

State Assessment Review



Agenda

- Information on new State Summative Assessment
- PEAKS assessment overview
- Words of Caution
- 2021 PEAKS Results
- Question and Answer

New State Assessment

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Department of Education
and Early Development

www.Education.Alaska.Gov

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2021

Alaska's innovative assessment to improve value of English Language Arts and Math testing for students, educators and families

JUNEAU – Beginning next school year, Alaska's students will have the opportunity to benefit from an innovative assessment system designed to better reflect learning throughout the school year and target instruction to students' individual needs. DEED has selected NWEA, a not-for-profit, research-based assessment developer, to provide Alaska's innovative assessment.

The new assessment will replace the current PEAKS English language arts and math summative assessments for 3rd through 9th grade students. Included in the innovative assessment system developed in collaboration with NWEA will be interim assessments and other culturally relevant resources to influence future instruction, improve student outcomes, support teachers, and inform parents.

Forty-nine of Alaska's 54 school districts already administer NWEA's MAP Growth assessments three times throughout the school year in addition to the state-required PEAKS assessment. Alaska's new assessment system will streamline the testing experience for students, families, teachers, and administrators by consolidating assessment and reporting to one platform. Once fully implemented, the new assessment system will reduce the number of standardized tests for most students in Alaska and will provide teachers immediate results from interim tests.

"We must answer essential questions for every student about their learning. An effective assessment system is essential for student success and educational effectiveness," DEED Commissioner Michael Johnson said. "Alaska's innovative assessment will provide parents and teachers with valuable information to adapt instruction to meet the needs of individual students and help ensure the most appropriate and effective learning opportunities possible. In addition, the interim assessments will provide parents with information they need to feel confident their students are learning and progressing."

The Department of Education will be working with teachers, administrators, tribes, partner organizations, and families to develop an assessment implementation plan and additional resources to support an excellent education for every student every day. A new webpage with additional information regarding the new assessments and contact information will be available at education.alaska.gov.

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The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides information, resources, and leadership to support over 130,000 students in 505 public schools across the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to ensure an "Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day."

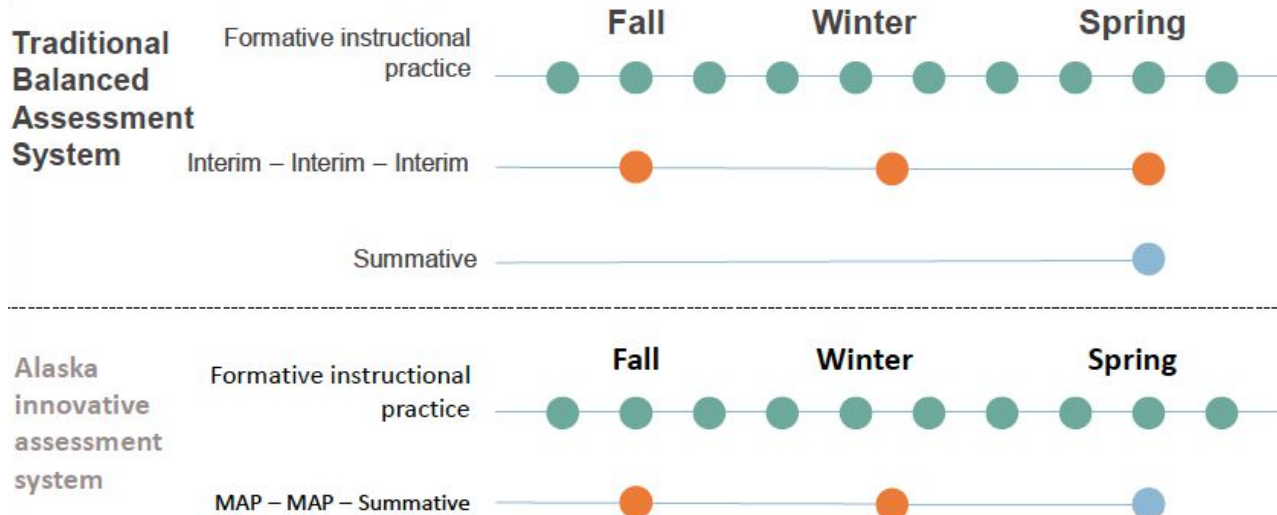
Goals of New Assessment

- Thread the needle between standards, assessment, and instruction
- Improve student growth
- Broaden the understanding of how assessment information can inform instruction
- Provide teachers with professional learning on assessment literacy

