

TESTING BRIEF
Spring 2008 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 4, 2008-March 31, 2009

The Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) is designed to meet the mandates of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004. Both NCLB and IDEA require that all students, including students with significant cognitive disabilities, have access to a general curriculum that encompasses challenging academic standards. These laws require states to ensure that *all* students are assessed for their progress toward meeting academic standards.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities may be assessed via alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards. An alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards allows for the unique learning characteristics of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Alternate assessments may cover a narrower range of content and reflect a different set of expectations than regular assessments. Alternate achievement standards must be clearly linked to the content standards for the grade in which the student is enrolled, although the grade-level content may be reduced in complexity or reflect pre-requisite skills.

The GAA serves as Georgia's alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. The GAA is a portfolio of student work that allows participants to showcase the achievement and progress they have made in knowledge and skills aligned to the state's curriculum. Each teacher determines the alternate achievement standard (i.e., expectation) for each student, based on the learning characteristics and needs of the student. The teacher designs the instructional task that provides the student access to the selected state-mandated curriculum standard based on an achievement expectation that is appropriately challenging and purposeful for the student. The 2006-2007 school year was the first operational administration of the redeveloped GAA.

For any grade, kindergarten through 12, where all students are assessed, students with disabilities must participate in the regular assessment or an alternate assessment. Georgia mandates assessment in kindergarten, grades 1–8, and grade 11. For these grades, the GAA is the state provided alternate assessment.

Students eligible to participate in the GAA in grades K–2 must be assessed in English/language arts and mathematics. Students eligible to participate in the GAA in grades 3–8 and 11 must be assessed in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

A Stage of Progress (performance level) is assigned to each content area. The Stages of Progress—Extending Progress, Established Progress, and Emerging Progress correspond to Advanced/Exceeds, Proficient/Meets, and Basic/Does Not Meet, respectively.

Due to rounding, the numbers on the charts and tables may not always equal 100%.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE K English/Language Arts and Mathematics

- **Eighty-nine percent (89%)** of Georgia's Kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in English/language arts 2009. **Eighty-four percent (84%)** of Georgia's Kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in English/language arts 2008.
- **Ninety-one percent (91%)** of Georgia's Kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-seven percent (87%)** of Georgia's Kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in mathematics in 2008.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 1 English/Language Arts and Mathematics

- **Ninety-two percent (92%)** of Georgia's first grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in English/language arts in 2009. **Eighty-four percent (84%)** of Georgia's first grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in English/language arts in 2008.
- **Ninety-three percent (93%)** of first grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-six percent (86%)** of first grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in mathematics in 2008.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 2 English/Language Arts and Mathematics

- **Ninety-three percent (93%)** of Georgia's second grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in English/language arts in 2009. **Eighty-five percent (85%)** of Georgia's second grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in English/language arts in 2008.
- **Ninety-three percent (93%)** of Georgia's second grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-six percent (86%)** of Georgia's second grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in mathematics in 2008.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Ninety-two percent (92%)** and **94%** of Georgia's third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-five percent (85%)** and **87%** of Georgia's third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics, in 2008.
- **Ninety-seven percent (97%)** of Georgia's third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2009. **Ninety-three percent (93%)** and **92%** of Georgia's third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in science and social studies in 2008.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Eighty-eight percent (88%)** and **91%** of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-three percent (83%)** and **85%** of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2008.
- **Ninety-eight percent (98%)** and **97%** of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in science and social studies in 2009. **Ninety-four percent (94%)** of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2008.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 5

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Ninety-one percent (91%)** and **92%** of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-four percent (84%)** of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both English/language arts and mathematics in 2008.
- **Ninety-nine percent (99%)** and **98%** of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in science and social studies in 2009. **Ninety-three percent (93%)** of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2008.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Eighty-three percent (83%)** and **92%** of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics, in 2009. **Eighty-four percent (84%)** and **86%** of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2008.
- **Ninety-seven percent (97%)** of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2009. **Ninety percent (90%)** and **93%** of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in science and social studies in 2008.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 7

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Eighty-one percent (81%)** and **93%** of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-six percent (86%)** and **85%** of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2008.
- **Ninety-seven percent (97%)** of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2009. **Ninety-four percent (94%)** and **95%** of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in science and social studies in 2008.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Seventy-five percent (75%)** and **90%** of Georgia's eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-five percent (85%)** and **83%** of Georgia's eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2008.
- **Ninety-eight percent (98%)** of Georgia's eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2009. **Ninety-four percent (94%)** of Georgia's eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2008.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 11

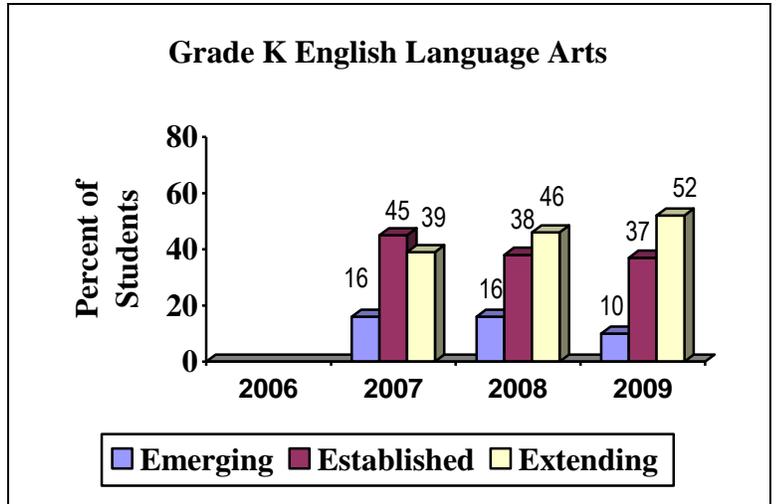
English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Seventy percent (70%)** and **89%** of Georgia's eleventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2009. **Eighty-three percent (83%)** and **85%** of Georgia's eleventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in English/language arts and mathematics in 2008.
- **Ninety-six percent (96%)** and **97%** of eleventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress, respectively, in science and social studies in 2009. **Ninety-two percent (92%)** of eleventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extended Progress in both science and social studies in 2008.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

