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

Orchard Park Middle School

in

Orchard Park Central School District

February 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Regents of The University

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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 *School Accountability 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 *School Accountability 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 and mathematics and on the middle-level science test 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. Performance on the elementary-level science test is reported in terms of mean scores and the percentage of students making appropriate progress. 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: February 2004*, 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: Joan Thomas		Phone: (716)209-6227
Organization 2002–03	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
	6-8	1255

2001–02 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	$10,639

Similar Schools Group	This school is in Similar Schools Group 35. All schools in this group are middle level schools in school districts with low student needs in relation to district resource capacity. The schools in this group are in the middle range of student needs for middle level schools in these districts.

2002–03 Percentage of Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers*

Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
313	95%

*For the 2002-03 school year, SED is reporting that teachers of core classes are highly qualified if they are certified to teach those classes. However, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) imposes requirements beyond certification for some teachers to be considered highly qualified. In future years, when New York State uses the NCLB criteria for reporting, certified teachers must fulfill all NCLB requirements to be counted as highly qualified.

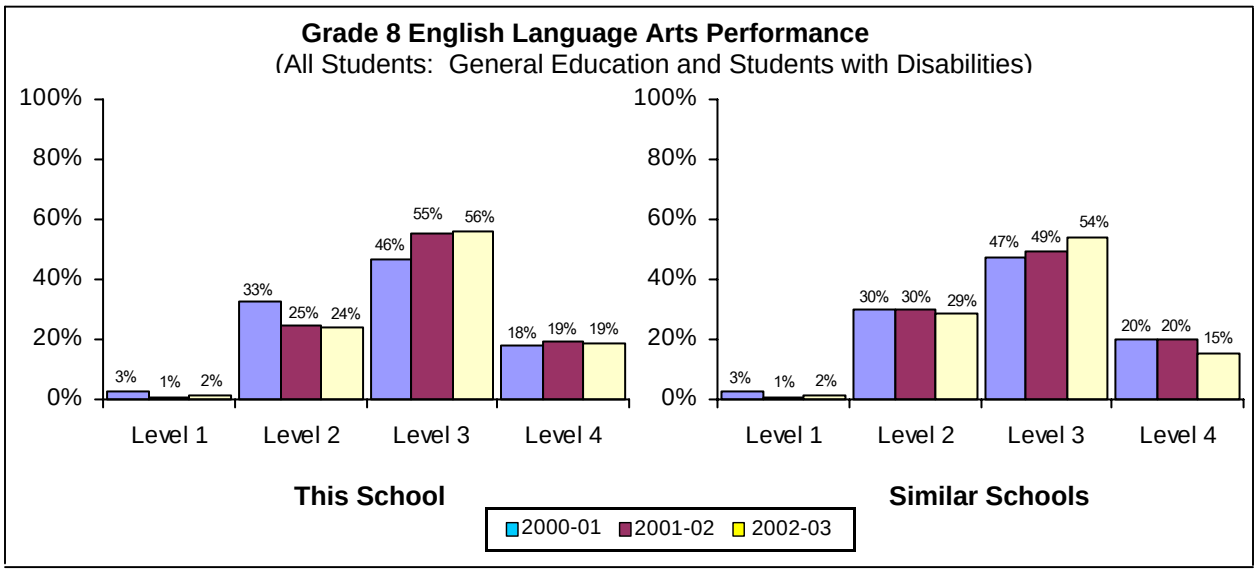
2002–03 Percentage of Teachers with No Valid Teaching Certificate*

Number of Teachers	Percent with No Valid Teaching Certificate
111	1%

*This count includes teachers with temporary licenses who do not have a valid permanent, provisional, or transitional teaching certificate.