A copy of the attached letter provided in packet

Innovative Approach

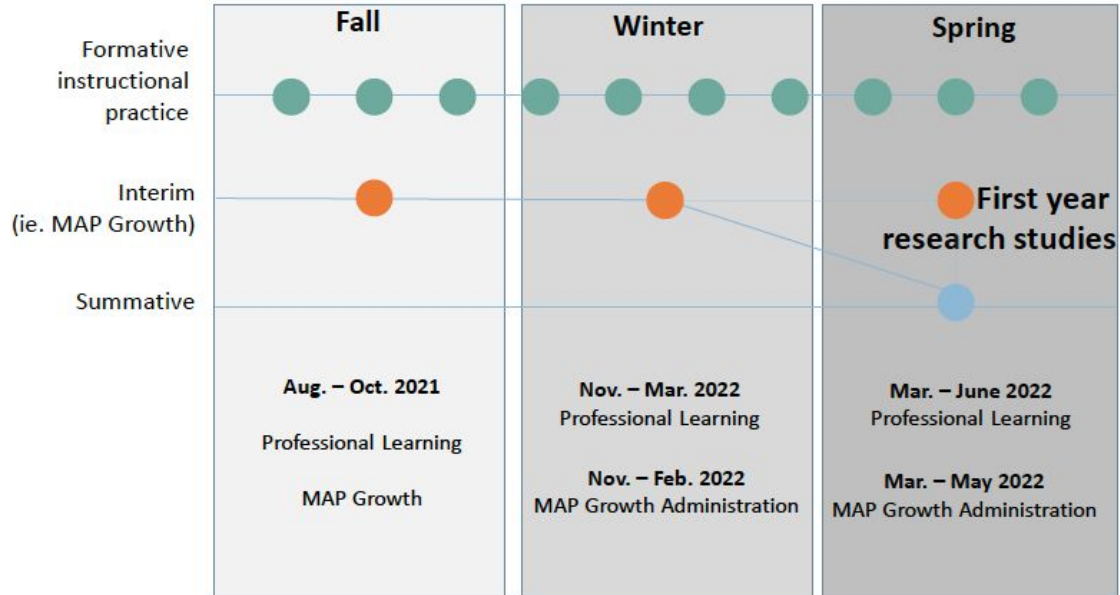
Bridging MAP Growth with AK state summative



Innovative Approach - Year 1

Year 1 (2021-22)

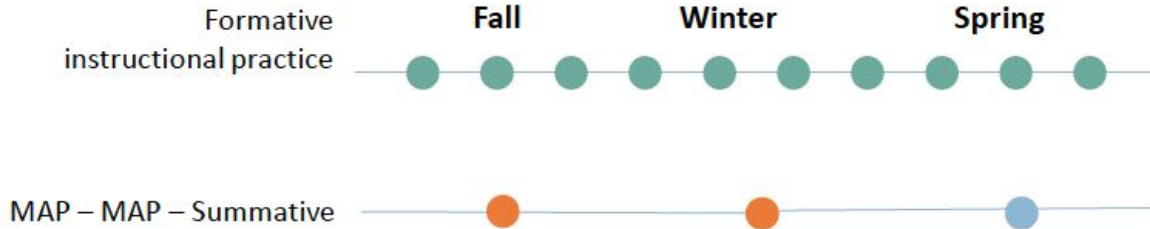
Alaska Innovative Assessment System



Innovative Approach - Year 2

Year 2 (2022-23)

Alaska Innovative Assessment System



What is the PEAKS assessment?

