



TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: Kimberly Young Wilkins *Kimberly Young Wilkins*

SUBJECT: 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Test Results

DATE: August 29, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Margaret Elin*

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

This item will provide the Board of Regents with the results of the 2019 Grades 3–8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests. The State did not make significant changes to the 2019 assessments; therefore the 2019 results can be compared with the 2018 results. However, due to the change in 2018 to the two-session test design and the performance standard review process, the results from the assessments administered prior to 2018 cannot be compared with 2018 and 2019 results.

In ELA this year, 45.4 percent of students in grades 3–8 scored at the proficient level (Levels 3 and 4). In math, 46.7 percent of students scored at the proficient level.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information and discussion.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the P–12 Education Committee for discussion at the September 2019 meeting of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The Department released the results of the 2019 Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Tests publicly on August 22, 2019. The 2019 Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Test scores (including scale scores and performance levels) were made available to authorized school and district personnel through an embargoed release on August 20, 2019.

As in prior years, the Department released 75 percent of the 2019 Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Test questions that count toward student scores in early June. Once again, 100 percent of the constructed-response (open-ended) questions, as well as

the scoring materials used by educators to score student responses to these questions, were released. Each released multiple-choice question includes the question itself and an item map that provides the answer key and the standard measured by the question. The released questions are posted on [EngageNY](https://www.engageny.org/).

The Department authorized the release of instructional reports for the 2019 Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Tests in early June. These secure reports can be accessed via Regional Information Centers (RIC) and/or Level 1 data centers. The reports allow authorized school personnel to view, for each question that contributed to a student’s score, whether the student answered the question correctly and the NYS Learning Standard measured by the question. The reports allow for raw score performance comparisons at the student, classroom, school, district, and regional levels.

2019 Grades 3–8 ELA and Mathematics Test Results

The results of the 2019 and 2018 ELA and Mathematics Tests for subgroups of students and schools are shown in the tables below.

Subgroup	2019 ELA Proficiency	2019 Math Proficiency	2018 ELA Proficiency	2018 Math Proficiency
All Students Statewide				
Grade 3	52.3%	54.5%	50.5%	53.8%
Grade 4	47.7%	50.4%	47.4%	48.2%
Grade 5	37.5%	46.3%	36.6%	43.6%
Grade 6	47.1%	47.0%	49.0%	44.2%
Grade 7	39.7%	43.5%	40.0%	41.3%
Grade 8	47.7%	32.2%	47.6%	30.0%*
Combined Grades	45.4%	46.7%	45.2%	44.5%

Subgroup	2019 ELA Proficiency	2019 Math Proficiency	2018 ELA Proficiency	2018 Math Proficiency
New York City Students (Does Not Include Charter School Students)				
NYC Grade 3	53.3%	53.2%	50.6%	52.2%
NYC Grade 4	49.6%	49.4%	49.4%	46.4%
NYC Grade 5	39.8%	46.1%	38.0%	41.7%
NYC Grade 6	48.4%	43.9%	49.0%	39.9%
NYC Grade 7	42.7%	42.1%	42.7%	39.8%
NYC Grade 8	50.6%	36.0%	50.8%	33.2%*
Combined Grades	47.4%	45.6%	46.7%	42.7%

* ESSA eliminated unnecessary double testing and allowed accelerated math students to participate in high school math Regents Exams instead of the Grade 8 Math Test, which may lower the percentage proficient in Grade 8 as compared to other grades. Note: Accelerated math course availability varies by district and school.