Middle Level

English Language Arts



Performance at This School	Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
	Level 1 527–661	Level 2 662–700	Level 3 701–738	Level 4 739–830	Total	
May 2001	12	139	197	76	424	714
	Level 1 527–659	**Level 2 660–698**	**Level 3 699-737**	**Level 3 738-830**	**Total**	
March 2002	3	111	246	86	446	715
	Level 1 527–657	**Level 2 658–696**	**Level 3 697–736**	**Level 4 737–830**	**Total**	
January 2003	6	88	204	68	366	714

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	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

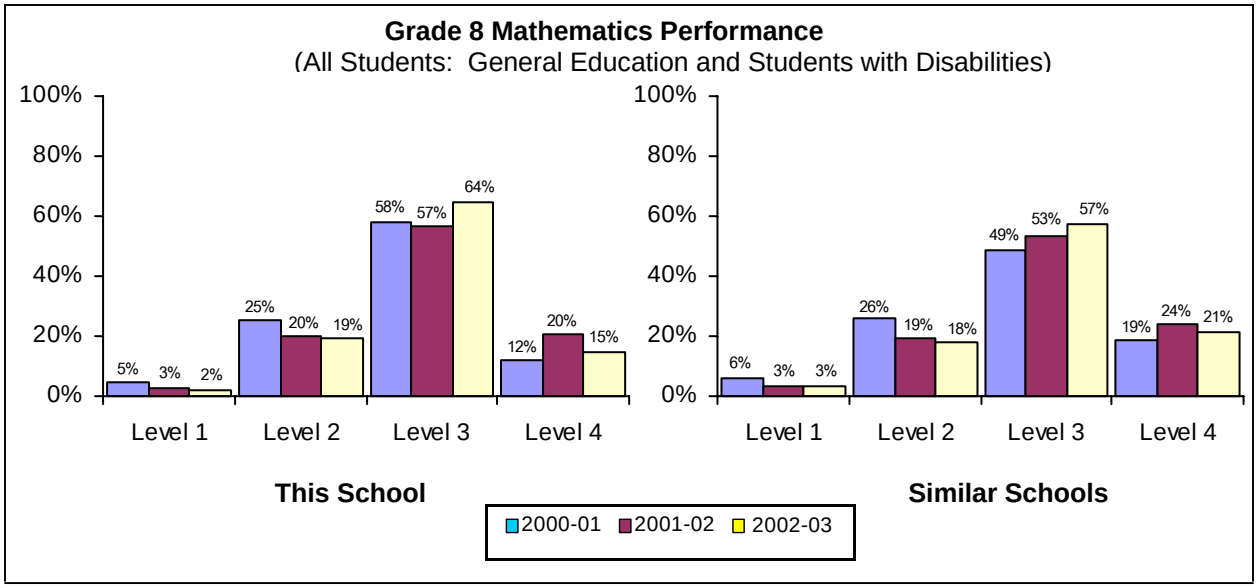
Grade 8	Number Tested	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
2003	0	0	0	0	0

Performance of Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in English

Grade 8	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4
2002–03	0	0	0	0	0

Middle Level

Mathematics



Performance at This School	Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
	Level 1 517–680	Level 2 681–715	Level 3 716–759	Level 4 760–882	Total	
May 2001	20	108	248	51	427	728
May 2002	13	88	254	91	446	736
May 2003	8	75	253	57	393	735

