

TESTING BRIEF
Spring 2008 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 4, 2007-March 31, 2008

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-four percent (84%)** of Georgia’s Kindergarten students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts in 2008 and 2007.
- **Eighty-seven percent (87%)** of Georgia’s Kindergarten students achieved established progress or extended progress in mathematics in 2008. **Eighty-five percent (85%)** of Kindergarten students achieved established progress or extended progress in mathematics in 2007.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 1 English/Language Arts and Mathematics

- **Eighty-four percent (84%)** of Georgia’s first grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts in 2008. **Eighty-six percent (86%)** of first grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts in 2007.
- **Eighty-six percent (86%)** of first grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in mathematics in 2008. **Eighty-seven percent (87%)** of Georgia’s first grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in mathematics in 2007.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 2 English/Language Arts and Mathematics

- **Eighty-five percent (85%)** of Georgia’s second grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts in 2008. **Eighty-six percent (86%)** of second grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts in 2007.
- **Eighty-six percent (86%)** of Georgia’s second grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in mathematics in 2008. **Eighty-five percent (85%)** of second grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in mathematics in 2007.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

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

- **Eighty-five percent (85%)** and **87%** of Georgia's third grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively, in 2008. **Eighty-nine percent (89%)** and **91%** of third grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively in 2007.
- **Ninety-three percent (93%)** and **92%** of Georgia's third grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively in 2008. **Ninety percent (90%)** and **88%** of third grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively in 2007.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

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

- **Eighty-three percent (83%)** and **85%** of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively, in 2008. **Eighty-three percent (83%)** and **87%** of fourth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively in 2007.
- **Ninety-four percent (94%)** of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies in 2008. **Eighty-one percent (81%)** and **82%** of fourth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively in 2007.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 5

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

- **Eighty-four percent (84%)** of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics in 2008. **Eighty-five percent (85%)** and **86%** of fifth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively, in 2007.
- **Ninety-three percent (93%)** of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies in 2008. **Eighty-four percent (84%)** and **86%** of fifth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively in 2007.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

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

- **Eighty-four percent (84%)** and **86%** of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively in 2008. **Eighty-eight percent (88%)** of sixth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics in 2007.
- **Ninety percent (90%)** and **93%** of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively in 2008. **Eighty-seven percent (87%)** of sixth grade students achieve established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies in 2007.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 7

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

- **Eighty-six percent (86%)** and **85%** of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively in 2008. **Eighty-six percent (86%)** and **88%** of seventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively in 2007.
- **Ninety-four percent (94%)** and **95%** of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively in 2008. **Eighty-four percent (84%)** and **86%** of seventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively, in 2007.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

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

- **Eighty-five percent (85%)** and **83%** of Georgia's eighth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively in 2008. **Eighty-three percent (83%)** of Georgia's eighth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics in 2007.
- **Ninety-four percent (94%)** of Georgia's eighth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies in 2008. **Seventy-eight percent (78%)** and **81%** of eighth grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies, respectively in 2007.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 11

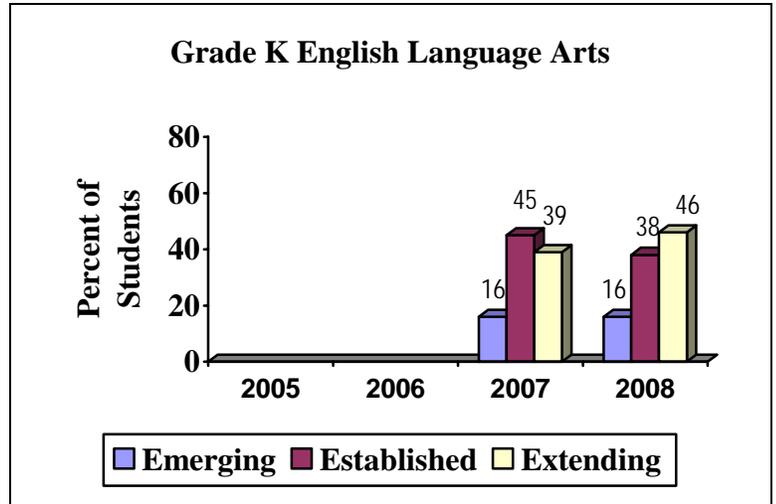
English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- **Eighty-three percent (83%)** and **85%** of Georgia's eleventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively, in 2008. **Eighty-one percent (81%)** and **83%** of Georgia's eleventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in English/Language Arts and Mathematics, respectively in 2007.
- **Ninety-two percent (92%)** of eleventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies in 2008. **Eighty-five percent (85%)** of eleventh grade students achieved established progress or extended progress in Science and Social Studies in 2007.

Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

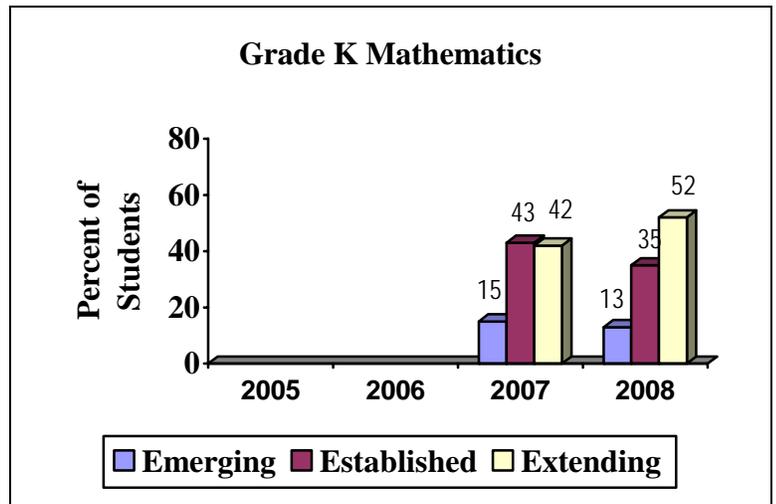
Grade K English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	16	16
Established	NA	NA	45	38
Extending	NA	NA	39	46

