



NEW YORK STATE 2020-2021 GRADES 3-8 ASSESSMENTS

NOVEMBER 15, 2021



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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NY APPLIED FOR A USDE TESTING WAIVER TO ADDRESS EDUCATIONAL REALITIES DURING THE PANDEMIC

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New York State Education Department Submits Federal Waivers for State Assessment and Accountability Requirements to U.S. Department of Education

Waivers Would Allow the State to Forego Testing in 2020-21

The New York State Education Department today submitted two federal waiver requests related to state assessment and accountability requirements, State Education Commissioner Betty A. Rosa announced. The waiver requests address the unique circumstances caused by the ongoing pandemic that have resulted in many students receiving some or all of their instruction remotely. The full text of the submitted waiver requests is posted on [NYSED's ESSA webpage](#).

"I am thankful for the feedback received from our partners in education and for their support to seek these important waivers," said Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr. "The primary focus of the Board of Regents and the Department at this time is to ensure our schools are able to complete the academic year safely while focusing on teaching during this difficult time. Anything less is a disservice to our students."

"We heard from educators and parents from across the state on this important decision," said Commissioner Betty A. Rosa. "The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and strengthens our resolve that our schools and students would be best served by waiving testing and accountability requirements. We continue to work with schools to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone in our schools during this challenging time."

APRIL 7, 2021

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Statement from Chancellor Lester W. Young, Jr. and Commissioner Betty A. Rosa on USDE Denial of Assessment Waiver Request

The U.S. Department of Education chose not to approve New York's waiver request to forego state assessments this year. In the face of a worldwide pandemic, we believe cancelling state assessments would be the most appropriate and fair thing to do in the best interest of our students and we are deeply disappointed in USDE's decision.

While we are grateful for Secretary Cardona's statement that students learning remotely should not be brought into school solely to take an assessment, the idea that state assessments could be "standardized" is unrealistic given the varying formats of instruction and not including whole segments of our state's children who will not participate. In fact, the students most in need of state assessments – those receiving remote instruction -- are the very children who are not required to take the test. Schools providing remote only instruction tend to be located in urban settings and are more likely to serve communities with higher concentrations of students of color. Data collected by NYSED indicates that parents of students of color were more likely to select remote instruction for their children compared to White parents, and students of color are four

STATE ASSESSMENTS ARE ONE PART OF THE PICTURE

Schools use several strategies to assess student learning:



