

TESTING BRIEF

End-of-Course Tests (EOCT) Winter 2008 December 1, 2008 – January 9, 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 eight 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. 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.

KEY FINDINGS – LANGUAGE ARTS

NINTH GRADE LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

- A total of 30,682 students were assessed in Ninth Grade Literature and Composition.
- Seventy-four (74) percent of Georgia’s students met or exceeded the standard for Ninth Grade Literature and Composition.
- The mean scale score for Ninth Grade Literature and Composition was 421*.
- Students meeting or exceeding the standard for Ninth Grade Literature and Composition during the Winter 2008 administration performed at a seven (7) percentage point increase over students meeting or exceeding this standard during the Winter 2007 administration.

AMERICAN LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

- A total of 27,702 students were assessed in American Literature and Composition.
- Eighty-three (83) percent of Georgia’s students met or exceeded the standard for American Literature and Composition.
- The mean scale score for American Literature and Composition was 427*.
- Students meeting or exceeding the standard for American Literature and Composition during the Winter 2008 administration performed at a three (3) percentage point increase over students meeting or exceeding this standard during the Winter 2007 administration.

KEY FINDINGS – SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

- A total of 34,936 students were assessed in Biology.
- Sixty-two (62) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Biology.
- The mean scale score for Biology was 413*.
- Students meeting or exceeding the standard for Biology during the Winter 2008 administration performed at a five (5) percentage point increase over students meeting or exceeding this standard during the Winter 2007 administration.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

- A total of 23,569 students were assessed in Physical Science.
- Sixty-four (64) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Physical Science.
- The mean scale score for Physical Science was 420*.
- Students meeting or exceeding the standard for Physical Science during the Winter 2008 administration performed at a two (2) percentage point increase over students meeting or exceeding this standard during the Winter 2007 administration.

KEY FINDINGS – SOCIAL STUDIES

U.S. HISTORY

- A total of 25,625 students were assessed in U.S. History
- Forty-nine (49) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for U.S. History.
- The mean scale score for U.S. History was 401*.
- Students meeting or exceeding the standard for U.S. History during the Winter 2008 administration performed at a one (1) percentage point increase over students meeting or exceeding this standard during the Winter 2007 administration.

ECONOMICS/BUSINESS/FREE ENTERPRISE

- A total of 49,149 students were assessed in Economics/Business/Free Enterprise.
- Seventy (70) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Economics/Business/Free Enterprise.
- The mean scale score for Economics/Business/Free Enterprise was 421*.
- Students meeting or exceeding the standard for Economics during the Winter 2008 administration performed at a seven (7) percentage point increase over students meeting or exceeding this standard during the Winter 2007 administration.

*For Ninth Grade Literature, American Literature, Biology, Physical Science, U. S. History and Economics, a scale score of 400 is necessary to meet standard. A scale score of 450 or higher is necessary to exceed standard. These tests were aligned with the Georgia Performance Standards, beginning with the 05/06 school year. With the transition from the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) to the new Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), both the content and the performance standard for these tests changed. When this occurs, it is appropriate to establish a new scale to describe performance. It is important to note that the new GPS based EOCT are not comparable to previous QCC based tests.

KEY FINDINGS – MATHEMATICS

ALGEBRA I

- A total of 14,914 students were assessed in Algebra I.
- Forty (40) percent of Georgia's students met or exceeded the standard for Algebra I.
- The mean scale score for Algebra I was 595**.
- This EOCT continues to be aligned with the Quality Core Curriculum.

GEOMETRY

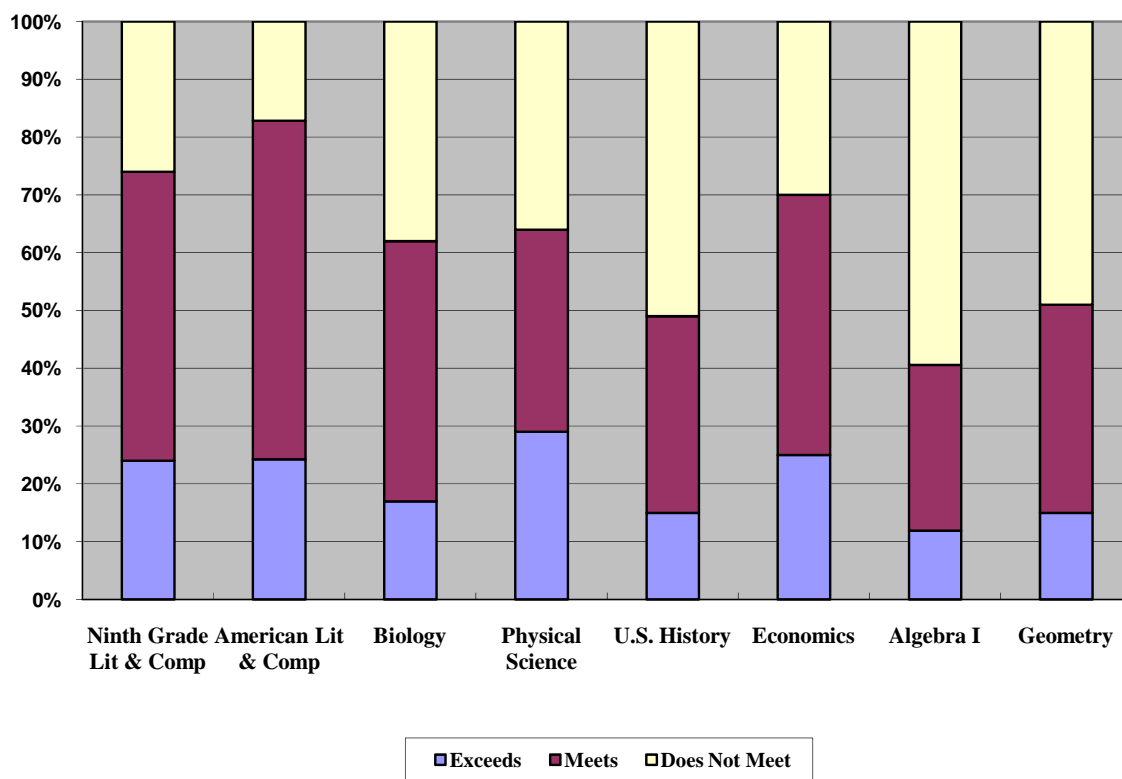
- A total of 20,380 students were assessed in Geometry.
- Fifty-one (51) percent of Georgia's students met or exceed the standard for Geometry.
- The mean scale score for Geometry was 603**.
- This EOCT continues to be aligned with the Quality Core Curriculum.