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



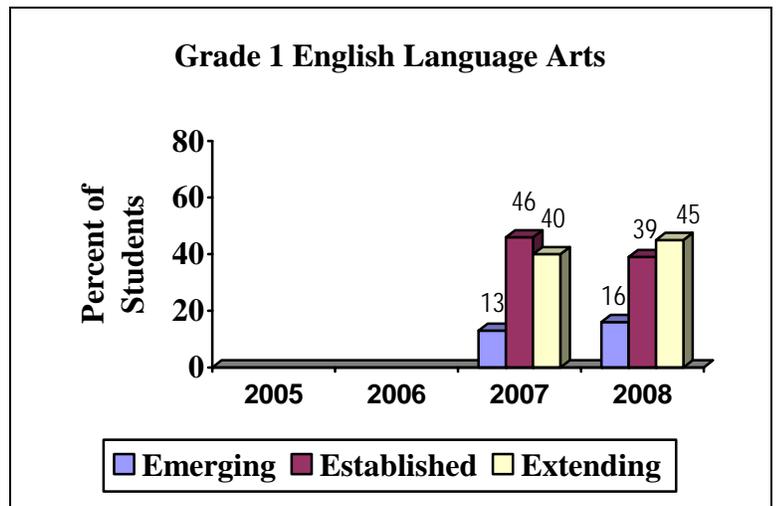
Grade K Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	13
Established	NA	NA	43	35
Extending	NA	NA	42	52

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			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	13	16
Established	NA	NA	46	39
Extending	NA	NA	40	45

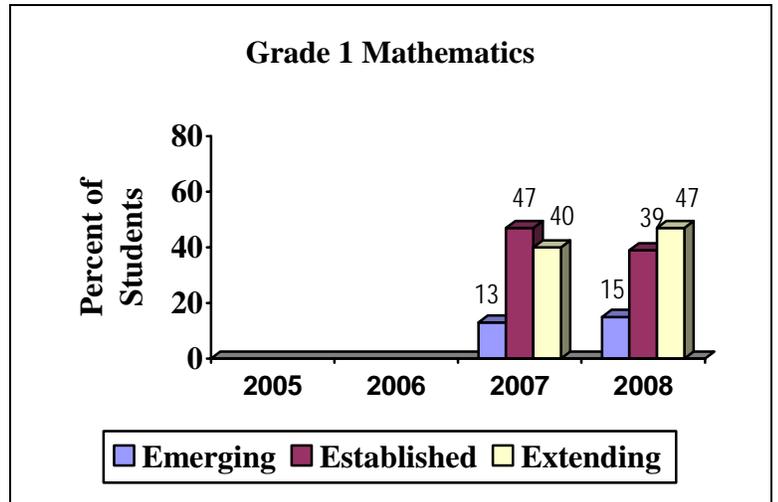
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

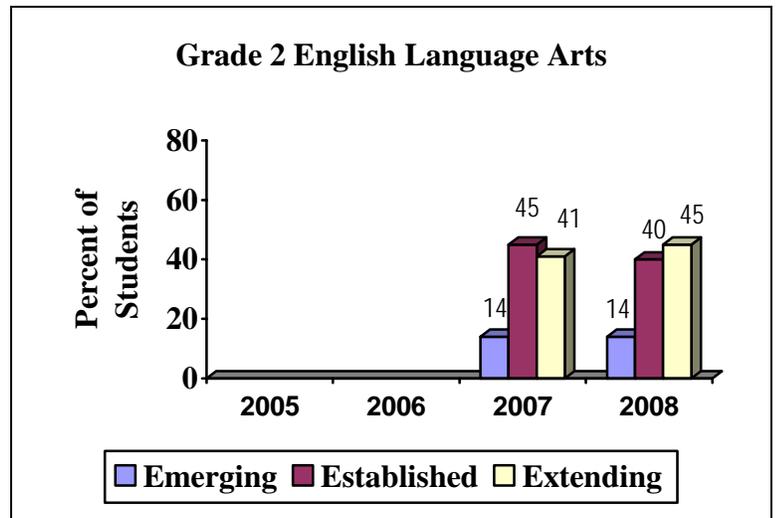
Grade 1 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	13	15
Established	NA	NA	47	39
Extending	NA	NA	40	47

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



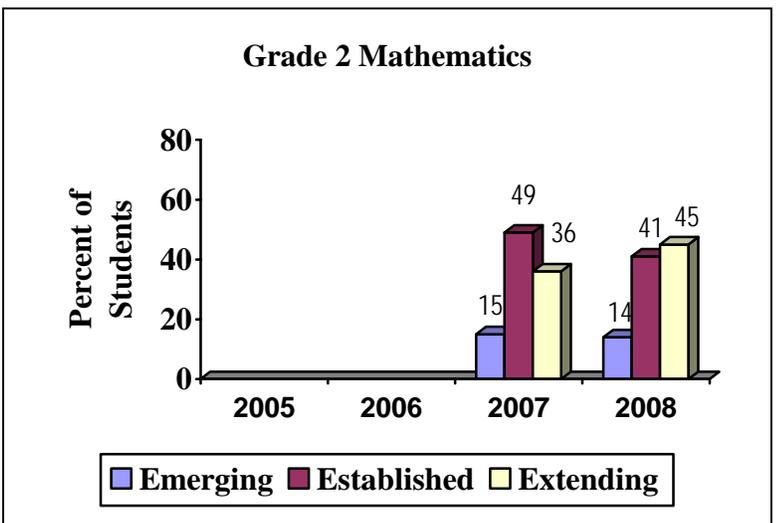
Grade 2 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	14	14
Established	NA	NA	45	40
Extending	NA	NA	41	45

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



Grade 2 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	14
Established	NA	NA	49	41
Extending	NA	NA	36	45

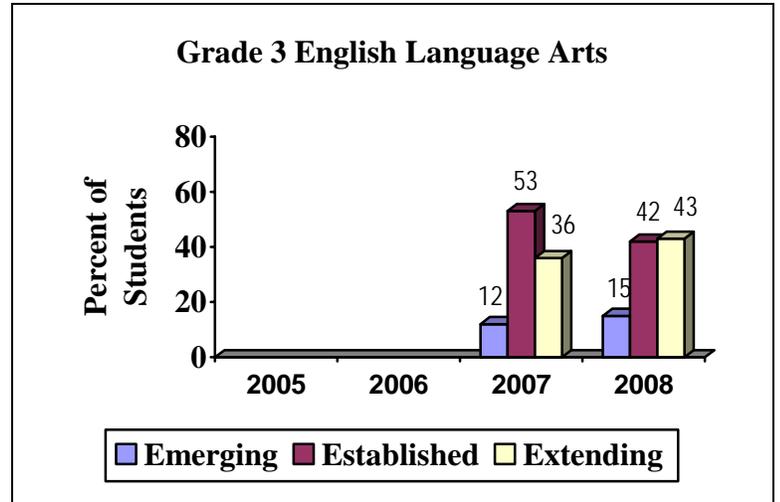
Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