- Statewide summative
- Based on Alaska Standards
- Grades 3-9: English Language Arts/Math
- Grades 5, 8,10: Science
 - No 2021 Science data to report



ALASKA
SCIENCE
ASSESSMENT



PEAKS Scheduling

ELA

Grade 3	Part 1: Reading	55 minutes	90 minutes
	Part 2: Writing	35 minutes	
Grades 4-5	Part 1: Reading	55 minutes	115 minutes
	Part 2: Reading and TDA	30 minutes	
	Part 3: Writing	30 minutes	
Grades 6-8	Part 1: Reading and TDA	85 minutes	120 minutes
	Part 2: Writing	35 minutes	
Grade 9	Part 1: Reading and TDA	85 minutes	120 minutes
	Part 2: Writing	35 minutes	

Math

Grade 3-5	Part 1: Non-Calculator	40 minutes	80 minutes
	Part 2: Non-Calculator	40 minutes	
Grade 6	Part 1: Non-Calculator	40 minutes	90 minutes
	Part 2: Calculator	50 minutes	
Grade 7	Part 1: Non-Calculator	25 minutes	90 minutes
	Part 2: Calculator	65 minutes	
Grade 8	Part 1: Non-Calculator	20 minutes	90 minutes
	Part 2: Calculator	70 minutes	
Grade 9	Part 1: Calculator	45-60 minutes	90 - 120 minutes
	Part 2: Calculator	45-60 minutes	

Science

Grades 5, 8, and 10	Part 1	35 minutes	105 minutes
	Part 2	35 minutes	
	Part 3	35 minutes	

Words of Caution

- Participation rate across the State very low
- Accountability requirements waived
- Cannot compare data from previous year

A copy of the attached letter provided in packet



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Education
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August 2021

Dear Educator,

Assessment happens every day in classrooms across our state. We administer assessments to make sure our instruction results in students learning what we want them to know and do and helps ensure that support is available for all students. Assessment is a key part of student learning, and everything we do should work toward this goal.

PEAKS, the 2021 statewide summative assessment, was administered in an unprecedented context. Never before has Alaska, or any other state, attempted to obtain valid and reliable data during a global pandemic that disrupted even the most basic routines in society, including our public schools.

It is important to keep in mind that for many students, instruction and assessment looked very different during the COVID-19 pandemic. As local school boards managed the impacts of COVID, assessment participation rates among students taking the assessment were so low that the department cautions against drawing sweeping conclusions about student performance statewide. However, we can still glean helpful information by looking at performance at the school and individual student levels. Parents and educators can use individual student data from PEAKS and other local assessments to make effective instructional decisions during the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, though summative assessment data typically guides activities associated with the Every Student Succeeds Act, the accountability requirements were waived by the United States Department of Education for the 2020-2021 school year. Alaska's Department of Education will continue to support ongoing school improvement efforts in local school districts, including stewardship of COVID relief funds.

Alaska is blessed with many great schools and hardworking educators who worked with families to meet the challenge COVID-19 presented for our students this past year. Thank you for your hard work to provide an excellent education to every student every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Johnson'.

