

TESTING BRIEF
Spring 2009 Georgia High School Graduation Tests
in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science
March 16 – April 3, 2009

Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-281 G, (a) mandates that a “curriculum-based assessment be administered in grade 11 for graduation purposes” and (c) “that the State Board of Education shall have the authority to condition the awarding of a high school diploma to a student upon achievement of satisfactory scores on instruments or tests adopted and administered by the State board pursuant to (a) of this code.”

The Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) assess only a sample of the knowledge and skills that educators agree comprise a complete high school education. Georgia students have opportunities to learn – and are expected to master – much more than the tests address. The state adopted curriculum is the source of the knowledge and skills assessed on the graduation tests.

Students take the GHSGT for the first time in the spring of the 11th grade. Schools use the results to identify students who need additional instruction in the academic content determined by Georgia educators as necessary for a high school diploma. Students who do not succeed on their first attempt have four additional opportunities to meet the standards prior to completing 12th grade.

Administration of the GHSGT 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 curriculum and assessment system designed to improve student achievement.

KEY FINDINGS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- Ninety (90) percent of Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard for English Language Arts. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Ninety-three (93) percent of Regular Program Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. There is no change from 2008 to 2009.
- Fifty-six (56) percent of Special Education Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a one (1) percentage point decrease from 2008.
- Fifty-nine (59) percent of English Language Learner Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a six (6) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- The percent of students (54%) who achieved Advanced Proficiency or Honors, and are therefore considered college/work ready, increased one (1) percentage point over 2008. The percent of students (14%) who achieved Honors, the highest performance level, increased four (4) percentage points over 2008.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for English Language Arts was ninety-seven (97) percent. This target was not met.

MATHEMATICS

- Ninety-four (94) percent of Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard for Mathematics. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Ninety-six (96) percent of Regular Program Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Sixty-three (63) percent of Special Education Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a four (4) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Eighty-three (83) percent of English Language Learner Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a three (3) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for Mathematics achievement was ninety-four (94) percent. This target was met.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Eighty-seven (87) percent of Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard for Social Studies. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Ninety (90) percent of Regular Program Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Fifty-six (56) percent of Special Education Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a three (3) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Sixty-two (62) percent of English Language Learner Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents an eleven (11) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for Social Studies achievement was eighty-six (86) percent. This target was exceeded.

SCIENCE

- Eighty-eight (88) percent of Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard for Science. This represents a two (2) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Ninety-one (91) percent of Regular Program Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a two (2) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Fifty-five (55) percent of Special Education Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a three (3) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- Sixty (60) percent of English Language Learner Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers met or exceeded the passing standard. This represents a one (1) percentage point increase in achievement over 2008.
- The percent of students (51%) who achieved Advanced Proficiency or Honors increased one (1) percentage point over 2008. The percent of students (15%) who achieved Honors, the highest performance level, increased three (3) percentage points over 2008.
- The 2009 Strategic Plan target for Science achievement was eighty-six (86) percent. This target was exceeded.

Table 1. Spring 2009 GHSGT State Results for English Language Arts.

ELA	Student Category	Number Tested 2009	Percent of Students by Performance Level							
			Below Proficiency		Basic Proficiency		Advanced Proficiency		Honors	
			2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	95,512	11	10	36	36	43	40	10	14
	Regular Program	87,817	07	07	36	36	46	42	11	15
	Special Education	7,695	44	44	39	39	16	14	02	02
	English Language Learners	1,360	46	41	44	48	09	10	00	01
	Asian/Pacific Islander	3,748	10	10	26	27	46	40	18	24
	Black/Non Hispanic	41,113	16	19	47	47	33	29	03	05
	Hispanic	7,185	20	19	42	43	33	32	05	06
	Native American/Alaskan Native	215	12	13	29	29	50	46	10	11
	White/Non-Hispanic	50,039	06	07	29	28	50	45	15	19
	Multiracial	2,641	07	09	34	35	47	42	12	14
	Female	53,922	09	10	36	36	44	40	11	14
	Male	51,111	13	16	37	37	41	36	09	12

Percent Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers by ELA Performance Level 2008-2009

