

2007 Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment

Executive Summary

The 2007 New Jersey Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment (GEPA) consisted of three content areas: Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, and Science. The GEPA is used as a primary indicator for identifying those students who may need instructional intervention in the three content areas. It is designed to give an indication of the progress students are making in mastering the skills they will need to pass the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA).

The GEPA Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, and Science scores are reported as scale scores with a range of 100 to 300. Please note that 100 and 300 are a theoretical floor and ceiling, which may not actually be observed. The score ranges are as follows:

Advanced Proficient	250-300
Proficient	200-249
Partially Proficient	100-199

Students who scored Partially Proficient are considered to be below the state minimum level of proficiency. These students may need additional instructional support such as individual or programmatic intervention. It is important that districts consider multiple measures with all students before making final decisions about students' instructional placement.

The GEPA was administered between March 12 and March 15, 2007. Of the 108,474 students enrolled, 105,865 students received valid scale scores in Language Arts Literacy, 106,980 students received valid scale scores in Mathematics, and 106,913 students received valid scale scores in Science.

For the total group of students, 26.4% scored Partially Proficient, 62.4% Proficient, and 11.3% Advanced Proficient in Language Arts Literacy. In Mathematics, 31.6% scored Partially Proficient, 45.9% Proficient, and 22.5% Advanced Proficient. In Science, 21.1% scored Partially Proficient, 54.3% Proficient, and 24.6% Advanced Proficient. The mean scale score was 214.9 in Language Arts Literacy, 215.5 in Mathematics, and 223.3 in Science.

This executive summary includes four tables summarizing statewide performance by demographic groups. Tables 1–3 present the performance in Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, and Science, respectively. Table 4 presents the performance for the state, Special Needs districts, and Non-Special Needs districts.

The performance data include only students with valid scale scores. Students whose answer folders were voided are excluded. Students may receive a scale score in one content area, but not in others.

In 2007, results for the General Education group are being reported in the state summary. The General Education group included students with answer folders not coded as special education or limited English proficient. In 2006, the General Education group was not reported in the state summary.

Previously, a major change for the 2006 State Summary was the reporting of the Limited English Proficient (LEP). LEP was reported as LEP (Current and Former) with two subcategories: LEP Current and LEP Former.

Student performance is summarized by total students, education program, and student demographic subgroups: Total, General Education, Special Education (SE), Limited English Proficient (LEP), Gender, Ethnicity, Economic status (disadvantaged vs. not disadvantaged), and Migrant status.

For each demographic group, the number of students participating, the percent of students in each proficiency level, and the mean scale score are reported for each content area. The percentages of students for the three proficiency levels may not total to one hundred due to rounding. The percentage of students in Proficient or Advanced Proficient is calculated by subtracting the percentage of students in Partially Proficient from one hundred.

Demographic information originates from the data collected on the students' answer folders. School district personnel were given an opportunity to review the demographic information they provided on the answer folders and correct any errors prior to reporting.

This executive summary includes information from the state level Performance by Demographic Groups Report from Cycle II reporting. The complete state summary data file with District Factor Groups and longitudinal data is available at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/schools/achievement/>.

Reporting Rules for State Summary Data File

The state summary data files contain the same type of information shown on the Statewide Performance by Demographic Groups Report for schools and districts included with the Cycle II reporting. In order to safeguard student confidentiality, certain information is suppressed in the files according to the following reporting rules:

- Data are not reported if the number of students with valid scale scores for a particular group is fewer 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 if it is possible to identify individual student's performance.

Highlights from the 2007 GEPA Performance Results

The percentages of students scoring at Proficient or Advanced Proficient by content areas are described below:

Total

- Language Arts Literacy – 73.6% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 11.3% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Mathematics – 68.4% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 22.5% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Science – 78.9% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 24.6% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.

General Education

- Language Arts Literacy – 83.1% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 13.5% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Mathematics – 77.6% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 26.9% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Science – 86.2% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 29.1% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.

Special Education

- Language Arts Literacy – 32.9% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 1.2% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Mathematics – 28.8% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 3.6% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Science – 50.5% of the students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 6.1% of the students scored Advanced Proficient.

Limited English Proficient (LEP)

- Language Arts Literacy – 27.4% of the LEP Current and Former students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 0.9% of the LEP Current and Former students scored Advanced Proficient. About 18.7% of the Current LEP students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 0.4% of the Current LEP students scored Advanced Proficient and about 47.8% of the Former LEP students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 2.0% of the Former LEP students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Mathematics – 31.0% of the LEP Current and Former students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 5.7% of the group scored Advanced Proficient. Of the Current LEP students, 25.6% scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 5.0% scored Advanced Proficient. Of the Former LEP students, 46.6% scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 7.8% scored Advanced Proficient.
- Science – 33.9% of the LEP Current and Former students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 2.0% of the group scored Advanced Proficient. Of the Current LEP students, 27.6% scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 1.4%

scored Advanced Proficient. Of the Former LEP students, 52.3% scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient and 4.0% scored Advanced Proficient.

