

Grade 3 New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Spring 2004

Executive Summary

The spring 2004 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 between March 16 and March 19, 2004. From a total third grade student population of 104,962, valid scores were obtained in language arts literacy from 103,414 students, with 968 students not present and 580 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 103,559 students, with 1150 not present and 253 voids. Performance levels for the grade 3 NJ ASK tests were established by panels of educators during standard-setting sessions held between June 28 and July 6, 2004. The grade 3 standards were approved by the New Jersey State Board of Education on July 7, 2004.

This executive summary includes two tables summarizing statewide test results for the 2004 grade 3 administration of the NJ ASK. Table 1 presents results for Language Arts Literacy and Table 2 presents results for Mathematics. Results are presented for the following student groups: total, general education, special education, and limited English proficient students. 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 scores 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 scannable test booklets, and students coded multiple ethnicity are counted in every ethnic category that is applicable. The percentage of students in 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 2004 third grade assessment results.

Grade 3 Language Arts Literacy Results:

- Of the 103,414 grade 3 students with valid scale scores in Language Arts Literacy in Spring 2004, 20.7% scored in Partially Proficient; 75.6% scored in Proficient and 3.8% scored in Advanced Proficient (Table 1).
- **General Education** 86.4% of general education grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table 1).
- **Special Education** 50.1% of special education grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table 1).
- **Limited English Proficient** 48.7% of limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table 1).
- **Gender** 83.5% of female compared to 75.4% of male grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table 1).
- **Ethnicity** For performance by ethnicity groups, students scoring in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy ranged from 92.6% of Pacific Islanders to 61.8% of Black students. The percentage of Proficient and Advanced Proficient for all other race/ethnic groups fell between Pacific Islander and Black students (Table 1).
- **Economic Status** 61.3% of economically disadvantaged grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy (Table 1).
- The mean scale score for all grade 3 students on the Language Arts Literacy test in Spring 2004 was 215.5 (Table 1).

Grade 3 Mathematics Results:

- Of the 103,559 grade 3 students with valid scale scores in Mathematics in Spring 2004, 23.4% scored in Partially Proficient; 53.8% scored in Proficient and 22.8% scored in Advanced Proficient (Table 2).
- **General Education** 81.6% of general education grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table 2).
- **Special Education** 56.2% of special education grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table 2).
- **Limited English Proficient** 54.8% of limited English proficient grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table 2).

- **Gender** 77.3% of female compared to 75.9% of male grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table 2).
- **Ethnicity** For performance by ethnicity groups, students scoring in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics ranged from 90% of Asian students to 54% of Black students. The percentage of Proficient and Advanced Proficient for all other race/ethnic groups fell between Pacific Islander and Black students (Table 2).
- **Economic Status** 58.1% of economically disadvantaged grade 3 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics (Table 2).
- The mean scale score for all grade 3 students on the Mathematics test in Spring 2004 was 222.2 (Table 2).

Reporting Rules for Data File:

The accompanying state summary data file contains the same type of information shown in the statewide summary tables included with this executive summary. Please note that there may be small differences between the state summary data file and the Cycle II reports issued to districts. In order to safeguard student confidentiality, certain information is suppressed in the state summary file according to the following reporting rules:

- Data are not reported where the number of students with valid scale scores for a particular group is less than 11.
- Data are not reported where demographic groups are mutually exclusive (e.g., gender) and there are one or two students with a valid scale score in one of the groups (e.g., male).
- Data are not reported when it is otherwise possible to identify individual students' performance.

Table 1
STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS
SPRING 2004 GRADE 3

Language Arts Literacy

	Number of Students Enrolled	Number Not Present	Number of Voids	Number of Valid Scale Scores	Scale Score Mean	% Partially Proficient	% Proficient	% Advanced Proficient
Total Students	104962	968	580	103414	215.5	20.7%	75.6%	3.8%
General Education	83737	272	303	83162	220.1	13.6%	81.9%	4.5%
Special Education	15411	634	213	14564	196.7	49.9%	49.3%	0.8%
Limited English Proficient	6334	71	72	6191	194.8	51.3%	48.0%	0.8%
Gender								
Female	50753	339	189	50225	219.3	16.5%	77.9%	5.6%
Male	54117	582	385	53150	212.0	24.6%	73.4%	2.1%
Ethnicity								
American Indian	203	1	2	200	212.2	26.5%	72.0%	1.5%
Asian	7420	47	28	7345	225.0	9.5%	82.3%	8.2%
Black	18779	236	203	18340	204.0	38.2%	60.8%	1.1%
Hispanic	18898	237	145	18516	204.6	35.2%	63.9%	0.9%
Pacific Islander	699	6	4	689	225.2	7.4%	83.2%	9.4%
White	58749	346	189	58214	221.4	12.0%	83.0%	5.0%
Economic Status								
Economically Disadvantaged	31428	368	299	30761	203.1	38.7%	60.4%	0.9%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	73534	600	281	72653	220.8	13.1%	82.0%	5.0%

Table 2
STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS
SPRING 2004 GRADE 3

Mathematics

	Number of Students Enrolled	Number Not Present	Number of Voids	Number of Valid Scale Scores	Scale Score Mean	% Partially Proficient	% Proficient	% Advanced Proficient
Total Students	104962	1150	253	103559	222.2	23.4%	53.8%	22.8%
General Education Students	83737	411	133	83193	226.5	18.4%	55.7%	25.9%
Special Education Students	15411	691	95	14625	204.7	43.8%	45.7%	10.5%
Limited English Proficient Students	6334	51	28	6255	203.4	45.2%	45.8%	9.0%
Gender								
Female	50753	424	83	50246	222.9	22.7%	53.9%	23.4%
Male	54117	711	161	53245	221.6	24.1%	53.7%	22.3%
Ethnicity								
American Indian	203	0	1	202	219.5	25.7%	53.5%	20.8%
Asian	7420	44	12	7364	237.8	10.0%	48.2%	41.8%
Black	18779	296	74	18409	202.7	46.0%	46.1%	7.9%
Hispanic	18898	248	65	18585	209.8	36.5%	52.1%	11.4%
Pacific Islander	699	8	1	690	237.4	10.7%	47.7%	41.6%
White	58749	496	83	58170	230.3	13.9%	57.4%	28.8%
Economic Status								
Economically Disadvantaged	31428	428	109	30891	205.8	41.9%	48.7%	9.4%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	73534	722	144	72668	229.2	15.6%	55.9%	28.5%