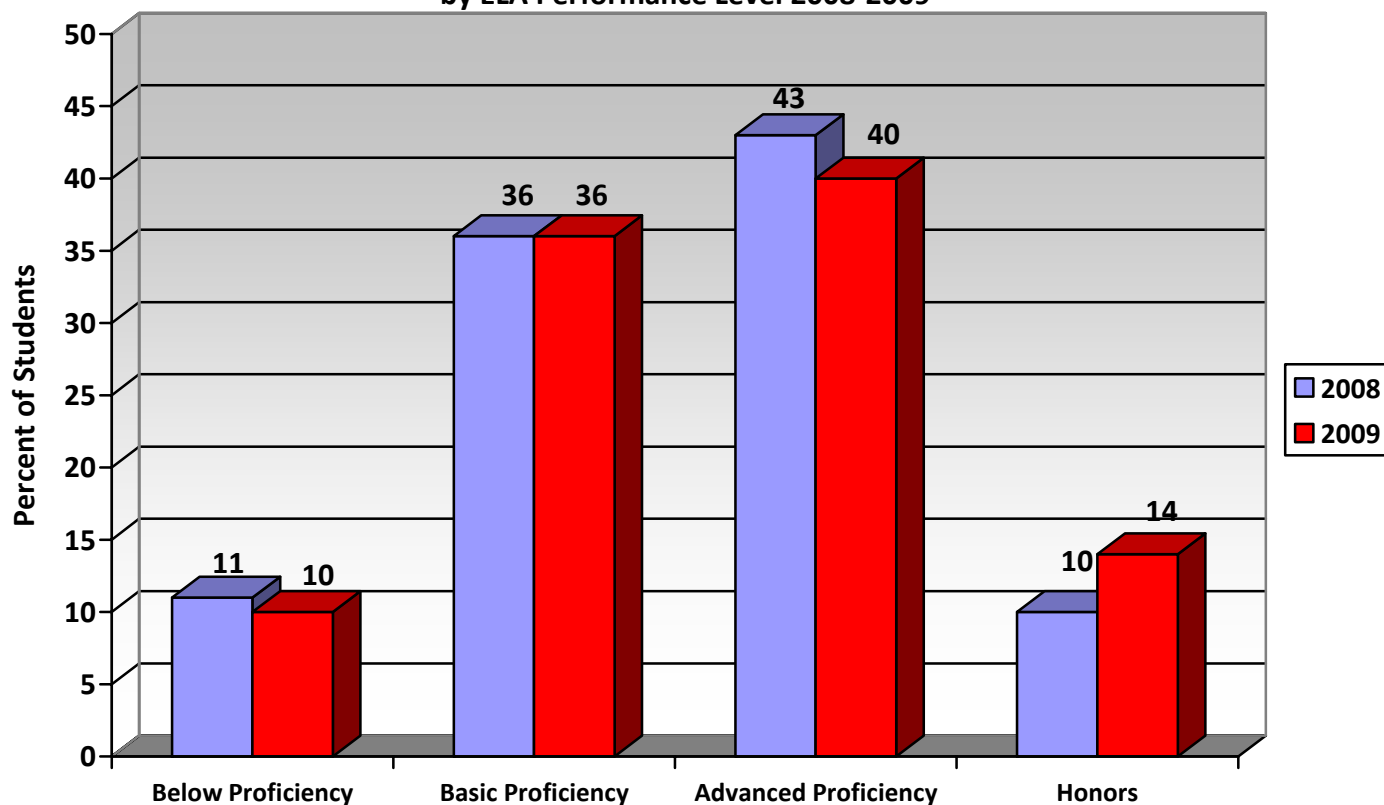


Table 2: Spring 2009 GHSGT State Results for Mathematics.