**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. Algebra I and Geometry EOCT are available for students who enrolled in high school prior to Fall 2008. These tests will continue to be available until the 2010/2011 school year. For Algebra I and Geometry, a scale score of 600 is necessary to meet standard. A scale score of 630 or higher demonstrates a performance level of exceeds standard. Algebra I and Geometry EOCT are aligned to the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC). Students were administered the Mathematics I EOCT for the first time during the Winter 2008 administration. Due to the small sample size, standard setting for the Mathematics I EOCT was postponed until spring 2009; students were granted a waiver for the 15% grade requirement. Without test performance standards being set, summative data were not available for this report for the Mathematics I EOCT.

Percent in Performance Level - Georgia EOCT – Winter 2008

Performance Level	Ninth Grade Literature and Composition	American Literature and Composition	Biology	Physical Science	U.S. History	Economics	Algebra I	Geometry
Exceeds Standard	24	24	17	29	15	25	12	15
Meets Standard	50	58	45	35	34	45	29	36
Does Not Meet	26	17	38	36	51	30	60	49

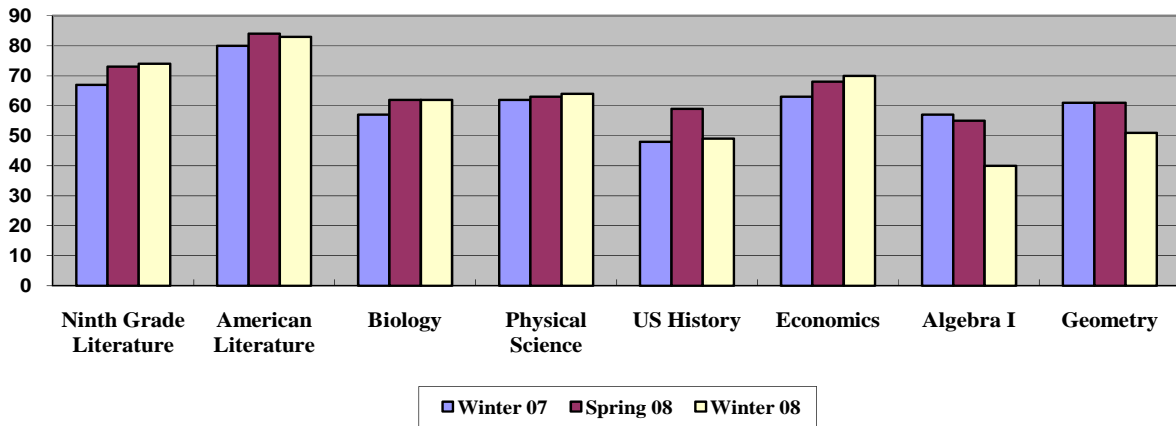
Percent in Performance Level - Winter 2008



Historical Performance of Students on the Georgia EOCT

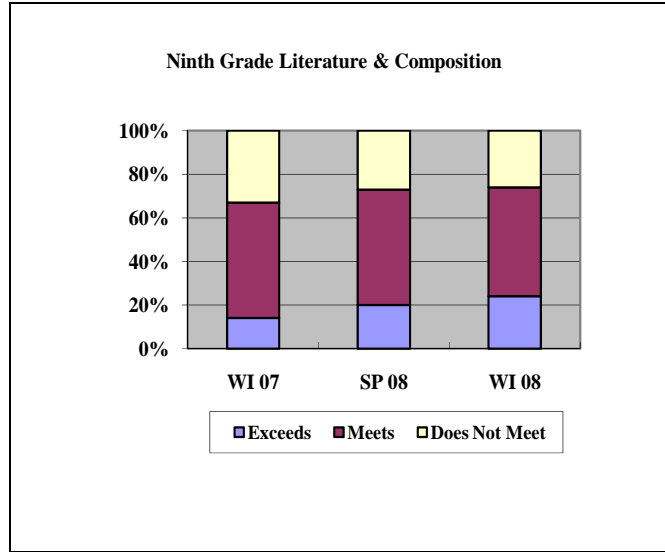
	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard on EOCT		
	Winter 2007	Spring 2008	Winter 2008
Ninth Grade Literature	67	73	74
American Literature	80	84	83
Biology	57	62	62
Physical Science	62	63	64
U.S. History	48	59	49
Economics	63	68	70
Algebra I	57	55	40
Geometry	61	61	51

