

TESTING BRIEF

End-of-Course Tests Spring 2009

April 27, 2009 – June 5, 2009

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-281) states “the State Board of Education shall adopt end-of-course assessments for students in grades 9 through 12 for all core subjects to be determined by the state board.” The purposes of the End-of-Course Tests are to assess student achievement in either the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) or the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) in the designated core courses and to provide diagnostic data to improve student achievement. Definitions for student achievement as defined by Georgia teachers at the Meets Standard performance level and the Exceeds Standard performance level are outlined in the EOCT Interpretive Guide and on the Individual Student Report for each content area.

The EOCT assess only a sample of the knowledge and skills that educators agree comprise a complete curriculum for each subject. Georgia students have opportunities to learn – and are expected to master – much more than the tests address. The Georgia Performance Standards are the source of the knowledge and skills assessed on the End-of-Course Tests in the content areas of English language arts, Science and Social Studies. As the high school mathematics curriculum transitions to GPS, the Algebra I and Geometry courses and EOCT are being replaced by Mathematics I and Mathematics II.

Administration of the End-of-Course Tests supports goal 1 of the Superintendent’s Strategic Plan: Increase high school graduation rate, decrease high-school dropout rate, and increase post-secondary enrollment rate. This is achieved through providing an effective assessment system that is aligned with the Georgia Performance Standards and designed to improve student achievement.

KEY FINDINGS – LANGUAGE ARTS

NINTH GRADE LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

- Seventy-six (76) percent of Georgia's ninth grade students met or exceeded the standard for Ninth Grade Literature and Composition.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to the Spring 2008 scores, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard increased by three (3) percentage points in Ninth Grade Literature and Composition.
- The percent of students achieving the Exceeds standard performance level in Ninth Grade Literature and Composition increased by nine (9) percentage points from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the Ninth Grade Literature and Composition standard on the EOCT was 74%. This target was exceeded.

AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

- Eighty-six (86) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for American Literature and Composition.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to Spring 2008, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard increased by two (2) percentage points in American Literature and Composition.
- The percent of students achieving the Exceeds standard performance level in American Literature remained the same from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the American Literature and Composition standard was 85%. This target was exceeded.

KEY FINDINGS – SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

- Sixty-four (64) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Biology.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to Spring 2008, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard increased by two (2) percentage points in Biology.
- The percent of students achieving the Exceeds standard performance level in Biology increased by four (4) percentage points in Biology from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the Biology standard on the EOCT was 63%. This target was exceeded.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

- Sixty-seven (67) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Physical Science.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to the Spring 2008, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard increased by four (4) percentage points in Physical Science.
- The percent of students achieving the Exceeds standard performance level in Physical Science increased by one (1) percentage point in Physical Science from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the Physical Science standard on the EOCT was 64 %. This target was exceeded.

KEY FINDINGS – SOCIAL STUDIES

U.S. HISTORY

- Sixty (60) percent of Georgia’s students met or exceeded the standard for U.S. History.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to the spring 2008, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard increased by one (1) percentage point in U. S. History.
- The percent of students achieving at the Exceeds standard performance level in U.S. History increased by five (5) percentage points from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the U. S. History standard on the EOCT was 60%. This target was met.

ECONOMICS/BUSINESS/FREE ENTERPRISE

- Sixty-eight (68) percent of Georgia’s students met or exceeded the standard for Economics/Business/Free Enterprise.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to the spring 2008, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard remained the same in Economics.
- The percent of students achieving at the Exceeds standard performance level in Economics increased by three (3) percentage points from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the Economics standard on the EOCT was 70%. This target was not met.

KEY FINDINGS - MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA I

- Forty (40) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Algebra I.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to the spring 2008, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard decreased by fifteen (15) percentage points in Algebra I.
- The percent of students achieving at the Exceeds standard performance level in Algebra I decreased by fifteen (15) percentage points from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the Algebra I standard on the EOCT was 65%. This target was not met.

GEOMETRY

- Forty (47) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Geometry.
- When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to the spring 2008, the percent of students meeting or exceeding the standard decreased by fourteen (14) percentage points in Geometry.
- The percent of students achieving at the Exceeds standard performance level in Geometry decreased by fourteen (14) percentage points from Spring 2008 to Spring 2009.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for the percentage of students meeting and exceeding the Geometry standard on the EOCT was 65%. This target was not met.

Participants in the Algebra I and Geometry EOCT represent a smaller group of students that were enrolled in high school prior to Fall 2008. These two tests are aligned to the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) and will continue to be available until the 2010/2011 school year.

As the high school mathematics curriculum transitions to GPS, the Algebra I and Geometry courses and EOCT will be replaced by Mathematics I and Mathematics II. During the 2008/2009 school year, Mathematics I and Mathematics II were field tested and no results at any level (state, system, school, or student) are available. Students were granted a waiver for the 15% grade requirement for the 2008/2009 school year.

To provide information about the Mathematics I EOCT, GaDOE is releasing thirty (30) items along with item level data – the percent of students who selected each response option. Each system and school will receive an item level data report. Additionally, each item has been annotated by the Mathematics curriculum staff.

KEY FINDINGS – SPECIAL POPULATIONS

When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to Spring 2008, the percent of English Language Learners (ELL) students meeting or exceeding the standards increased across multiple subject specific tests:

- In Ninth Grade Literature and Composition the percent of ELL students meeting or exceeding the standards increased by eleven (11) percentage points.
- In American Literature and Composition the percent of ELL students meeting or exceeding the standards increased by ten (10) percentage points.
- In Biology the percent of ELL students meeting or exceeding the standards increased by three (3) percentage points.
- In Physical Science the percent of ELL students meeting or exceeding the standards increased by five (5) percentage points.
- In U.S. History the percent of ELL students meeting or exceeding the standards increased by seven (7) percentage points.
- In Economics the percent of ELL students meeting or exceeding the standards increased by one (1) percentage point.