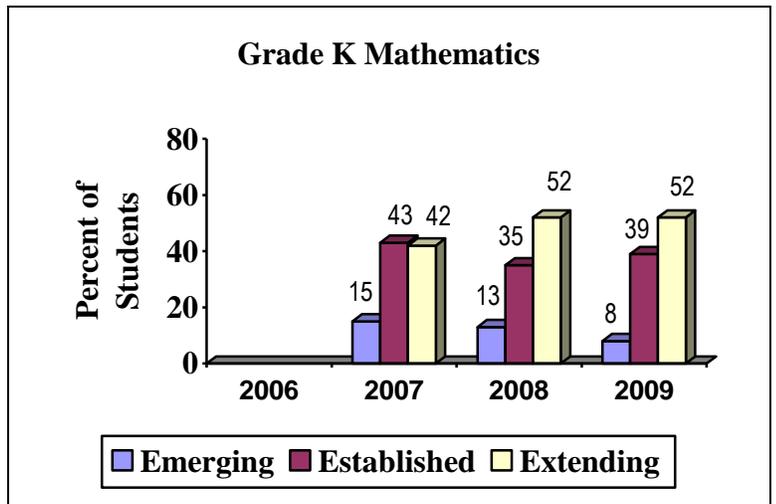
Grade K English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	16	16	10
Established	NA	45	38	37
Extending	NA	39	46	52

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



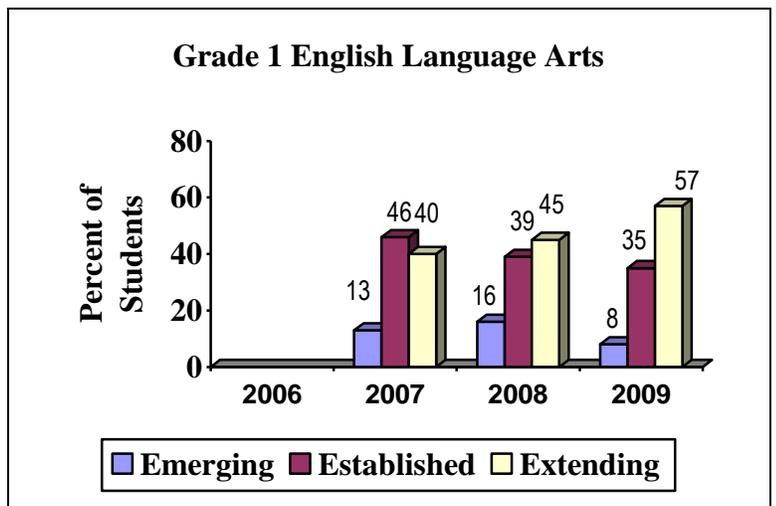
Grade K Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	13	8
Established	NA	43	35	39
Extending	NA	42	52	52

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 1 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	13	16	8
Established	NA	46	39	35
Extending	NA	40	45	57

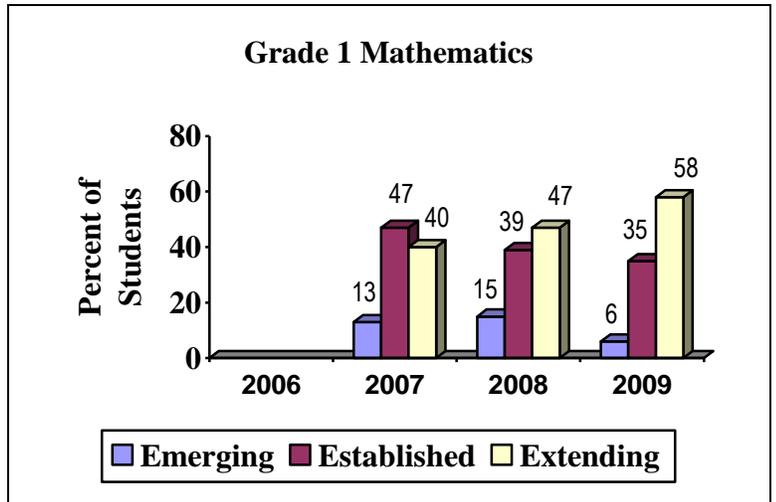
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

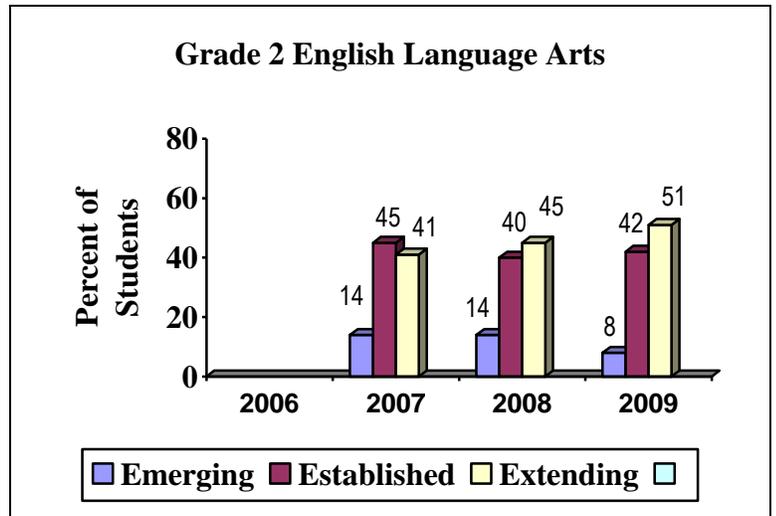
Grade 1 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	13	15	6
Established	NA	47	39	35
Extending	NA	40	47	58

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



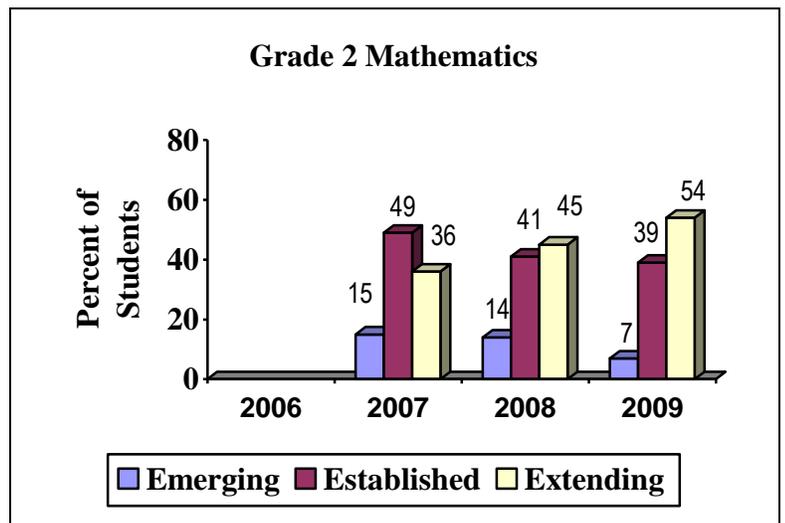
Grade 2 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	14	14	8
Established	NA	45	40	42
Extending	NA	41	45	51