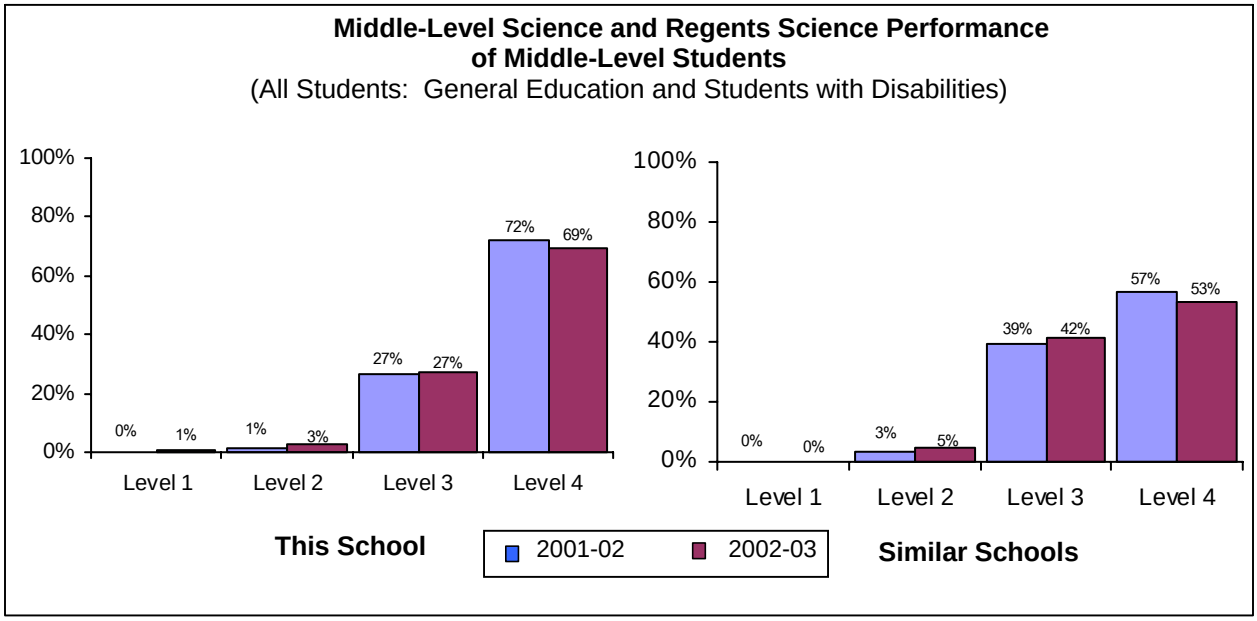
Middle-Level Mathematics Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards	
Level 4	These students **exceed the standards** and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.
Level 3	These students **meet the standards** and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents 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	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4
2002–03	0	0	0	0	0

Middle Level

Science



Performance at This School		Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total	
June 2002	Middle-Level Science	0	6	118	318	442	87
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2003	Middle-Level Science	2	11	105	266	384	87
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0

Middle-Level Science Levels — Knowledge, Reasoning, and Problem-Solving Standards*	
Level 4	These students **exceed the standards** on the middle-level science test and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examinations ***or*** score 85–100 on a Regents science examination.
Level 3	These students **meet the standards** on the middle-level science test and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examinations ***or*** score 65–84 on a Regents science examination.
Level 2	These students **need extra help** to meet the standards for middle-level science and to pass the Regents examinations ***or*** score 55–64 on a Regents science examination.
Level 1	These students have **serious academic deficiencies** as evidenced in the middle-level science test ***or*** score 0–54 on a Regents science examination.