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner

2021 PEAKS ELA Results

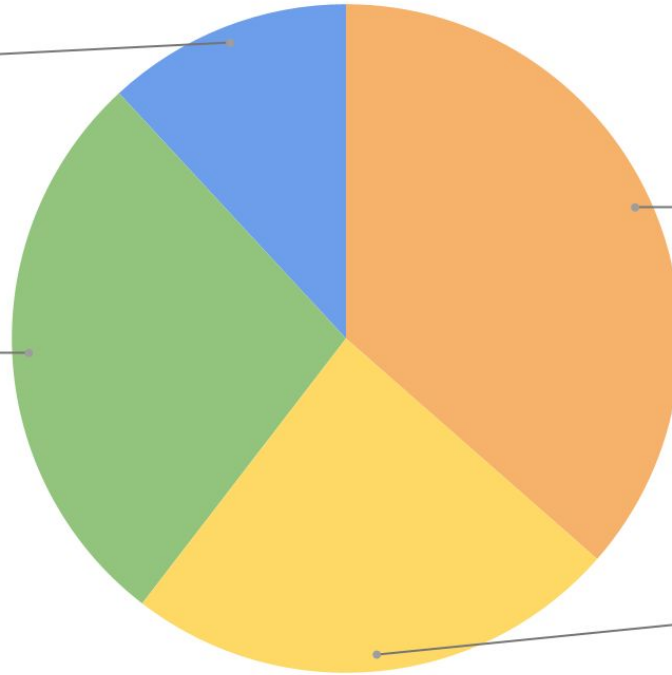
State ELA Achievement Level

Advanced
11.9%

Proficient
27.7%

Far Below Proficient
36.5%

Below Proficient
24.0%



NSBSD ELA Achievement Level