EOCT Historical Comparisons

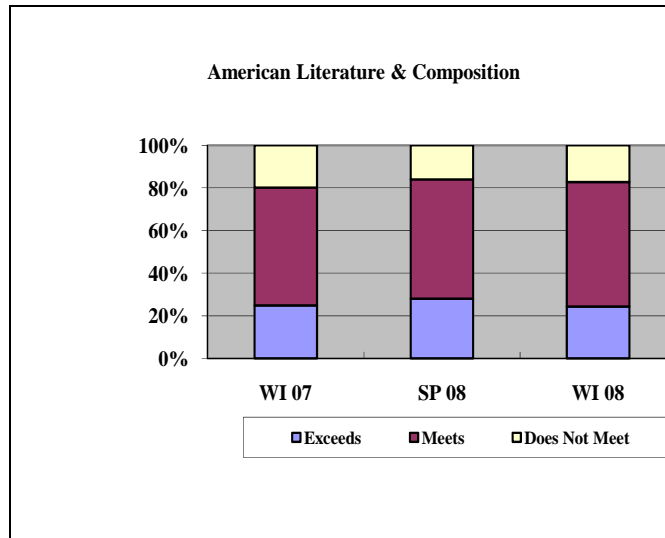


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

Ninth Grade Literature and Composition			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	14	20	24
Meets	53	53	50
Does Not Meet	33	27	26

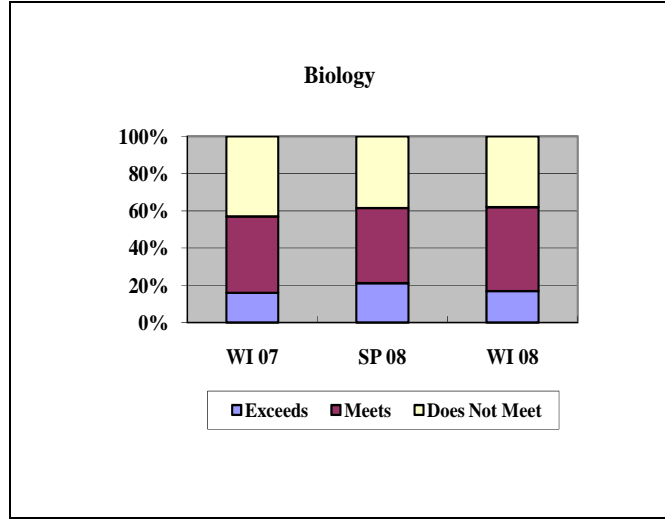


American Literature and Composition			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	25	28	24
Meets	56	56	58
Does Not Meet	20	16	17

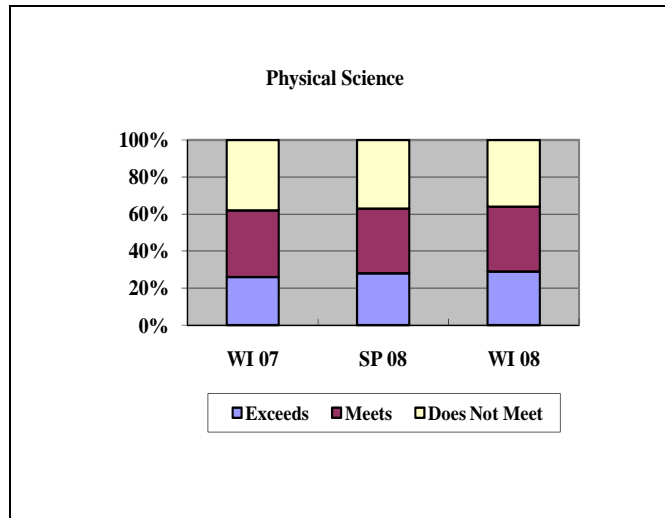


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

Biology			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	16	21	17
Meets	41	40	45
Does Not Meet	43	38	38

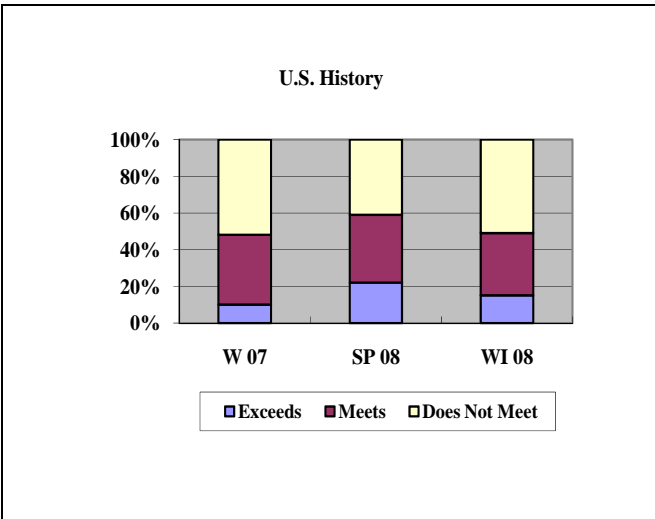


Physical Science			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	26	28	29
Meets	36	35	35
Does Not Meet	38	37	36