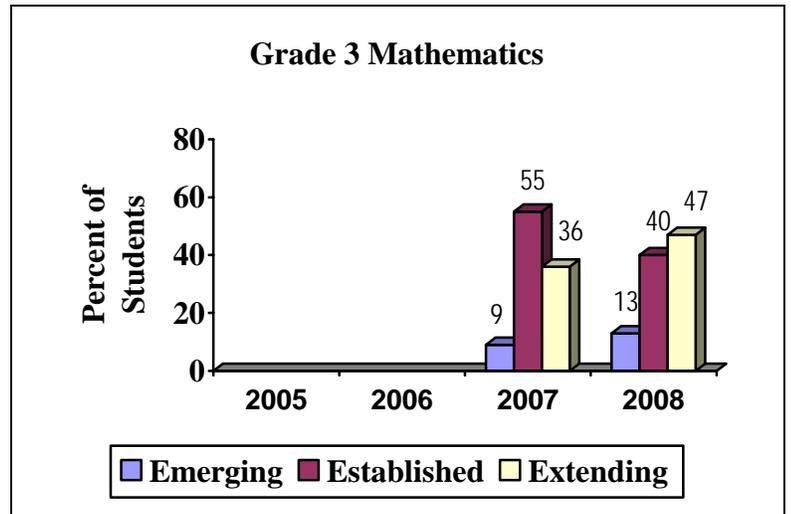
Grade 3 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	12	15
Established	NA	NA	53	42
Extending	NA	NA	36	43

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



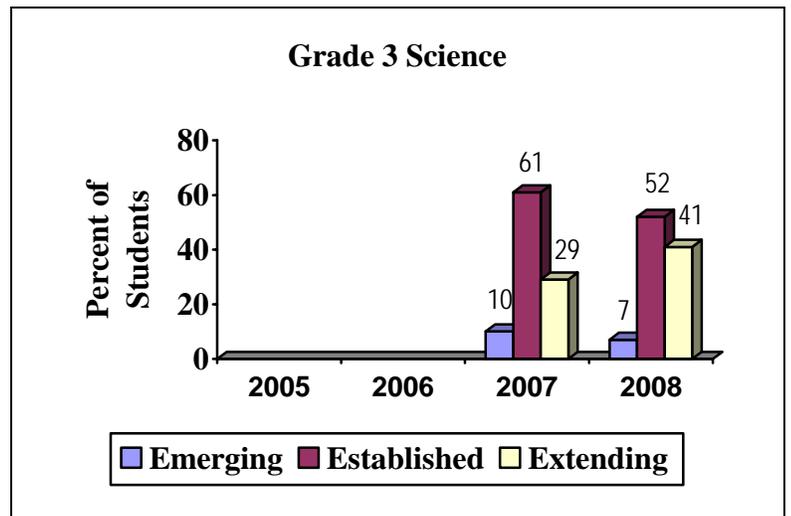
Grade 3 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	9	13
Established	NA	NA	55	40
Extending	NA	NA	36	47

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



Grade 3 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	10	7
Established	NA	NA	61	52
Extending	NA	NA	29	41

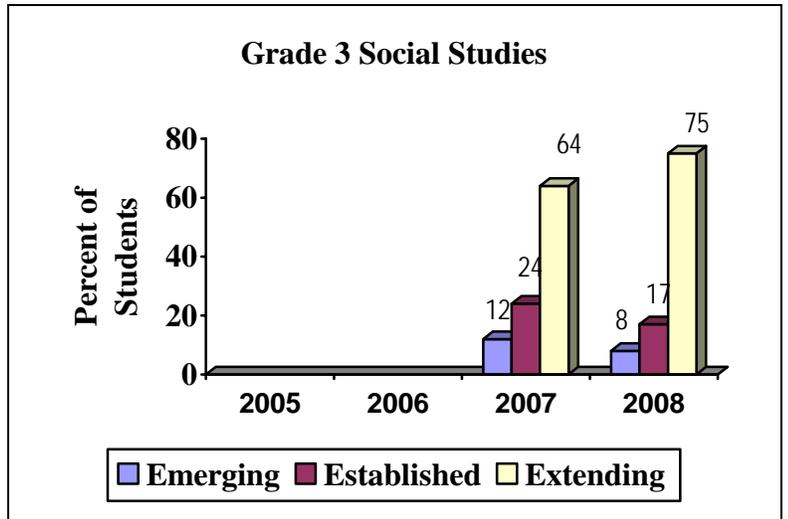
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

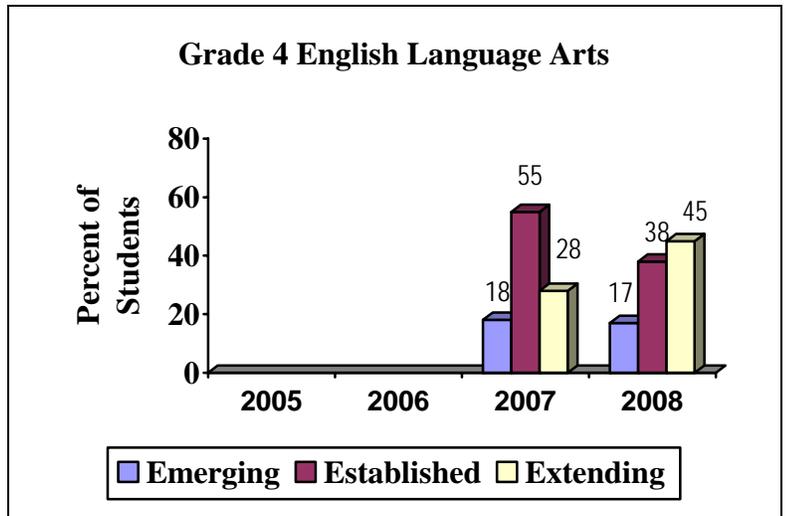
Grade 3 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	12	8
Established	NA	NA	24	17
Extending	NA	NA	64	75

