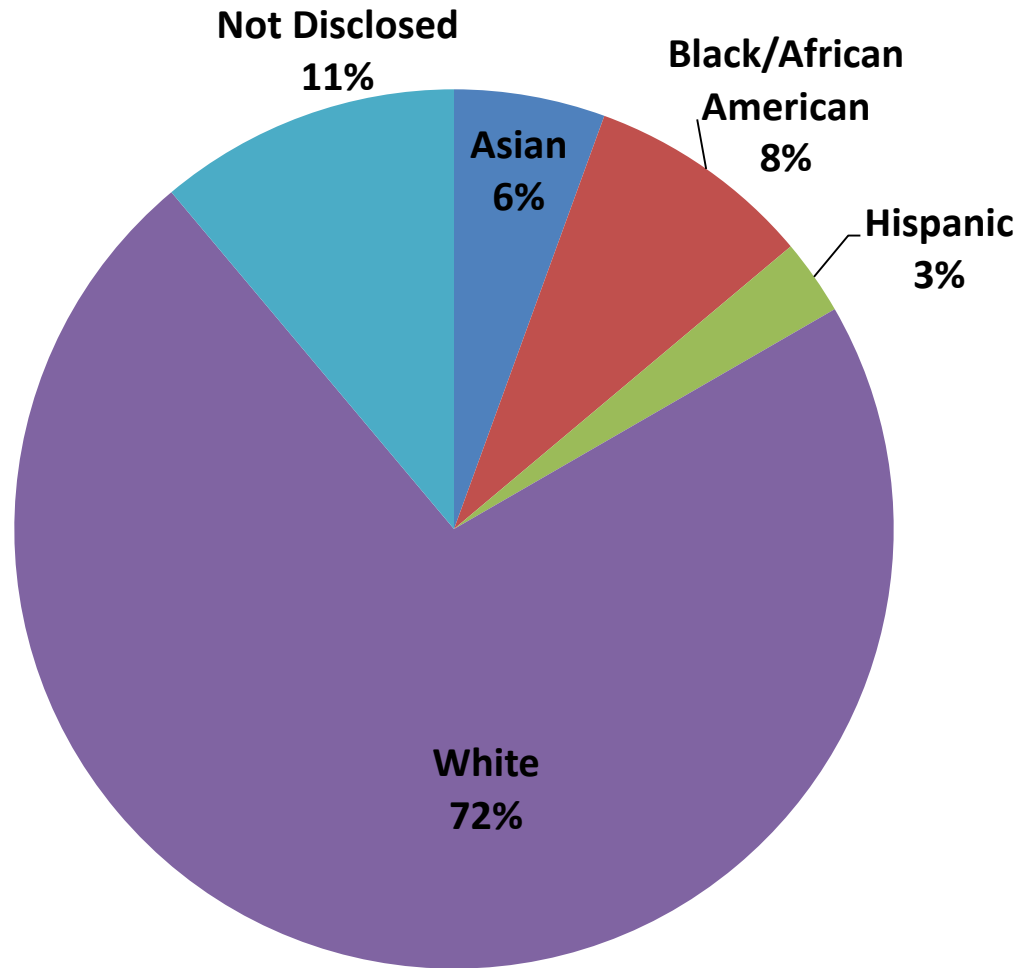
# ELA Panelist Region



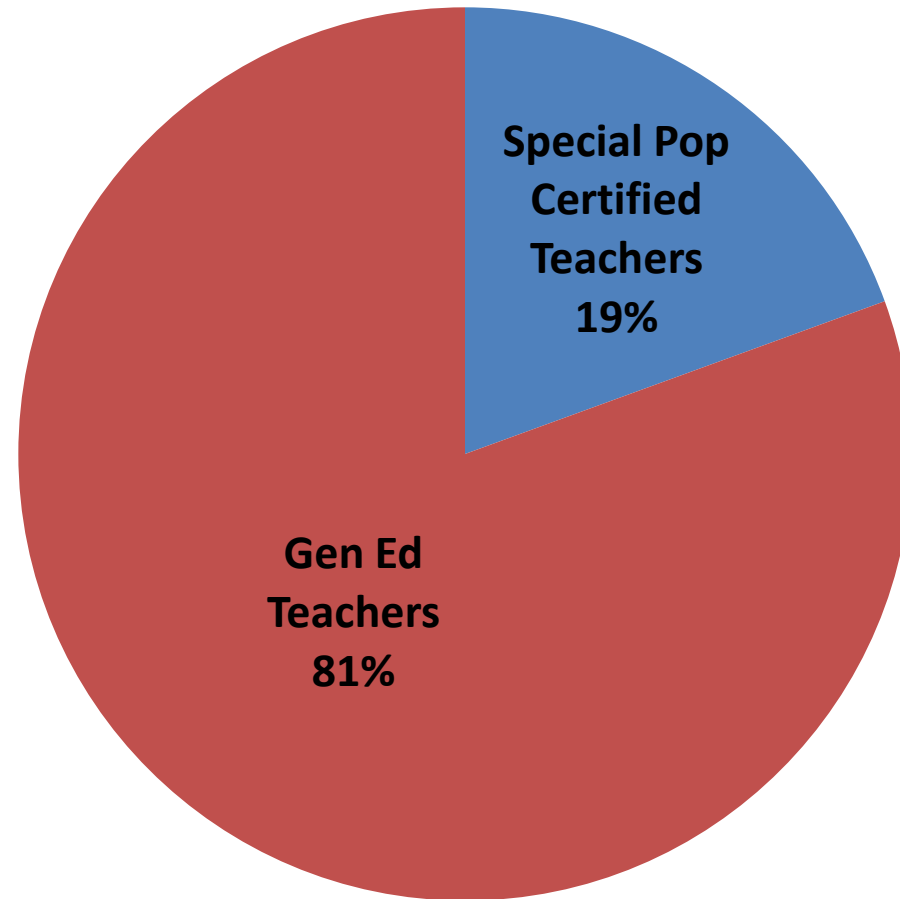
# ELA Panelist Gender



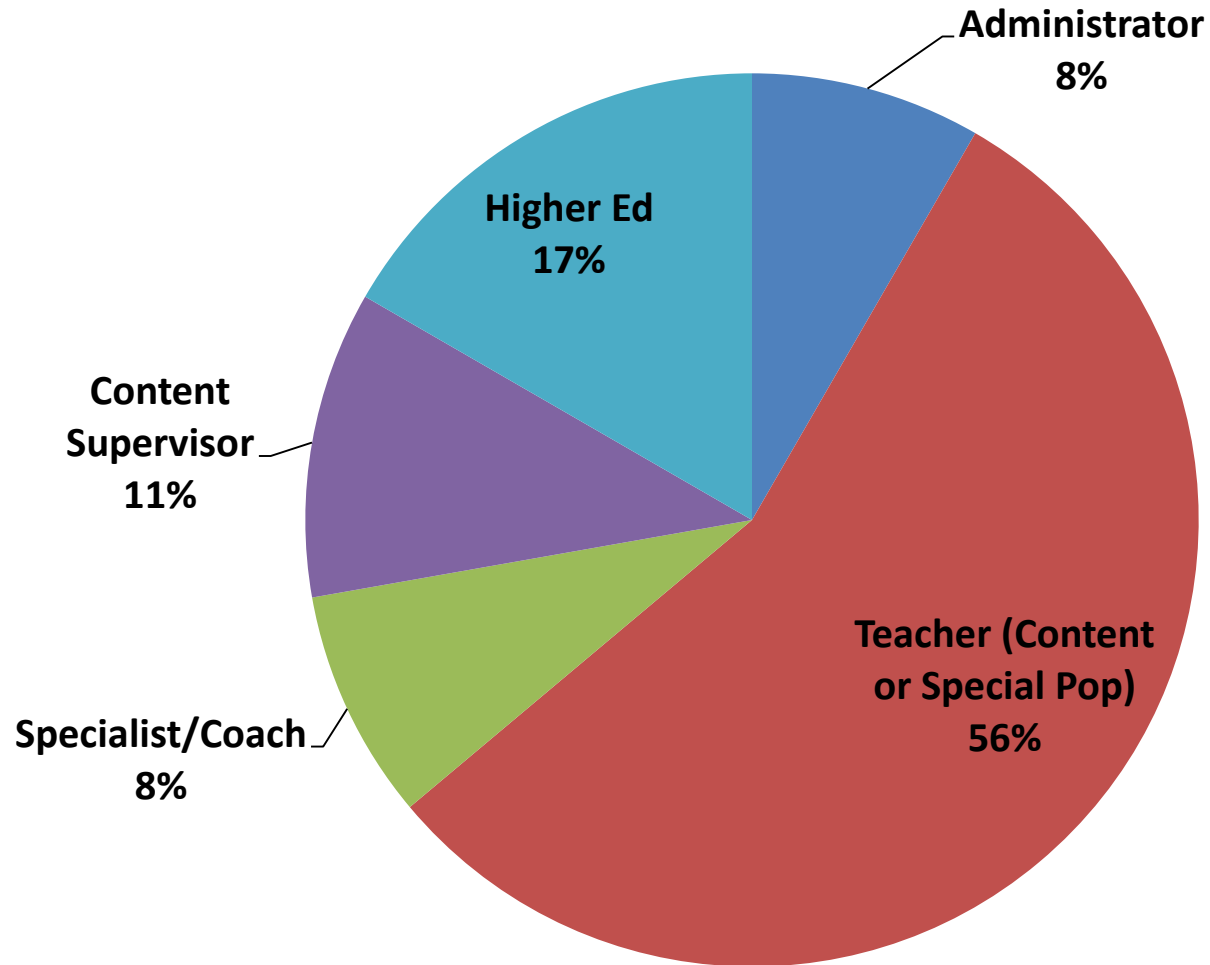
# ELA Panelist Race/Ethnicity



# ELA Panelists Working with Special Populations

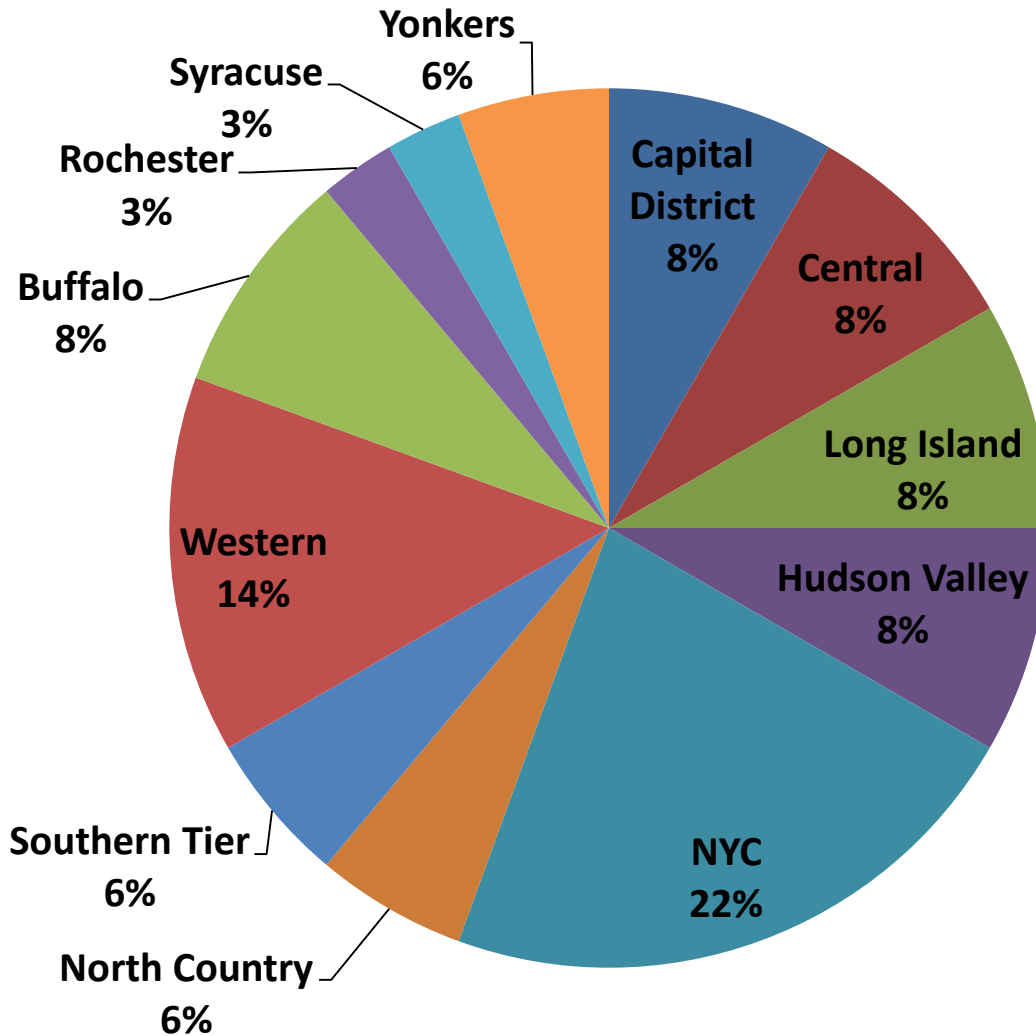


# Algebra I Panelist Role

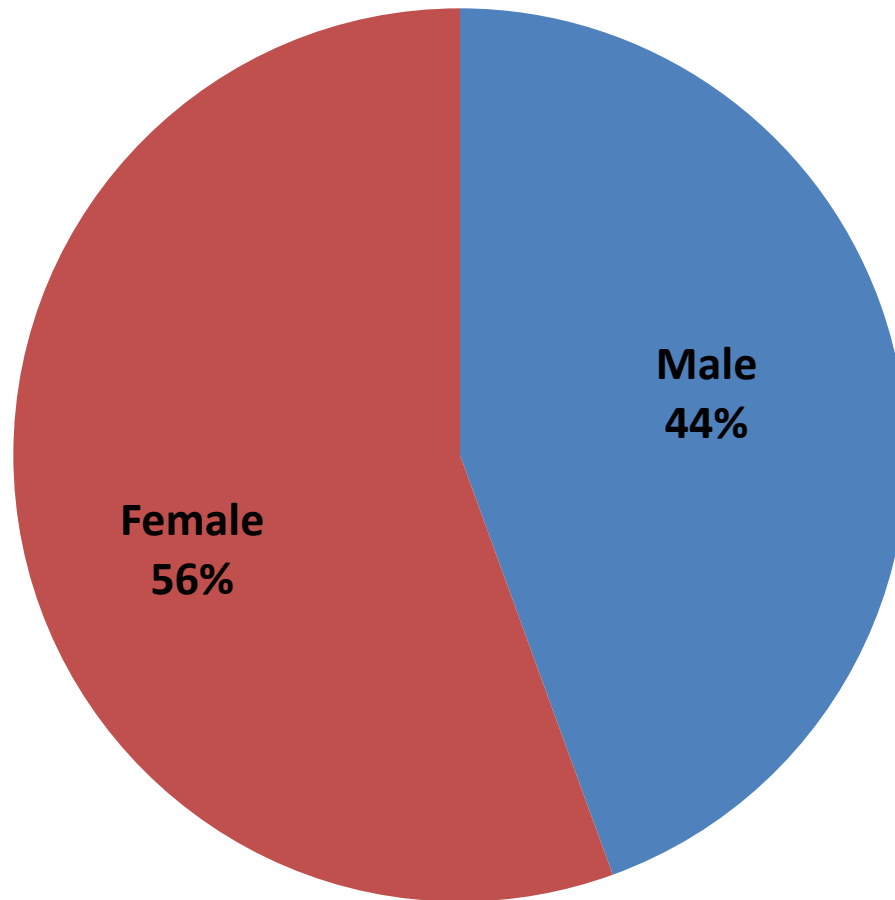




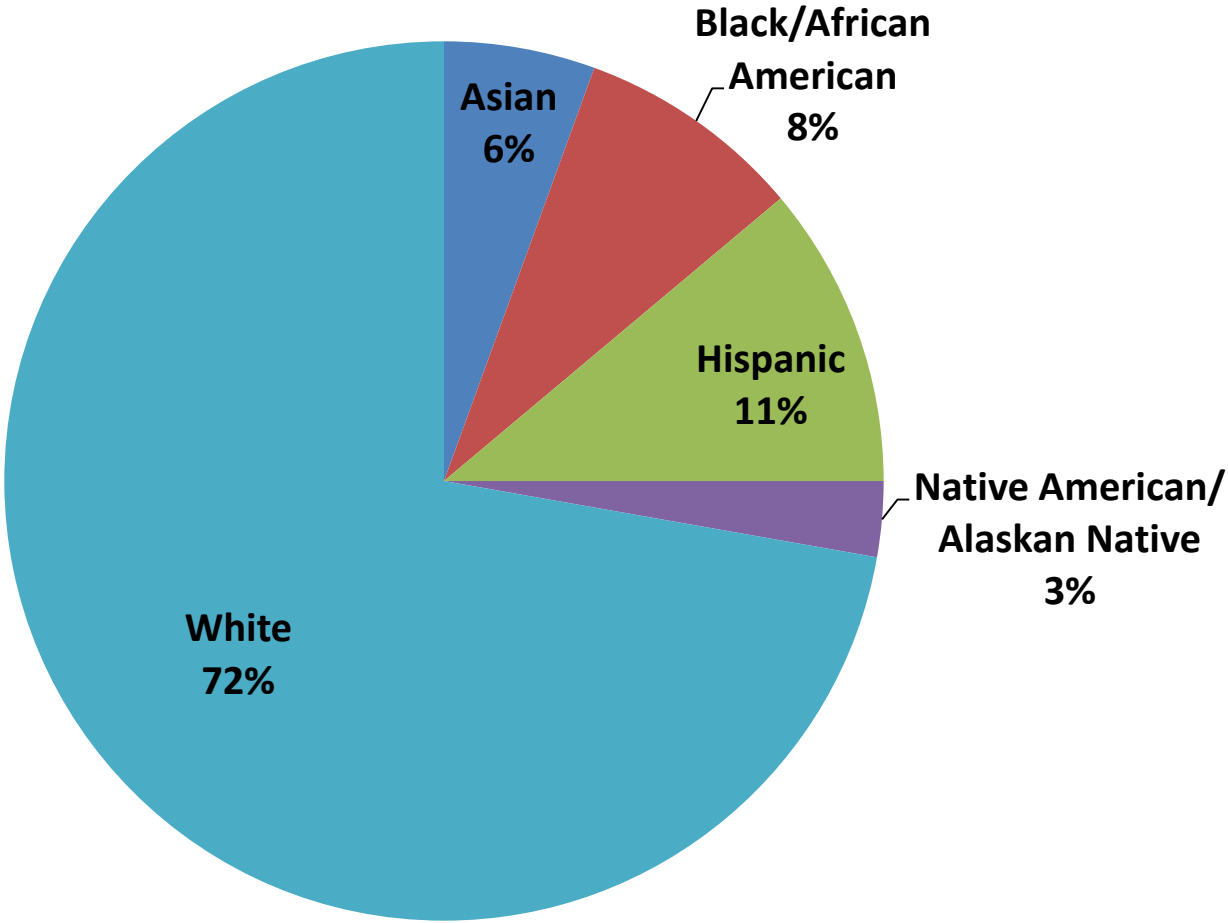
# Algebra I Panelist Region



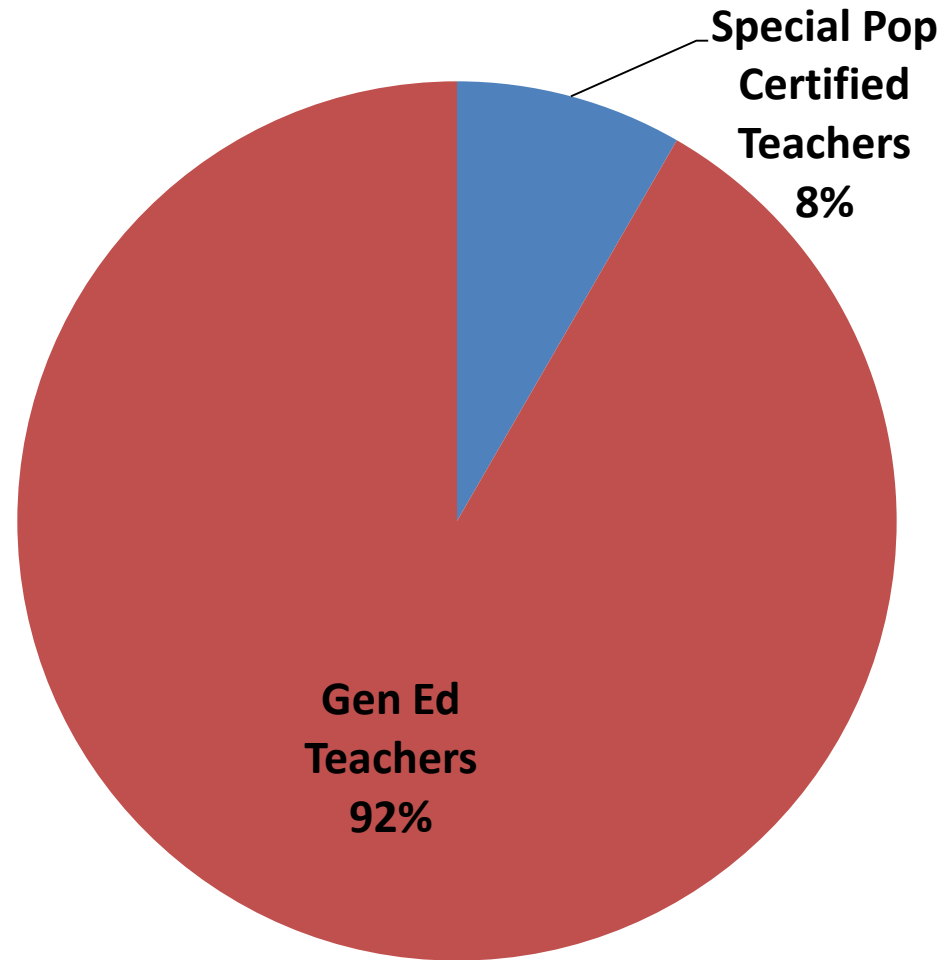
# Algebra I Panelist Gender



# Algebra I Panelist Race/Ethnicity



# Algebra I Panelists Working with Special Populations



# Student Tests Selected for the Standard Setting

For the standard setting, a sample of student tests was selected to match the typical June test-taking population, including:

- Need/Resource Group
- Gender
- Students with disabilities
- English language learners
- Poverty
- Race/ethnicity
- Achievement

# ELA - Representativeness

Demographic	Typical Test-Takers	Standard Setting
Male	50.7	50.3
Female	49.3	49.7
SWD	11.9	11.4
ELL	7.7	5.8
Poverty	43.2	44.1
NRC 1 (NYC)	34.2	36.1
NRC 2 (Big 4)	2.8	2.7
NRC 3 (High need urban/suburban)	5.6	5.3
NRC 4 (High need rural)	5.2	5.8
NRC 5 (Average need)	28.4	31.7
NRC 6 (Low need)	15.9	11.9
NRC 7 (Charter Schools)	1.3	1.3
NRC 8 (Nonpublic)	6.7	5.2

# ELA - Representativeness

Demographic	Typical Test-Takers	Standard Setting
Asian	9.2	8.1
Black	17.4	18.5
Hispanic	21.2	20.0
American Indian	0.5	0.4
Multiracial	0.6	0.4
Pacific Islander	0.2	0.1
White	51.0	52.4

# Algebra I - Representativeness

Demographic	Typical Test-Takers	Standard Setting
Male	<b>50.0</b>	<b>49.3</b>
Female	<b>50.0</b>	<b>50.7</b>
SWD	<b>12.7</b>	<b>11.9</b>
ELL	<b>7.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>
Poverty	<b>48.3</b>	<b>47.5</b>
NRC 1 (NYC)	<b>35.2</b>	<b>36.1</b>
NRC 2 (Big 4)	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>
NRC 3 (High need urban/suburban)	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.5</b>
NRC 4 (High need rural)	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>
NRC 5 (Average need)	<b>26.3</b>	<b>28.3</b>
NRC 6 (Low need)	<b>13.7</b>	<b>14.5</b>
NRC 7 (Charter Schools)	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>
NRC 8 (Nonpublic)	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>



# Algebra I - Representativeness

Demographic	Typical Test-Takers	Standard Setting
Asian	8.3	7.8