Math	Student Category	Number Tested 2009	Percent of Students by Performance Level			
			Pass*		Pass Plus	
			2008	2009	2008	2009
	All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	95,566	93	94	52	49
	Regular Program	87,855	95	96	55	52
	Special Education	7,711	59	63	14	13
	English Language Learners	1,388	80	83	23	24
	Asian/Pacific Islander	3,623	96	97	73	73
	Black/Non Hispanic	41,348	82	84	30	26
	Hispanic	6,890	87	89	38	38
	Native American/Alaskan Native	215	88	90	46	46
	White/Non-Hispanic	49,783	95	96	63	61
	Multiracial	2,641	93	92	51	47
	Female	54,117	90	91	47	43
	Male	50,472	89	91	50	48

*Includes Pass Plus.

Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers that Achieved Pass and Pass Plus in Mathematics 2008-2009

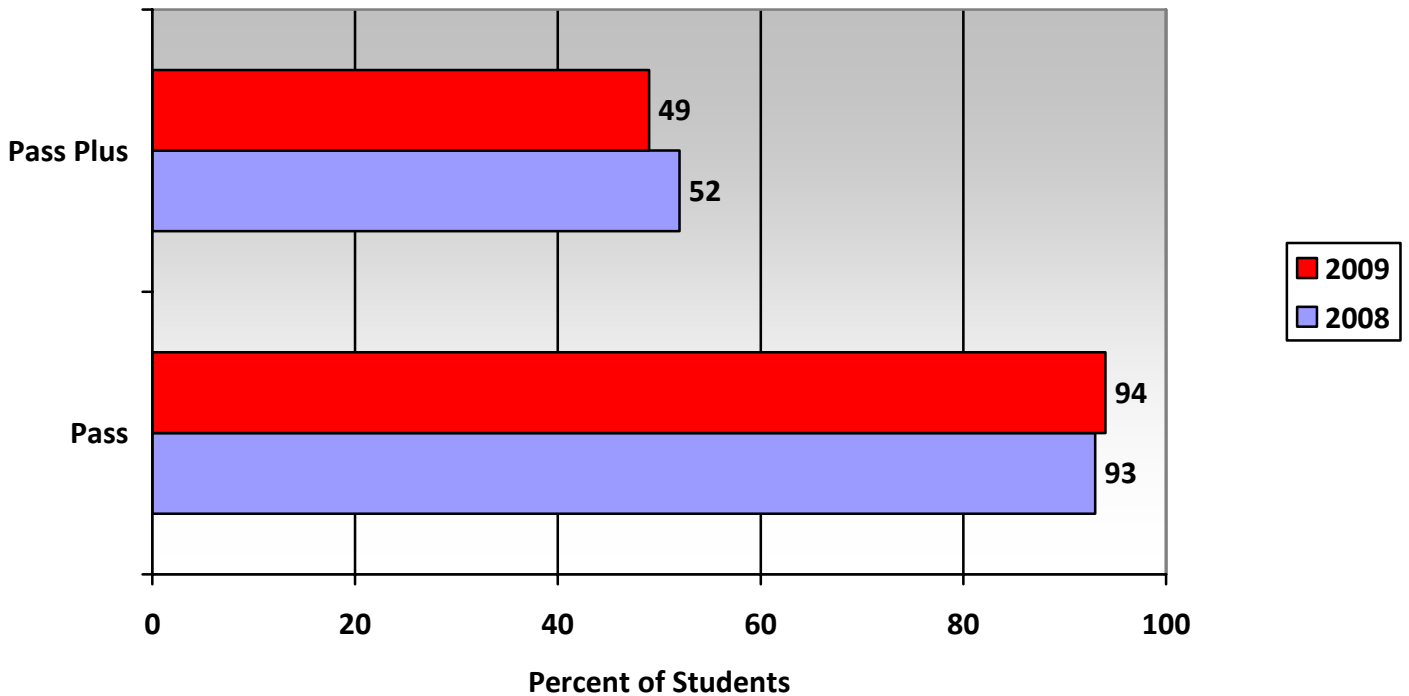


Table 3: Spring 2009 GHSGT State Results for Social Studies.