Locally and teacher-developed tests



Coursework



Vendor-developed tests used locally



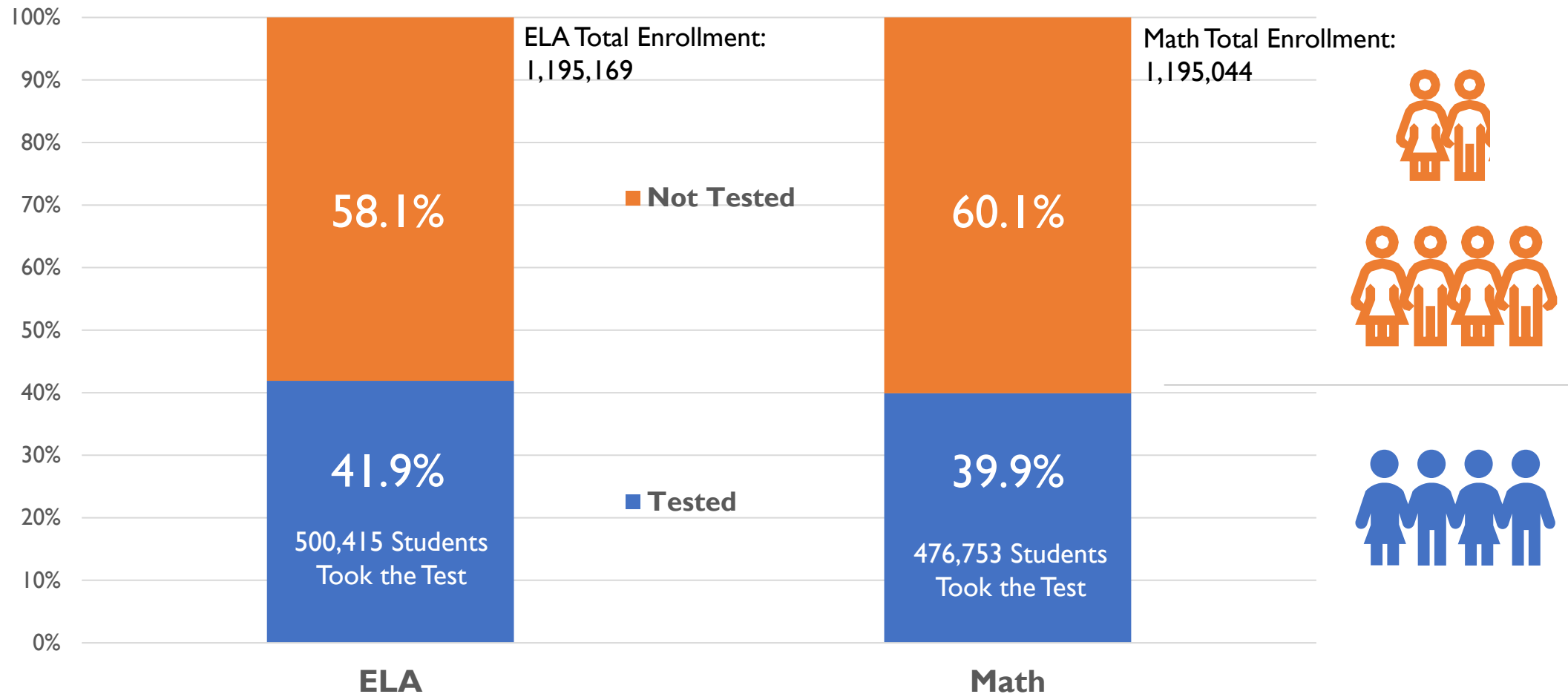
Projects



State assessments

IN SY 2020-2021, ONLY 4 OUT OF 10 STUDENTS TOOK STATE ASSESSMENTS

Percent of Students Tested & Not Tested Statewide



ASSESSMENT RESULTS ARE **NOT REPRESENTATIVE** OF THE STATE'S STUDENT POPULATION AND SHOULD NOT BE COMPARED



LIMITATIONS TO INTERPRETATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT RESULTS



Statewide results of this year's assessments cannot be compared with the statewide results from previous years.