Advanced

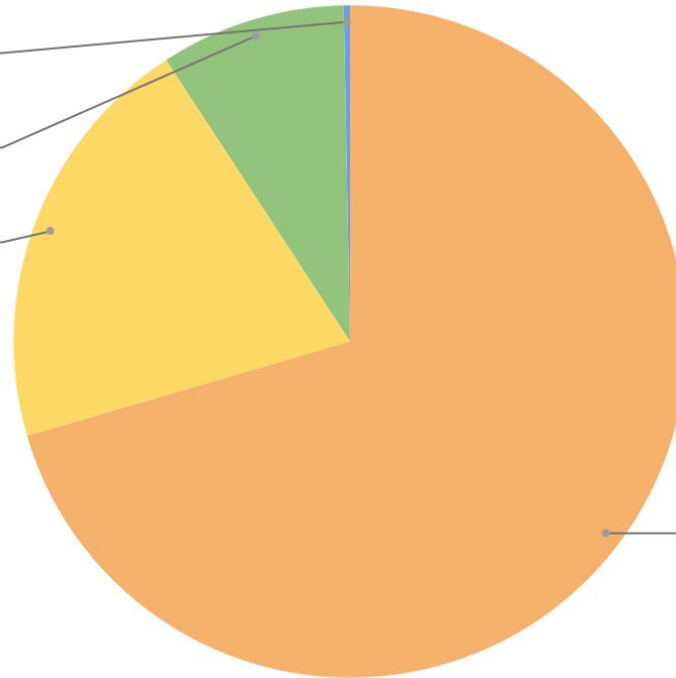
0.3%

Proficient

8.9%

Below Proficient

20.3%



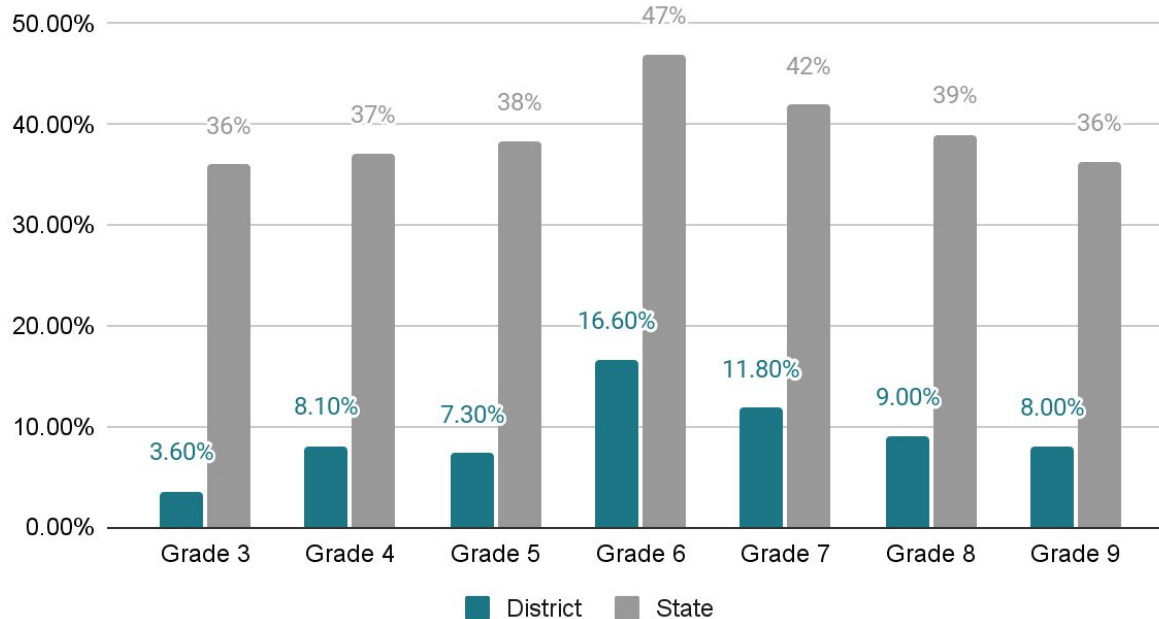
Far Below Proficient

70.5%



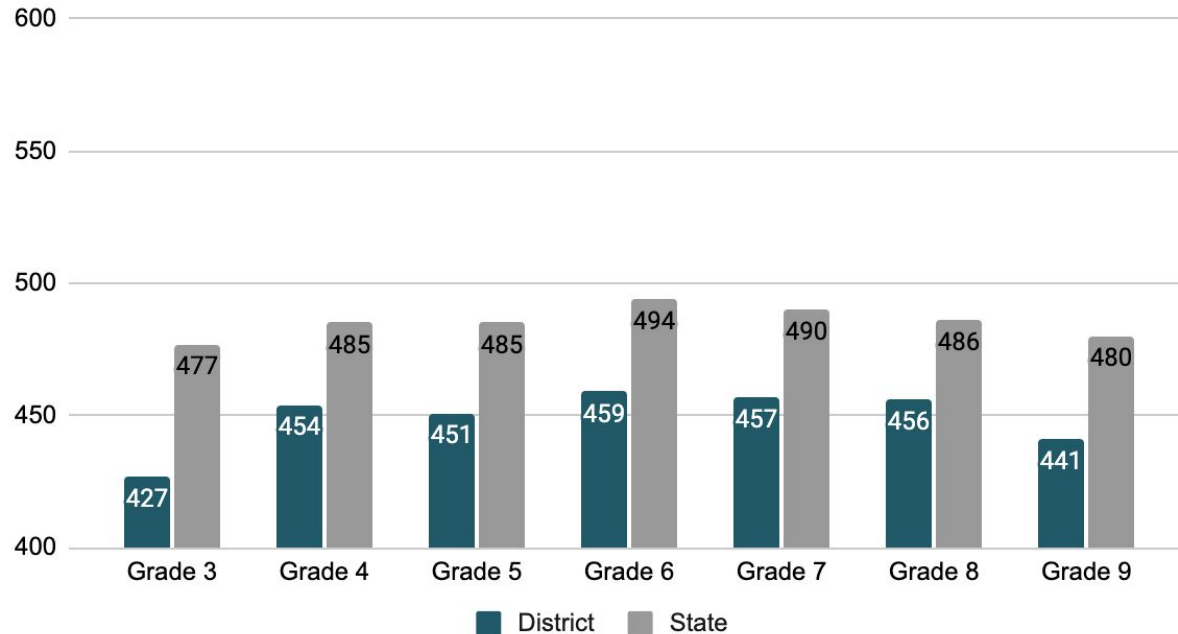
ELA Proficiency by Grade