Social Studies	Student Category	Number Tested 2009	Percent of Students by Performance Level			
			Pass*		Pass Plus	
			2008	2009	2008	2009
	All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	95,222	86	87	41	42
	Regular Program	87,566	89	90	44	44
	Special Education	7,656	53	56	15	15
	English Language Learners	1,367	51	62	07	10
	Asian/Pacific Islander	3,754	87	90	54	57
	Black/Non Hispanic	43,532	72	74	21	22
	Hispanic	7,421	72	76	25	27
	Native American/Alaskan Native	219	86	88	43	41
	White/Non-Hispanic	50,631	90	90	51	51
	Multiracial	2,725	87	86	40	41
	Female	56,585	80	81	33	33
	Male	51,817	83	84	42	43

*Includes Pass Plus.

Percent of 11th Grade First-Time Test Takers that Achieved Pass and Pass Plus in Social Studies 2008-2009

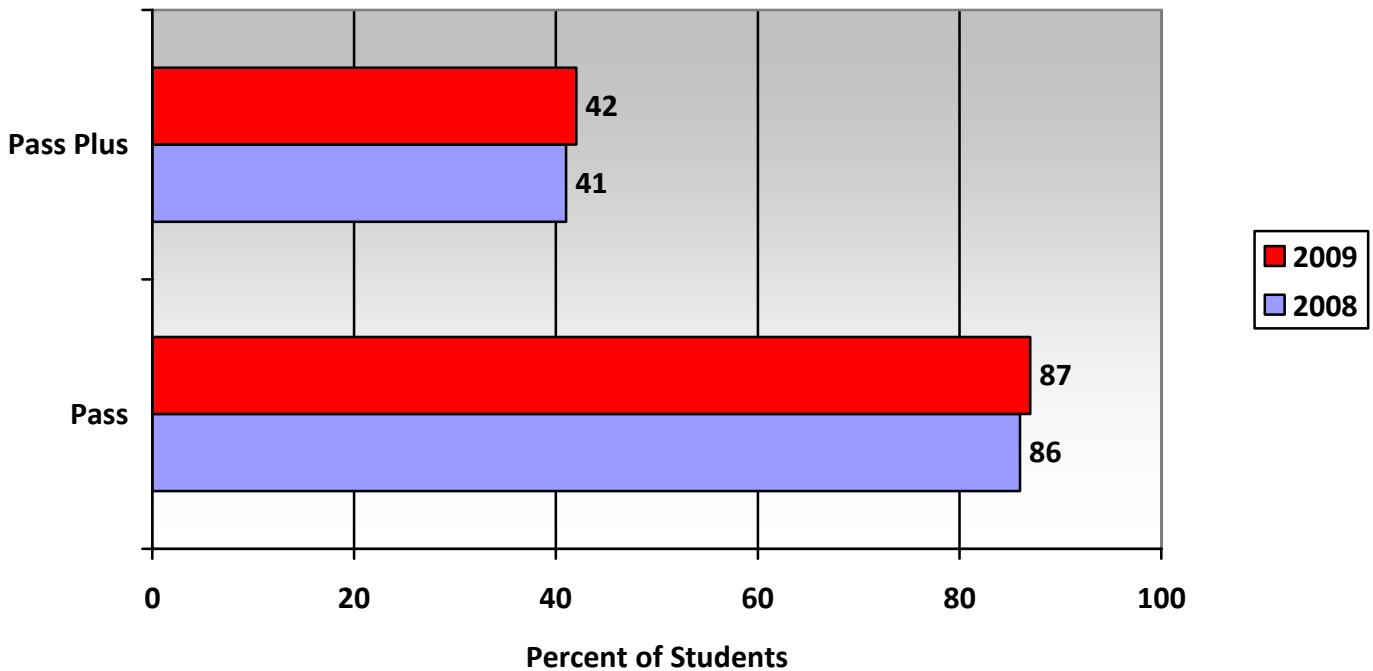
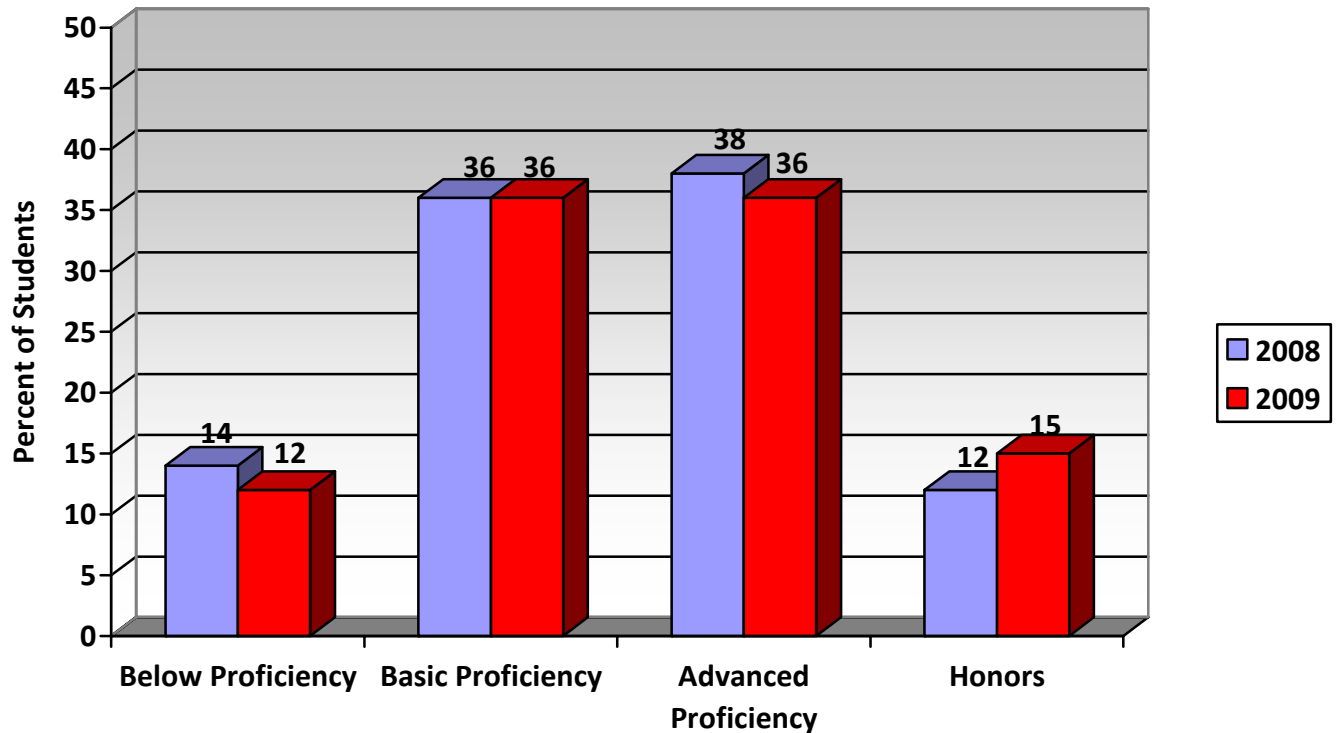