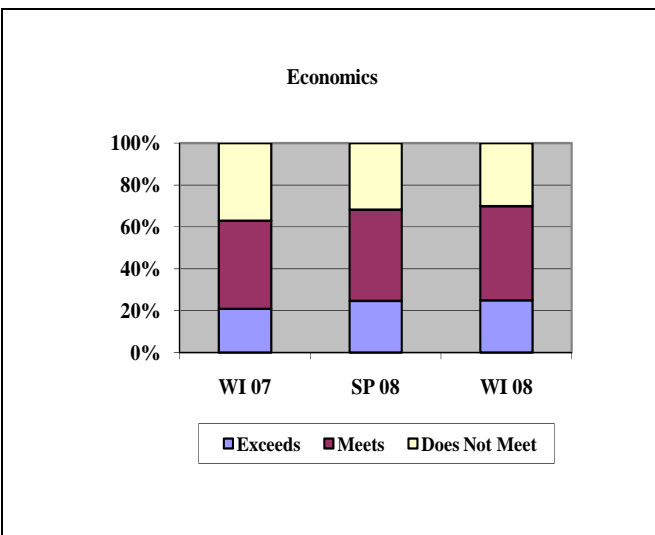


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

U.S. History			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	10	22	15
Meets	38	37	34
Does Not Meet	52	41	51

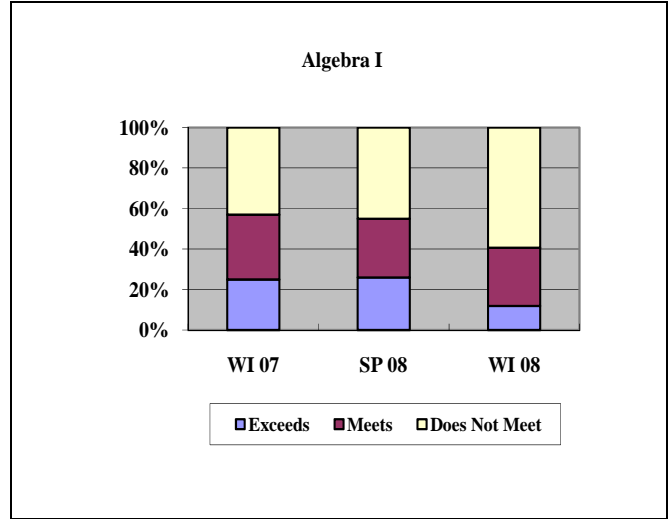


Economics			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	21	25	25
Meets	42	44	45
Does Not Meet	37	32	30

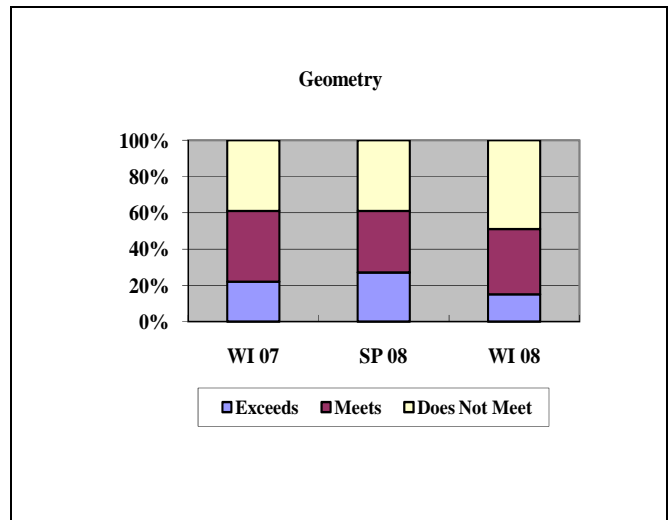


Historical Performance by Subject on the Georgia EOCT

Algebra I			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	25	26	12
Meets	32	29	29
Does Not Meet	43	45	60



Geometry			
Performance Level	Percent of Students		
	WI 07	SP 08	WI 08
Exceeds	22	27	15
Meets	39	34	36
Does Not Meet	39	39	49

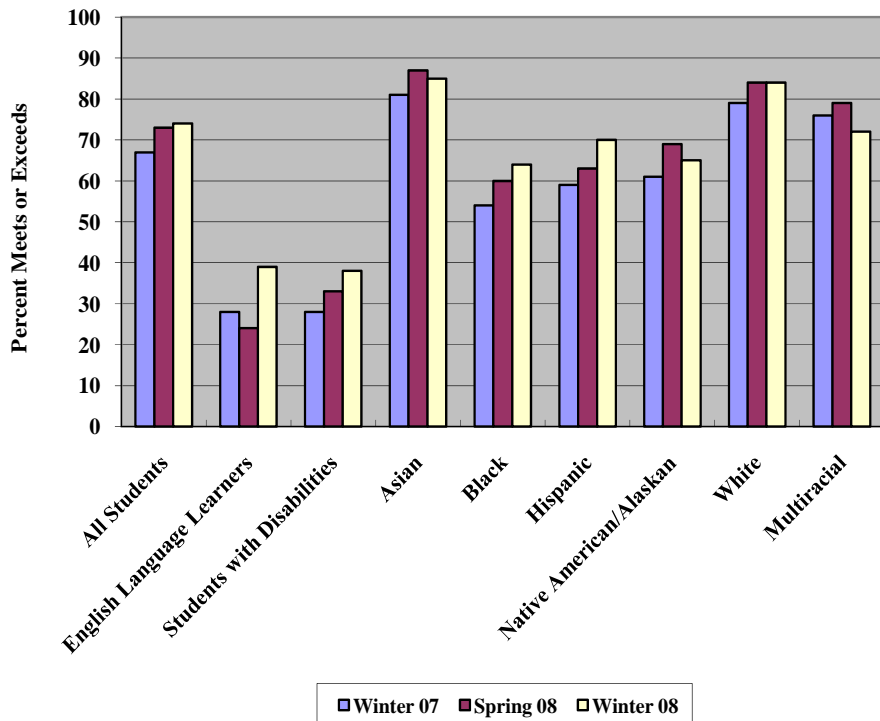


Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

(Because of rounding, all disaggregated charts may not appear consistent with historical data.)

