



**TO:** P-12 Education Committee

**FROM:** Angélica Infante-Green *A. Infante - Green*

**SUBJECT:** 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Test Results

**DATE:** October 4, 2018

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Mary Ellen Elin*

### **SUMMARY**

#### **Issue for Discussion**

This item will provide the Board of Regents with the results of the 2018 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests. Due to the State's new two-session test design and performance standards, the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and math results cannot be compared with prior-year results. The new baseline established this year will enable comparisons with student scores in 2019 and 2020.

In ELA this year, the 45.2 percent of students in Grades 3-8 scored at the proficient level (Levels 3 and 4). In math, 44.5 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 October 2018 meeting of the Board of Regents.

#### **Background Information**

The Department released the results of the 2018 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests publicly on September 26, 2018. This was later than in prior years due to the new test design which reduced the number of sessions for each grade and subject test from three sessions to two. In order to maintain valid and reliable

measurement of student achievement on the New York State Learning Standards, it was necessary to engage NYS educators certified in the content area to review the performance standards. Given the additional analyses necessary, both leading up to and following this educator review, the public release of the statewide results was delayed to late September. To assist with programmatic planning, scheduling, and other preparation for the upcoming school year, the 2018 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 27, 2018.

As in prior years, the Department released 75 percent of the 2018 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. Each released constructed-response question includes the question itself and an item map that provides the standard measured by the question. The released questions are posted on [EngageNY](#).

The Department authorized the release of instructional reports for the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests on or before June 8, 2018. 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.

**2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Test Results**

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

<b>Subgroup</b>	<b>2018 ELA Proficiency</b>	<b>2018 Math Proficiency</b>
<b>All Students Statewide</b>		
Grade 3	50.5%	53.8%
Grade 4	47.4%	48.2%
Grade 5	36.6%	43.6%
Grade 6	49.0%	44.2%
Grade 7	40.0%	41.3%
Grade 8	47.6%	30.0%*
Combined Grades	45.2%	44.5%

Subgroup	2018 ELA Proficiency	2018 Math Proficiency
<b>New York City Students (Does Not Include Charter School Students)</b>		
NYC Grade 3	50.6%	52.2%
NYC Grade 4	49.4%	46.4%
NYC Grade 5	38.0%	41.7%
NYC Grade 6	49.0%	39.9%
NYC Grade 7	42.7%	39.8%
NYC Grade 8	50.8%	33.2%*
Combined Grades	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	2018 ELA Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)	2018 Math Proficiency (All Testing Grades Combined)
<b>Big 5 Cities (Does Not Include Charter School Students)</b>		
New York City	46.7%	42.7%
Buffalo	23.4%	21.0%
Rochester	11.4%	10.7%
Syracuse	15.4%	13.5%
Yonkers	26.7%	29.4%
<b>Need/Resource Groups</b>		
New York City (High Need)	46.7%	42.7%
Large Cities (High Need)	19.7%	19.2%
High Need Urban-Suburban	27.8%	25.6%
High Need Rural	33.2%	35.2%
Average Need	44.5%	47.7%
Low Need	64.8%	67.9%
Charter Schools	54.0%	55.8%
<b>Race/Ethnicity Statewide</b>		
Asian/Pacific Islander	66.7%	71.2%
Black	34.5%	29.3%
Hispanic	35.1%	31.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	38.5%	36.3%
White	51.8%	54.2%

<b>Subgroup</b>	<b>2018 ELA Proficiency</b> (All Testing Grades Combined)	<b>2018 Math Proficiency</b> (All Testing Grades Combined)
<b>New York City Race/Ethnicity</b>		
Asian/Pacific Islander	67.2%	72.2%
Black	34.0%	25.4%
Hispanic	36.0%	30.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	42.8%	38.2%
White	66.5%	63.6%
<b>Gender</b>		
Females	51.4%	45.1%
Males	39.4%	44.1%
<b>Race/Ethnicity by Gender</b>		
Asian/Pacific Islander – Female	71.8%	71.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander – Male	61.9%	70.9%
Black – Female	41.2%	31.6%
Black – Male	28.0%	27.2%
Hispanic – Female	41.0%	32.1%
Hispanic – Male	29.5%	31.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native – Female	44.1%	37.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native – Male	33.2%	35.6%
White – Female	58.4%	54.3%
White – Male	45.6%	54.0%
<b>Charter Schools</b>		
NYC Charters	57.3%	59.6%
Rest of State Charters	39.1%	38.4%
All Charters	54.0%	55.8%
<b>English Language Learners (ELLs)</b>		
Current ELLs	9.2%	16.1%
Ever ELLs	54.7%	54.1%
Never ELLs	48.0%	47.0%
<b>New York City ELLs</b>		
NYC Current ELLs	9.9%	18.0%
NYC Ever ELLs	58.7%	57.2%
NYC Never ELLs	50.8%	44.9%
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>		
Students with Disabilities	13.8%	14.6%
General Education	51.7%	50.8%

## **Computer Based Testing**

This year is the second year the State offered operational assessments on the computer, with more than 145,000 students participating at more than 10 percent of schools statewide. The Department addressed the technical difficulties experienced by some students who took the ELA exam on computers; as a result, computer-based mathematics testing went more smoothly. The Department remains committed to a transition to computer-based testing (CBT).

## **Test Refusal**

In 2018, the statewide test refusal rate was approximately 18 percent, a decline of one percentage point from last year's refusal rate of approximately 19 percent, and a decline of three 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 mathematics and ELA. 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 2018 represent the more than 950,000 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