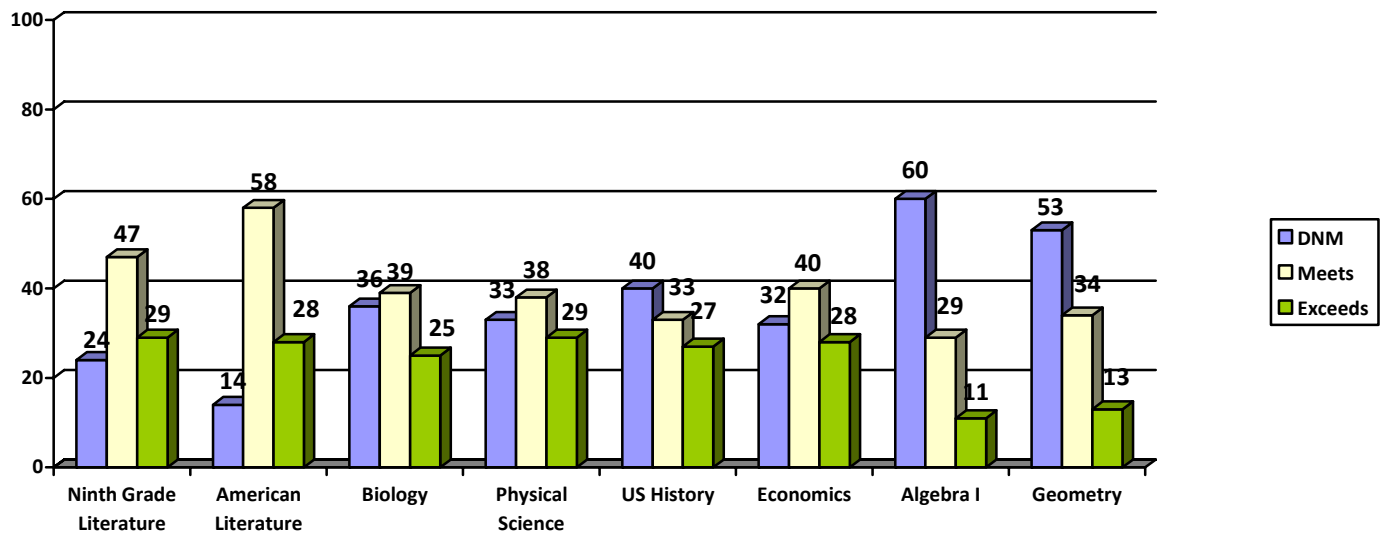
When comparing the Spring 2009 scores to Spring 2008, the percent of Students with Disabilities meeting or exceeding standards increased across multiple subject specific tests:

- In Ninth Grade Literature and Composition the percent of Students with Disabilities meeting or exceeding the standards increased by five (5) percentage points.
- In American Literature and Composition the percent of Students with Disabilities meeting or exceeding the standards increased by four (4) percentage points.
- In Biology the percent of Students with Disabilities meeting or exceeding the standards increased by two (2) percentage points.
- In Physical Science the percent of Students with Disabilities meeting or exceeding the standards increased by three (3) percentage points.

Percent in Performance Level (All Students) - EOCT – Spring 2009

Performance Level	Ninth Grade Literature and Composition	American Literature and Composition	Biology	Physical Science	U.S. History	Economics	Algebra I	Geometry
Does Not Meet	24	14	36	33	40	32	60	53
Meets Standard	47	58	39	38	33	40	29	34
Exceeds Standard	29	28	25	29	27	28	11	13

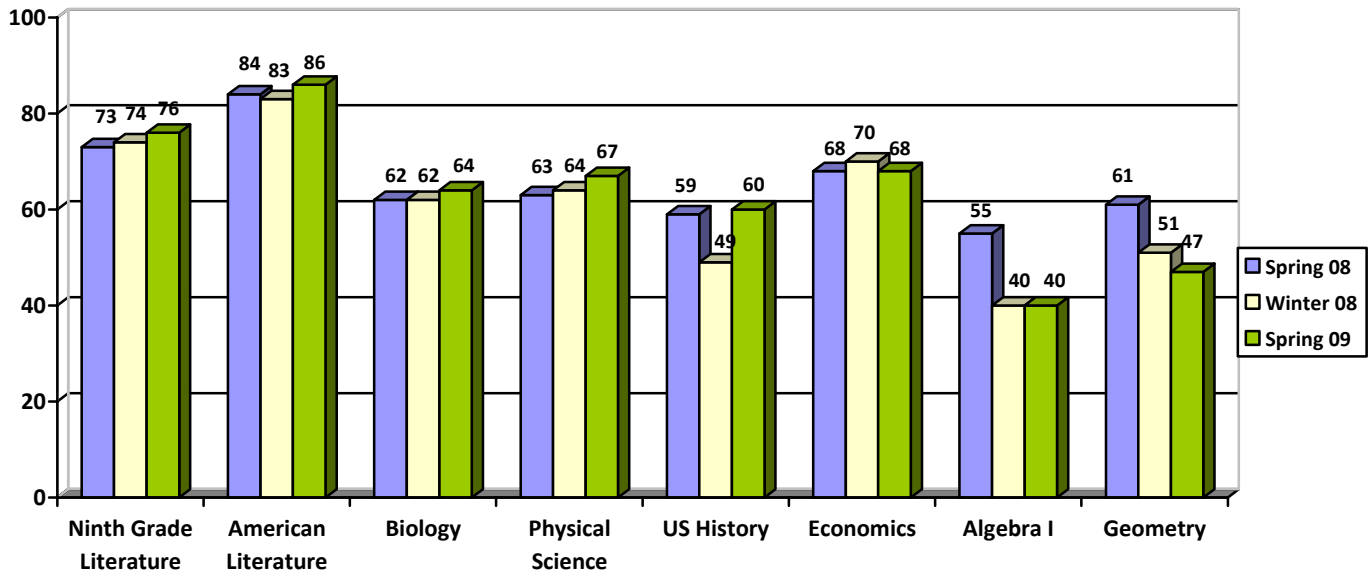
ALL Students Spring 2009: Percent in Performance Level