Gender

- Language Arts Literacy – 80.7% of the female students and 67.0% of the male students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient while 15.6% of the female students and 7.2% of the male students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Mathematics – 68.3% of the female students and 68.6% of the male students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient while 20.2% of the female students and 24.8% of the male students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Science – 78.2% of the female students and 79.5% of the male students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient while 21.2% of the female students and 27.9% of the male students scored Advanced Proficient.

Ethnicity

- Language Arts Literacy – percentages of Proficient and Advanced Proficient ranged from 87.1% of Asian students to 49.9% of Black students while the percentages of Advanced Proficient ranged from 25.5% of Asian students to 2.9% of Black students and 3.9% of Hispanic students. (The percentages of the Proficient and Advanced Proficient scores in the other ethnic groups fell between the Asian and Black groups.)
- Mathematics – percentages of Proficient and Advanced Proficient ranged from 87.7% of Asian students to 38.3% of Black students while percentages of Advanced Proficient ranged from 48.3% of Asian students to 4.9% of Black students.
- Science – percentages of Proficient and Advanced Proficient ranged from 90.5% of Asian students and 90.4% of White students to 54.6% of Black students while percentages of Advanced Proficient ranged from 43.4% of Asian students to 5.7% of Black students.

Economic Status

- Language Arts Literacy – 51.7% of Economically Disadvantaged students and 81.7% of Non-Economically Disadvantaged students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient while 3.0% of Economically Disadvantaged students and 14.4% of Non-Economically Disadvantaged students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Mathematics – 44.6% of Economically Disadvantaged students and 77.4% of Non-Economically Disadvantaged students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient while 7.5% of Economically Disadvantaged students and 28.2% of Non-Economically Disadvantaged students scored Advanced Proficient.
- Science – 56.7% of the Economically Disadvantaged students and 87.2% of Non-Economically Disadvantaged students scored Proficient or Advanced Proficient while 6.8% of Economically Disadvantaged students and 31.3% of Non-Economically Disadvantaged students scored Advanced Proficient.

Migrant

Only 0.038% of the enrolled grade 8 students were migrant students. The percentage of Migrant students scoring at Proficient or Advanced Proficient was 36.8% for Language Arts Literacy, 46.3% for Mathematics, and 48.8% for Science. The percentage of Migrant students scoring at Advanced Proficient was 0% for Language Arts Literacy, 0% for Mathematics, and 7.3% for Science.

TABLE 1
2007 Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment
Statewide Performance
Language Arts Literacy

	Number of Students Enrolled	Number of APA Students	Number Not Present	Number of Voids	Number of Students with Valid Scale Scores	% Partially Proficient	% Proficient	% Advanced Proficient	Scale Score Mean
Total Students	108,474	680	667	1,262	105,865	26.4	62.4	11.3	214.9
General Education	87,396	0	311	466	86,619	16.9	69.5	13.5	221.8
Special Education	18,197	680	229	317	16,971	67.1	31.7	1.2	185.1
LEP (current and former)	4,020	6	132	486	3,396	72.6	26.5	0.9	180.6
Current LEP	2,999	3	129	483	2,384	81.3	18.3	0.4	173.4
Former LEP	1,021	3	3	3	1,012	52.2	45.8	2.0	197.6
Gender									
Female	52,599	238	274	508	51,579	19.3	65.1	15.6	221.1
Male	55,803	436	385	747	54,235	33.0	59.8	7.2	209.0
Ethnicity									
White	61,596	360	188	309	60,739	15.9	69.8	14.3	222.5
Black	19,277	140	197	350	18,590	50.1	47.0	2.9	197.3
Asian	7,729	28	47	89	7,565	12.9	61.6	25.5	229.4
Pacific Islander	293	3	3	2	285	17.2	69.8	13.0	221.3
Hispanic	19,004	132	205	494	18,173	42.4	53.7	3.9	201.7
American Indian/Alaskan Native	114	2	1	2	109	30.3	64.2	5.5	210.3
Other	461	15	26	16	404	42.8	50.7	6.4	201.5
Economic Status									
Economically Disadvantaged	29,783	214	312	699	28,558	48.3	48.8	3.0	198.1
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	78,691	466	355	563	77,307	18.3	67.4	14.4	221.1
Migrant Status									
Migrant	41	0	0	3	38	63.2	36.8	0.0	188.8
Non-Migrant	108,433	680	667	1,259	105,827	26.3	62.4	11.3	214.9