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 2 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	14	7
Established	NA	49	41	39
Extending	NA	36	45	54

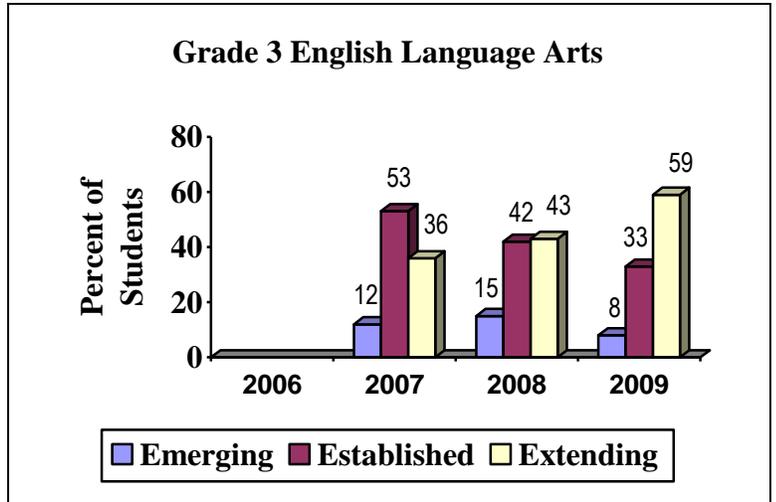
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

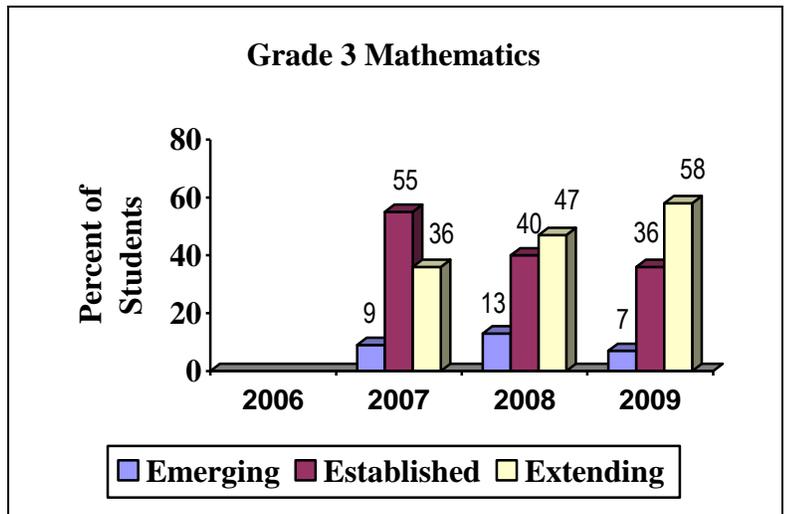
Grade 3 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	12	15	8
Established	NA	53	42	33
Extending	NA	36	43	59

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



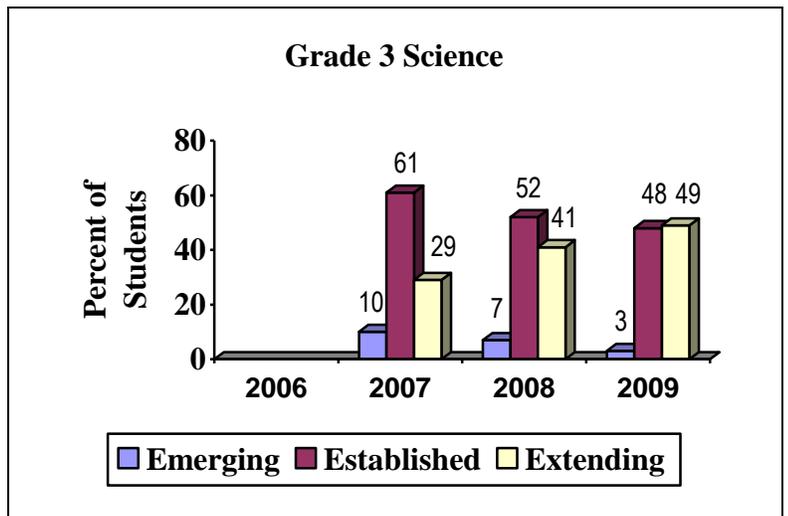
Grade 3 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	9	13	7
Established	NA	55	40	36
Extending	NA	36	47	58

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 3 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	10	7	3
Established	NA	61	52	48
Extending	NA	29	41	49

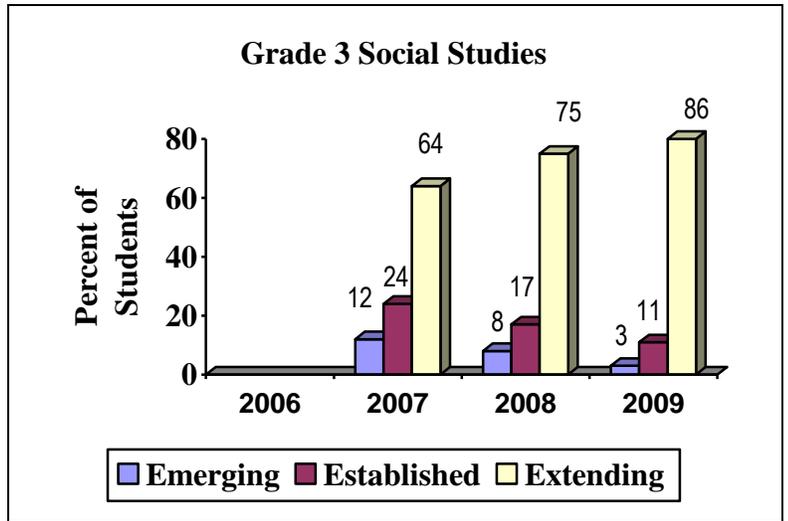
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