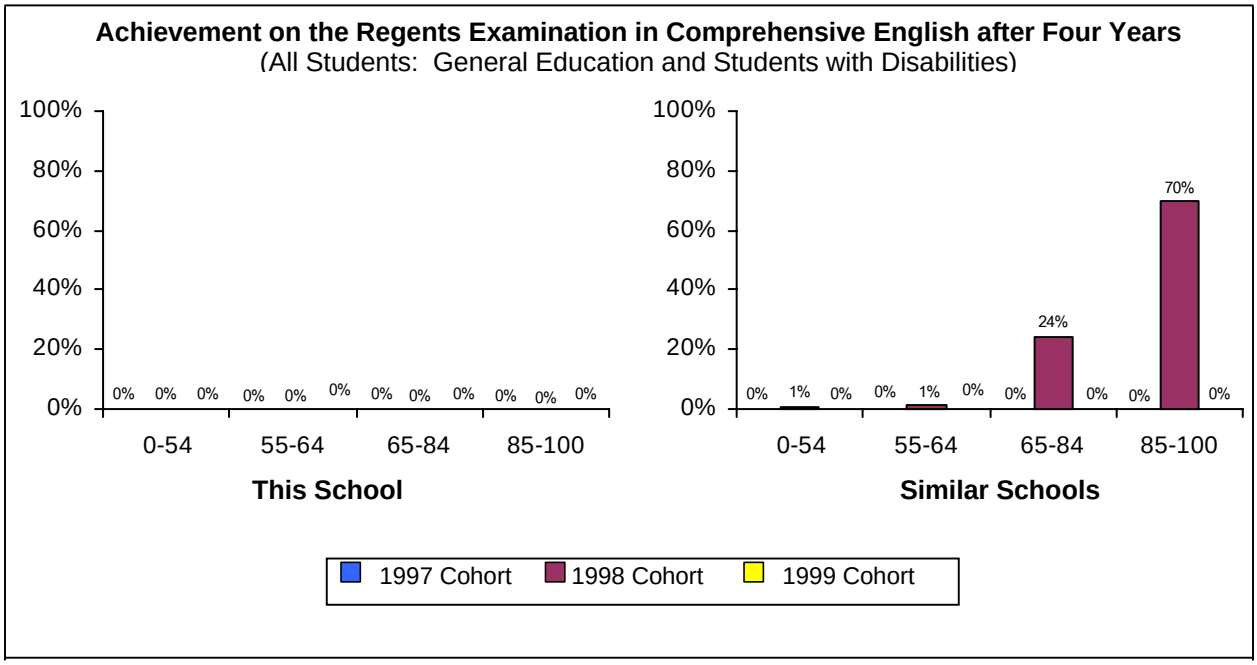
*Students may demonstrate proficiency in middle-level science by scoring at Level 3 or above on the middle-level science test or by scoring 65 or above on a Regents examination in science.

Performance of Students with Severe Disabilities on the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) in Science

Middle-Level	Number Tested	AA–Level 1	AA–Level 2	AA–Level 3	AA–Level 4
2002–03	0	0	0	0	0

High School English Achievement after Four Years of Instruction

The graph and table below present performance of the 1997, 1998, and 1999 cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in English. A score of 65 or above on the Regents comprehensive examination in English is considered passing. Only the highest score of each student is counted, regardless of how many times the student took the examination. 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. In the first table, the numbers of students who met the graduation requirement by passing an approved alternative are listed separately. The second table shows the competency test performance of students with disabilities eligible for the safety net who did not score 55 or above on a Regents examination or approved alternative. Students who score 55 to 64 on the Regents examination in comprehensive English may be given credit towards a local high school diploma if allowed by the district board of education. The data in these tables and chart show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30th of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.



English Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*						
	Cohort Members All Students	Highest Score Between 0 and 54	Highest Score Between 55 and 64	Highest Score Between 65 and 84	Highest Score Between 85 and 100	Approved Alternative Credit
1997 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999 Cohort	1	#	#	#	#	#