Black	19.4	20.0
Hispanic	23.6	22.8
American Indian	0.5	0.3
Multiracial	0.9	0.6
Pacific Islander	0.2	0.2
White	47.0	48.4

# First Task: Review Test

For each Exam, panelists:

1. Took a “mini test” comprised of a subset of the same items administered in 2014;
2. Reviewed the remainder of the test;
3. Had opportunities to discuss any questions with the test development coordinators.

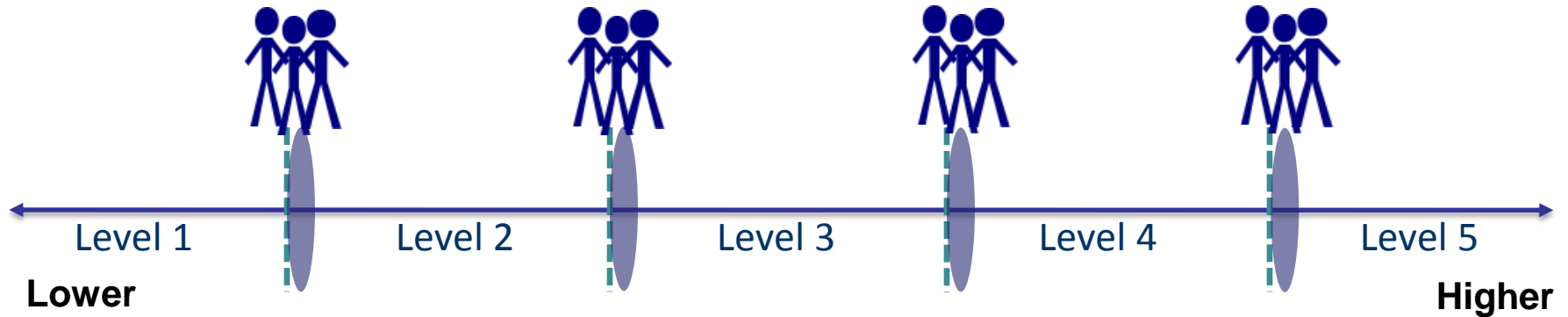
# Second Task: Define Expectations

## For each exam, panelists:

1. Reviewed detailed descriptions of the range of knowledge and skills that describe students at each performance level;
2. For Levels 4 and 5, discussed and came to consensus on the specific knowledge and skills that characterize a student who is “just barely” proficient. This is the **threshold** student.