ELA Proficiency - State and District Comparison

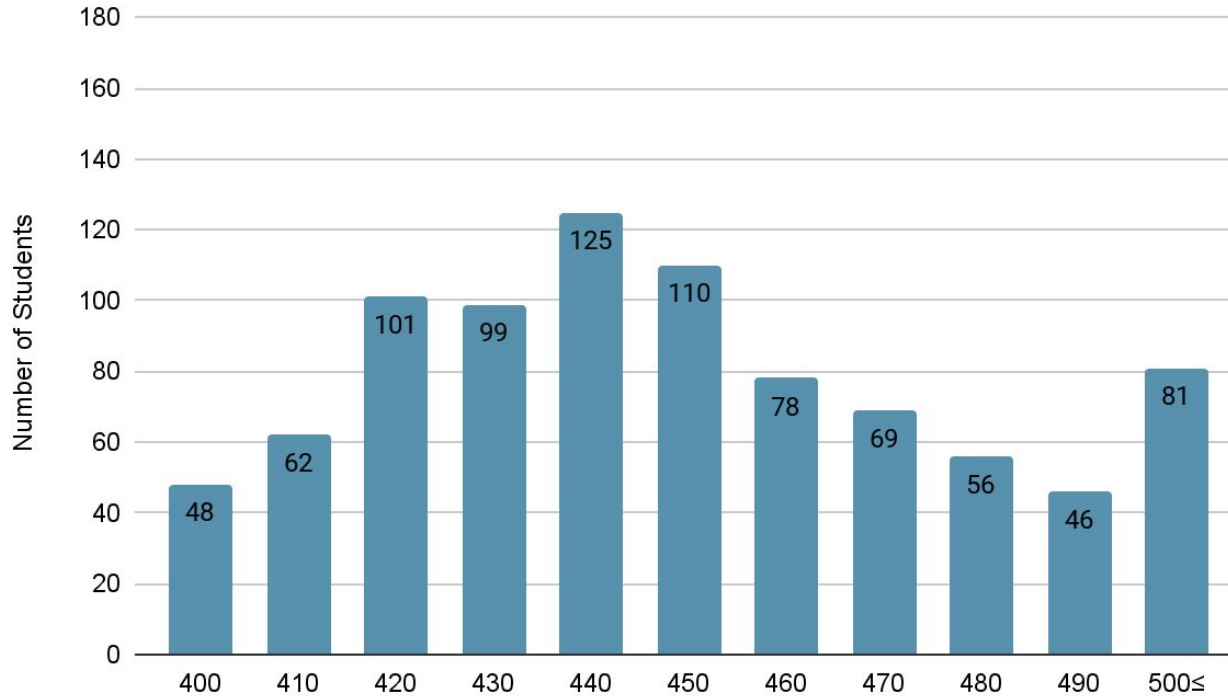


ELA Median Score by Grade

District and State



ELA Scale Scores



2021 PEAKS Math Results

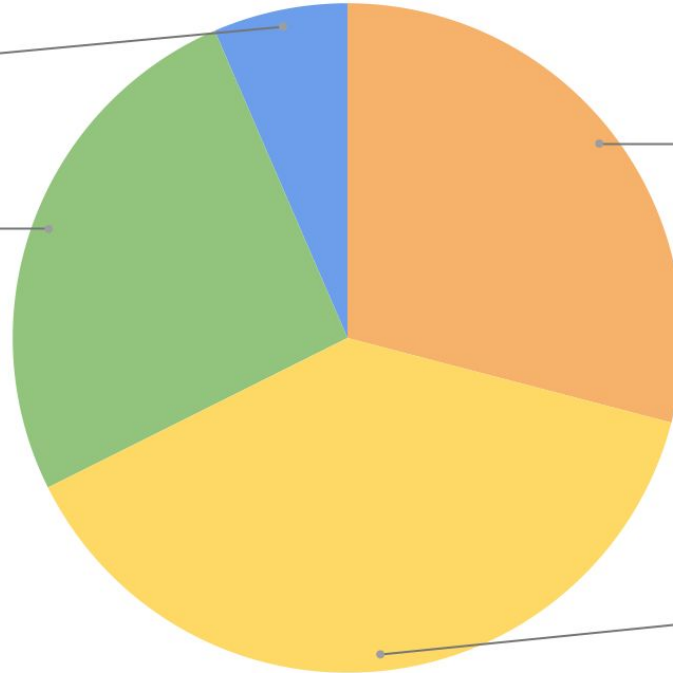
State Math Achievement Level

Advanced
6.5%

