

Measuring Achievement

It is imperative that school board members find all the ways that academic progress is measured in your State and your district.

In all states, the State Department of Education gathers data on each district. Our example is of the type of academic reports we use in Ohio, but each State can guide you to the data for your district.

In Ohio, the data collector and reporter for each district is called the EMIS personnel. The Education Management Information System (EMIS) is a statewide data collection system.

Call your State Department of Education to ask how this data is handled and reported to your State.

Through the last several decades, each state school board and each state seems to have significantly lowered the scores students need to achieve to be called “Proficient.” Once a student is ranked with a title (5 categories), they are counted in the district’s achievement count. In Ohio for example, there are approximately 24 categories. Each district has the chance to earn 24 points in their District Achievement. Each district needs 80% of their students to be scoring in the “Proficient” or better categories for the district to get a point on the education indicators. Districts are then given a A-F grade based on how many of these education indicators they were able to get 80% of their students to score.

It is very important to understand what scores are achieved to be considered “Proficient.”

This is Ohio. I have asked other States for their cut scores for “Proficiency” and they often respond that it “is a formula.” In other words, we don’t want to tell you. Make no mistake, each state has these charts that they use in their “formula.”

First let us define “Proficient.” “Competent or skilled in doing or using something.” Is this what you thought?

What kind of a score does an Ohio student need to be called “Proficient”? Review the chart on the next page.

YES, you are seeing this right. A student that scores a 49% on the 3rd grade Math standardized test is called “Proficient.”

A student that scores a 38% on the 4th grade Math standardized test is called “Proficient.”

Performance Level Recommendations for Ohio's State Tests

Math*										
Exam	Limited	Basic		Proficient		Accelerated		Advanced		Proficient or Above
Grade 3 Math	18%	39%	16%	49%	29%	63%	25%	75%	11%	65%
Grade 4 Math	22%	30%	13%	38%	28%	52%	29%	70%	9%	66%
Grade 5 Math	22%	29%	14%	39%	31%	59%	24%	76%	10%	65%
Grade 6 Math	21%	31%	17%	46%	31%	69%	18%	81%	13%	62%
Grade 7 Math	25%	35%	14%	46%	25%	65%	25%	81%	11%	61%
Grade 8 Math	26%	38%	11%	46%	30%	69%	20%	83%	13%	63%
Algebra I	28%	27%	14%	38%	22%	58%	22%	76%	13%	57%
Geometry	22%	22%	28%	35%	28%	50%	17%	70%	5%	50%
Integrated Math I	28%	27%	14%	40%	22%	58%	22%	78%	13%	57%
Integrated Math II	39%	26%	26%	39%	18%	54%	13%	72%	4%	35%
English Language Arts*										
Exam	Limited	Basic		Proficient		Accelerated		Advanced		Proficient or Above
Grade 4 English Language Arts	25%	33%	20%	46%	19%	56%	19%	67%	17%	55%
Grade 5 English Language Arts	27%	38%	19%	50%	20%	63%	19%	73%	14%	53%
Grade 6 English Language Arts	22%	38%	21%	50%	21%	60%	21%	73%	15%	57%
Grade 7 English Language Arts	20%	31%	22%	48%	21%	60%	19%	71%	18%	58%
Grade 8 English Language Arts	24%	35%	22%	50%	22%	63%	18%	71%	14%	54%
English Language Arts I	28%	40%	17%	52%	26%	69%	16%	79%	13%	55%
English Language Arts II	29%	35%	18%	48%	29%	65%	13%	73%	12%	54%
Science										
Exam	Limited	Basic		Proficient		Accelerated		Advanced		Proficient or Above
Grade 5 Science	12%	30	26%	48	24%	63	21%	75	17%	62%
Grade 8 Science	18%	25	22%	38	23%	52	27%	73	10%	60%
Physical Science	13%	20	24%	29	41%	48	18%	70	4%	63%
Biology**	21%	26	19%	30	33%	50	9%	57	17%	59%
Social Studies										
Exam	Limited	Basic		Proficient		Accelerated		Advanced		Proficient or Above
Grade 4 Social Studies	12%	33	19%	44	41%	64	24%	81	5%	70%
Grade 6 Social Studies	23%	44	20%	58	21%	70	22%	83	13%	56%
American History	12%	31	18%	42	36%	64	17%	73	18%	71%
American Government	10%	27	23%	39	49%	69	14%	81	4%	67%

Approximate percentage of points needed to attain each performance level on base online test form.

A student that scores a 35% on the geometry standardized test is called “Proficient.”

A student that scores a 39% on the Government standardized test is called “Proficient.”

We should all be alarmed and YES, this is “school speak.” School Speak is our definition of where the dictionary has been changed to hide truth.