

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

Charles B. Gaskill Middle School

in

Niagara Falls City School District

February 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Regents of The University

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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: Joseph Colburn		Phone: (716)278-5820
Organization 2002-03	Grade Range	Student Enrollment
	6-8	808

2001-02 School District-wide Total Expenditure per Pupil	\$12,793
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Similar Schools Group	This school is in Similar Schools Group 26. All schools in this group are middle level schools in urban or suburban school districts with high student needs in relation to district resources. The schools in this group are in the middle range of student needs for middle level schools in these districts.
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2002-03 Percentage of Core Classes Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers*

Number of Core Classes	Percent Taught by Highly Qualified Teachers
158	100%

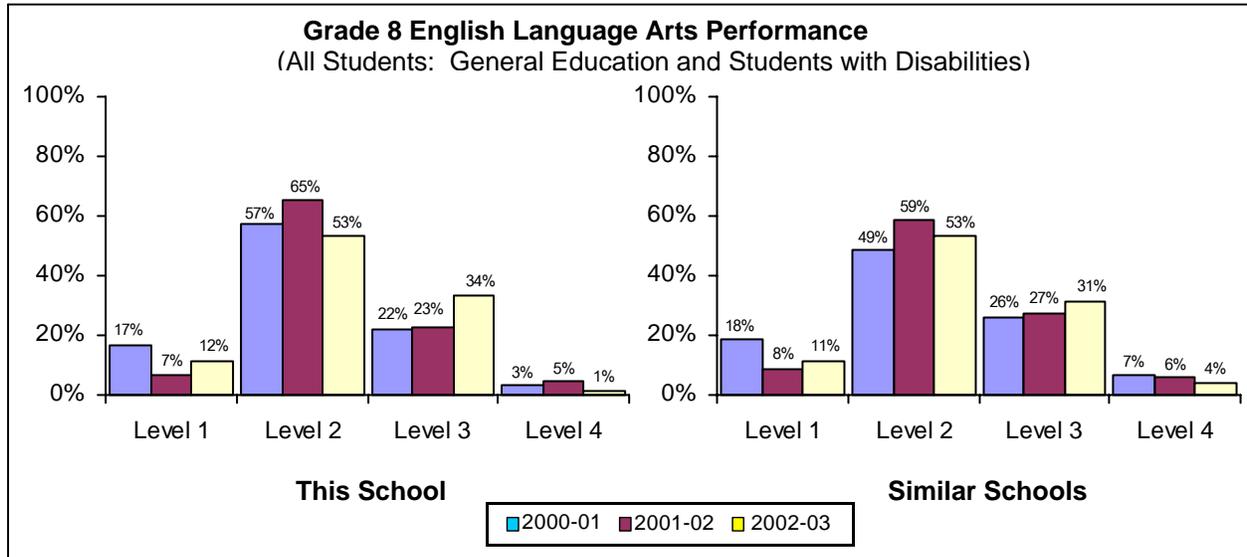
*For the 2002-03 school year, SED is reporting that teachers of core classes are highly qualified if they are certified to teach those classes. However, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) imposes requirements beyond certification for some teachers to be considered highly qualified. In future years, when New 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
53	0%

*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	39	132	51	8	230	686
	Level 1 527-659	Level 2 660-698	Level 3 699-737	Level 3 738-830	Total	
March 2002	18	170	59	13	260	688
	Level 1 527-657	Level 2 658-696	Level 3 697-736	Level 4 737-830	Total	
January 2003	27	124	78	3	232	686

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 .

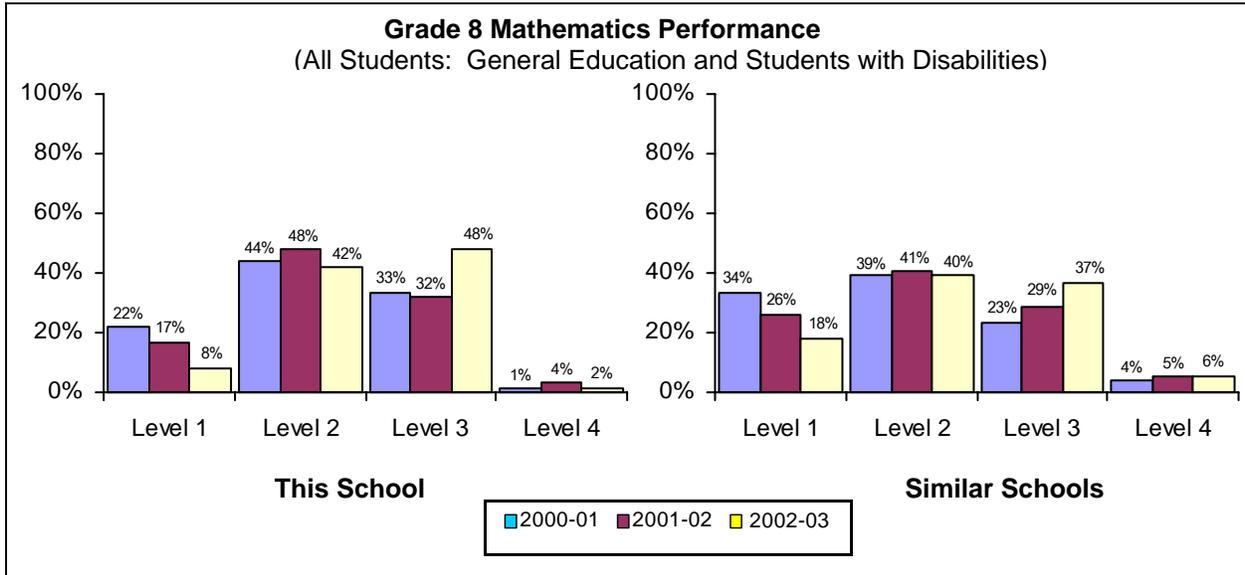
Performance of Limited English Proficient Students Taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) as the Measure of English Language Arts Achievement