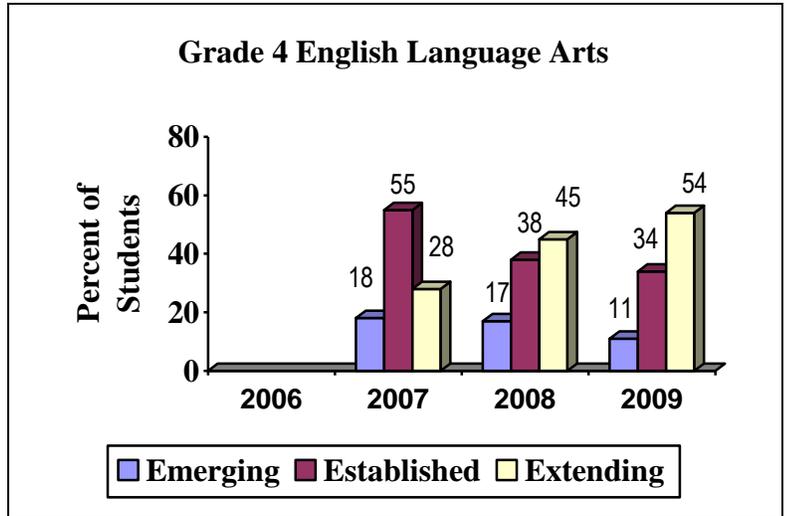
Grade 3 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	12	8	3
Established	NA	24	17	11
Extending	NA	64	75	86

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



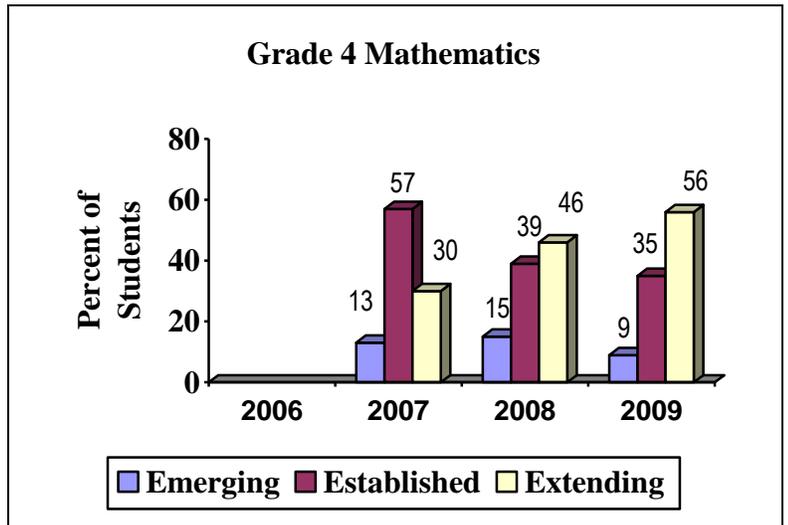
Grade 4 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	18	17	11
Established	NA	55	38	34
Extending	NA	28	45	54

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 4 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	13	15	9
Established	NA	57	39	35
Extending	NA	30	46	56

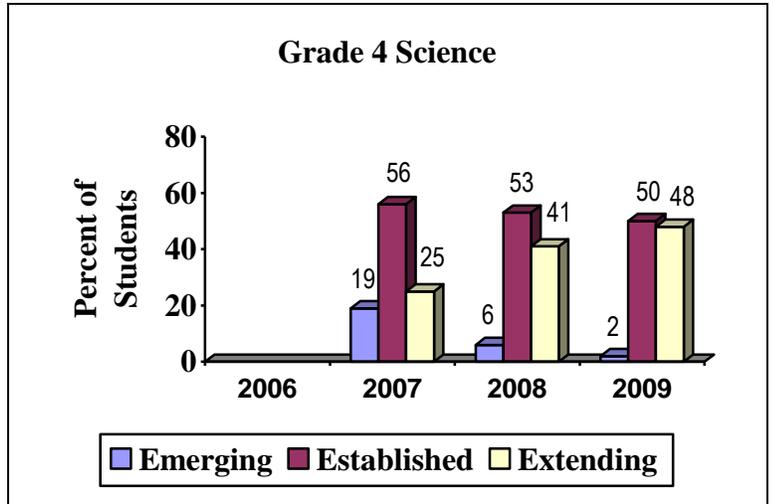
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

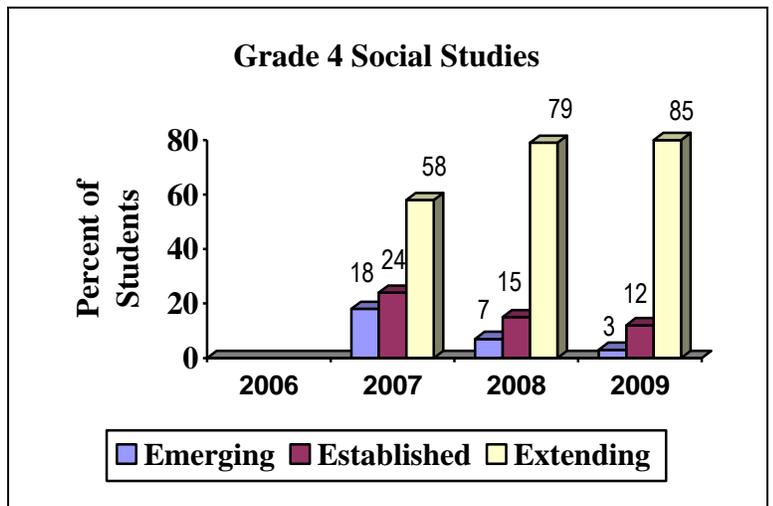
Grade 4 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	19	6	2
Established	NA	56	53	50
Extending	NA	25	41	48

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



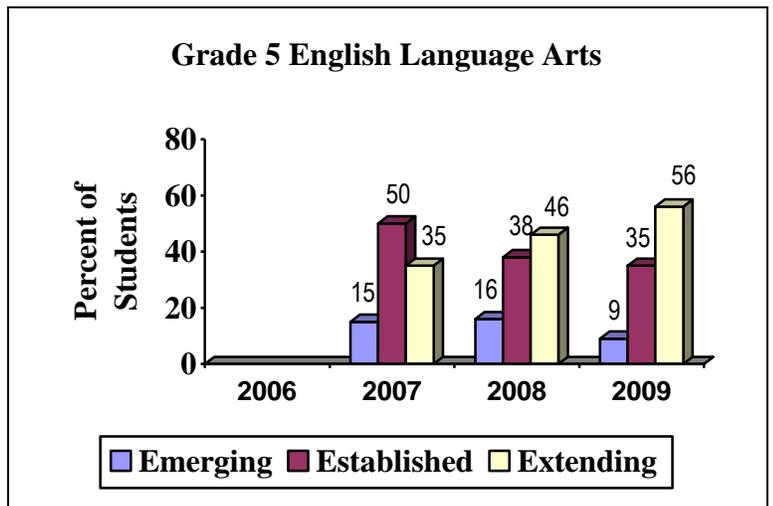
Grade 4 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	18	7	3
Established	NA	24	15	12
Extending	NA	58	79	85