Ninth Grade Literature & Composition	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 2007	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	67	73	74	+7
English Language Learners	28	24	39	+11
Students with Disabilities	28	33	38	+10
Asian	81	87	85	+4
Black	54	60	64	+10
Hispanic	59	63	70	+11
Native American/Alaskan	61	69	65	+4
White	79	84	84	+5
Multiracial	76	79	72	-4

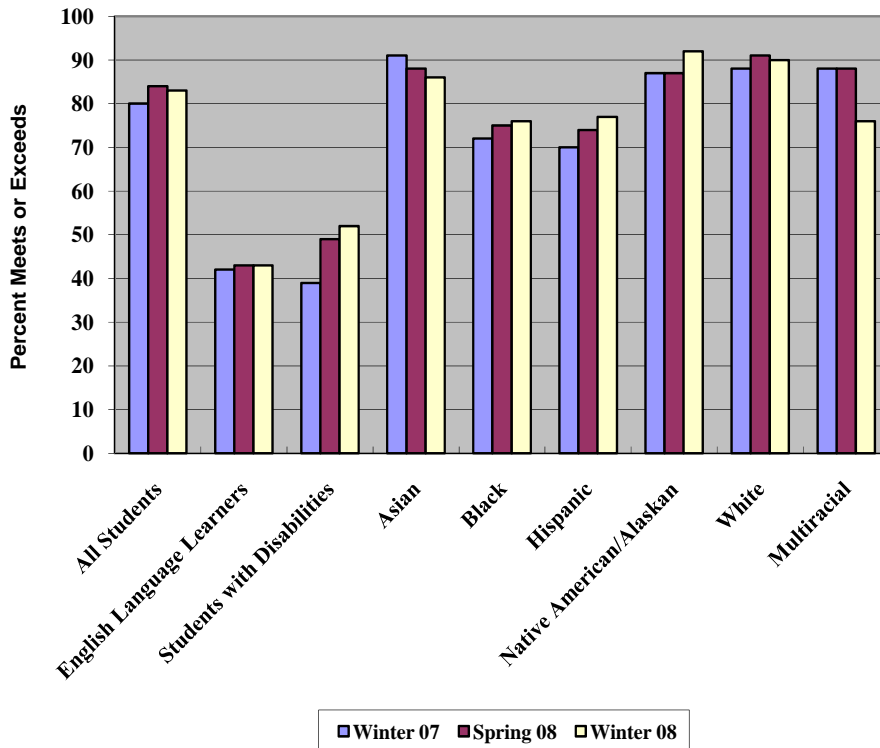
Ninth Grade Literature & Composition



Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

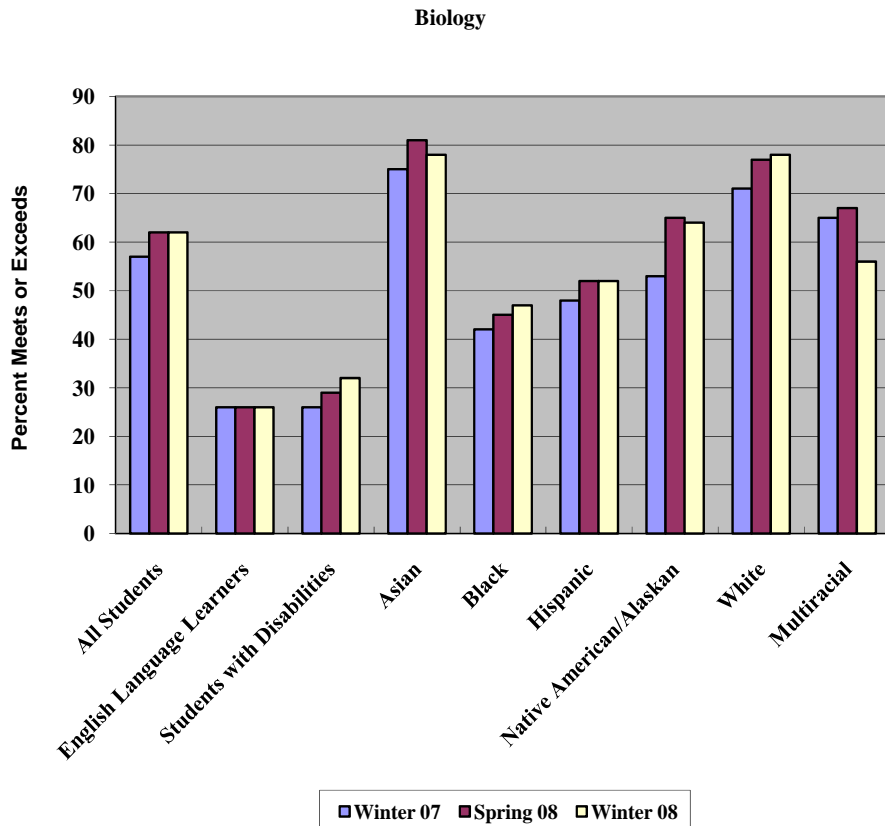
American Literature & Composition	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 2007	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	80	84	83	+3
English Language Learners	42	43	43	+1
Students with Disabilities	39	49	52	+13
Asian	91	88	86	-5
Black	72	75	76	+4
Hispanic	70	74	77	+7
Native American/Alaskan	87	87	92	+5
White	88	91	90	+2
Multiracial	88	88	76	-12