Historical Performance of Students on the Georgia EOCT

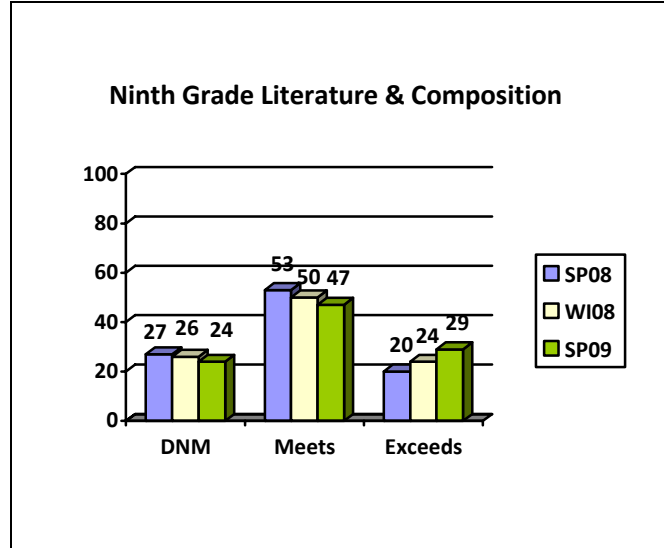
	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard on EOCT		
	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Spring 2009
Ninth Grade Literature	73	74	76
American Literature	84	83	86
Biology	62	62	64
Physical Science	63	64	67
U.S. History	59	49	60
Economics	68	70	68
Algebra I	55	40	40
Geometry	61	51	47

EOCT Historical Comparisons

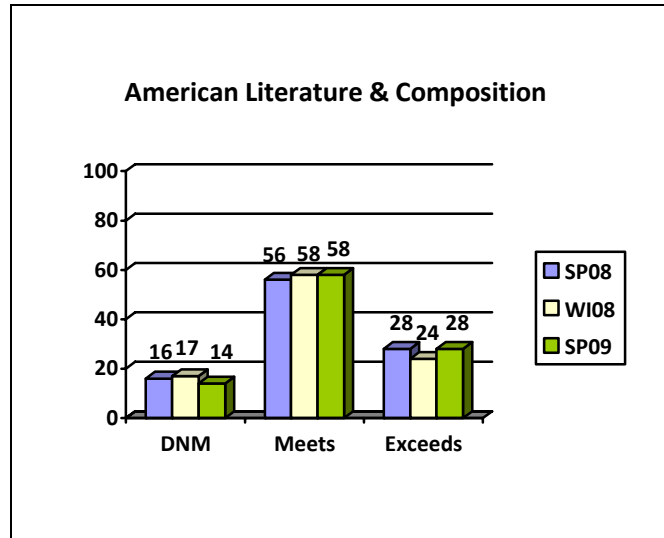


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

Ninth Grade Literature and Composition			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	27	26	24
Meets	53	50	47
Exceeds	20	24	29

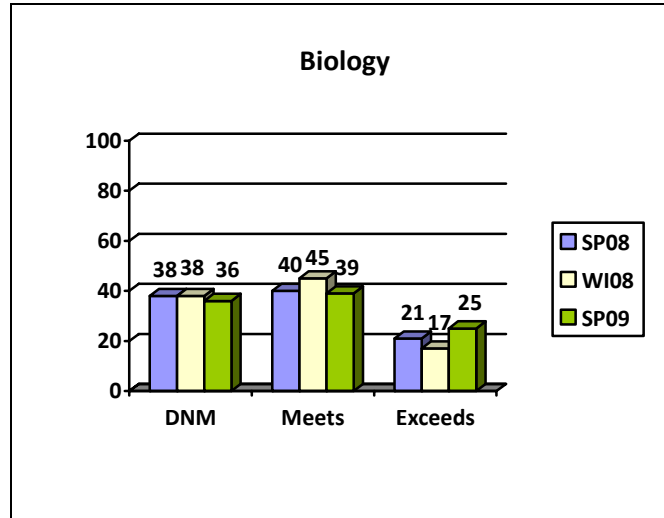


American Literature and Composition			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	16	17	14
Meets	56	58	58
Exceeds	28	24	28

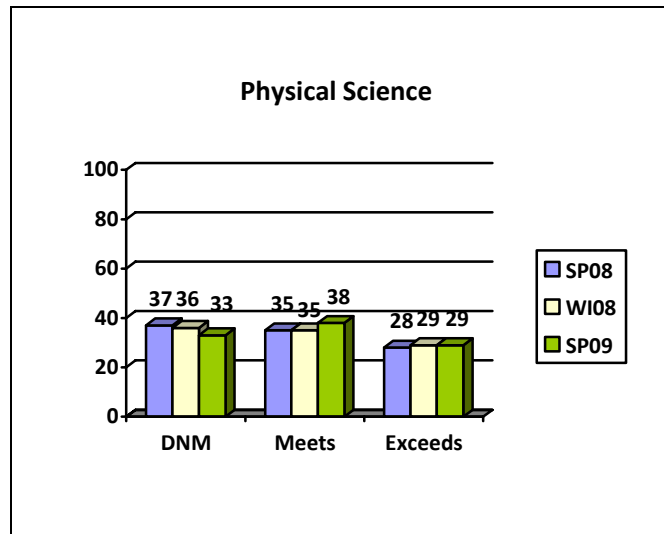


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

Biology			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	38	38	36
Meets	40	45	39
Exceeds	21	17	25

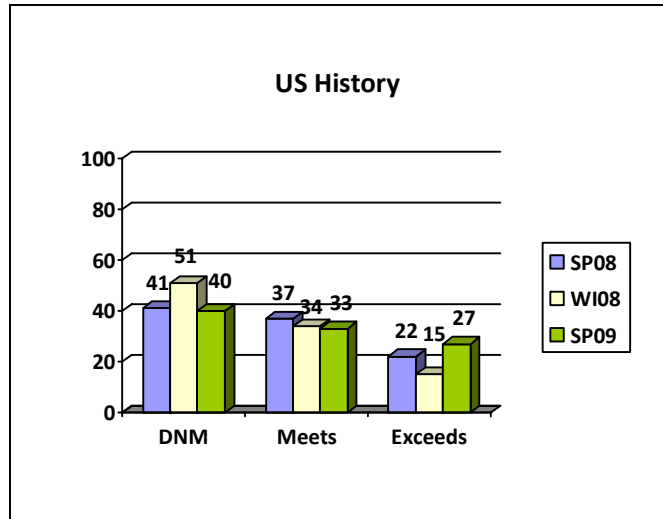


Physical Science			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	37	36	33
Meets	35	35	38
Exceeds	28	29	29