**Focus is on what students should be able to do in each course according to demands of the standards.**

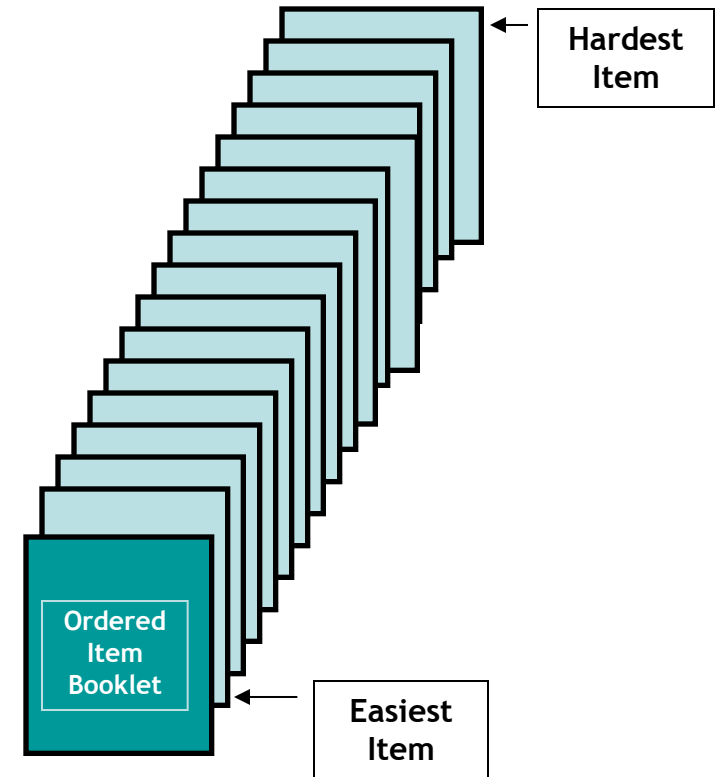
# Conceptualize the Threshold Student



- **Based on the Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs), visualize New York State students who are:**
  - **Just barely entering the next higher level**
  - **What knowledge and skills should a student have at the thresholds?**

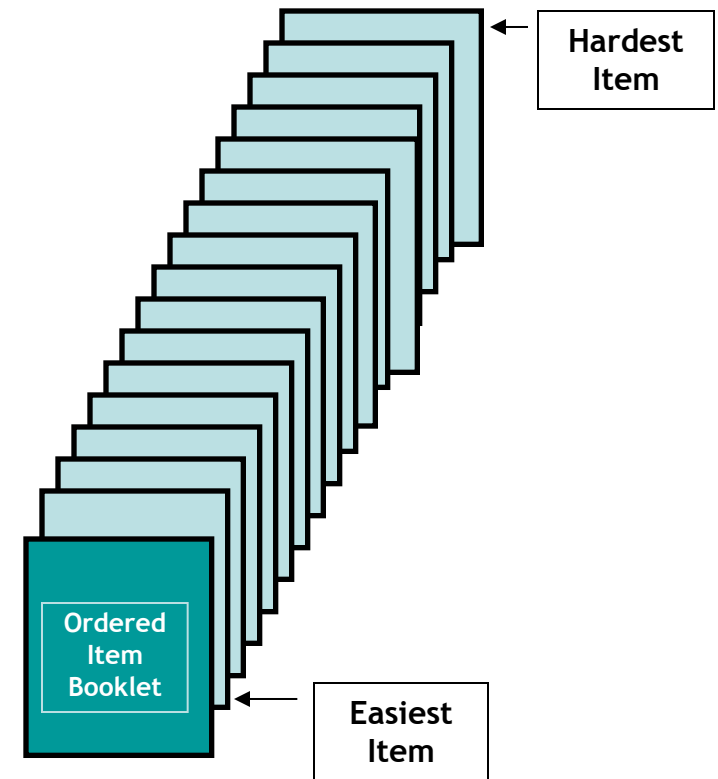
# Third Task: Train on Ordered Item Booklet (OIB) Method

- OIB is the most common standard setting methodology in state testing.
- There is an extensive research base supporting the validity of this process to capture educator judgment and cut score recommendations.
- Items from the test are ordered from easiest to hardest.



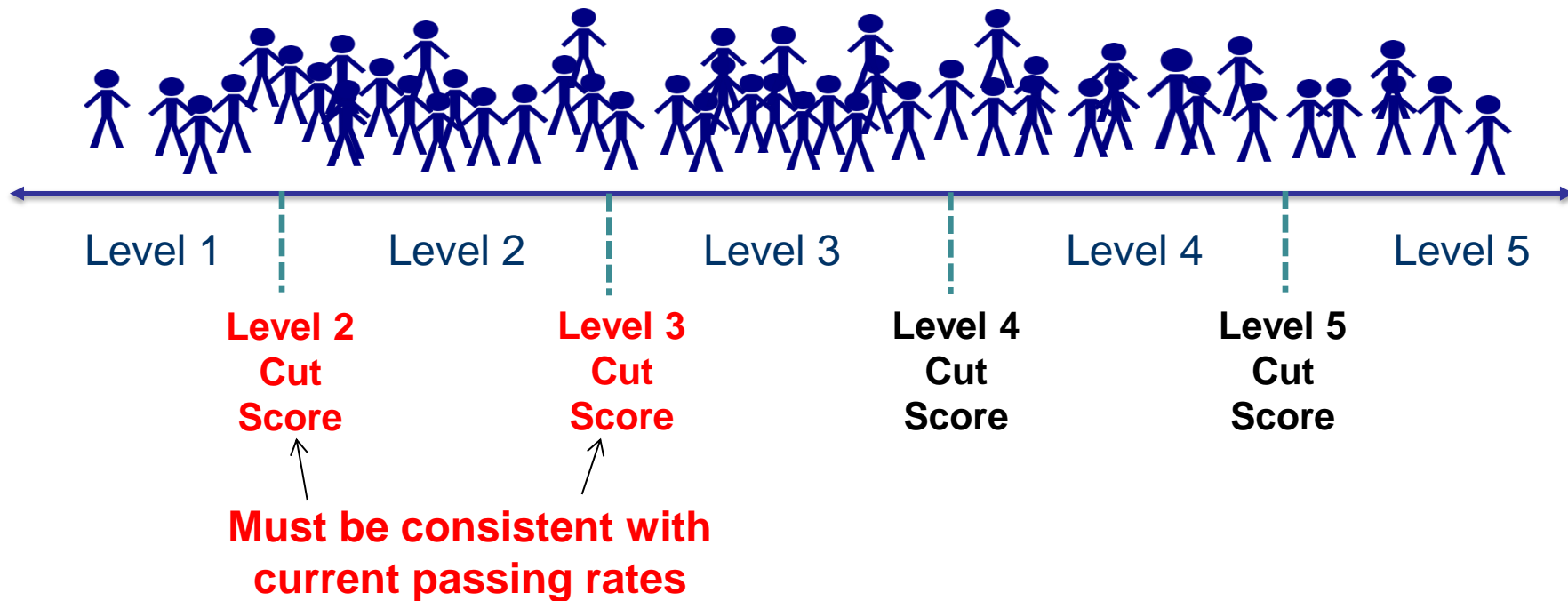
# Third Task: Train on Ordered Item Booklet (OIB) Method (cont'd)

- Panelists were trained on how to use the OIB to make judgments about where the cut scores should be to distinguish:
  - Level 2 from Level 1
  - Level 3 from Level 2
  - Level 4 from Level 3
  - Level 5 from Level 4
- After training, each panelist completed a survey indicating his/her level of understanding. If any panelist was not confident in his/her understanding, more training was provided to all.