Subgroup	2019 ELA Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)	2019 Math Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)	2018 ELA Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)	2018 Math Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)
Big 5 Cities (Does Not Include Charter School Students)				
New York City	47.4%	45.6%	46.7%	42.7%
Buffalo	24.7%	20.9%	23.4%	21.0%
Rochester	13.2%	13.0%	11.4%	10.7%
Syracuse	17.7%	14.7%	15.4%	13.5%
Yonkers	31.5%	34.6%	26.7%	29.4%
Need/Resource Groups				
New York City (High Need)	47.4%	45.6%	46.7%	42.7%
Large Cities (High Need)	22.3%	21.4%	19.7%	19.2%
High Need Urban-Suburban	28.1%	28.0%	27.8%	25.6%
High Need Rural	32.5%	35.9%	33.2%	35.2%
Average Need	43.7%	48.7%	44.5%	47.7%
Low Need	64.7%	69.4%	64.8%	67.9%
Charter Schools	54.0%	58.9%	54.0%	55.8%
Race/Ethnicity Statewide				
Asian/Pacific Islander	67.1%	73.4%	66.7%	71.2%
Black	35.3%	32.1%	34.5%	29.3%
Hispanic	35.7%	34.6%	35.1%	31.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	39.1%	40.0%	38.5%	36.3%
White	51.2%	55.5%	51.8%	54.2%

Subgroup	2019 ELA Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)	2019 Math Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)	2018 ELA Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)	2018 Math Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)
New York City Race/Ethnicity				
Asian/Pacific Islander	67.9%	74.4%	67.2%	72.2%
Black	35.0%	28.3%	34.0%	25.4%
Hispanic	36.5%	33.2%	36.0%	30.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	43.8%	42.6%	42.8%	38.2%
White	66.6%	66.6%	66.5%	63.6%
Gender Statewide				
Females	51.1%	47.1%	51.4%	45.1%
Males	39.9%	46.4%	39.4%	44.1%
Race/Ethnicity by Gender Statewide				
Asian/Pacific Islander – Female	71.9%	73.6%	71.8%	71.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander – Male	62.7%	73.2%	61.9%	70.9%
Black – Female	41.6%	34.5%	41.2%	31.6%
Black – Male	29.1%	29.9%	28.0%	27.2%
Hispanic – Female	41.2%	34.7%	41.0%	32.1%
Hispanic – Male	30.3%	34.6%	29.5%	31.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native – Female	44.3%	40.6%	44.1%	37.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native – Male	34.0%	39.4%	33.2%	35.6%
White – Female	57.2%	55.5%	58.4%	54.3%
White – Male	45.6%	55.5%	45.6%	54.0%
Charter Schools				
NYC Charters	57.3%	63.2%	57.3%	59.6%
Rest of State Charters	39.1%	39.7%	39.1%	38.4%
All Charters	54.0%	58.9%	54.0%	55.8%
English Language Learners (ELLs) Statewide				
Current ELLs	8.7%	17.0%	9.2%	16.1%
Ever ELLs	55.0%	57.8%	54.7%	54.1%
Never ELLs	48.0%	49.1%	48.0%	47.0%
New York City ELLs				
NYC Current ELLs	9.3%	18.9%	9.9%	18.0%
NYC Ever ELLs	59.3%	61.1%	58.7%	57.2%
NYC Never ELLs	51.5%	47.8%	50.8%	44.9%
Students with Disabilities Statewide				
Students with Disabilities	13.9%	16.2%	13.8%	14.6%
General Education	52.0%	53.2%	51.7%	50.8%

Computer Based Testing

This year is the third year the State offered operational assessments on the computer, with more than 194,800 students participating at approximately 1,100 schools statewide. The Department addressed the technical difficulties experienced by some students who took the ELA exam on computers and, as a result, computer-based mathematics testing went more smoothly. The Department will maintain computer-based testing in 2019-20 as an option for districts/schools that have started implementation and will have additional measures in place to help ensure testing goes smoothly.

Test Refusal

In 2019, the statewide test refusal rate was approximately 16 percent, a decline of two percentage point from last year's refusal rate of approximately 18 percent, and a decline of five percentage points from 2016's refusal rate of approximately 21 percent.

Statewide, the vast majority of students who refused the tests were from average or low-need school districts. Long Island remains the geographic area with the highest percentage of test refusals in both ELA and mathematics. Charter schools and schools in the Big 5 city school districts had the lowest refusal rates in the State.

As in prior years, the proficiency rates in 2019 represent the more than 1.09 million students who took the State assessments. There is no statewide measure of knowledge and skill for those students who refused the test.

Related Regents Items

N/A