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 5 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	16	9
Established	NA	50	38	35
Extending	NA	35	46	56

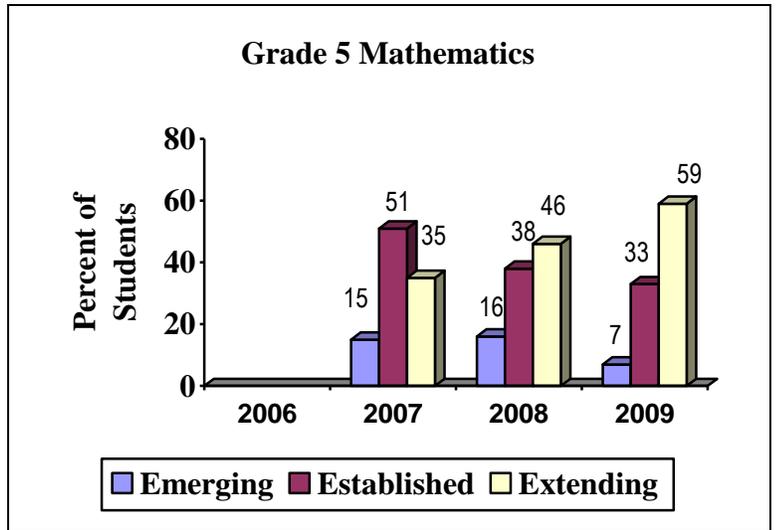
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

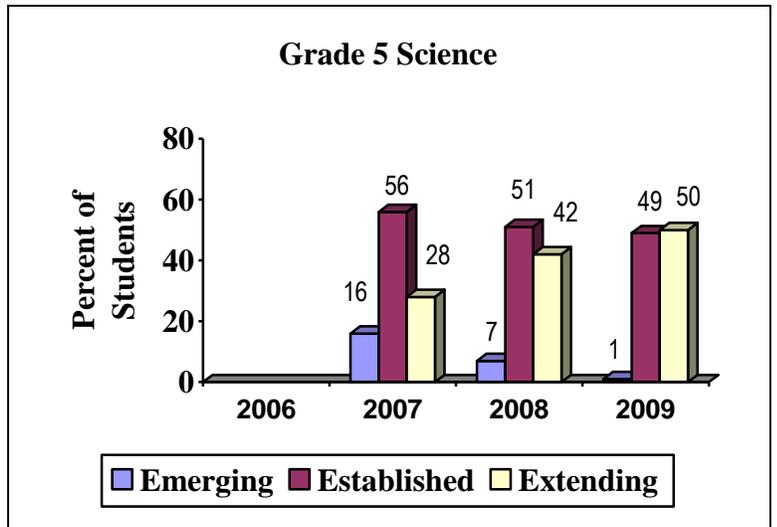
Grade 5 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	16	7
Established	NA	51	38	33
Extending	NA	35	46	59

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



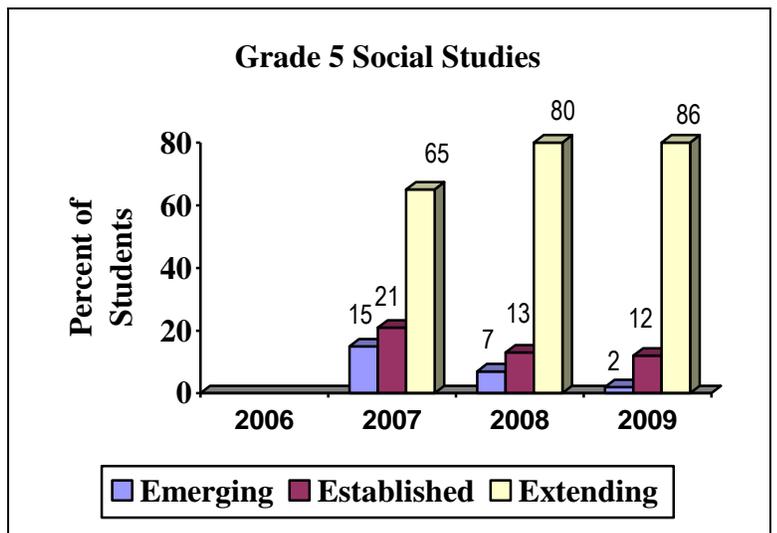
Grade 5 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	16	7	1
Established	NA	56	51	49
Extending	NA	28	42	50

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 5 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	7	2
Established	NA	21	13	12
Extending	NA	65	80	86

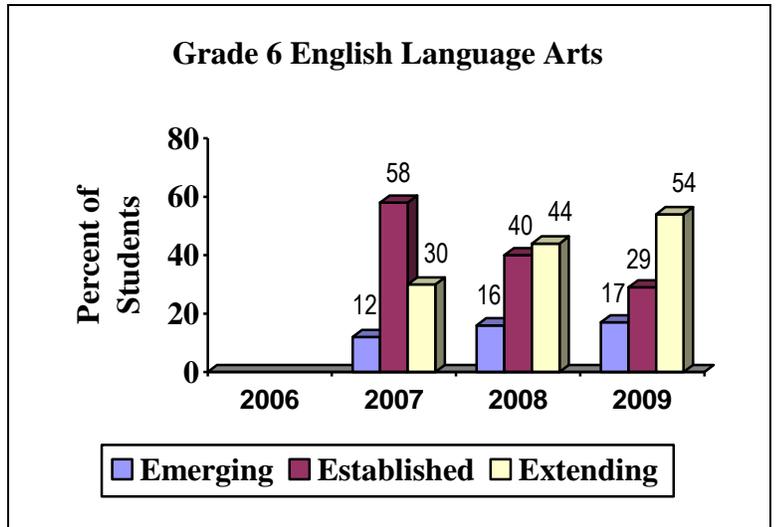
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