American Literature & Composition



Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

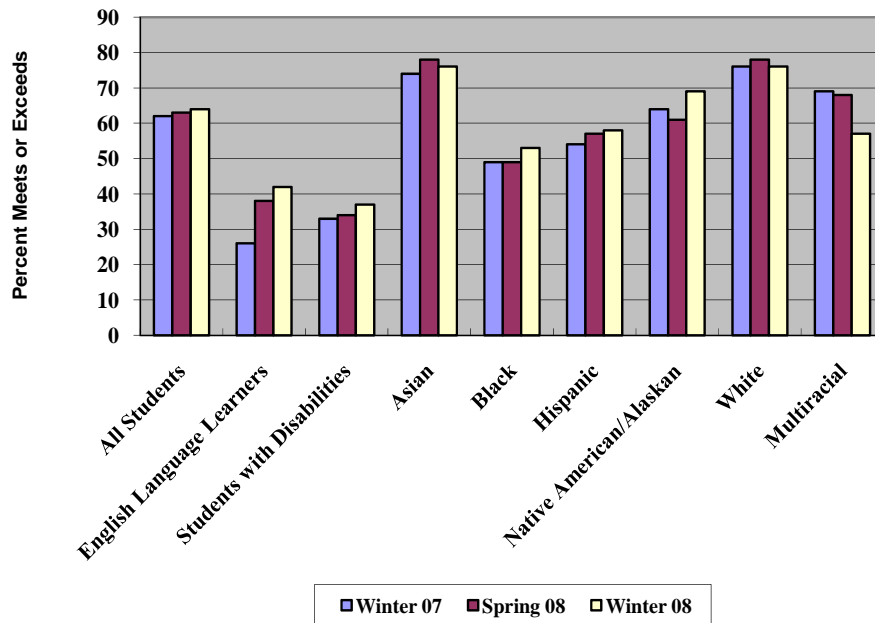
Biology	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 2007	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	57	62	62	+5
English Language Learners	26	26	26	No Change
Students with Disabilities	26	29	32	+5
Asian	75	81	78	+3
Black	42	45	47	+5
Hispanic	48	52	52	+4
Native American/Alaskan	53	65	64	+11
White	71	77	78	+7
Multiracial	65	67	56	-9



Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

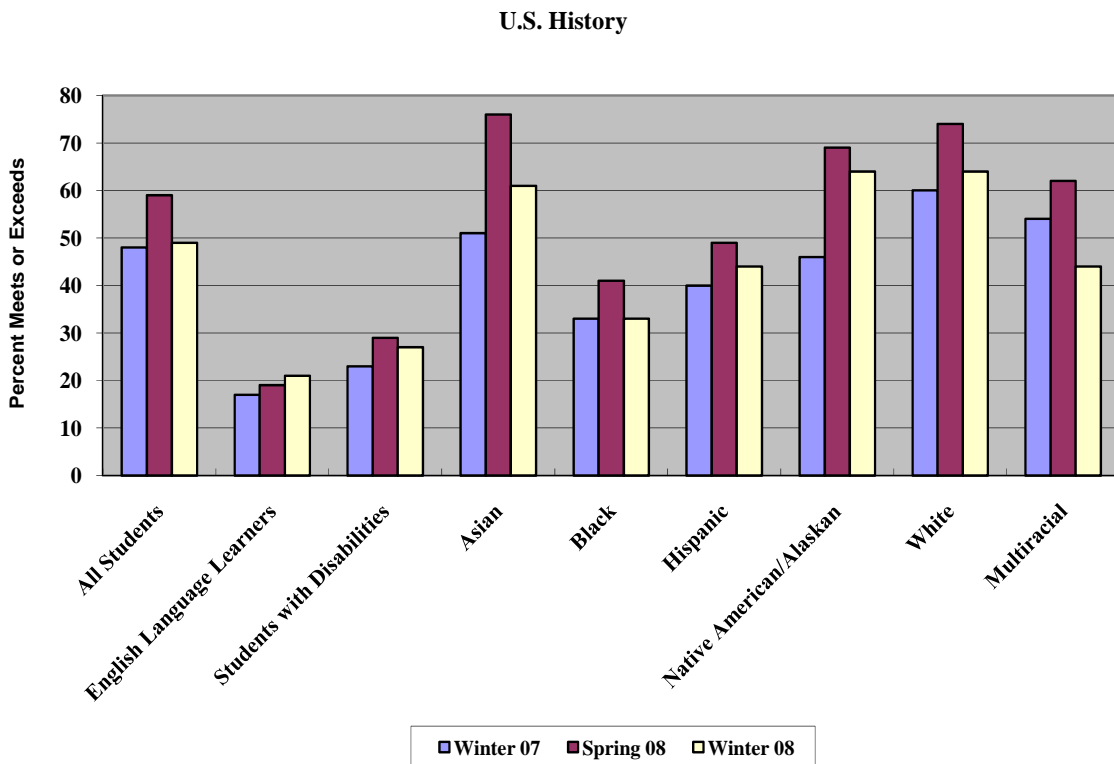
Physical Science	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 2007	Spring 2008	Winter 2008	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	62	63	64	+2
English Language Learners	26	38	42	+16
Students with Disabilities	33	34	37	+4
Asian	74	78	76	+2
Black	49	49	53	+4
Hispanic	54	57	58	+4
Native American/Alaskan	64	61	69	+5
White	76	78	76	No Change
Multiracial	69	68	57	-12