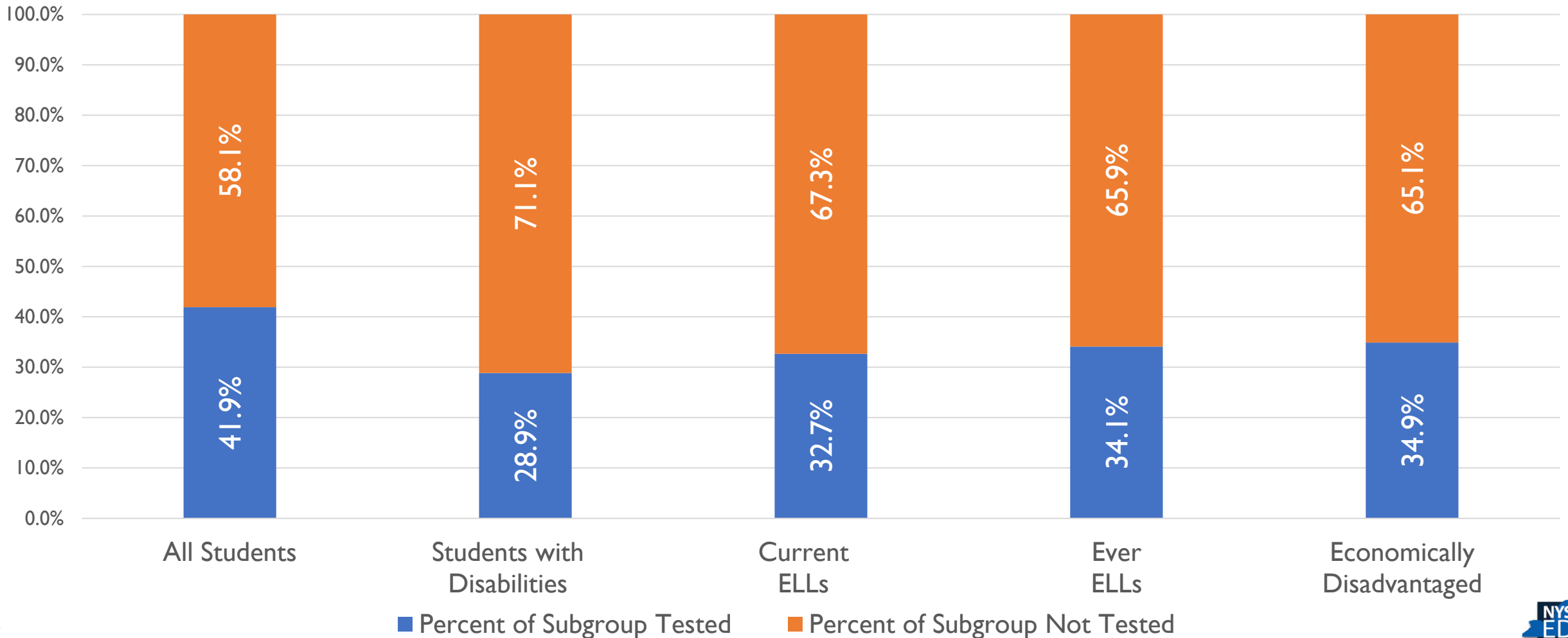


Results should not be used to make statewide subgroup, or other comparisons within this year's data.