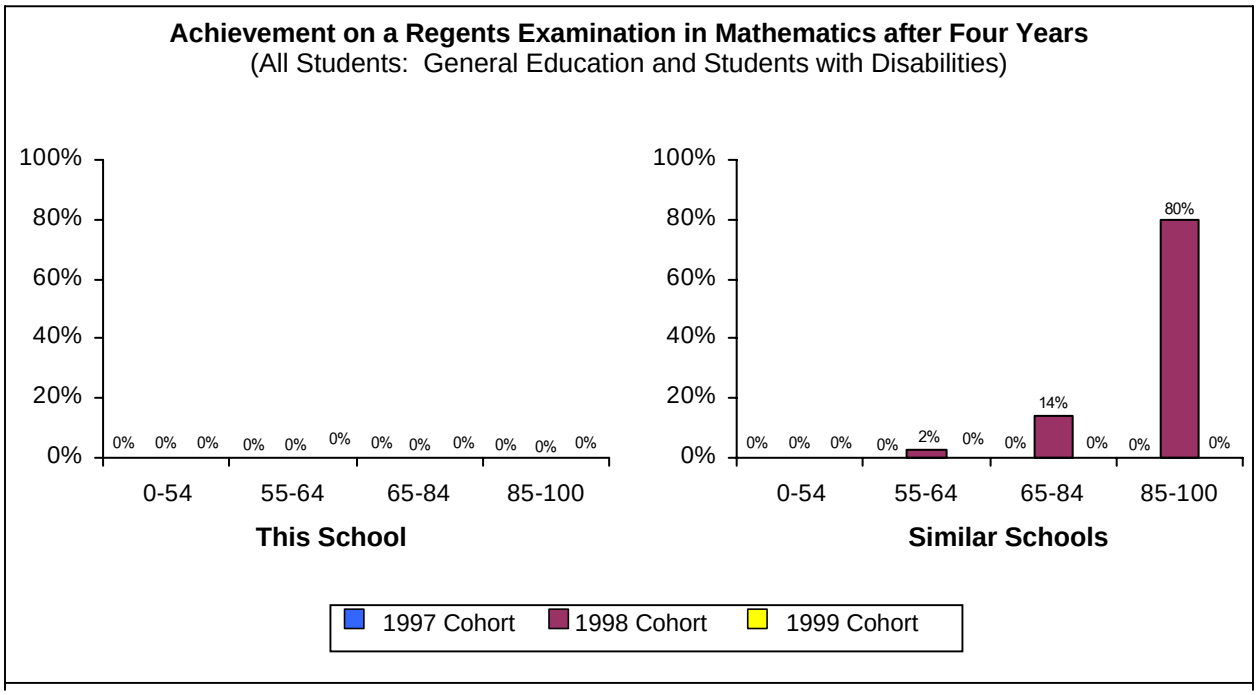
*Assessments used to determine counts in this table include the Regents examination in comprehensive English, the component retest in English, and approved alternatives.

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
1997 Cohort	0	0
1998 Cohort	0	0
1999 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 graph and table below present performance of the 1997, 1998, and 1999 cohort members, four years after entering grade 9, in meeting the graduation assessment requirement in mathematics. A score of 65 or above on a Regents examination in mathematics is considered passing. Only the highest score of each student is counted, regardless of how many times the student took the examination. 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. In the first table, the numbers of students who met the graduation requirement by passing an approved alternative are listed separately. The second table shows the competency test performance of students with disabilities eligible for the safety net who did not score 55 or above on a Regents examination or approved alternative. Students who score 55 to 64 on a Regents examination in mathematics may be given credit towards a local high school diploma if allowed by the district board of education. The data in these tables and chart show the performance of the cohorts as of June 30th of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.



Mathematics Graduation Requirement Achievement after Four Years of High School*						
	Cohort Members All Students	Highest Score Between 0 and 54	Highest Score Between 55 and 64	Highest Score Between 65 and 84	Highest Score Between 85 and 100	Approved Alternative Credit
1997 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998 Cohort	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999 Cohort	1	#	#	#	#	#

*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
1997 Cohort	0	0
1998 Cohort	0	0
1999 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 2002-03 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*.

Middle Level

English Language Arts

Student Subgroup	2001–02				2002–03			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	s	s
Black	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
Hispanic	1	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	2	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
White	441	99%	75%	19%	362	s	s	s
Total	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	5	100%	60%	20%	366	98%	74%	19%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	384	100%	81%	22%	311	100%	82%	21%
Students with disabilities	62	95%	32%	2%	55	91%	29%	4%
Total	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%
Results by Gender								
Female	219	100%	76%	25%	178	100%	79%	21%
Male	227	99%	73%	14%	188	97%	70%	16%
Total	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	21	90%	43%	5%	27	89%	48%	15%
Not disadvantaged	425	100%	76%	20%	339	99%	76%	19%
Total	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%
Total	446	99%	74%	19%	366	98%	74%	19%

