

Statewide Executive Summary Results

Grade 3 New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Spring 2008

The spring 2008 grade 3 New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (NJ ASK) consisted of two content areas: Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics. The NJ ASK is designed to give an early indication of the progress students are making in mastering the knowledge and skills described in the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The results are to be used by schools and districts to identify strengths and weaknesses in their educational programs. It is anticipated that this process will lead to improved instruction and better alignment with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The results may also be used, along with other indicators of student progress, to identify those students who may need instructional support in any of the content areas. This support, which could be in the form of individual or programmatic intervention, would be a means to address any identified knowledge or skill gaps.

The NJ ASK scores are reported as scale scores in each of the content areas. The scores range from 100-199 (Partially Proficient), 200-249 (Proficient), and 250-300 (Advanced Proficient). The scores of students who are included in the Partially Proficient level are considered to be below the state minimum of proficiency and those students may be most in need of instructional support.

The NJ ASK was administered in March 2008. From a total third grade student population of 103,114, valid scores were obtained in Language Arts Literacy from 101,085 students, with 309 students not present and 985 voids (unscorable due to illness, other difficulties during testing, or an insufficient number of items answered in a given content area). Valid scores were obtained in Mathematics from 101,968 students, with 269 not present and 157 voids.

This executive summary includes two tables summarizing statewide test results for the 2008 grade 3 administration of the NJ ASK. Table A.3.1 presents results for Language Arts Literacy and Table A.3.2 presents results for Mathematics. Results are presented for the following student groups: all, general education, special education, and limited English proficient (LEP) students. LEP is further broken out by the following groups: LEP current and LEP former. Data are also summarized for several demographic variables including: gender, ethnicity, and economic status. The tables include the number of students enrolled, not present, voided, and with valid scale scores. In addition, the tables present mean scale score and the percent of students in each performance category (i.e., Partially Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced Proficient).

The tables that follow are derived from the statewide performance data of the Cycle II report. Note that the enrollment is based on the number of students with scannable test booklets. Also, students coded as multiple ethnicity and those whose ethnicity was unspecified are counted as Other. The percentage of students in the combined category, Proficient or Advanced Proficient, is calculated by subtracting the percentage of students in Partially Proficient from one hundred. The percentages may not total to one hundred due to rounding. Following are highlights of the 2008 third grade assessment results.

Grade 3 Language Arts Literacy Results:

- Of the 101,085 grade 3 students with valid scale scores in Language Arts Literacy in spring 2008, 14.0% scored in Partially Proficient, 81.4% scored in Proficient and 4.6% scored in Advanced Proficient (Table A.3.1).
- **General Education** 91.2% of general education grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table A.3.1).
- **Special Education** 61.5% of special education grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table A.3.1).
- **Limited English Proficient, Current and Former** 68.0% of total limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table A.3.1).
- **Current Limited English Proficient** 59.8% of current limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table A.3.1).
- **Former Limited English Proficient** 82.8% of former limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table A.3.1).
- **Gender** 89.4% of female compared to 82.6% of male grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table A.3.1).
- **Ethnicity** For performance by grade 3 ethnic groups in 2008, students scoring in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy ranged from 94.8% of Asian students to 73.7% of African American students. The percentage of Proficient and Advanced Proficient for all other race/ethnic groups fell between Asians and African Americans (Table A.3.1).
- **Economic Status** 74.2% of economically disadvantaged grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table A.3.1).
- The mean scale score for all grade 3 students on the Language Arts Literacy test in spring 2008 was 217.7 (Table A.3.1).

Grade 3 Mathematics Results:

- Of the 101,968 grade 3 students with valid scale scores in Mathematics in spring 2008, 13.3% scored in Partially Proficient, 53.4% scored in Proficient and 33.3% scored in Advanced Proficient (Table A.3.2).
- **General Education** 90.2% of general education grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table A.3.2).
- **Special Education** 72.5% of special education grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table A.3.2).
- **Limited English Proficient, Current and Former** 71.3% of total limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table A.3.2).
- **Current Limited English Proficient** 65.3% of current limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table A.3.2).
- **Former Limited English Proficient** 84.2% of former limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table A.3.2).
- **Gender** 87.6% of female compared to 85.9% of male grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table A.3.2).
- **Ethnicity** For performance by grade 3 ethnic groups in 2008, students scoring in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics ranged from 95.5% of Asian students to 71.7% of African American students. The percentage of Proficient and Advanced Proficient for all other race/ethnic groups fell between Asians and African Americans (Table A.3.2).
- **Economic Status** 75.4% of economically disadvantaged grade 3 students in 2008 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table A.3.2).
- The mean scale score for all grade 3 students on the Mathematics test in spring 2008 was 232.3 (Table A.3.2).