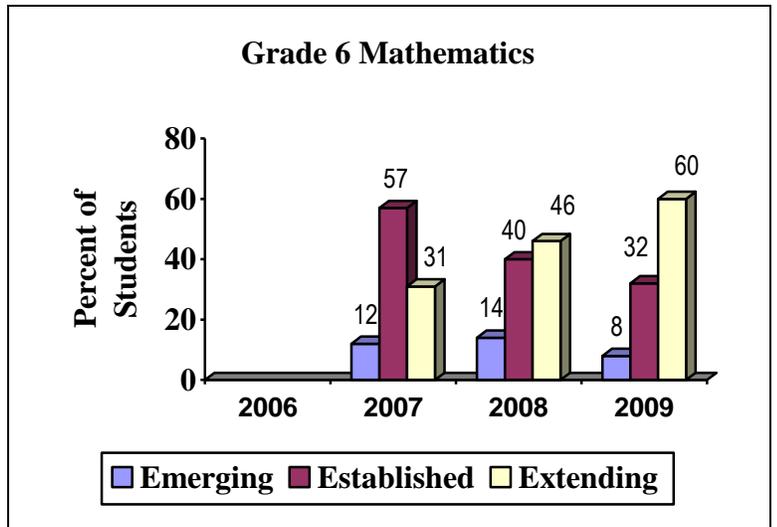
Grade 6 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	12	16	17
Established	NA	58	40	29
Extending	NA	30	44	54

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



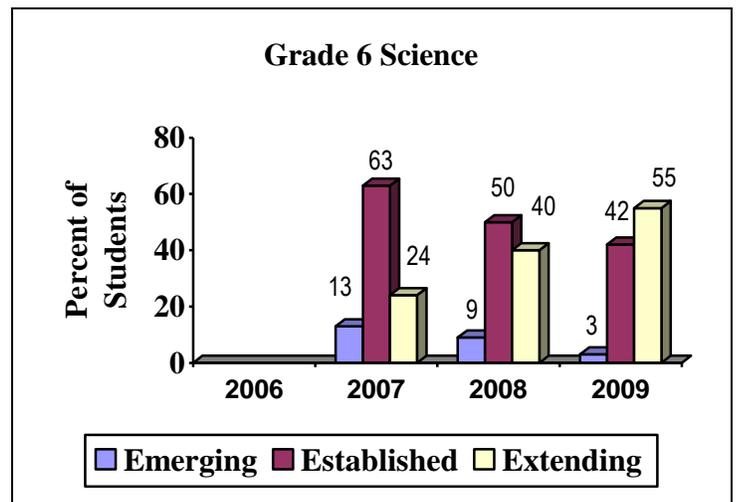
Grade 6 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	12	14	8
Established	NA	57	40	32
Extending	NA	31	46	60

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 6 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	13	9	3
Established	NA	63	50	42
Extending	NA	24	40	55

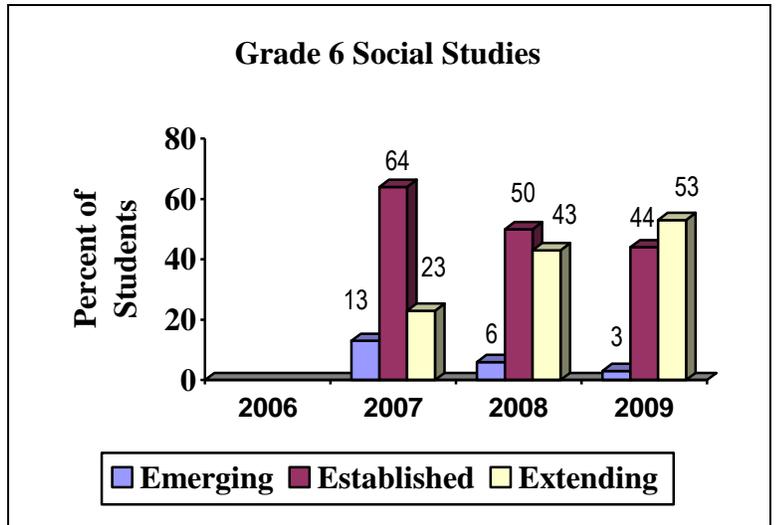
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

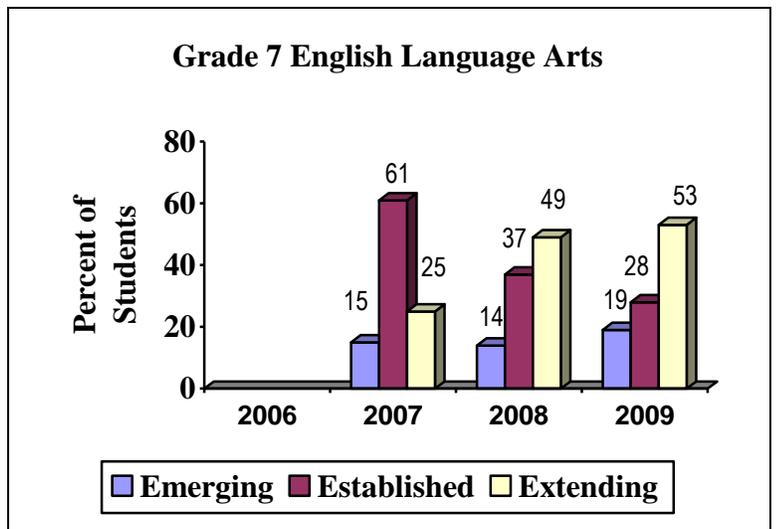
Grade 6 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	13	6	3
Established	NA	64	50	44
Extending	NA	23	43	53

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



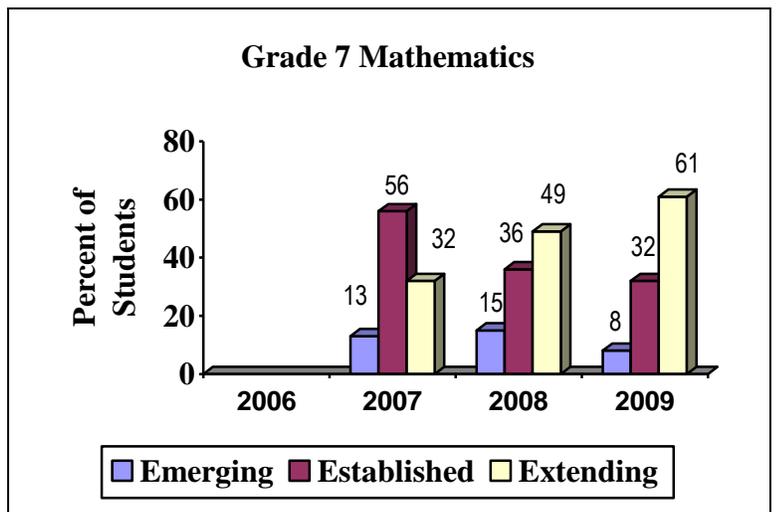
Grade 7 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	14	19
Established	NA	61	37	28
Extending	NA	25	49	53

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 7 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	13	15	8
Established	NA	56	36	32
Extending	NA	32	49	61