# Fourth Task: Make First Judgments about Cut Scores

- Panelists made judgments individually.
- Individual judgments were handed to facilitators.
- Facilitators aggregated data and shared with panelists.
- Panelists discussed rationales for their judgments.
  - Rationales must be based on threshold descriptions and expectations of the Common Core standards.



- For Levels 2 and 3, panelists could select only from bookmarks that maintained the passing rate policy.
- For Levels 4 and 5, panelists placed bookmarks based on their judgment, the standards, and performance level descriptions.



# Three Rounds for Each Exam

- The process was repeated three times for each exam to ensure panelists had ample time to discuss the rationale for their judgments and change their judgments if their other panelists offered compelling rationales to do so.
- Panelists reviewed impact data after Rounds 2 and 3.
- Panelists were not required to come to consensus as individual judgment is valued.
- The process took two full days for each exam.

# Panelist Evaluation of Process

- 90% of Algebra I and 92% of ELA panelists agreed or strongly agreed that the process and methods used would produce appropriate results.
- 100% of Algebra I and 96% of ELA panelists agreed or strongly agreed that their bookmark placements accurately represented the knowledge and skills required for each performance level.

**“I walked in very skeptical. VERY. I am much more confident in the findings and recommendations after having been through this process. I think the variety of perspectives is critically important to the success.”**

**The Commissioner accepted panelist performance level cut score recommendations.**

# New Standards and Tests, Same Scale

## New performance standards

### Same Scale

0 - 100

**Level 5**: Exceeds Common Core expectations

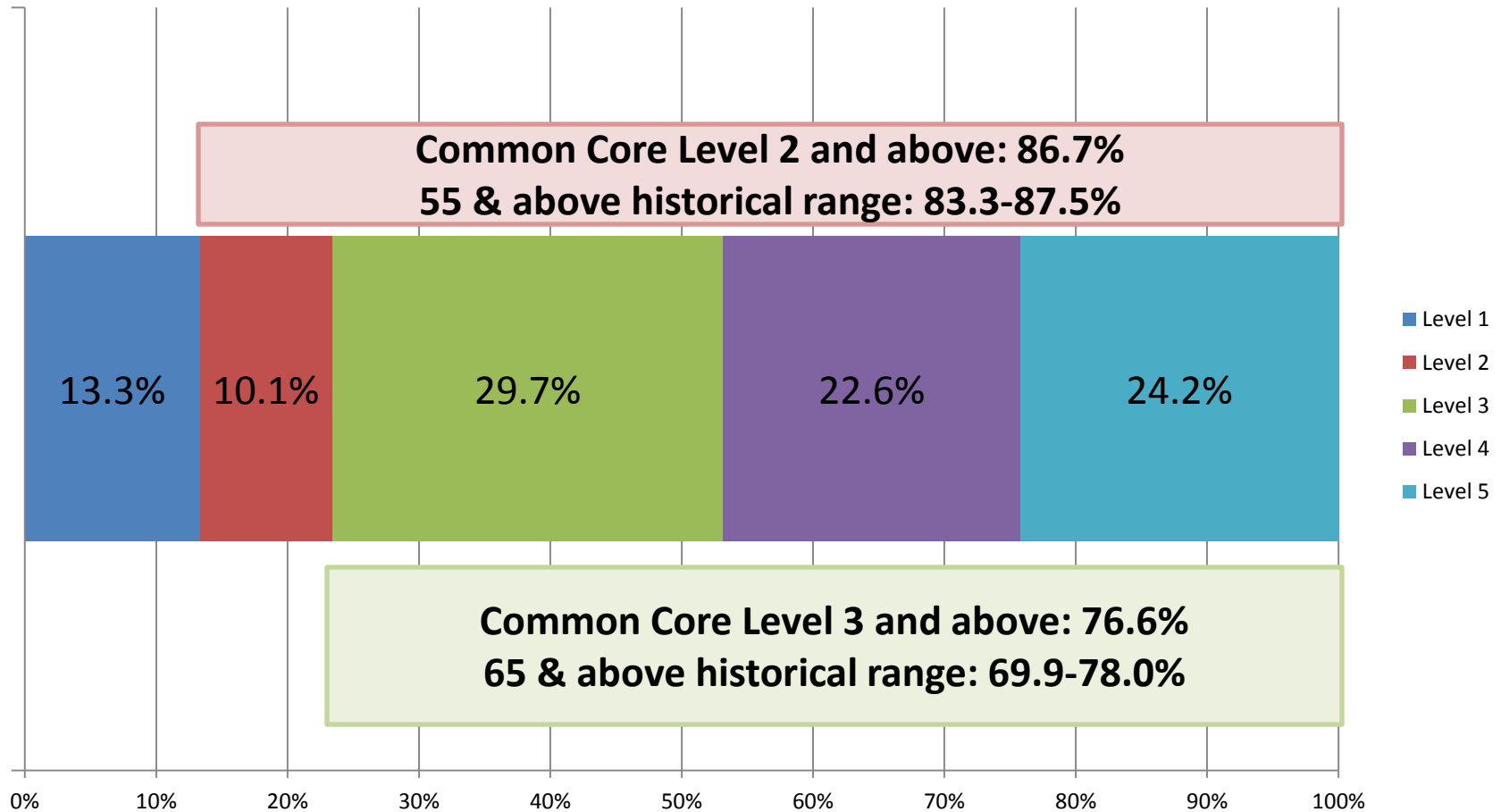
**Level 4**: Meets Common Core expectations  
(first required for Regents Diploma purposes with the Class of 2022)