Physical Science



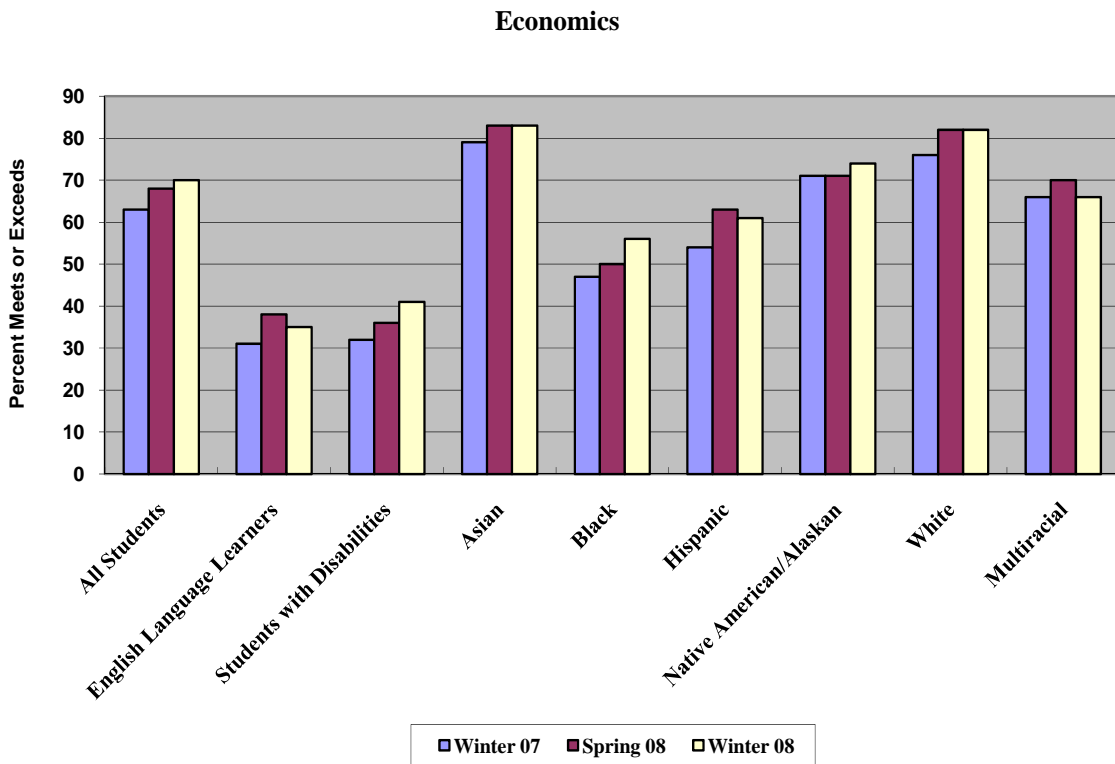
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

U.S. History	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 07	Spring 08	Winter 08	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	48	59	49	+1
English Language Learners	17	19	21	+4
Students with Disabilities	23	29	27	+4
Asian	51	76	61	+10
Black	33	41	33	No Change
Hispanic	40	49	44	+4
Native American/Alaskan	46	69	64	+18
White	60	74	64	+4
Multiracial	54	62	44	-10



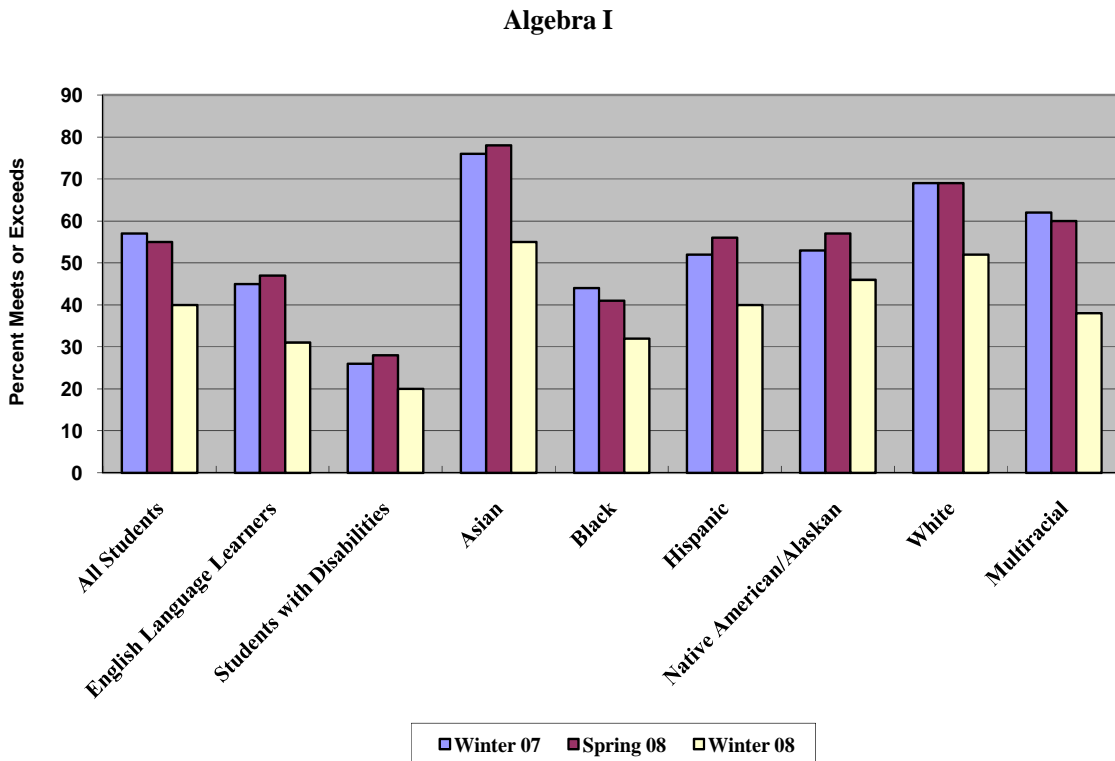
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Economics	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 07	Spring 08	Winter 07	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	63	68	70	+7
English Language Learners	31	38	35	+4
Students with Disabilities	32	36	41	+9
Asian	79	83	83	+4
Black	47	50	56	+9
Hispanic	54	63	61	+7
Native American/Alaskan	71	71	74	+3
White	76	82	82	+5
Multiracial	66	70	66	No Change