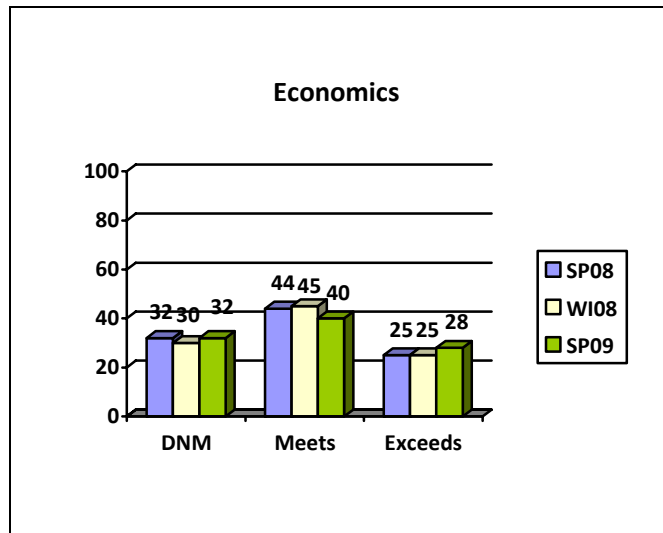


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

U.S. History			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	41	51	40
Meets	37	34	33
Exceeds	22	15	27

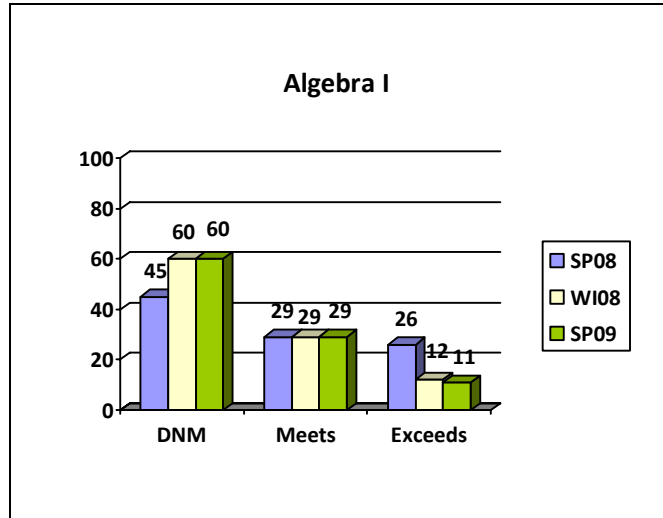


Economics			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	32	30	32
Meets	44	45	40
Exceeds	25	25	28

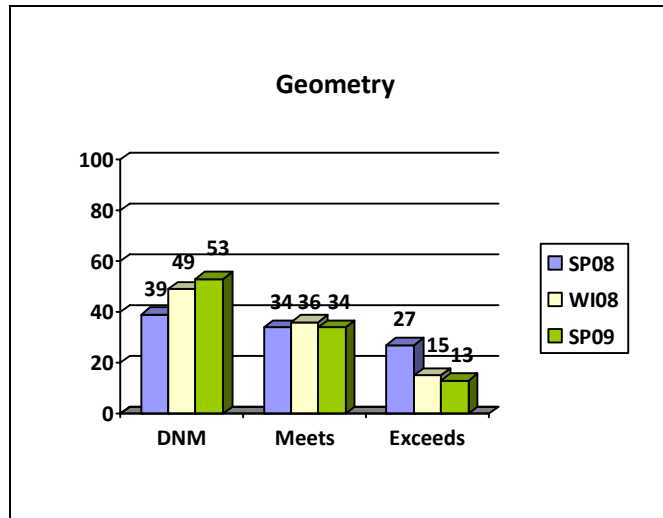


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

Algebra I			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	45	60	60
Meets	29	29	29
Exceeds	26	12	11