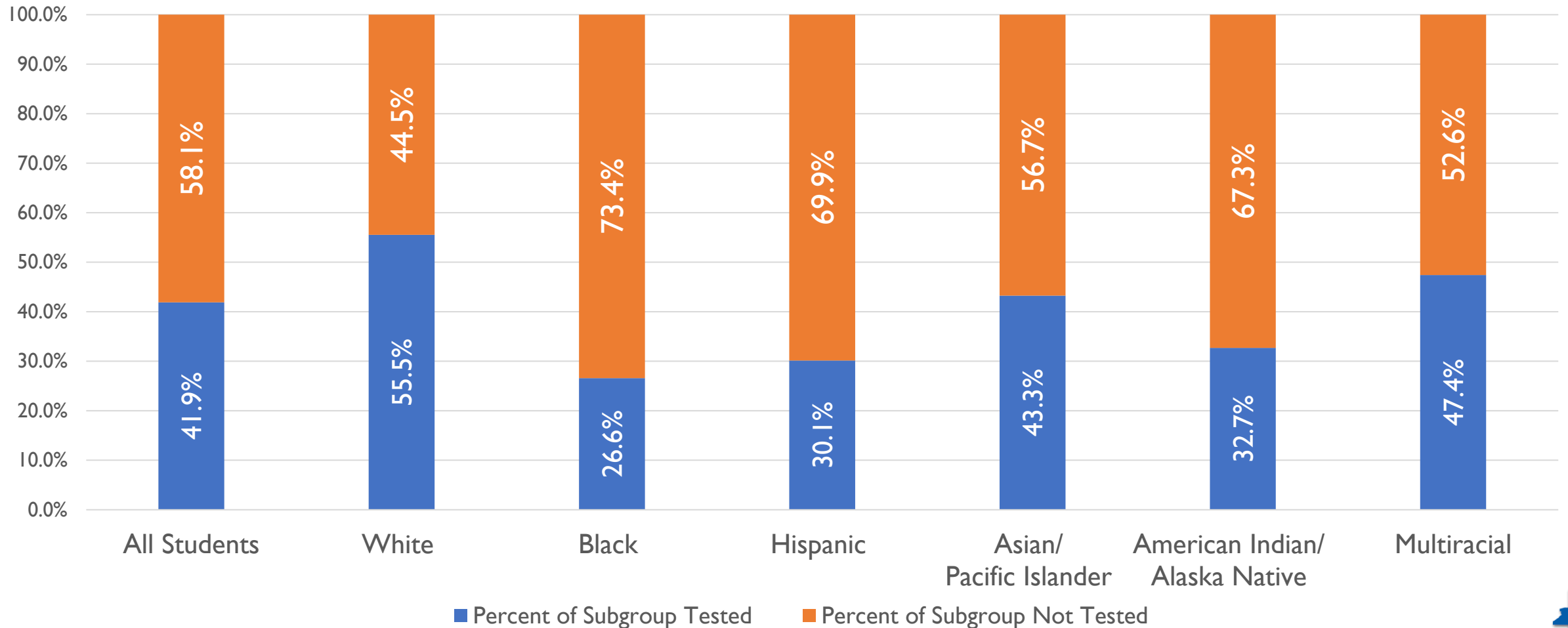


State assessments were shorter – one session in 2021. (They will return to the two-session format in 2022.)

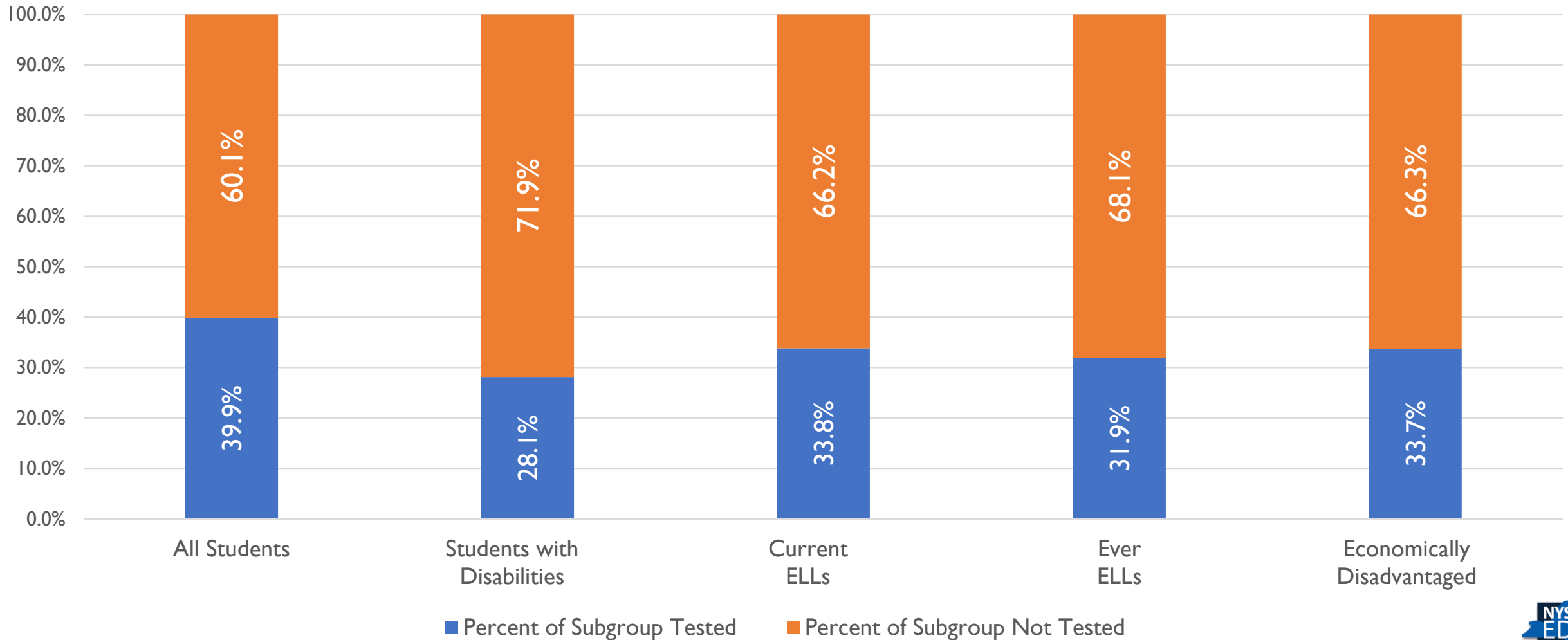
2020-2021 GRADES 3-8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: PERCENT OF STUDENTS TESTED AND NOT TESTED BY SUBGROUP