Proficient
25.9%

Far Below Proficient
29.1%

Below Proficient
38.6%



NSBSD Math Achievement Level

Proficient

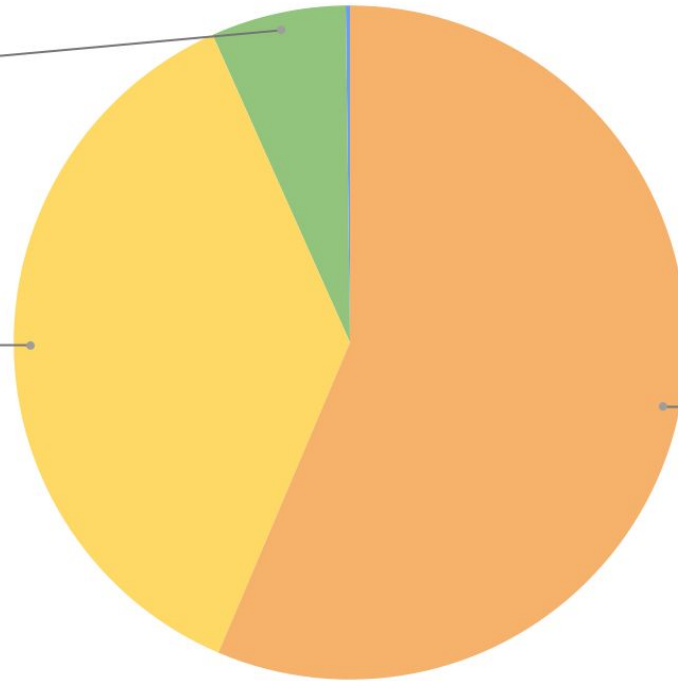
6.5%

Below Proficient

36.9%

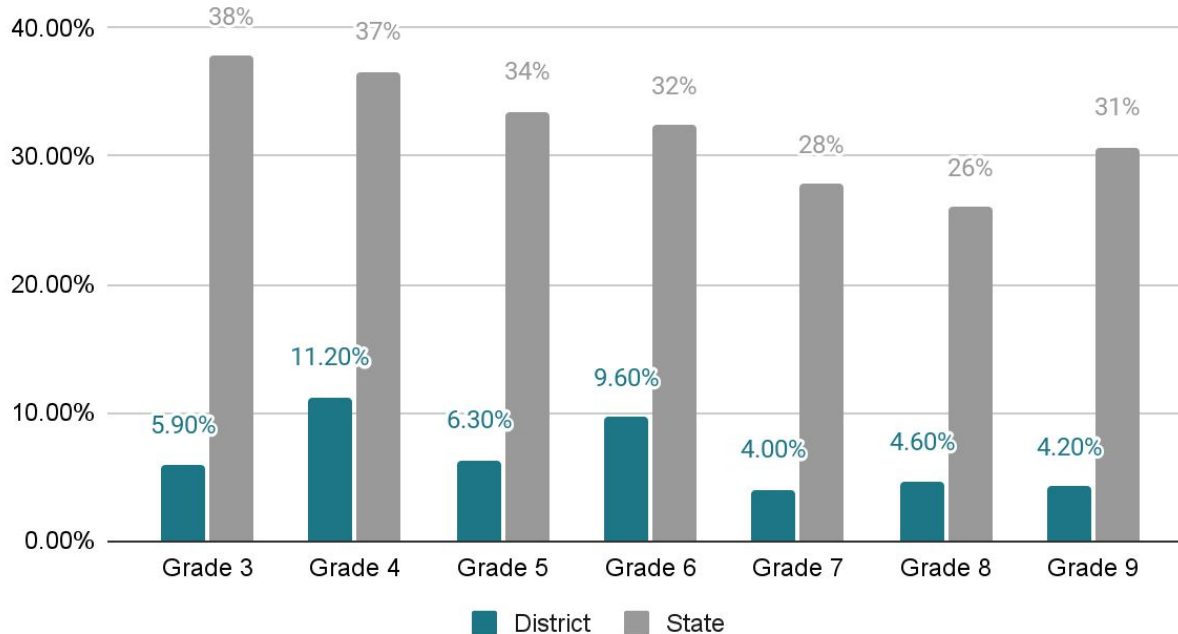
Far Below Proficient

56.4%