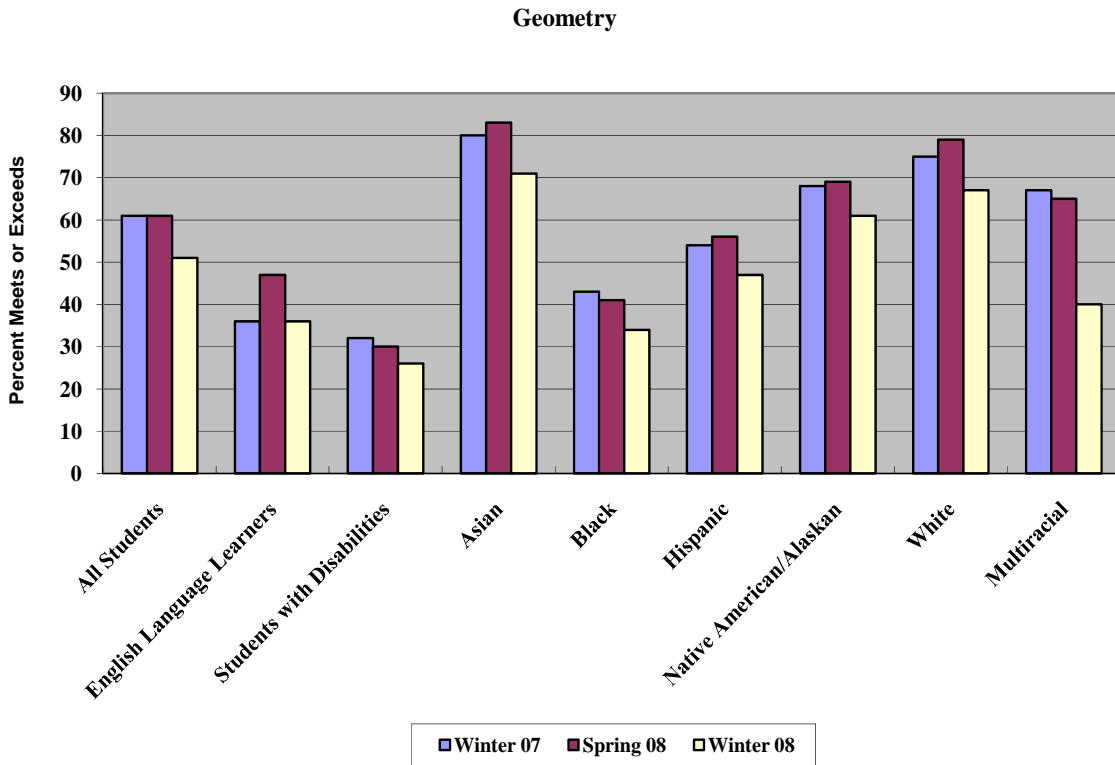
Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Algebra I	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 07	Spring 08	Winter 08	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	57	55	40	-17
English Language Learners	45	47	31	-14
Students with Disabilities	26	28	20	-6
Asian	76	78	55	-21
Black	44	41	32	-12
Hispanic	52	56	40	-12
Native American/Alaskan	53	57	46	-7
White	69	69	52	-17
Multiracial	62	60	38	-24



Historical Performance of Sub-Groups on the Georgia EOCT

Geometry	Percent of Students Meeting and Exceeding Standard			
	Winter 07	Spring 08	Winter 08	Change from WI 07 to WI 08
All Students	61	61	51	-10
English Language Learners	36	47	36	No Change
Students with Disabilities	32	30	26	-6
Asian	80	83	71	-9
Black	43	41	34	-9
Hispanic	54	56	47	-7
Native American/Alaskan	68	69	61	-7
White	75	79	67	-8
Multiracial	67	65	40	-27



Number of tests administered

Winter 08*	Total tests	Electronic / 113 systems
9 th Literature & Comp.	30,682	5228
American Literature	27,702	6022
Biology	34,936	7064
Physical Science	23,569	3525
U.S. History	25,625	6157
Economics	49,149	18,340
Algebra I	14,914	3729
Geometry	20,380	3803
TOTAL	226,957	53,868

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

Spring 08*	Total tests	Electronic / 66 systems
9 th Literature & Comp.	98,874	18,571
American Literature	80,564	18,907
Algebra I	88,272	9,733
Geometry	80,690	7,867
U.S. History	85,749	19,967
Economics	43,505	15,499
Physical Science	66,627	7,785
Biology	98,102	21,636
TOTAL	642,383	119,965

*Figures include February and March online mid-month administrations

Mid-Month Electronic	Aug. 08	Sept. 08	Oct. 08	Nov. 08	Mid-Month Totals
9 th Literature & Comp	425	215	393	217	1250
American Literature	347	239	418	226	1230
Algebra I	425	240	332	136	1133
Geometry	319	135	229	136	819
U.S. History	254	165	260	178	857
Economics	145	283	2661	217	3306
Physical Science	197	181	276	142	796
Biology	342	188	346	155	1031
Totals	2,454	1646	4915	1407	10,422