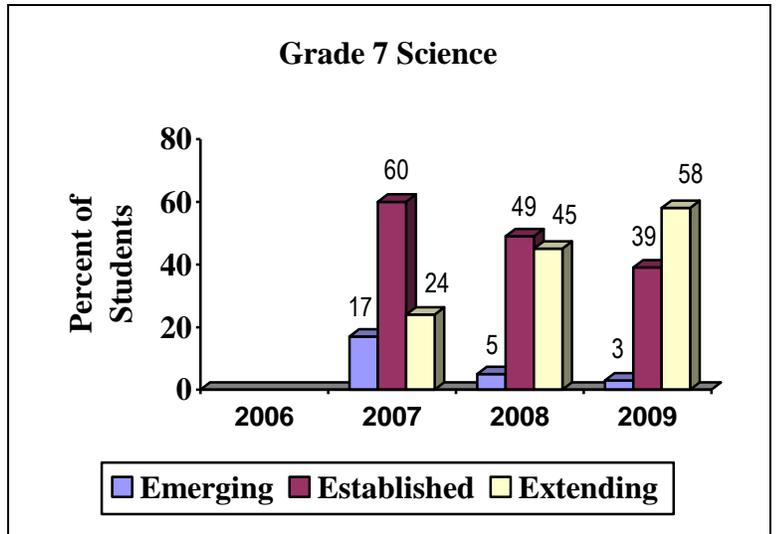
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

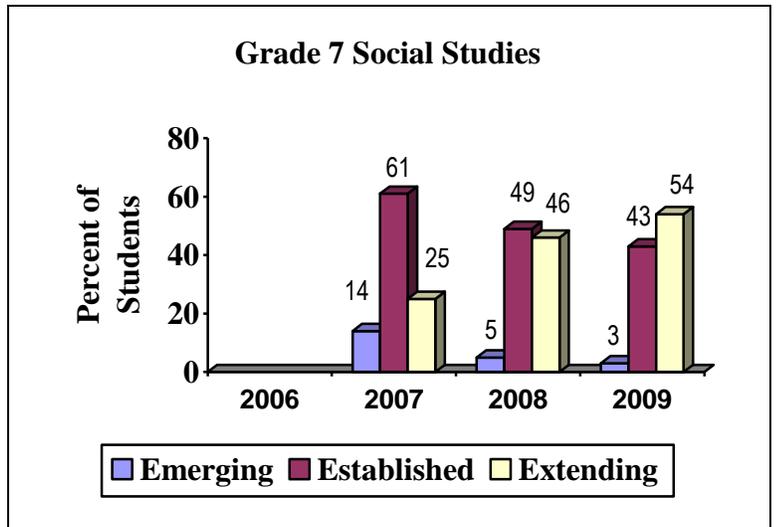
Grade 7 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	17	5	3
Established	NA	60	49	39
Extending	NA	24	45	58

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



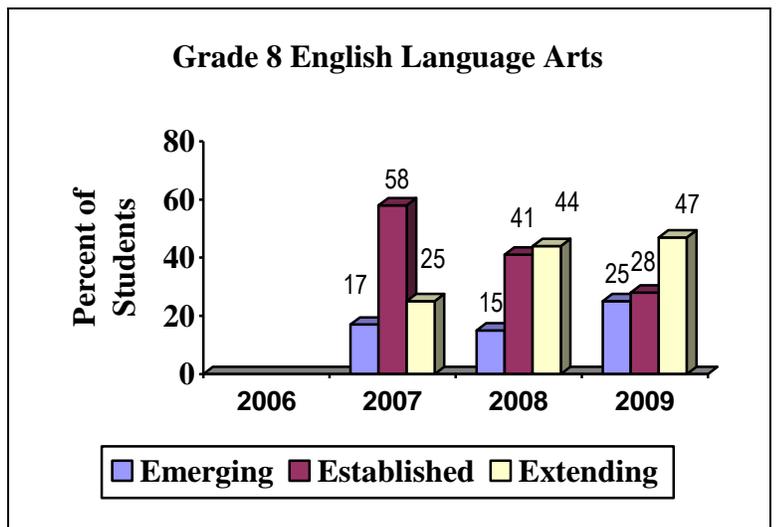
Grade 7 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	14	5	3
Established	NA	61	49	43
Extending	NA	25	46	54

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 8 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	17	15	25
Established	NA	58	41	28
Extending	NA	25	44	47

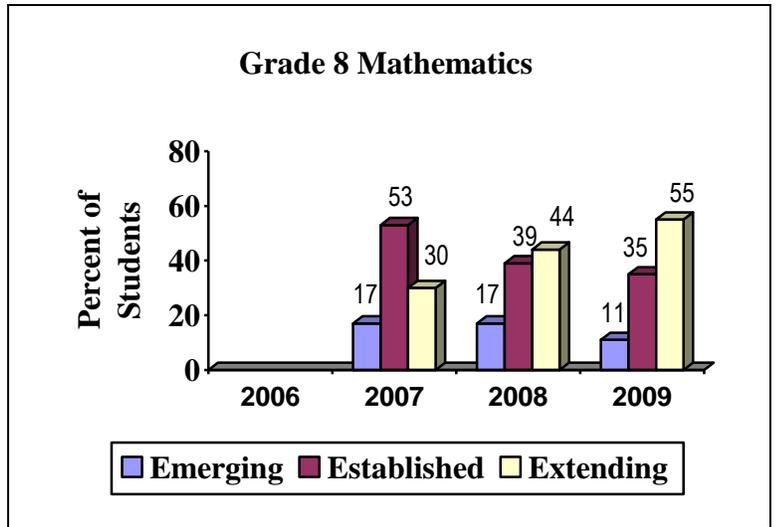
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

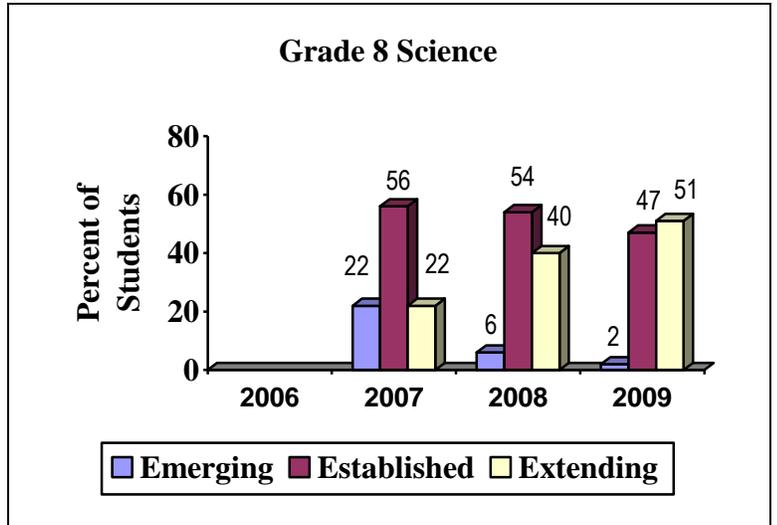
Grade 8 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	17	17	11
Established	NA	53	39	35
Extending	NA	30	44	55