TABLE 2
2007 Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment
Statewide Performance
Mathematics

	Number of Students Enrolled	Number of APA Students	Number Not Present	Number of Voids	Number of Students with Valid Scale Scores	% Partially Proficient	% Proficient	% Advanced Proficient	Scale Score Mean
Total Students	108,474	681	661	152	106,980	31.6	45.9	22.5	215.5
General Education	87,396	0	385	71	86,940	22.4	50.8	26.9	222.5
Special Education	18,197	681	250	76	17,190	71.2	25.2	3.6	185.2
LEP (current and former)	4,020	5	32	8	3,975	69.0	25.3	5.7	187.5
Current LEP	2,999	3	27	7	2,962	74.4	20.7	5.0	183.8
Former LEP	1,021	2	5	1	1,013	53.4	38.8	7.8	198.4
Gender									
Female	52,599	245	266	39	52,049	31.7	48.0	20.2	214.6
Male	55,803	430	389	113	54,871	31.4	43.8	24.8	216.4
Ethnicity									
White	61,596	368	223	62	60,943	19.1	52.1	28.8	224.8
Black	19,277	137	260	57	18,823	61.7	33.3	4.9	191.8
Asian	7,729	26	12	3	7,688	12.3	39.4	48.3	238.1
Pacific Islander	293	3	2	0	288	19.4	48.6	31.9	226.5
Hispanic	19,004	129	146	29	18,700	49.5	41.1	9.4	200.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	114	3	0	0	111	43.2	36.0	20.7	207.9
Other	461	15	18	1	427	49.9	34.2	15.9	201.8
Economic Status									
Economically Disadvantaged	29,783	211	311	79	29,182	55.4	37.1	7.5	196.1
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	78,691	470	350	73	77,798	22.6	49.2	28.2	222.8
Migrant Status									
Migrant	41	0	0	0	41	53.7	46.3	0.0	195.2
Non-Migrant	108,433	681	661	152	106,939	31.6	45.9	22.6	215.5

TABLE 3
2007 Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment
Statewide Performance
Science

	Number of Students Enrolled	Number of APA Students	Number Not Present	Number of Voids	Number of Students with Valid Scale Scores	% Partially Proficient	% Proficient	% Advanced Proficient	Scale Score Mean
Total Students	108,474	645	767	149	106,913	21.1	54.3	24.6	223.3
General Education	87,396	0	430	71	86,895	13.8	57.1	29.1	228.9
Special Education	18,197	645	306	73	17,173	49.5	44.4	6.1	200.7
LEP (current and former)	4,020	4	41	5	3,970	66.1	31.8	2.0	190.9
Current LEP	2,999	2	34	5	2,958	72.4	26.2	1.4	187.2
Former LEP	1,021	2	7	0	1,012	47.7	48.3	4.0	201.7
Gender									
Female	52,599	233	326	44	51,996	21.8	57.0	21.2	221.4
Male	55,803	406	435	105	54,857	20.5	51.7	27.9	225.1
Ethnicity									
White	61,596	348	250	67	60,931	9.6	57.3	33.2	232.7
Black	19,277	130	290	45	18,812	45.4	48.9	5.7	203.0
Asian	7,729	24	16	8	7,681	9.5	47.1	43.4	237.7
Pacific Islander	293	3	0	0	290	12.4	58.3	29.3	228.6
Hispanic	19,004	123	189	27	18,665	38.9	52.8	8.3	207.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	114	2	0	0	112	21.4	58.0	20.5	220.1
Other	461	15	22	2	422	36.3	49.5	14.2	212.0
Economic Status									
Economically Disadvantaged	29,783	199	364	71	29,149	43.3	49.9	6.8	204.3
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	78,691	446	403	78	77,764	12.8	55.9	31.3	230.4
Migrant Status									
Migrant	41	0	0	0	41	51.2	41.5	7.3	203.1
Non-Migrant	108,433	645	767	149	106,872	21.1	54.3	24.6	223.3

Table 4 presents the number of students with valid scale scores and the percentage of students in each proficiency level for the state, Special Needs districts, and Non-Special Needs districts.