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



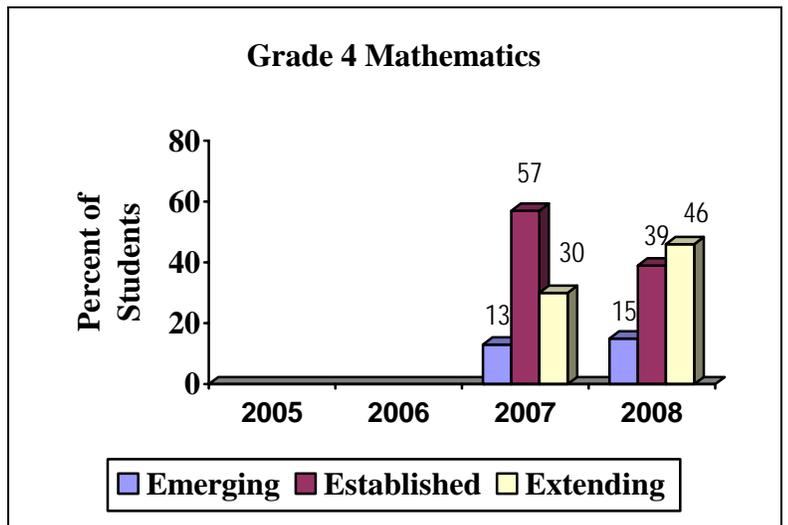
Grade 4 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	18	17
Established	NA	NA	55	38
Extending	NA	NA	28	45

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



Grade 4 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	13	15
Established	NA	NA	57	39
Extending	NA	NA	30	46

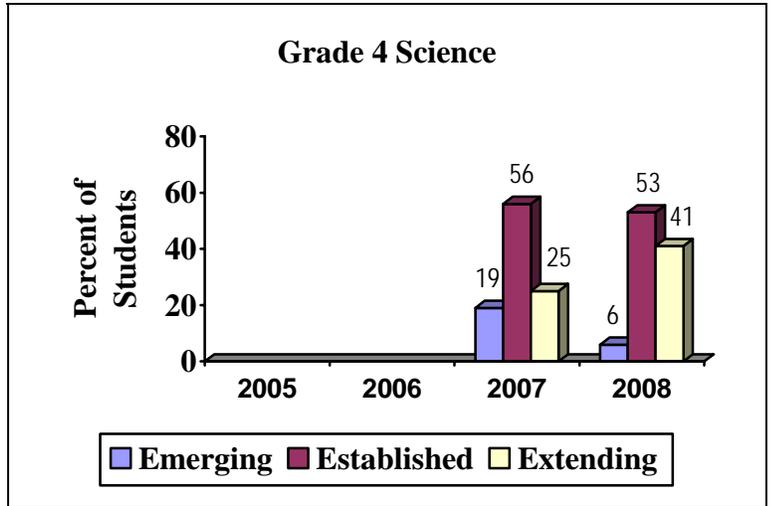
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

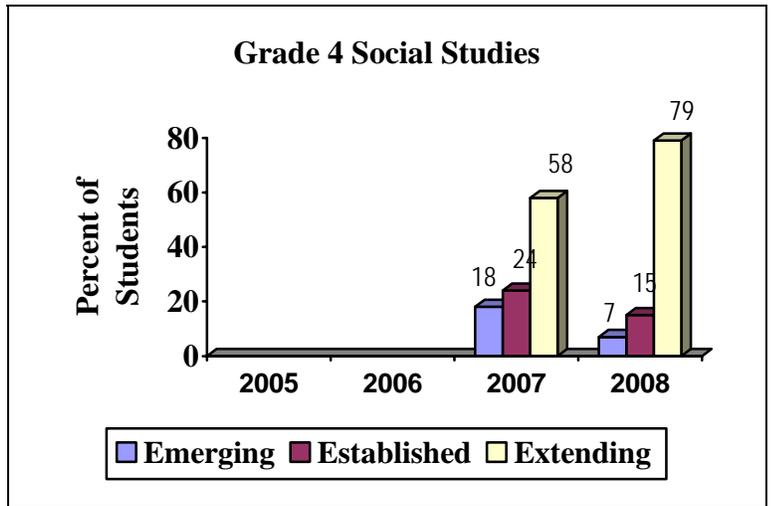
Grade 4 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	19	6
Established	NA	NA	56	53
Extending	NA	NA	25	41

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



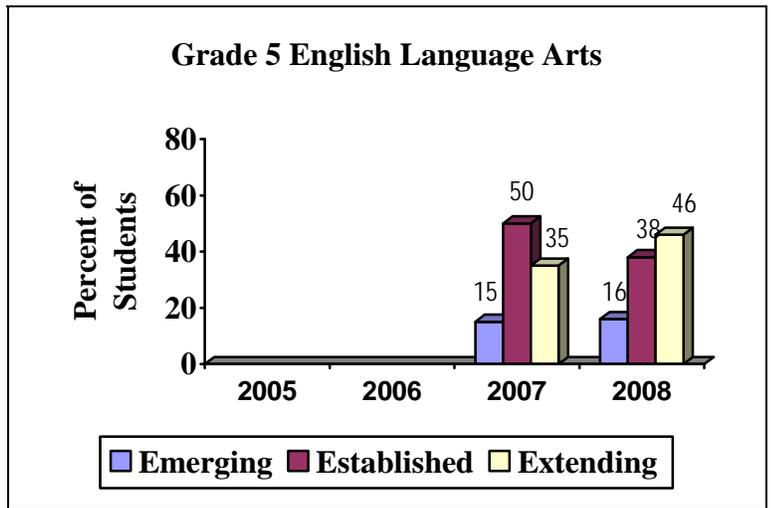
Grade 4 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	18	7
Established	NA	NA	24	15
Extending	NA	NA	58	79

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			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	16
Established	NA	NA	50	38
Extending	NA	NA	35	46

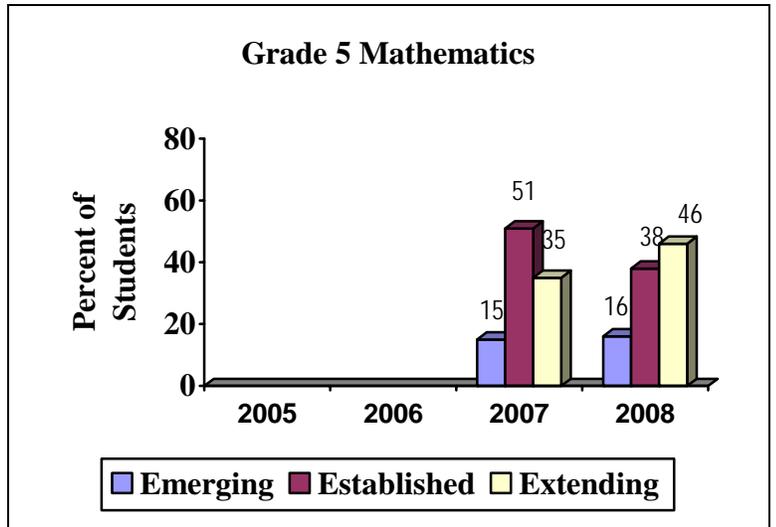
Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.



Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

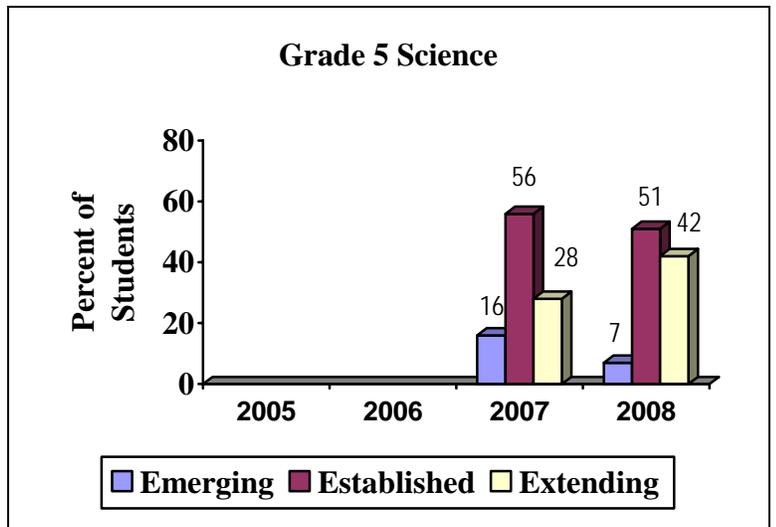
Grade 5 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	16
Established	NA	NA	51	38
Extending	NA	NA	35	46

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



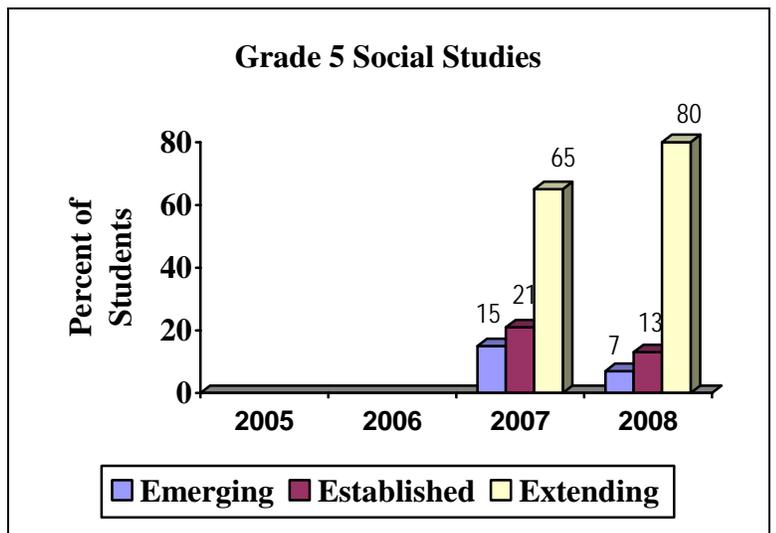
Grade 5 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	16	7
Established	NA	NA	56	51
Extending	NA	NA	28	42

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



Grade 5 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	7
Established	NA	NA	21	13
Extending	NA	NA	65	80

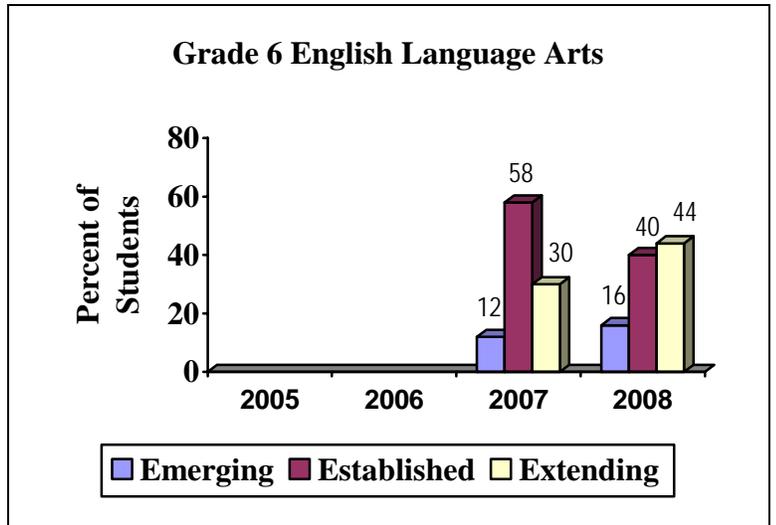
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

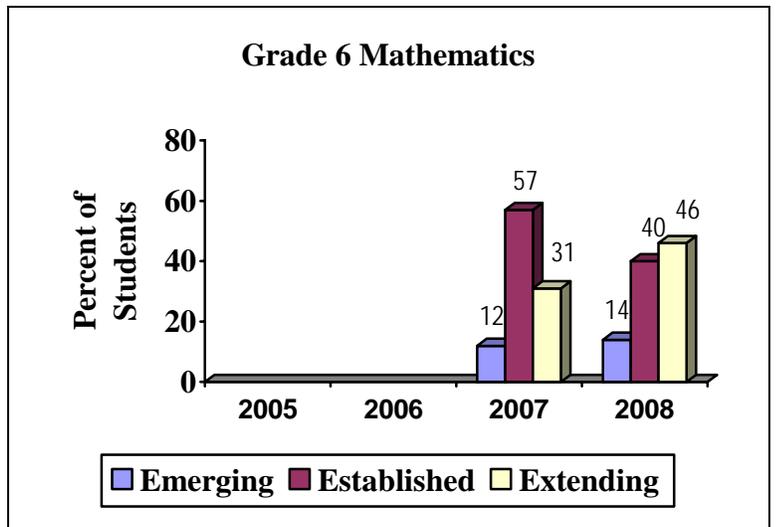
Grade 6 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	12	16
Established	NA	NA	58	40
Extending	NA	NA	30	44