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



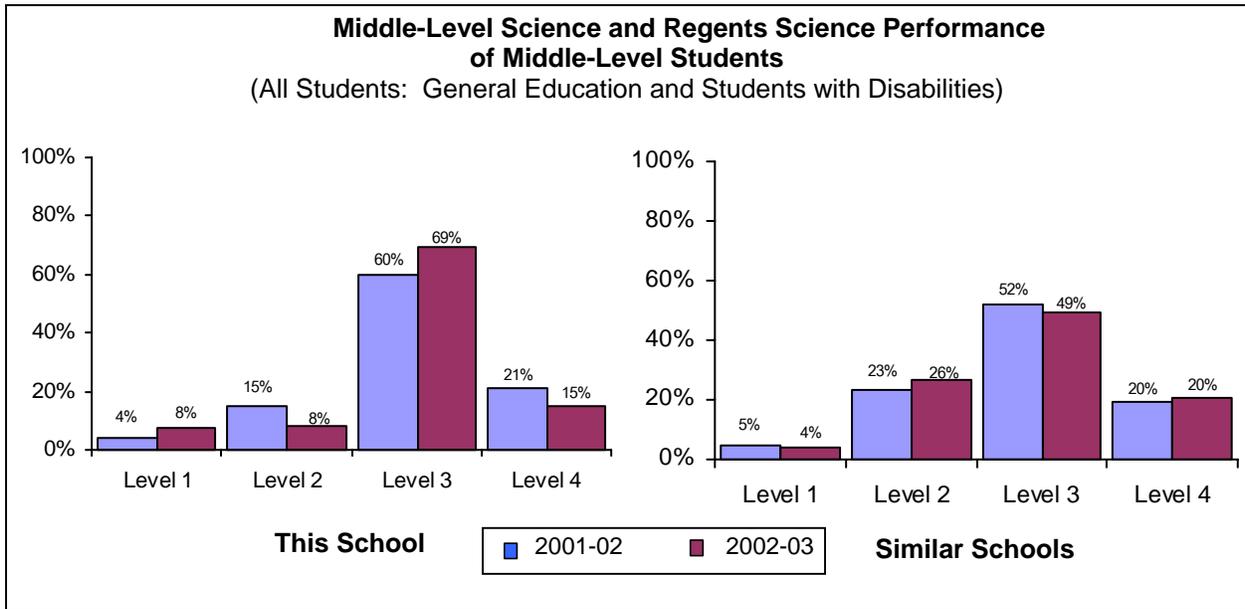
Performance at This School	Counts of Students Tested					Mean Score
	Level 1 517-680	Level 2 681-715	Level 3 716-759	Level 4 760-882	Total	
May 2001	49	98	74	3	224	702
May 2002	43	122	81	9	255	704
May 2003	20	101	116	4	241	714

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	10	37	151	54	252	74
	Regents Science	0	0	0	0	0	0
January/ June 2003	Middle-Level Science	18	19	164	36	237	72
	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 <u>or</u> 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 <u>or</u> 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 <u>or</u> score 55–64 on a Regents science examination.
Level 1	These students have serious academic deficiencies as evidenced in the middle-level science test <u>or</u> 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

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	5	100%	20%	0%	6	67%	0%	0%
Black	109	85%	12%	0%	85	85%	24%	0%
Hispanic	6	83%	17%	0%	6	83%	50%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	5	100%	20%	0%
White	140	99%	41%	9%	130	92%	44%	2%
Total	260	93%	28%	5%	232	88%	35%	1%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	211	99%	34%	6%	190	97%	43%	2%
Students with disabilities	49	69%	2%	0%	42	48%	0%	0%
Total	260	93%	28%	5%	232	88%	35%	1%
Results by Gender								
Female	117	98%	26%	4%	118	92%	36%	2%
Male	143	89%	29%	6%	114	84%	33%	1%
Total	260	93%	28%	5%	232	88%	35%	1%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	259	s	s	s	232	88%	35%	1%
Limited English proficient	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	260	93%	28%	5%	232	88%	35%	1%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	138	89%	19%	2%	120	85%	27%	1%
Not disadvantaged	122	98%	38%	8%	112	92%	44%	2%
Total	260	93%	28%	5%	232	88%	35%	1%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	260	93%	28%	5%	232	88%	35%	1%
Total	260	93%	28%	5%	232	88%	35%	1%