Statewide Total Students. The percentage scoring at or above Proficient in each content area was:

- Language Arts Literacy – 73.6% of the 105,865 students with valid scores
- Mathematics – 68.4% of the 106,980 students with valid scores
- Science – 78.9% of the 106,913 students with valid scores

Total Students in Non-Special Needs districts. The percentage scoring at or above Proficient in each content area was:

- Language Arts Literacy – 79.5% of the 86,190 students with valid scores
- Mathematics – 75.1% of the 86,738 students with valid scores
- Science – 85.7% of the 86,713 students with valid scores

Total Students in Special Needs districts. The percentage scoring at or above Proficient in each content area was:

- Language Arts Literacy – 47.8% of the 19,675 students with valid scores
- Mathematics – 39.7% of the 20,242 students with valid scores
- Science – 49.5% of the 20,200 students with valid scores

TABLE 4
2007 Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment - Statewide Performance
Non-Special Needs and Special Needs Districts

	Number of Students with Valid Scores	% Partially Proficient	% Proficient	% Advanced Proficient	Scale Score Mean
LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY					
STATEWIDE TOTAL	105,865	26.4	62.4	11.3	214.9
Non-Special Needs	86,190	20.5	66.3	13.2	219.3
Special Needs	19,675	52.2	45.0	2.8	195.3
GENERAL EDUCATION	86,619	16.9	69.5	13.5	221.8
Non-Special Needs	72,141	12.3	72.2	15.5	225.2
Special Needs	14,478	40.0	56.2	3.8	204.9
SPECIAL EDUCATION	16,971	67.1	31.7	1.2	185.1
Non-Special Needs	12,983	61.3	37.2	1.5	190.3
Special Needs	3,988	86.2	13.6	0.2	168.3
LEP CURRENT & FORMER	3,396	72.6	26.5	0.9	180.6
Non-Special Needs	1,548	67.7	31.3	1.0	185.1
Special Needs	1,848	76.8	22.5	0.8	176.9
CURRENT LEP	2,384	81.3	18.3	0.4	173.4
Non-Special Needs	1,113	76.6	22.7	0.6	178.3
Special Needs	1,271	85.4	14.4	0.2	169.2
FORMER LEP	1,012	52.2	45.8	2.0	197.6
Non-Special Needs	435	44.8	53.3	1.8	202.6
Special Needs	577	57.7	40.2	2.1	193.8
MATHEMATICS					
STATEWIDE TOTAL	106,980	31.6	45.9	22.5	215.5
Non-Special Needs	86,738	24.9	49.0	26.1	220.7
Special Needs	20,242	60.3	32.4	7.3	193.3
GENERAL EDUCATION	86,940	22.4	50.8	26.9	222.5
Non-Special Needs	72,284	16.8	52.9	30.4	226.9
Special Needs	14,656	50.1	40.3	9.6	200.8
SPECIAL EDUCATION	17,190	71.2	25.2	3.6	185.2
Non-Special Needs	13,082	65.5	30.0	4.5	189.4
Special Needs	4,108	89.2	10.2	0.6	171.7
LEP CURRENT & FORMER	3,975	69.0	25.3	5.7	187.5
Non-Special Needs	1,860	61.6	30.1	8.3	193.3
Special Needs	2,115	75.6	21.0	3.4	182.5
CURRENT LEP	2,962	74.4	20.7	5.0	183.8
Non-Special Needs	1,423	66.3	26.1	7.6	190.0
Special Needs	1,539	81.9	15.6	2.5	178.1
FORMER LEP	1,013	53.4	38.8	7.8	198.4
Non-Special Needs	437	46.5	43.0	10.5	204.0
Special Needs	576	58.7	35.6	5.7	194.2
SCIENCE					
STATEWIDE TOTAL	106,913	21.1	54.3	24.6	223.3
Non-Special Needs	86,713	14.3	56.5	29.2	228.7
Special Needs	20,200	50.5	44.4	5.1	200.1
GENERAL EDUCATION	86,895	13.8	57.1	29.1	228.9
Non-Special Needs	72,262	8.5	58.0	33.6	233.5
Special Needs	14,633	40.4	52.9	6.7	206.1
SPECIAL EDUCATION	17,173	49.5	44.4	6.1	200.7
Non-Special Needs	13,080	41.1	51.2	7.7	205.6
Special Needs	4,093	76.4	22.8	0.8	184.9
LEP CURRENT & FORMER	3,970	66.1	31.8	2.0	190.9
Non-Special Needs	1,859	59.5	37.3	3.2	195.2
Special Needs	2,111	72.0	27.0	1.0	187.2
CURRENT LEP	2,958	72.4	26.2	1.4	187.2
Non-Special Needs	1,423	65.3	32.4	2.3	191.5
Special Needs	1,535	79.1	20.4	0.5	183.3
FORMER LEP	1,012	47.7	48.3	4.0	201.7
Non-Special Needs	436	40.6	53.4	6.0	207.2
Special Needs	576	53.1	44.4	2.4	197.6