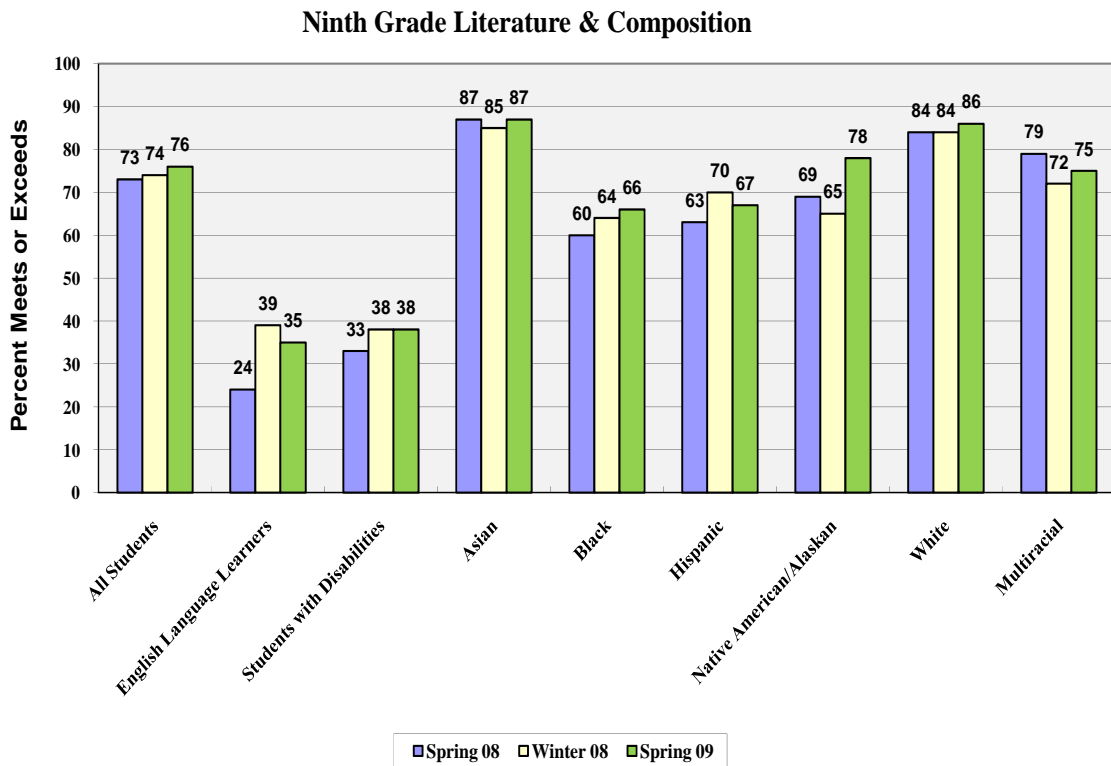


Geometry			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	SP 08	WI 08	SP 09
Does Not Meet	39	49	53
Meets	34	36	34
Exceeds	27	15	13



Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

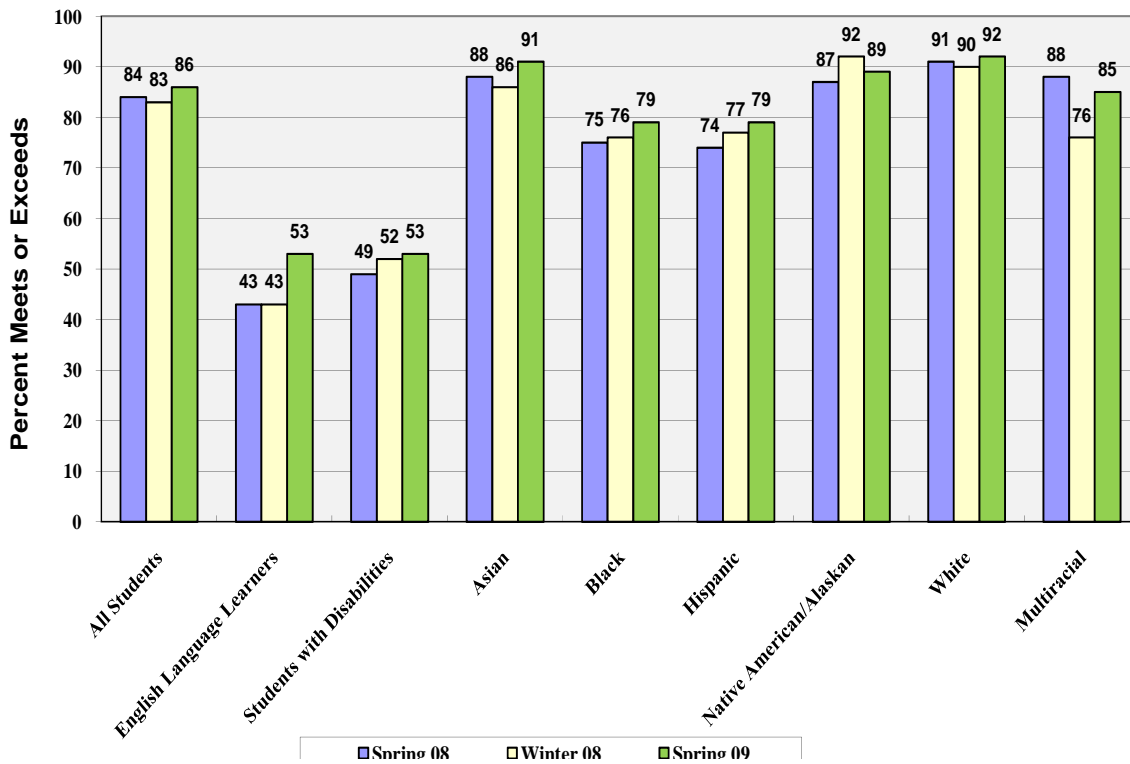
Ninth Grade Literature & Composition	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Spring 2009	Change from SP08 to SP09
All Students	73	74	76	+3
English Language Learners	24	39	35	+11
Students with Disabilities	33	38	38	+5
Asian	87	85	87	No Change
Black	60	64	66	+6
Hispanic	63	70	67	+4
Native American/Alaskan	69	65	78	+9
White	84	84	86	+2
Multiracial	79	72	75	-4



Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

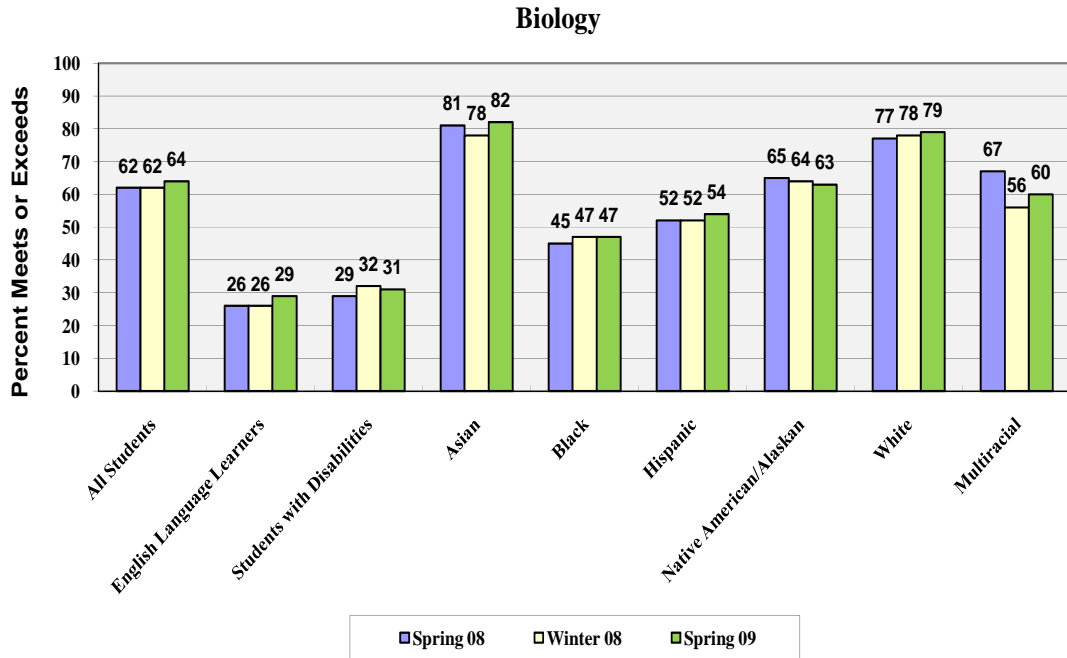
American Literature & Composition	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Spring 2009	Change from SP 08 to SP 09
All Students	84	83	86	+2
English Language Learners	43	43	53	+10
Students with Disabilities	49	52	53	+4
Asian	88	86	91	+3
Black	75	76	79	+4
Hispanic	74	77	79	+5
Native American/Alaskan	87	92	89	+2
White	91	90	92	+1
Multiracial	88	76	85	-3