Table 4: Spring 2009 GHSGT State Results for Science.

Science	Student Category	Number Tested 2009	Percent of Students by Performance Level							
			Below Proficiency		Basic Proficiency		Advanced Proficiency		Honors	
			2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	95,355	14	12	36	36	38	36	12	15
	Regular Program	87,673	11	09	36	36	40	38	13	16
	Special Education	7,682	47	45	34	36	15	16	03	04
	English Language Learners	1,377	42	40	42	39	15	18	02	03
	Asian/Pacific Islander	3,696	09	08	25	25	43	39	23	28
	Black/Non-Hispanic	42,357	25	24	45	45	27	25	04	05
	Hispanic	7,223	23	22	41	41	30	28	06	08
	Native American/Alaskan Native	216	13	13	38	32	38	41	10	14
	White/Non-Hispanic	50,152	08	08	31	31	45	41	17	21
	Multiracial	2,681	11	13	38	38	39	36	12	14
	Female	55,249	16	16	40	40	35	33	08	10
	Male	51,172	14	15	33	34	38	34	14	17

Percent of Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers by Science Performance Level 2008-2009



**Percent Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers Passing GHSGT
English Language Arts 2008-2009**

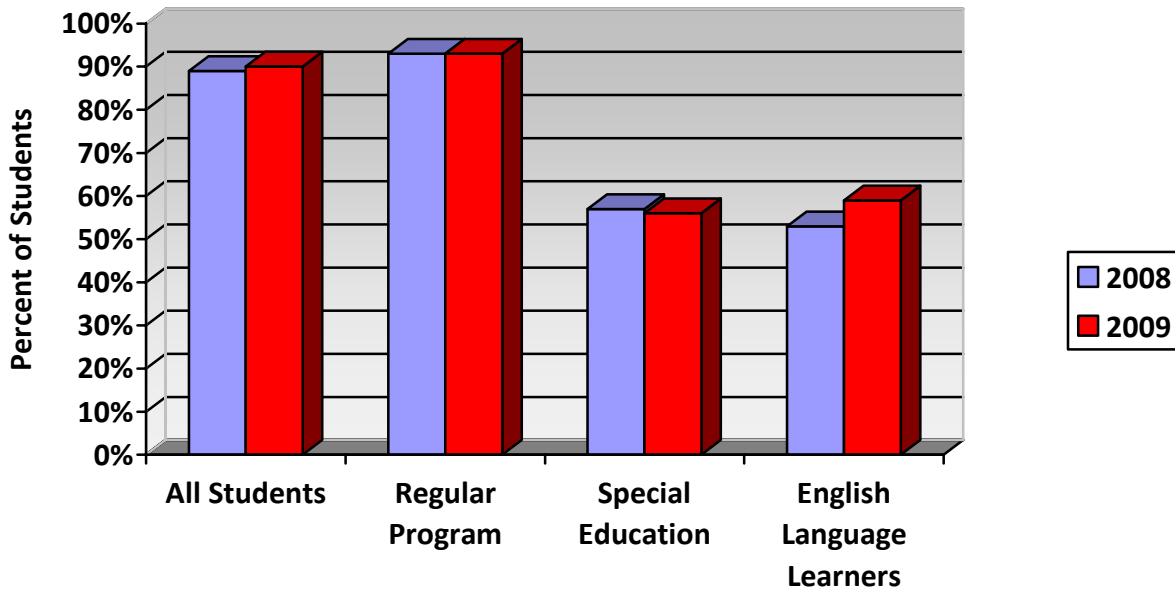


Table 5. GHSGT English Language Arts Percent Passing by Student Category 2008 - 2009

Student Category	2008	2009	Change 2008-2009
All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	89%	90%	+1
Regular Program	93%	93%	0
Special Education	57%	56%	-1
ELL	53%	59%	+6
All Test Takers by Ethnic Group:			
Asian/Pacific Islander	90%	90%	0
Black/Non Hispanic	84%	81%	-3
Hispanic	80%	81%	+1
Native American/Alaska American	89%	87%	-2
White	94%	93%	-1
Multiracial	93%	91%	-2