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



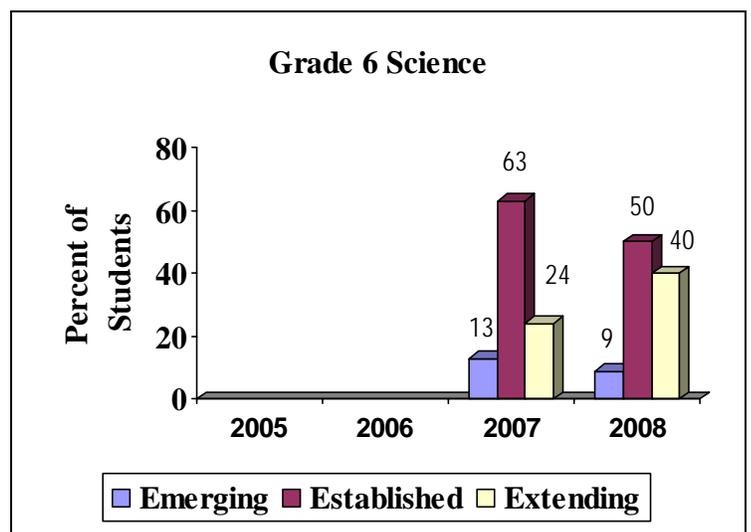
Grade 6 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	12	14
Established	NA	NA	57	40
Extending	NA	NA	31	46

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



Grade 6 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	13	9
Established	NA	NA	63	50
Extending	NA	NA	24	40

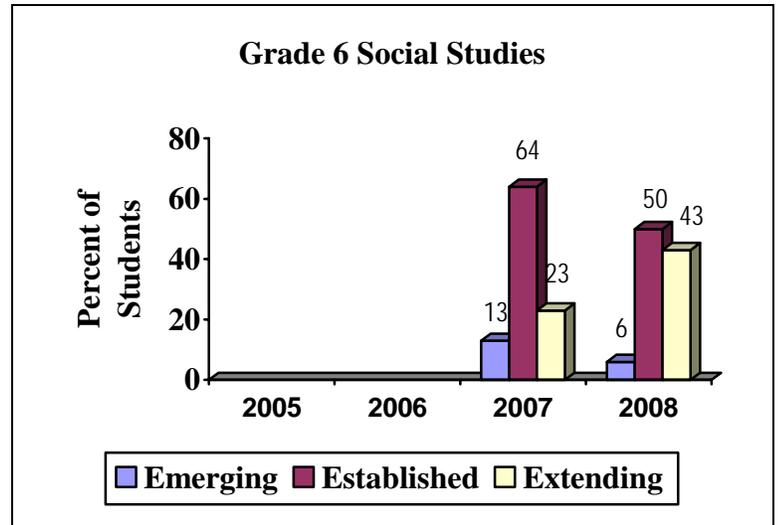
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

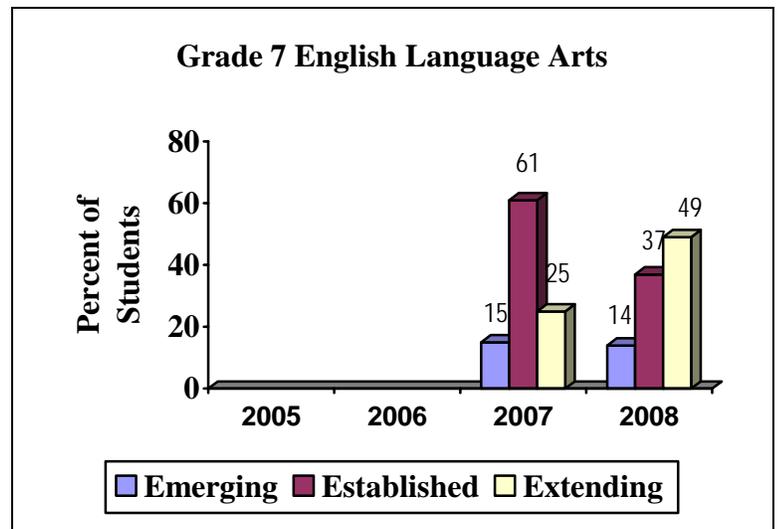
Grade 6 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	13	6
Established	NA	NA	64	50
Extending	NA	NA	23	43

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



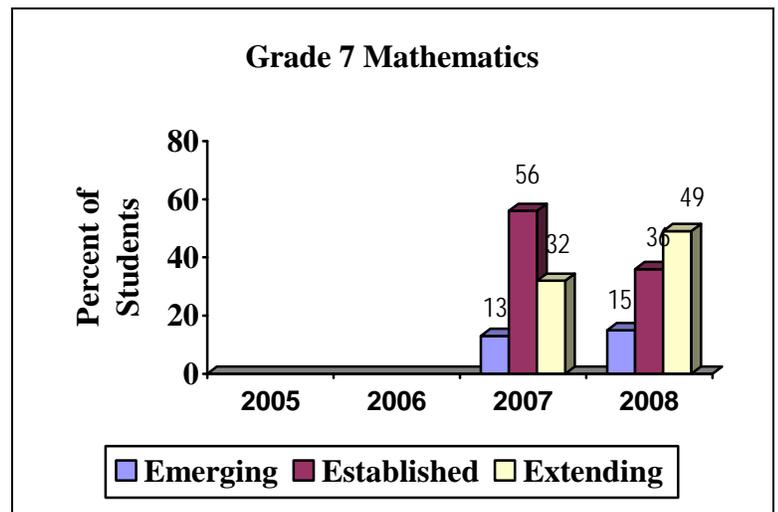
Grade 7 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	14
Established	NA	NA	61	37
Extending	NA	NA	25	49

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



Grade 7 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	13	15
Established	NA	NA	56	36
Extending	NA	NA	32	49