American Literature & Composition



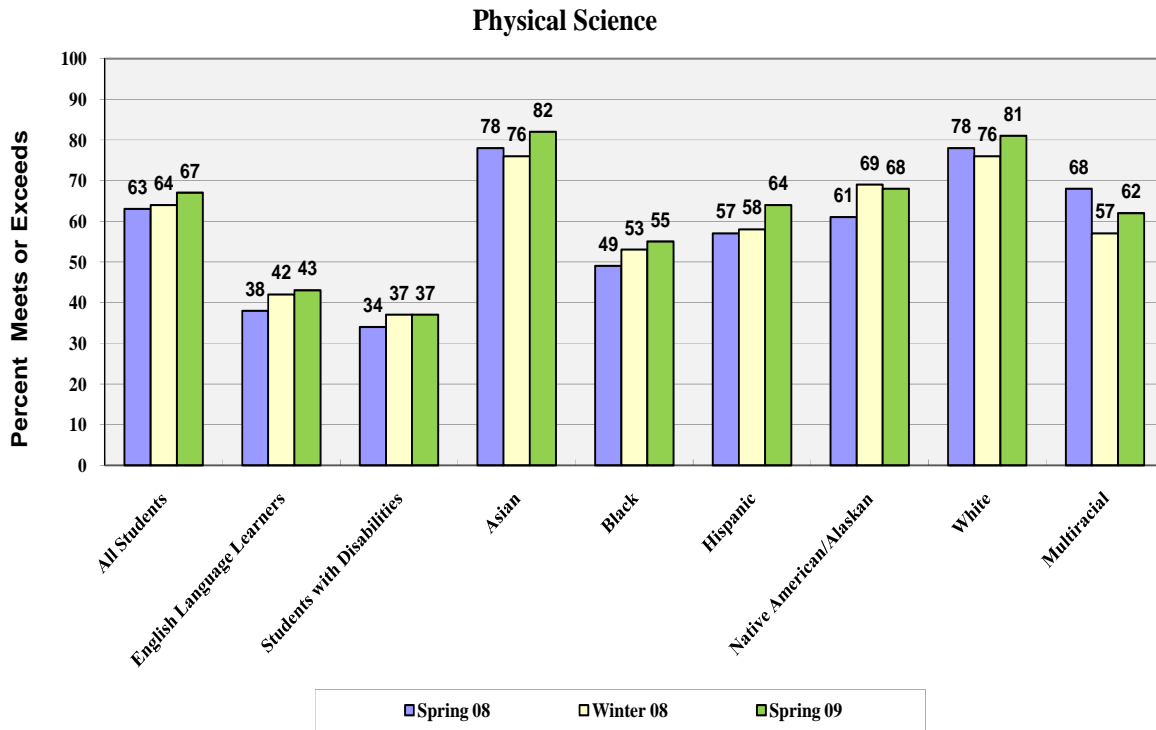
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Biology	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Spring 2009	Change from SP 08 to SP 09
All Students	62	62	64	+2
English Language Learners	26	26	29	+3
Students with Disabilities	29	32	31	+2
Asian	81	78	82	+1
Black	45	47	47	+2
Hispanic	52	52	54	+2
Native American/Alaskan	65	64	63	-2
White	77	78	79	+2
Multiracial	67	56	60	-7



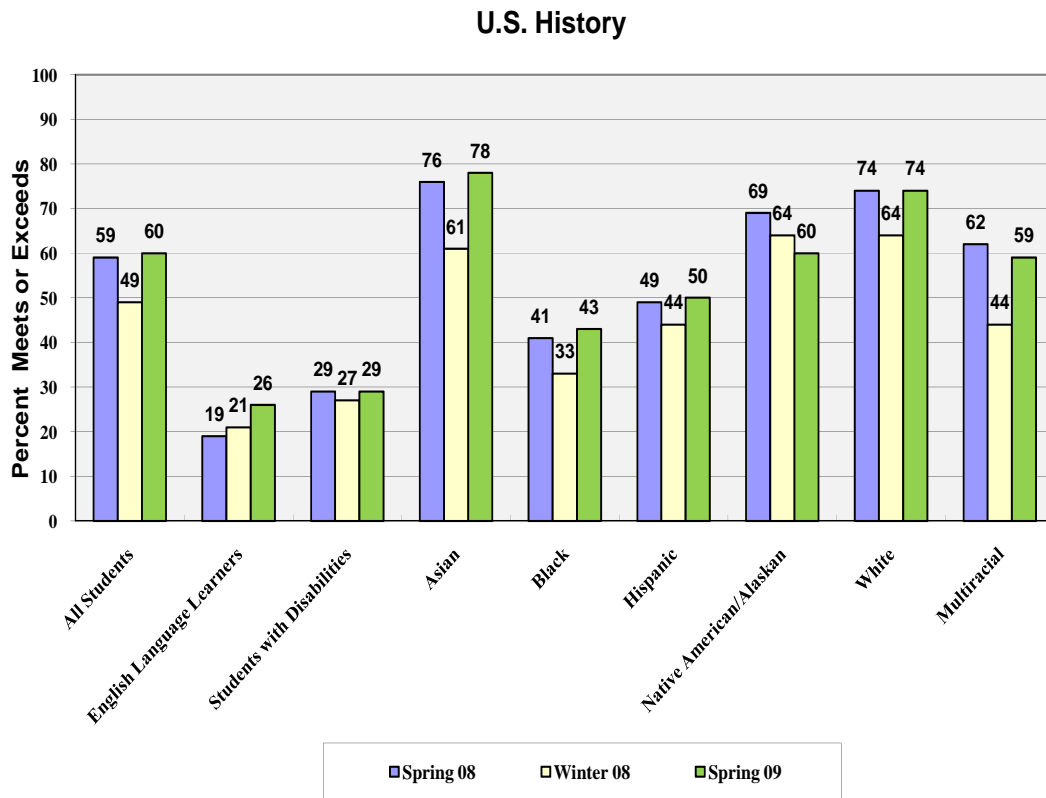
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Physical Science	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Spring 2009	Change from SP 08 to SP 09
All Students	63	64	67	+4
English Language Learners	38	42	43	+5
Students with Disabilities	34	37	37	+3
Asian	78	76	82	+4
Black	49	53	55	+6
Hispanic	57	58	64	+7
Native American/Alaskan	61	69	68	+7
White	78	76	81	+3
Multiracial	68	57	62	-6



