

Grade 4 New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Spring, 2004

Executive Summary

The spring, 2004, grade 4 New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (NJ ASK) consisted of two content areas: Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics. Science was administered as a field test to grade four students in 2004. Thus, science results will not be presented here. 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 fourth grade student population of 105,340, valid scores were obtained in language arts literacy from 103,818 students, with 869 students not present and 653 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 103,770 students, with 899 not present and 671 voids.

This executive summary includes two tables summarizing statewide test results for the 2004 administration of the grade 4 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 percentage 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. As a result of adjustments made to the data by districts after the reporting deadline, small differences may exist between the information in these tables and the reports issued to districts. 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 is a list of highlights from the two tables included in the Executive Summary.

Grade 4 Language Arts Literacy Results:

- Of the 103,818 grade 4 students with valid scale scores in Language Arts Literacy in spring, 2004, 17.9% scored in Partially Proficient; 77.5% scored in Proficient and 4.7% scored in Advanced Proficient.
- **General Education:** 90.3% of general education grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy.
- **Special Education:** 49.0% of special education grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy.
- **Limited English Proficient:** 48.6% of limited English proficient grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy.
- **Gender:** 86.6% of female compared to 77.9% of male grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy.
- **Ethnicity:** For performance by ethnic groups, students scoring in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy ranged from 91.7% (Pacific Islander) to 66.8% (Black). The percentage of Advanced Proficient and Proficient for all other race/ethnic groups fell between Pacific Islander and Black.
- **Economic Status:** 66.2% of economically disadvantaged grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy.
- The mean scale score for all grade 4 students on the Language Arts Literacy test in spring, 2004, was 217.7.

Grade 4 Mathematics Results:

- Of the 103,770 grade 4 students with valid scale scores in Mathematics in spring, 2004, 27.9% scored in Partially Proficient; 46.4% scored in Proficient and 25.7% scored in Advanced Proficient.
- **General Education:** 78.4% of general education grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics.
- **Special Education:** 46.3% of special education grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics.

- **Limited English Proficient:** 47.2% of limited English proficient grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics.
- **Gender:** 71.7% of female compared to 72.5% of male grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics.
- **Ethnicity:** For performance by ethnic groups, students scoring in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy ranged from 87.8% (Asian) to 50.2% (Black). The percentage of Advanced Proficient and Proficient for all other race/ethnic groups fell between Asian and Black.
- **Economic Status:** 54.1% of economically disadvantaged grade 4 students in 2004 scored in Proficient or Advanced Proficient in Mathematics.
- The mean scale score for all grade 4 students on the Mathematics test in spring, 2004, was 221.4.

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 data file and reports issued to districts due to adjustments made to the data by districts after the reporting deadline. 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 student performance.

**STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS
SPRING 2004 GRADE 4**

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	105340	869	653	103818	217.7	17.9%	77.5%	4.7%
General Education	83617	184	289	83144	223.2	9.7%	84.6%	5.7%
Special Education	16726	645	287	15794	195.7	51.0%	48.4%	0.7%
Limited English Proficient	5443	49	88	5306	192.7	51.4%	47.9%	0.8%
Gender								
Female	51181	273	239	50669	221.7	13.4%	79.8%	6.7%
Male	54093	563	409	53121	213.8	22.1%	75.2%	2.7%
Ethnicity								
American Indian	235	2	0	233	215.9	19.7%	76.0%	4.3%
Asian	7316	47	25	7244	227.3	8.4%	81.2%	10.4%
Black	19268	257	255	18756	205.9	33.2%	65.7%	1.1%
Hispanic	18293	169	189	17935	206.4	31.0%	67.8%	1.2%
Pacific Islander	708	2	4	702	227.3	8.3%	81.6%	10.1%
White	59318	312	173	58833	223.6	10.2%	83.7%	6.1%
Economic Status								
Economically Disadvantaged	31462	320	393	30749	204.8	33.8%	65.4%	0.8%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	73878	549	260	73069	223.1	11.2%	82.5%	6.3%

**STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS
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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	105340	899	671	103770	221.4	27.9%	46.4%	25.7%
General Education	83617	195	390	83032	227.0	21.6%	48.9%	29.5%
Special Education	16726	673	241	15812	198.2	53.7%	36.4%	10.0%
Limited English Proficient	5443	40	42	5361	200.1	52.8%	36.0%	11.2%
All Students	105340	899	671	103770	221.4	27.9%	46.4%	25.7%
Gender								
Female	51181	299	276	50606	220.6	28.3%	47.6%	24.1%
Male	54093	582	387	53124	222.1	27.5%	45.3%	27.3%
Ethnicity								
American Indian	235	2	0	233	222.1	27.5%	45.5%	27.0%
Asian	7316	44	29	7243	239.9	12.2%	40.9%	46.9%
Black	19268	283	245	18740	202.0	49.8%	39.6%	10.6%
Hispanic	18293	181	136	17976	209.2	40.8%	44.4%	14.9%
Pacific Islander	708	2	3	703	238.7	14.1%	38.8%	47.1%
White	59318	331	250	58737	228.9	19.0%	49.9%	31.2%
Economic Status								
Economically Disadvantaged	31462	366	336	30760	205.2	45.9%	41.7%	12.5%
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	73878	533	335	73010	228.1	20.3%	48.4%	31.3%