**Level 3**: Partially meets Common Core expectations  
(Required for current Regents Diploma purposes)

**Level 2 (Safety Net)**: Partially meets Common Core Expectations  
(Required for Local Diploma purposes)

**Level 1**: Does not demonstrate knowledge and skills for Level 1

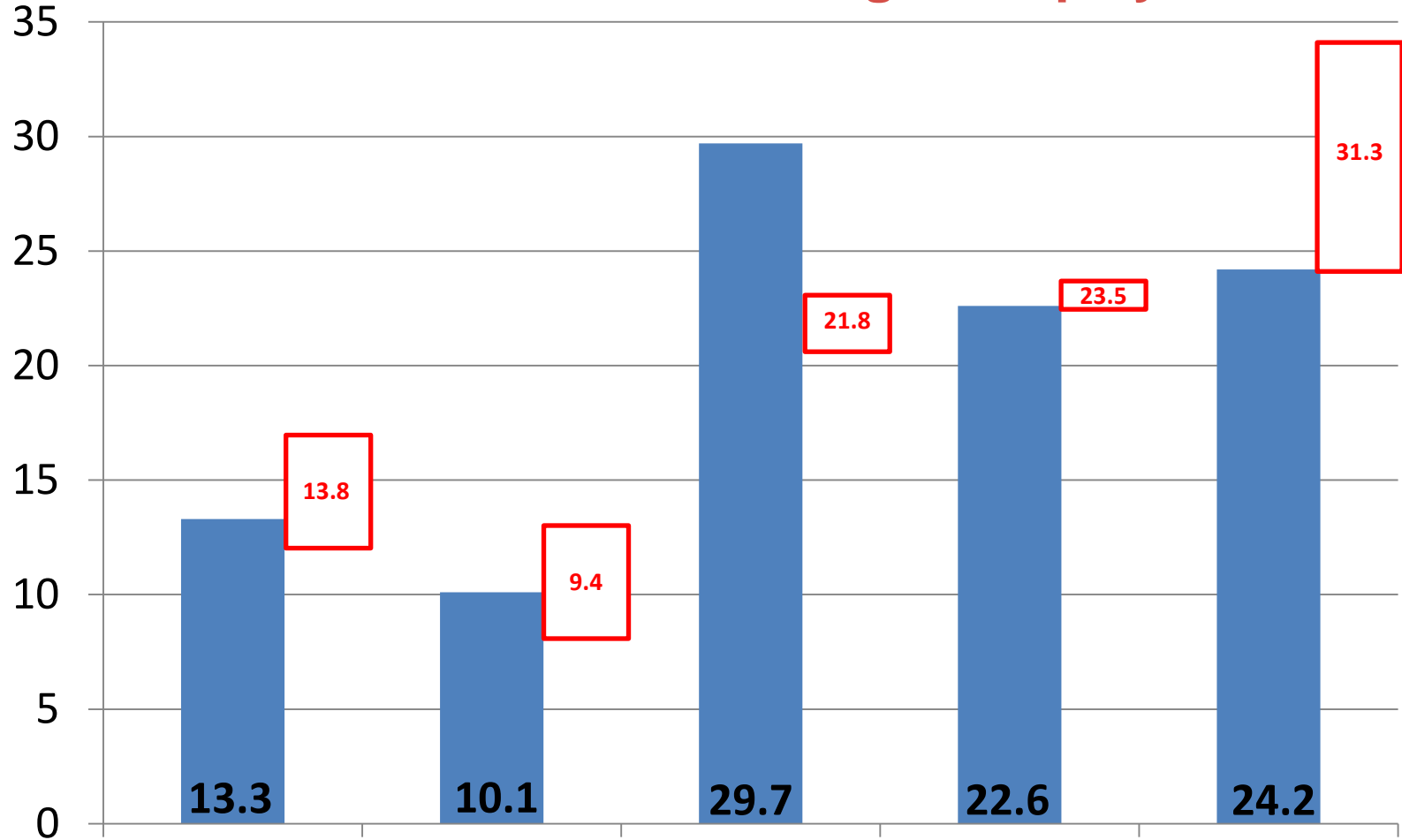
# Common Core ELA Regents Exam Percent in each Performance Level for Public Schools included in Standard Setting



# Common Core ELA Regents Exam

## Percent in each Performance Level for Public Schools included in Standard Setting

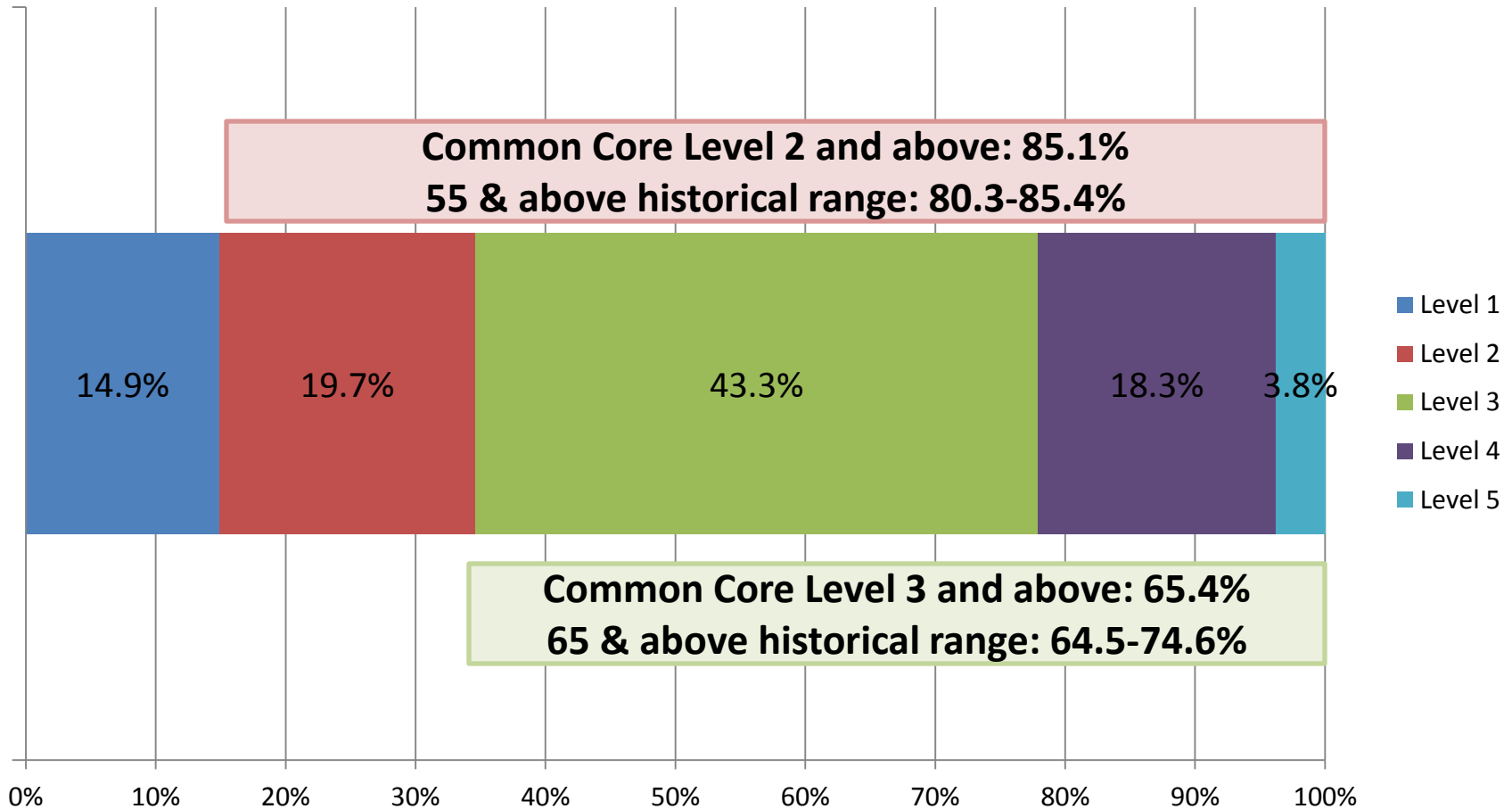
(2008-13 Historical Medians & Ranges Displayed in Red)