Middle Level

Mathematics

Student Subgroup	2001–02				2002–03			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	s	s
Black	2	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Hispanic	1	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
White	441	97%	78%	20%	387	98%	79%	14%
Total	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	5	100%	60%	20%	6	100%	67%	17%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	384	99%	83%	23%	334	99%	86%	16%
Students with disabilities	62	84%	40%	3%	59	90%	41%	5%
Total	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%
Results by Gender								
Female	220	97%	77%	17%	189	98%	79%	12%
Male	226	97%	77%	23%	204	98%	79%	17%
Total	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	21	95%	62%	0%	30	87%	57%	10%
Not disadvantaged	425	97%	78%	21%	363	99%	81%	15%
Total	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%
Total	446	97%	77%	20%	393	98%	79%	15%

Middle Level

Science

Student Subgroup	2001–02				2002–03			
	Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels			Tested	Percentages of Tested Students Scoring at Levels		
		2–4	3–4	4		2–4	3–4	4
Results by Race/Ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0%	0%	1	s	s	s
Black	2	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Hispanic	1	s	s	s	2	s	s	s
Asian or Pacific Islander	2	s	s	s	1	s	s	s
White	437	100%	99%	72%	378	99%	97%	70%
Total	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%
Small Group Totals **(s)**	5	100%	100%	60%	6	100%	83%	50%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	380	100%	100%	77%	326	100%	99%	75%
Students with disabilities	62	100%	90%	44%	58	98%	83%	38%
Total	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%
Results by Gender								
Female	217	100%	99%	69%	187	99%	97%	61%
Male	225	100%	98%	75%	197	99%	96%	77%
Total	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	21	100%	95%	38%	30	93%	83%	43%
Not disadvantaged	421	100%	99%	74%	354	100%	98%	71%
Total	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%
Total	442	100%	99%	72%	384	99%	97%	69%

1998 and 1999 High School Cohorts

General-education students who first entered ninth grade in 1998 or 1999 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 Accomodation 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 30th of the fourth year after first entering grade 9.

Performance on the English Assessment Requirement for Graduation after Four Years of High School

Student Subgroup	1998 Cohort					1999 Cohort				
	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement
		Regents		Passed RCTs			Regents		Passed RCTs	
		55–64	65–100				55–64	65–100		
Results by Race/Ethnicity										
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
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%	1	s	s	s	s
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%	0	s	s	s	s
Male	0	0	0	0	0%	1	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%	0	s	s	s	s
Not disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	1	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

Performance on the Mathematics Assessment Requirement for Graduation after Four Years of High School

Student Subgroup	1998 Cohort					1999 Cohort				
	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement	Students in Cohort	Count of Students by Score			Percent Meeting Graduation Requirement
		Regents		Passed RCTs			Regents		Passed RCTs	
		55–64	65–100				55–64	65–100		
Results by Race/Ethnicity										
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Black	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
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%	1	s	s	s	s
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%	0	s	s	s	s
Male	0	0	0	0	0%	1	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%	0	s	s	s	s
Not disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	1	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

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 entered grade 9, or, in the case of ungraded students with disabilities, the year in which they reached their seventeenth birthday. (For example, the 1998 accountability cohort consists of all students who first entered grade 9 in the fall of 1998 who were enrolled on October 4, 2000). Certain students with severe disabilities, new immigrants, and students who transfer to programs leading to a high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma are not included in the school accountability cohort. Cohort is defined in Section 100.2 (p) (8) of the Commissioner's Regulations.

Component Retests: Component retests were offered in Regents English and Mathematics A to graduating seniors 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, as determined by the results of the component retest.

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. In 2002–03 and in previous years, students were considered LEP if, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, they spoke a language other than English and (1) either understood and spoke little or no English or (2) scored at or below the 40th percentile on an English language assessment instrument. The United States Department of Education has approved the use of the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (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 disabilities who meet criteria established in Commissioner's Regulations to take the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

Similar Schools: Similar schools are schools that are grouped by common district and student demographic characteristics, including grade range of students served by the school, school district financial resources, and needs of the school student population. More information about similar school groups may be found on the Web at http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/repcrd2002/similar.html.

Student Confidentiality/Suppressed Data (# and s): To ensure student confidentiality, the Department does *not* 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.