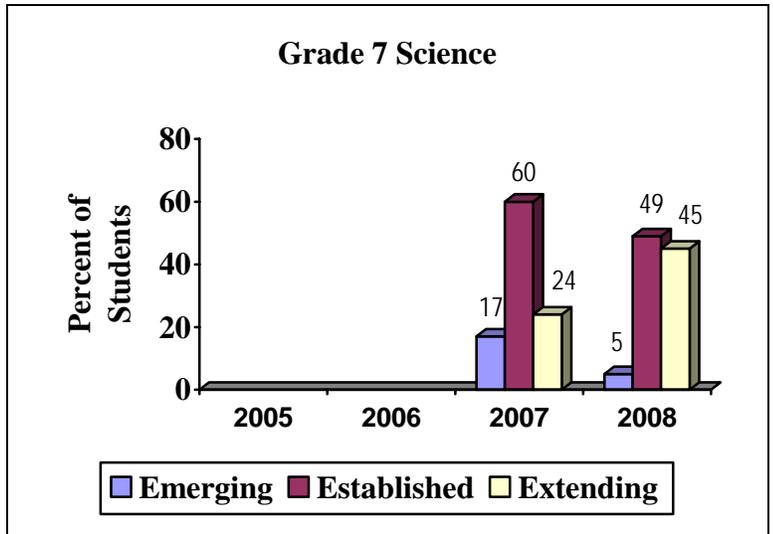
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

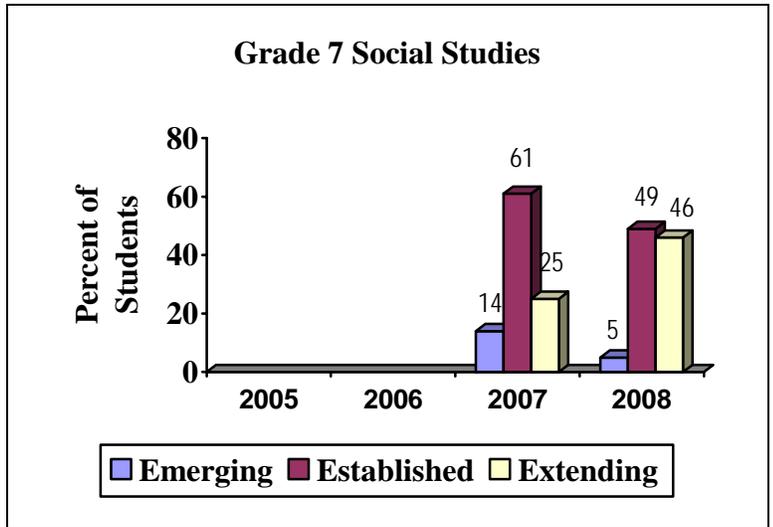
Grade 7 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	17	5
Established	NA	NA	60	49
Extending	NA	NA	24	45

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



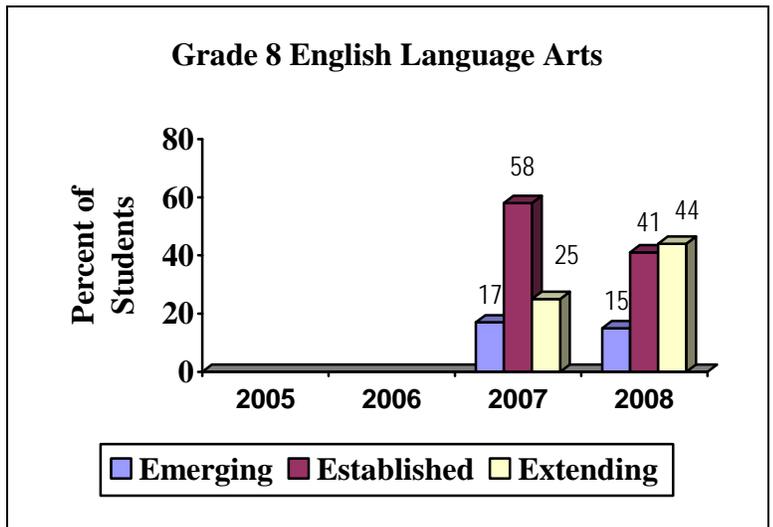
Grade 7 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	14	5
Established	NA	NA	61	49
Extending	NA	NA	25	46

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			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	17	15
Established	NA	NA	58	41
Extending	NA	NA	25	44

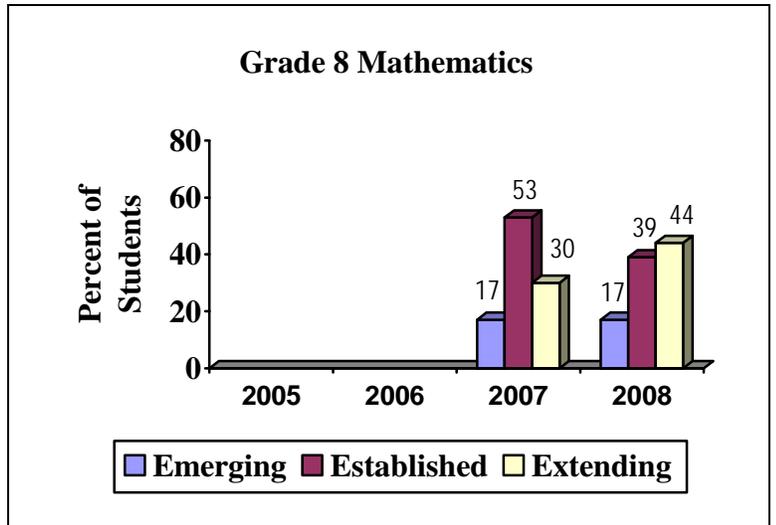
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

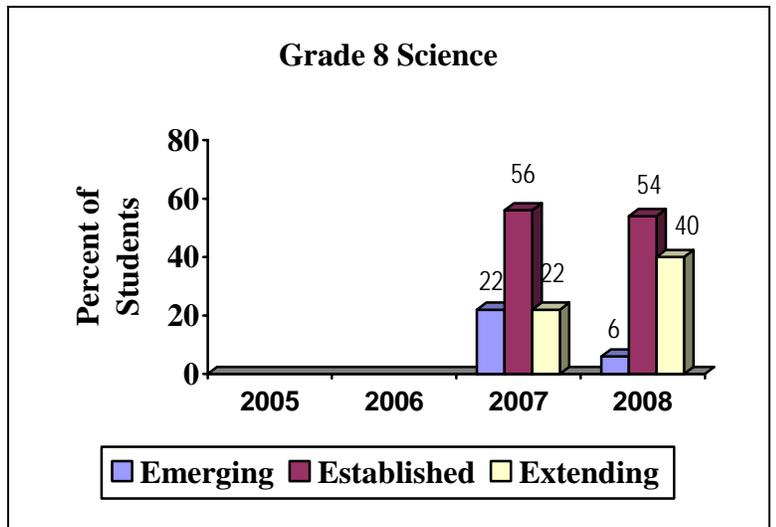
Grade 8 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	17	17
Established	NA	NA	53	39
Extending	NA	NA	30	44