2014:      Level 1                      Level 2                      Level 3                      Level 4                      Level 5

Prior to 2014:      (0-54)                      (55-64)                      (65-79)                      (80-84)                      (85-100)

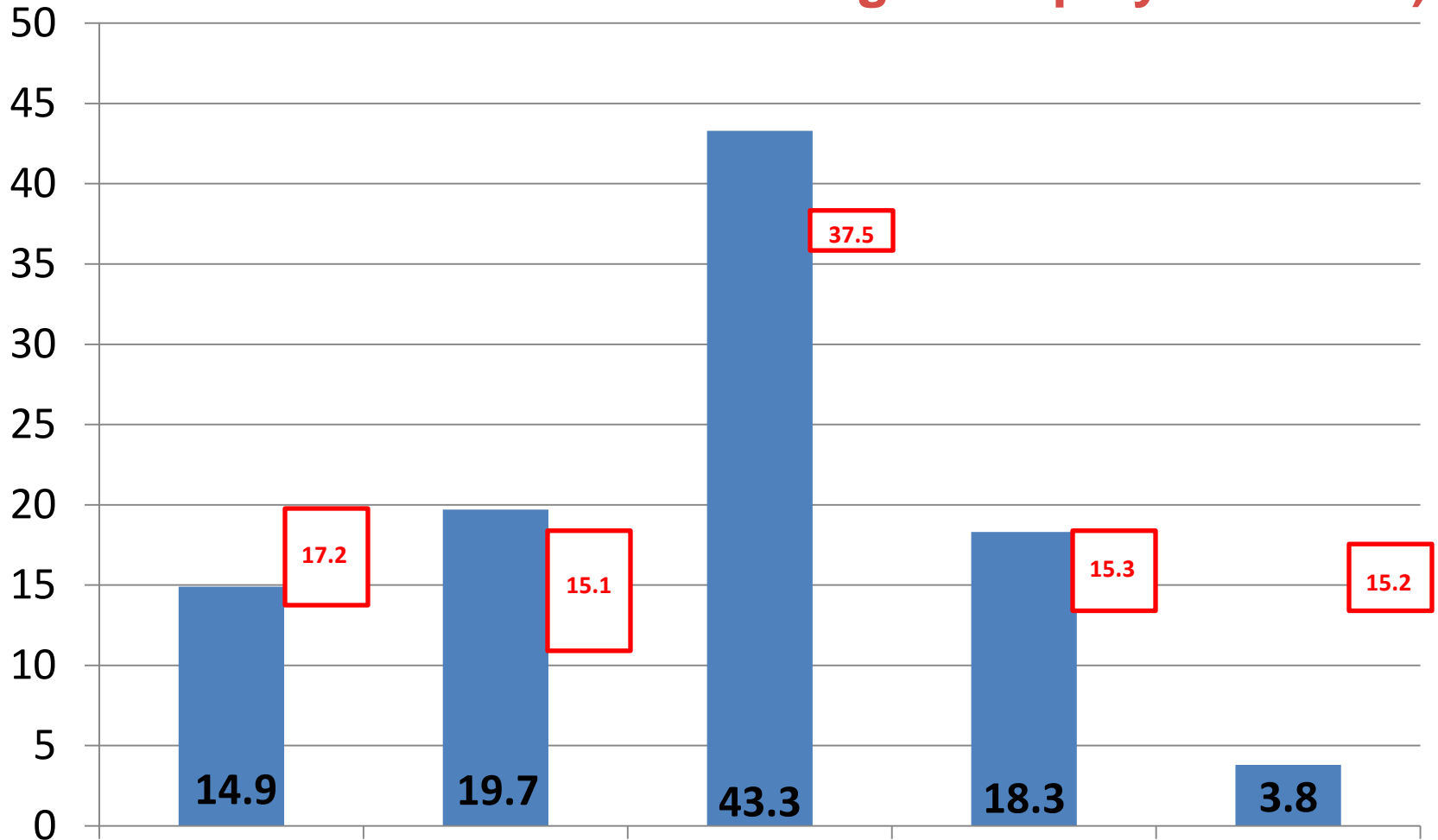
# Common Core Algebra I Regents Exam Percent in each Performance Level for Public Schools included in Standard Setting



# Common Core Algebra I Regents Exam

## Percent in each Performance Level for Public Schools included in Standard Setting

(2008-13 Historical Medians & Ranges Displayed in Red)



**2014: Level 1**

**Level 2**

**Level 3**

**Level 4**

**Level 5**

**Prior to 2014: (0-54)**

**(55-64)**

**(65-79)**

**(80-84)**

**(85-100)**



# ELA: Recommended Cut Scores

Performance Level	Scale Score Range
<b><u>Level 5</u></b> : Exceeds Common Core expectations	85-100
<b><u>Level 4</u></b> : Meets Common Core expectations (first required for Regents Diploma purposes with the Class of 2022)	79-84
<b><u>Level 3</u></b> : Partially meets Common Core expectations (Required for current Regents Diploma purposes)	65-78
<b><u>Level 2 (Safety Net)</u></b> : Partially meets Common Core Expectations (Required for Local Diploma purposes)	55-64
<b><u>Level 1</u></b> : Does not demonstrate knowledge and skills for Level 2	0-54

# Algebra I: Recommended Cut Scores

Performance Level	Scale Score Range
<b><u>Level 5</u></b> : Exceeds Common Core expectations	85-100
<b><u>Level 4</u></b> : Meets Common Core expectations (first required for Regents Diploma purposes with the Class of 2022)	74-84
<b><u>Level 3</u></b> : Partially meets Common Core expectations (Required for current Regents Diploma purposes)	65-73
<b><u>Level 2 (Safety Net)</u></b> : Partially meets Common Core Expectations (Required for Local Diploma purposes)	55-64
<b><u>Level 1</u></b> : Does not demonstrate knowledge and skills for Level 2	0-54

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**Board of Regents**  
June 23, 2014