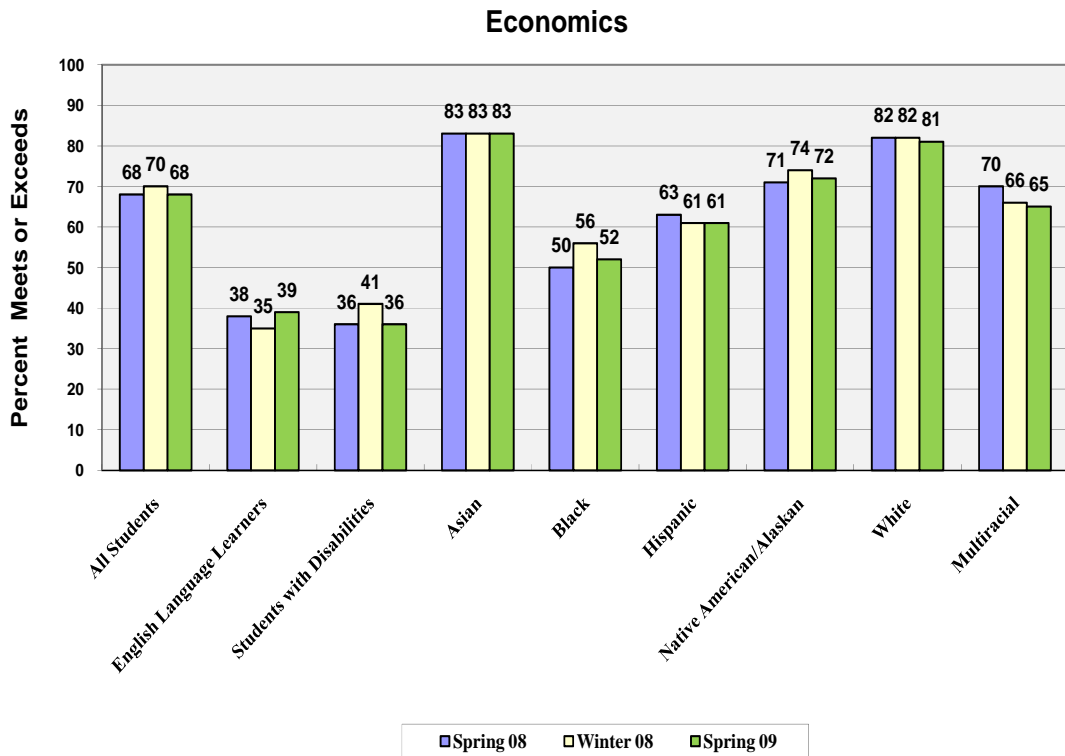
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

U.S. History	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 08	Winter 08	Spring 09	Change from SP 08 to SP 09
All Students	59	49	60	+1
English Language Learners	19	21	26	+7
Students with Disabilities	29	27	29	No Change
Asian	76	61	78	+2
Black	41	33	43	+2
Hispanic	49	44	50	+1
Native American/Alaskan	69	64	60	-9
White	74	64	74	No Change
Multiracial	62	44	59	-3



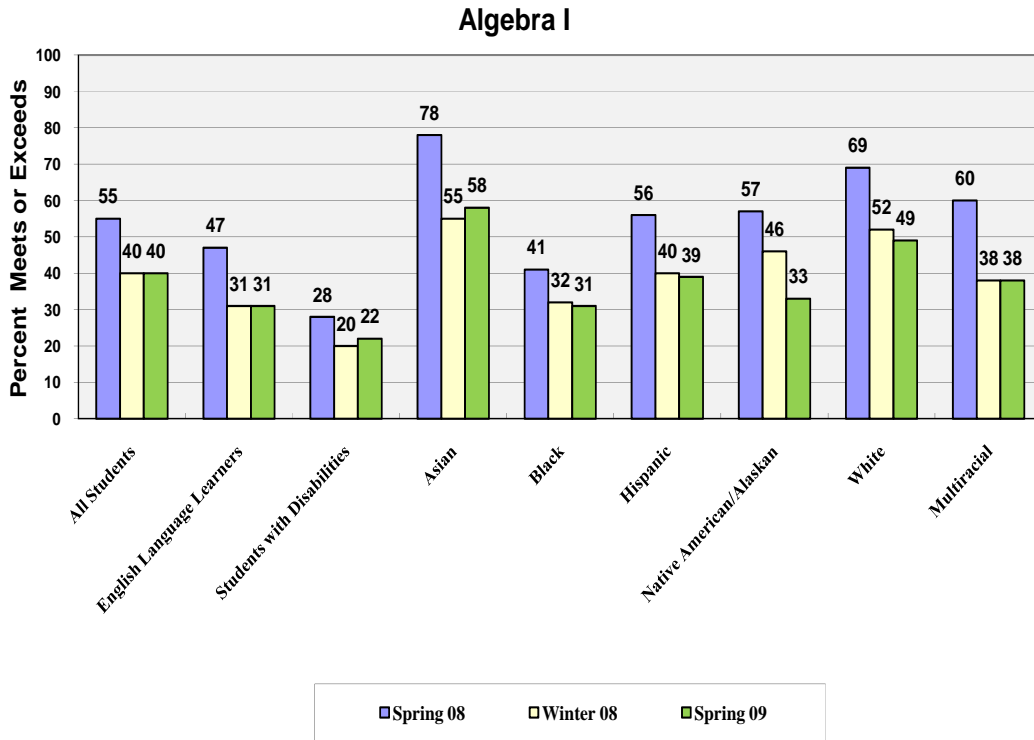
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Economics	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 08	Winter 08	Spring 09	Change from SP 08 to SP 09
All Students	68	70	68	No Change
English Language Learners	38	35	39	+1
Students with Disabilities	36	41	36	No Change
Asian	83	83	83	No Change
Black	50	56	52	+2
Hispanic	63	61	61	-2
Native American/Alaskan	71	74	72	+1
White	82	82	81	-1
Multiracial	70	66	65	-5