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



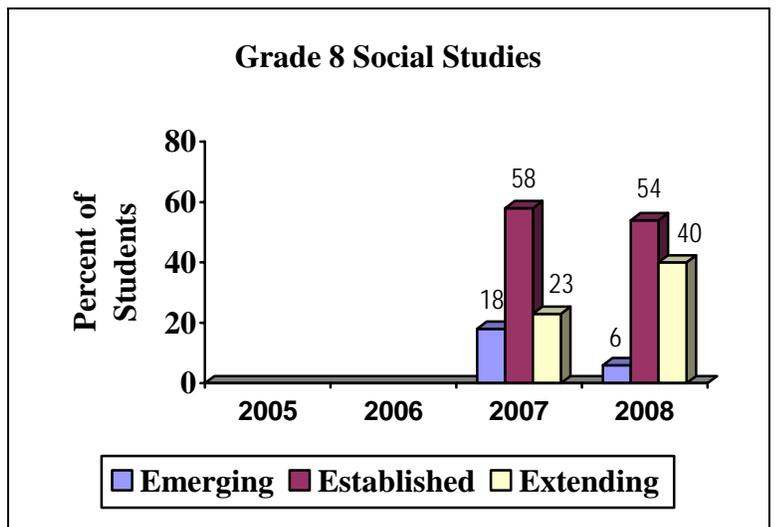
Grade 8 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	22	6
Established	NA	NA	56	54
Extending	NA	NA	22	40

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



Grade 8 Social Studies				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	18	6
Established	NA	NA	58	54
Extending	NA	NA	23	40

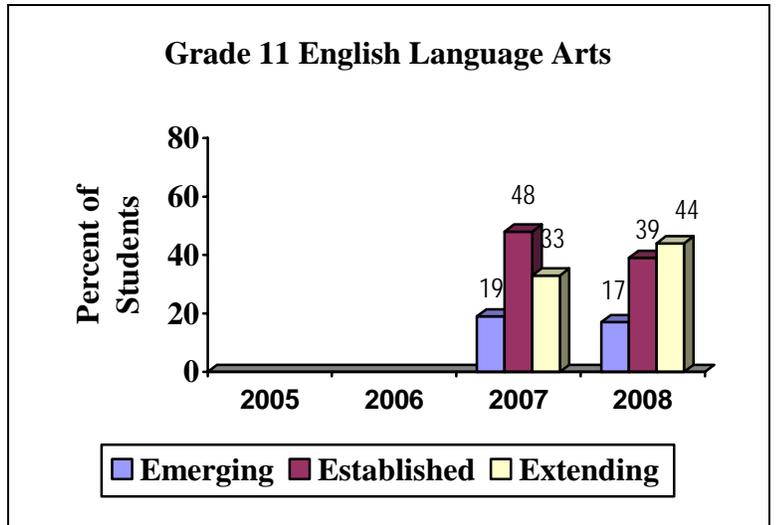
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Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding the Standard

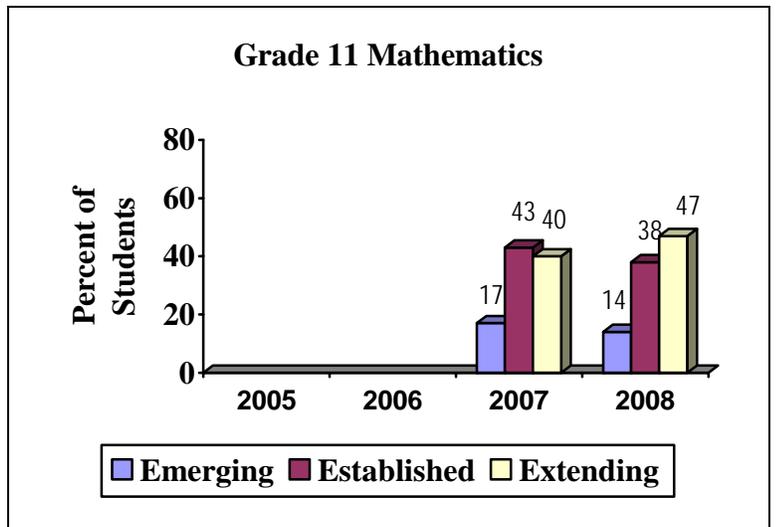
Grade 11 English Language Arts				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	19	17
Established	NA	NA	48	39
Extending	NA	NA	33	44

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



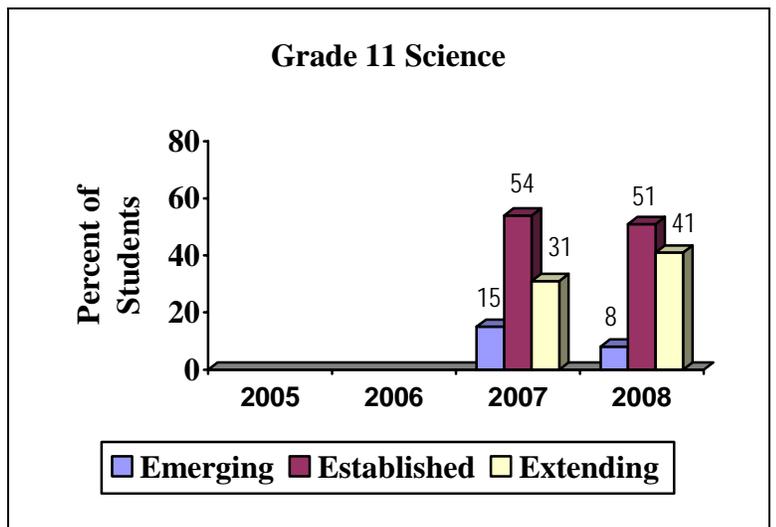
Grade 11 Mathematics				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	17	14
Established	NA	NA	43	38
Extending	NA	NA	40	47

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



Grade 11 Science				
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	8
Established	NA	NA	54	51
Extending	NA	NA	31	41

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			
	05	06	07	08
Emerging	NA	NA	15	8
Established	NA	NA	53	52
Extending	NA	NA	32	40
Beginning in 2007, scores are based on the new GAA providing baseline data.				