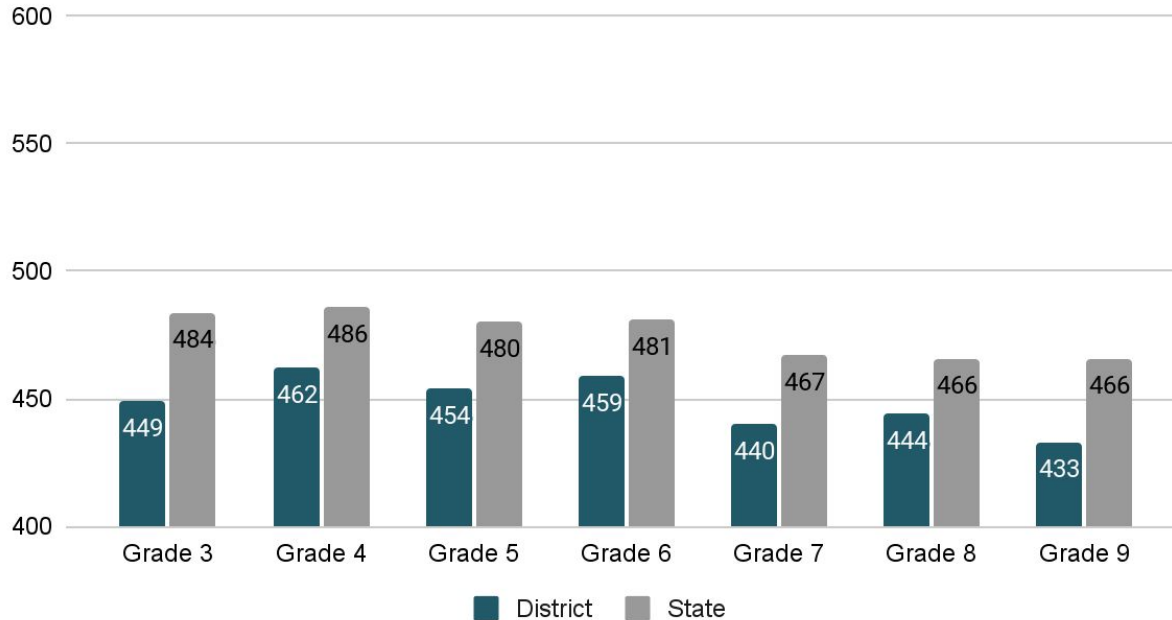
Math Proficiency by Grade

ELA Proficiency - State and District Comparison

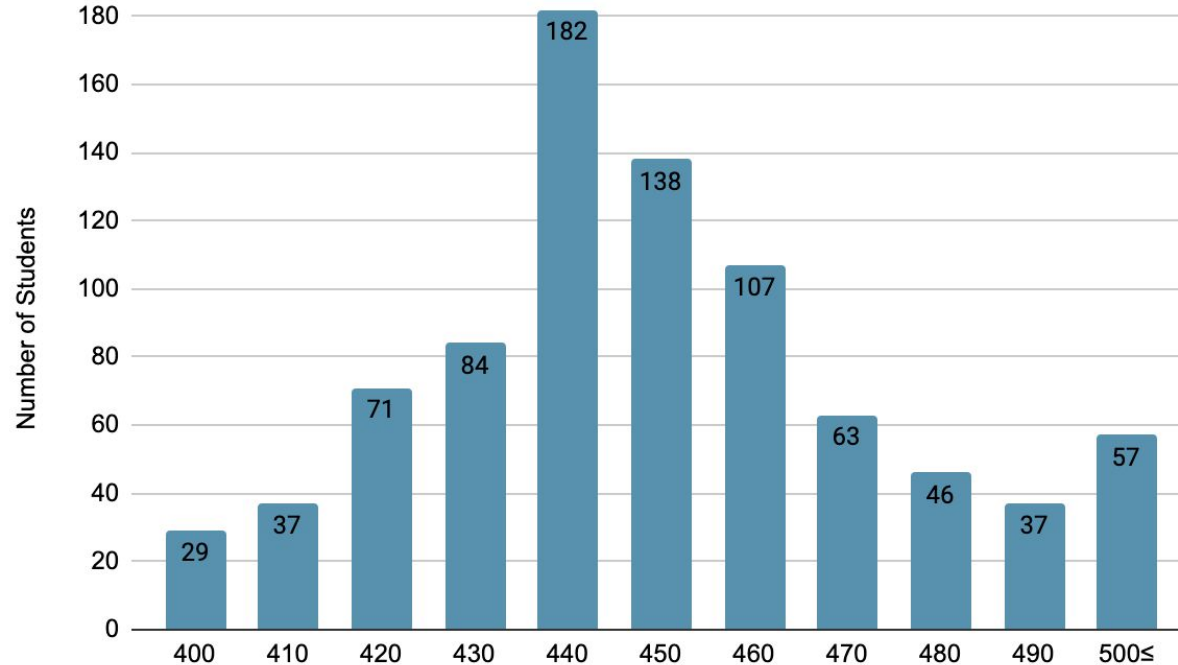


Math Median by Grade

District and State



Math Scale Score



State Assessment Review

Questions & Answers