**Percent Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers Passing GHSGT
Mathematics 2008-2009**

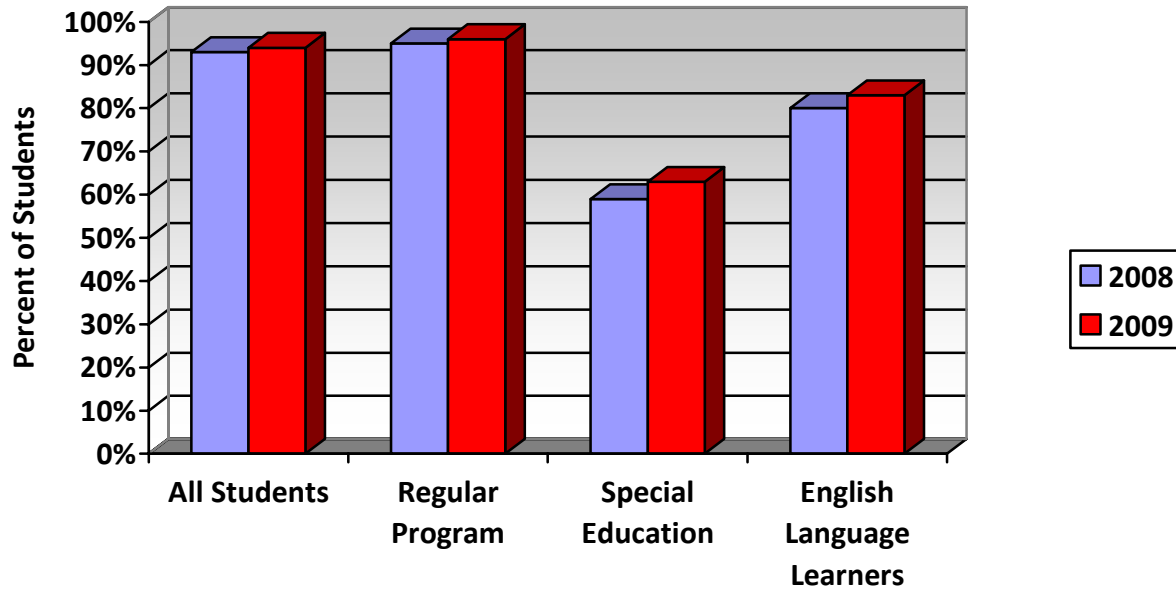


Table 6. GHSGT Mathematics Percent Passing by Student Category 2008 - 2009

Student Category	2008	2009	Change 2008-2009
All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	93%	94%	+1
Regular Program	95%	96%	+1
Special Education	59%	63%	+4
ELL	80%	83%	+3
All Test Takers by Ethnic Group:			
Asian/Pacific Islander	96%	97%	+1
Black/Non Hispanic	82%	84%	+2
Hispanic	87%	89%	+2
Native American/Alaska Native	88%	90%	+2
White/Non Hispanic	95%	96%	+1
Multiracial	93%	92%	-1