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



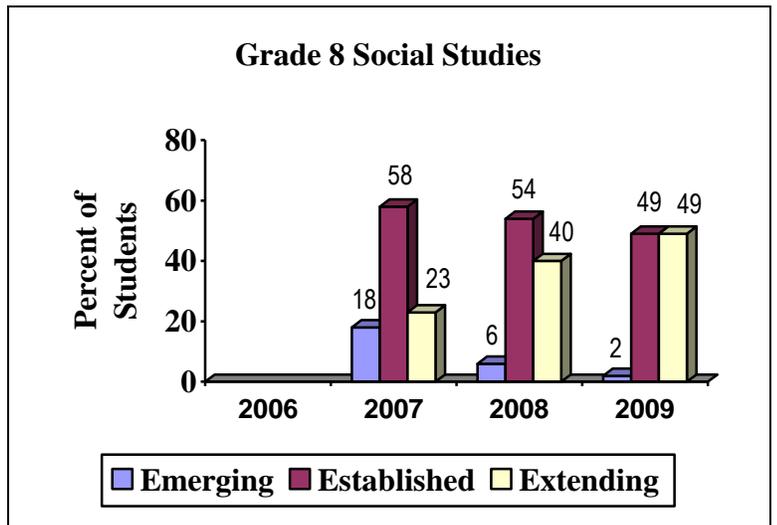
Grade 8 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	22	6	2
Established	NA	56	54	47
Extending	NA	22	40	51

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 8 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	18	6	2
Established	NA	58	54	49
Extending	NA	23	40	49

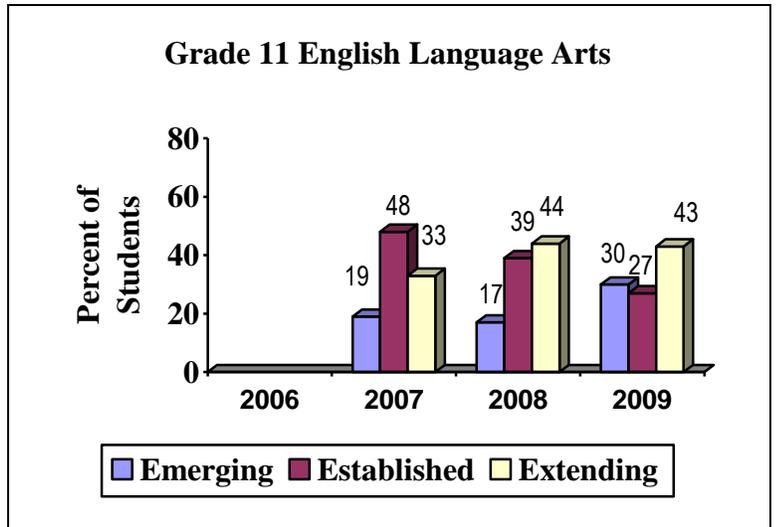
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

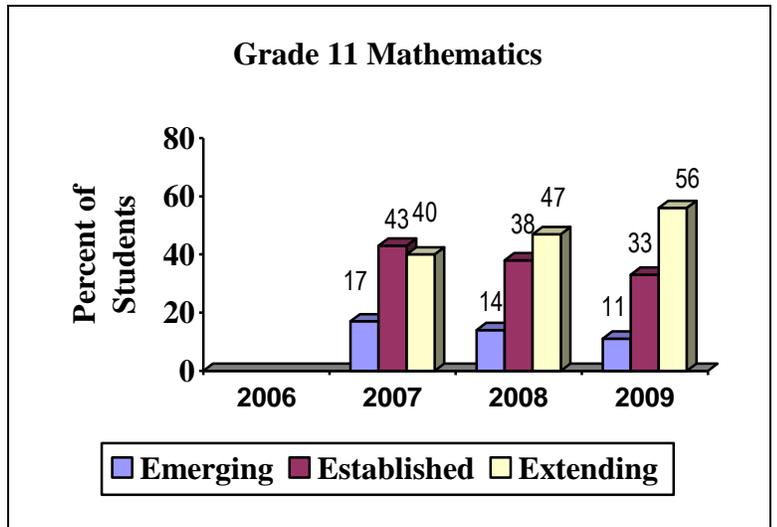
Grade 11 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	19	17	30
Established	NA	48	39	27
Extending	NA	33	44	43

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



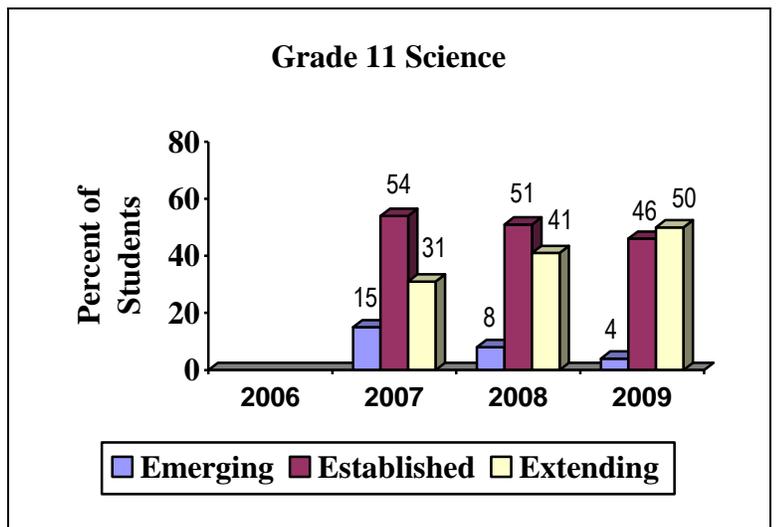
Grade 11 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	17	14	11
Established	NA	43	38	33
Extending	NA	40	47	56

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Grade 11 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	8	4
Established	NA	54	51	46
Extending	NA	31	41	50

Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

Grade 11 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	06	07	08	09
Emerging	NA	15	8	3
Established	NA	53	52	50
Extending	NA	32	40	47
Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.				