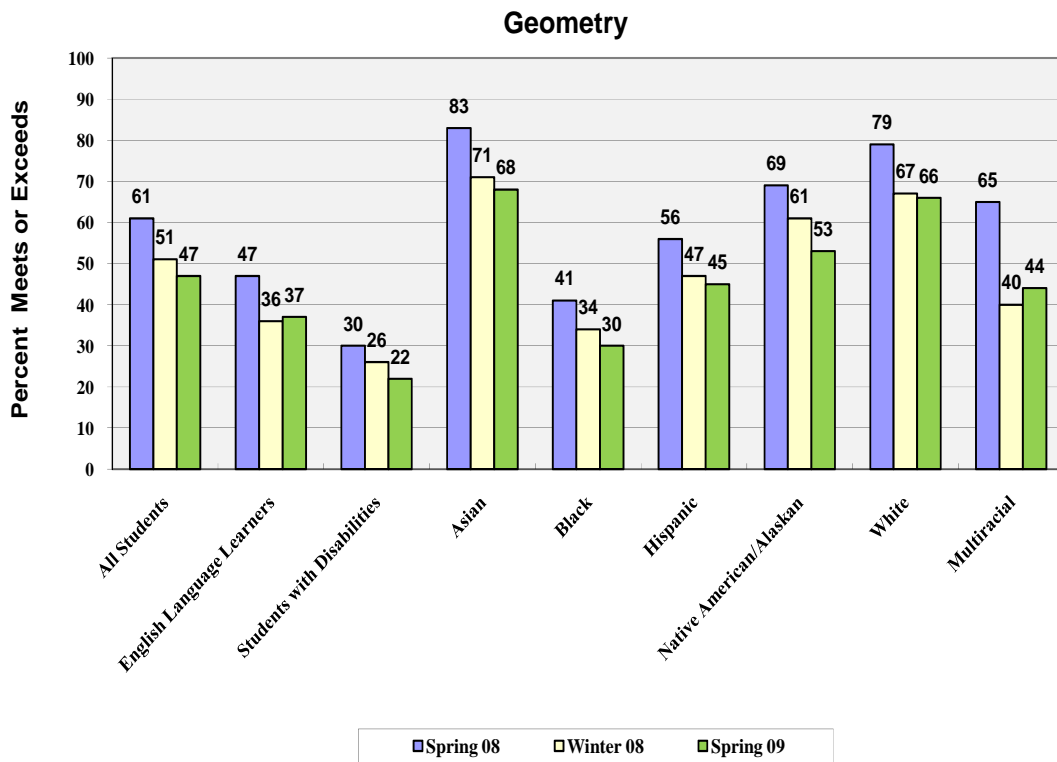
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Algebra I	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 08	Winter 08	Spring 09	Change from SP 08 to SP 09
All Students	55	40	40	-15
English Language Learners	47	31	31	-16
Students with Disabilities	28	20	22	-6
Asian	78	55	58	-20
Black	41	32	31	-10
Hispanic	56	40	39	-17
Native American/Alaskan	57	46	33	-24
White	69	52	49	-20
Multiracial	60	38	38	-22



Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Geometry	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Spring 08	Winter 08	Spring 09	Change from SP 08 to SP 09
All Students	61	51	47	-14
English Language Learners	47	36	37	-10
Students with Disabilities	30	26	22	-8
Asian	83	71	68	-15
Black	41	34	30	-11
Hispanic	56	47	45	-11
Native American/Alaskan	69	61	53	-16
White	79	67	66	-13
Multiracial	65	40	44	-21



Number of Tests Administered

Spring 09*	Total Number	Electronic
9 th Literature	99,844	23,568
American Literature	82,898	21,578
Algebra I	26,152	5,286
Geometry	64,231	10,083
U.S. History	86,251	24,545
Economics	49,293	18,835
Physical Science	53,065	7,559
Biology	113,682	28,225
TOTAL	575,416	139,679

* Figures include February and March online mid-month administrations

Winter 08*	Total Number	Electronic
9 th Literature & Comp.	30,682	5,228
American Literature	27,702	6,022
Algebra I	34,936	7,064
Geometry	23,569	3,525
U.S. History	25,625	6,157
Economics	49,149	18,340
Physical Science	14,914	3,729
Biology	20,380	3,803
TOTAL	226,957	53,868

* Figures include August, September, October, and November online mid-month administrations

Spring 2009 Mid-Month Electronic	February 2009	March 2009	Mid-Month Totals
9 th Literature & Comp	398	306	704
American Literature	427	332	759
Algebra I	345	319	664
Geometry	279	221	500
U.S. History	363	276	639
Economics	521	2,962	3,483
Physical Science	384	304	688
Biology	384	288	672
Totals	3,101	5,008	8,109