**Percent Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers Passing GHSGT
Social Studies 2008-2009**

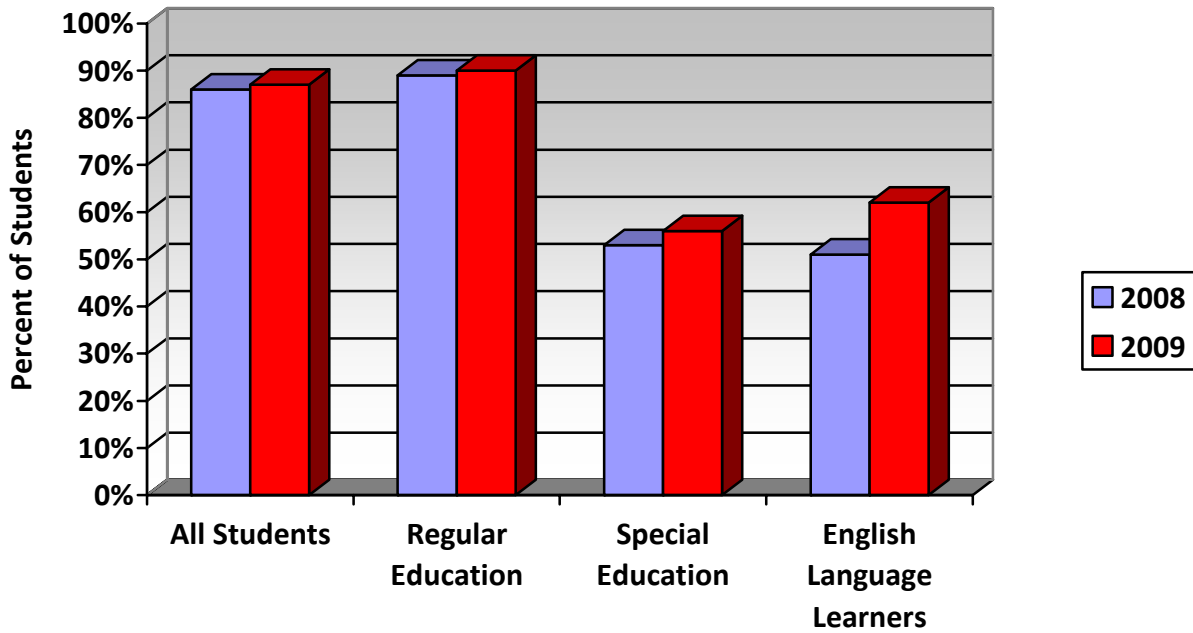


Table 7. GHSGT Social Studies Percent Passing by Student Category 2008 - 2009

Student Category	2008	2009	Change 2008-2009
All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	86%	87%	+1
Regular Program	89%	90%	+1
Special Education	53%	56%	+3
ELL	51%	62%	+11
All Test Takers by Ethnic Group:			
Asian/Pacific Islander	87%	90%	+3
Black	72%	74%	+2
Hispanic	72%	76%	+4
Native American	86%	88%	+2
White	90%	90%	0
Multi Ethnic	87%	86%	-1

**Percent Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers Passing GHSGT
Science 2008-2009**

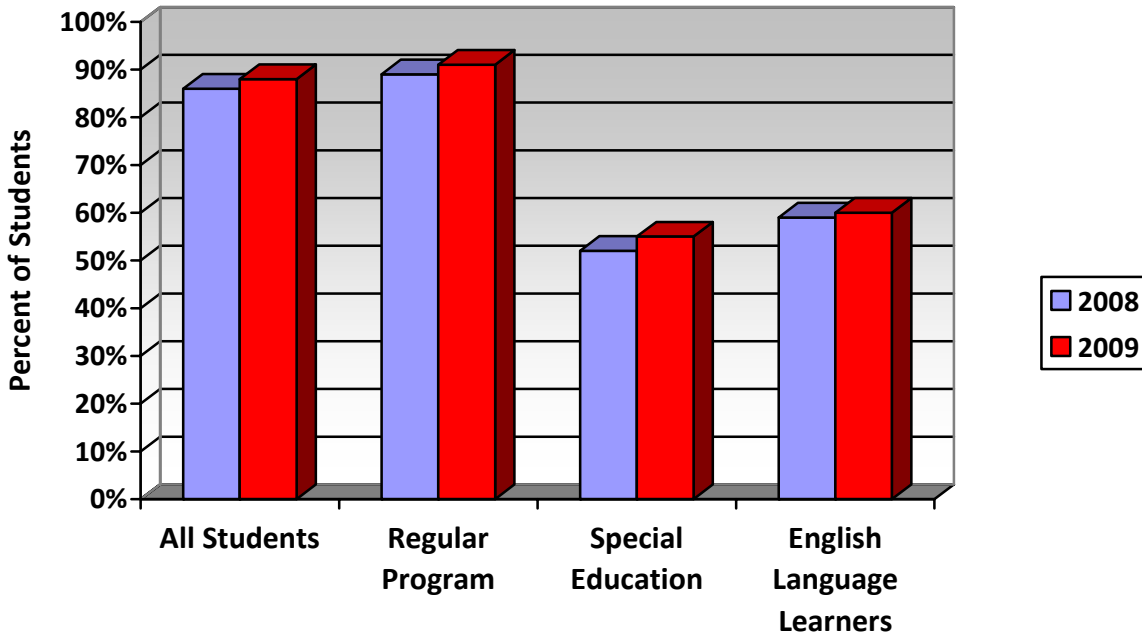


Table 8. GHSGT Science Percent Passing by Student Category 2008 - 2009

Student Category	2008	2009	Change 2008-2009
All Grade 11 First-Time Test Takers	86%	88%	+2
Regular Program	89%	91%	+2
Special Education	52%	55%	+3
ELL	59%	60%	+1
All Test Takers by Ethnic Group:			
Asian/Pacific Islander	91%	92%	+1
Black/Non Hispanic	76%	76%	0
Hispanic	77%	78%	+1
Native American/Alaska Native	86%	87%	+1
White/Non Hispanic	93%	92%	-1
Multiracial	89%	87%	-2