**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	4	s	s	s	8	75%	25%	0%
Black	107	76%	18%	0%	90	84%	37%	2%
Hispanic	6	s	s	s	6	100%	67%	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	5	100%	60%	0%
White	138	88%	47%	6%	132	97%	59%	2%
Total	255	83%	35%	4%	241	92%	50%	2%
Small Group Totals (s)	10	100%	60%	10%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	209	88%	41%	4%	195	98%	57%	2%
Students with disabilities	46	63%	11%	0%	46	65%	20%	0%
Total	255	83%	35%	4%	241	92%	50%	2%
Results by Gender								
Female	117	78%	28%	3%	118	95%	48%	1%
Male	138	88%	41%	4%	123	89%	51%	2%
Total	255	83%	35%	4%	241	92%	50%	2%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	254	s	s	s	241	92%	50%	2%
Limited English proficient	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	255	83%	35%	4%	241	92%	50%	2%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	137	77%	23%	2%	127	87%	40%	2%
Not disadvantaged	118	91%	50%	5%	114	96%	61%	1%
Total	255	83%	35%	4%	241	92%	50%	2%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	255	83%	35%	4%	241	92%	50%	2%
Total	255	83%	35%	4%	241	92%	50%	2%

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	4	s	s	s	7	86%	86%	0%
Black	105	92%	72%	10%	89	84%	73%	7%
Hispanic	6	s	s	s	6	100%	83%	17%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0%	0%	5	100%	100%	20%
White	137	99%	88%	30%	130	98%	92%	22%
Total	252	96%	81%	21%	237	92%	84%	15%
Small Group Totals (s)	10	100%	90%	30%	0	0%	0%	0%
Results by Disability Status								
General-education students	207	99%	88%	25%	189	99%	93%	19%
Students with disabilities	45	84%	49%	4%	48	65%	50%	0%
Total	252	96%	81%	21%	237	92%	84%	15%
Results by Gender								
Female	115	97%	83%	13%	114	96%	87%	14%
Male	137	95%	80%	28%	123	89%	82%	16%
Total	252	96%	81%	21%	237	92%	84%	15%
Results by English Proficiency Status								
English proficient	251	s	s	s	237	92%	84%	15%
Limited English proficient	1	s	s	s	0	0%	0%	0%
Total	252	96%	81%	21%	237	92%	84%	15%
Results by Income Level								
Economically disadvantaged	133	95%	77%	14%	127	88%	79%	10%
Not disadvantaged	119	97%	86%	29%	110	97%	91%	21%
Total	252	96%	81%	21%	237	92%	84%	15%
Results by Migrant Status								
Migrant family	0	0%	0%	0%	0	0%	0%	0%
Not migrant family	252	96%	81%	21%	237	92%	84%	15%
Total	252	96%	81%	21%	237	92%	84%	15%

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 Accommodation 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		Pass-ed RCTs			Regents		Pass-ed 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%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Students with disabilities	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Gender										
Female	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Male	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status										
English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Limited English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Not disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%

**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		Pass-ed RCTs			Regents		Pass-ed 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%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Disability Status										
General-education students	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Students with disabilities	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Gender										
Female	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Male	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status										
English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Limited English proficient	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Income Level										
Economically disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Not disadvantaged	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Results by Migrant Status										
Migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Not migrant family	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%

Cohort Graduation Rates

Students were counted as graduates in the first two columns of this table if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement by June 30th of the fourth year after first entering grade 9 and in the second two columns if they earned a local diploma with or without a Regents endorsement by August 31st of the fourth year after first entering grade 9. The graduation-rate cohort includes students who transferred to general education development (GED) programs. These students were not counted in the 1998 school accountability cohort for English and mathematics.

Student Subgroup	1998 Cohort as of June 30, 2002		1998 Cohort as of August 31, 2002	
	Graduation Rate Cohort	Graduation Rate	Graduation Rate Cohort	Graduation Rate
Results by Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%
Black	0	0%	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0	0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%
White	0	0%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	0	0%
Small Group Totals (s)	0	0%	0	0%
Results by Disability Status				
General-education students	0	0%	0	0%
Students with disabilities	0	0%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	0	0%
Results by Gender				
Female	0		0	0%
Male	0	0%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	0	0%
Results by English Proficiency Status				
English proficient	0	0%	0	0%
Limited English proficient	0	0%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	0	0%
Results by Income Level				
Economically disadvantaged	0	0%	0	0%
Not disadvantaged	0	0%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	0	0%
Results by Migrant Status				
Migrant family	0	0%	0	0%
Not migrant family	0	0%	0	0%
Total	0	0%	0	0%

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.