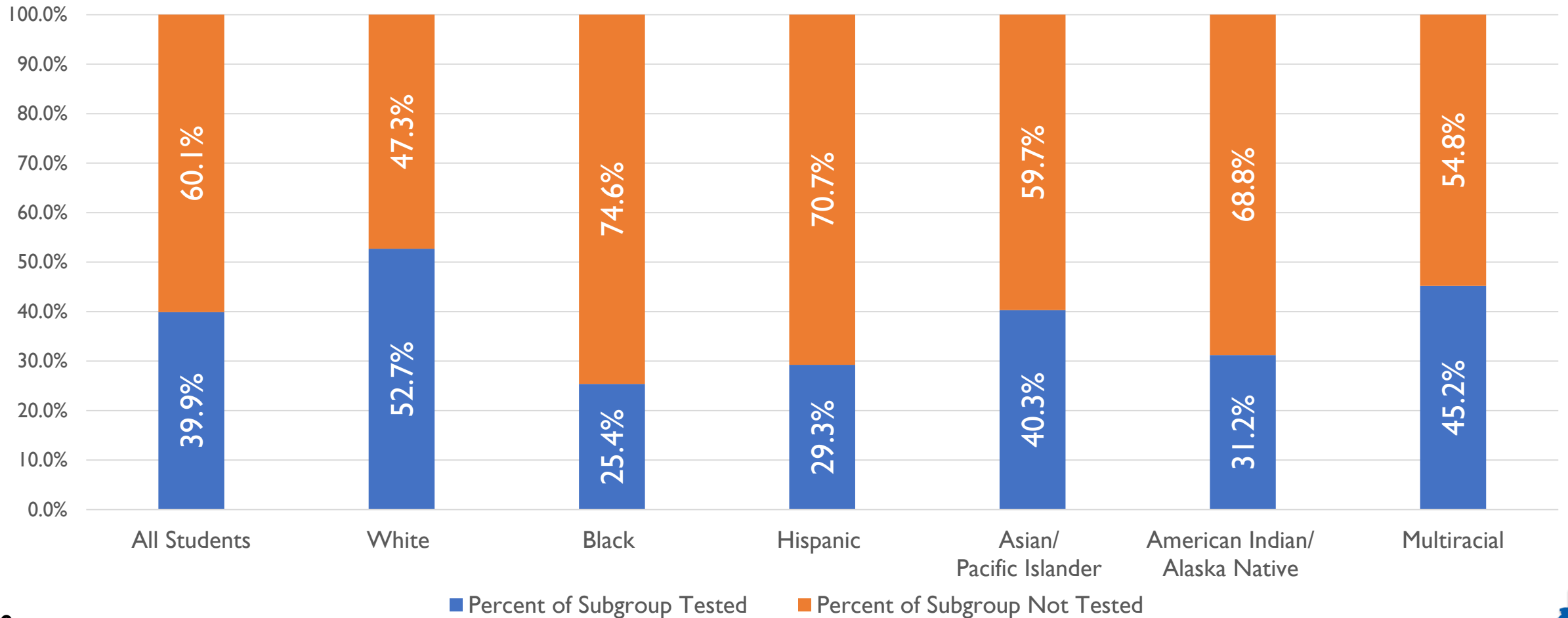
2020-2021 GRADES 3-8 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: PERCENT OF STUDENTS TESTED AND NOT TESTED BY RACE & ETHNICITY



2020-2021 GRADES 3-8 MATHEMATICS: PERCENT OF STUDENTS TESTED AND NOT TESTED BY SUBGROUP



2020-2021 GRADES 3-8 MATHEMATICS: PERCENT OF STUDENTS TESTED AND NOT TESTED BY RACE & ETHNICITY



CONCLUSION



Assessment results are not representative of the state's student population; therefore, statewide, sub-group, year over year, or other comparisons should not be made.



State assessment results are one valuable piece of data for assessing student learning.



NYSED is focused on implementing policies to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion and taking a support-oriented approach to help schools and students.



ARP funds to be used to help address learning loss, invest in early learning, and support social emotional and mental health needs.



THANK YOU!



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