

To the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New York:

Chapter 655 of the Laws of 1987 (which amended Section 215-a of State Education Law) requires the Board of Regents and the State Education Department to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to “enrollment trends; indicators of student achievement in reading, writing, mathematics, science and vocational courses; graduation, college attendance and employment rates; ... [and] information concerning teacher and administrator preparation, turnover, in-service education and performance.” The law further states that: “To the extent practicable, all such information shall be displayed on both a statewide and individual district basis and by racial/ethnic group and gender.”

The annual report is presented in two parts. The first is an analysis of statewide data contained in this publication, *New York, the State of Learning: Statewide Profile of the Educational System*. The second part is the individual district profiles contained in *New York, the State of Learning: Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts*. Data in both publications were derived, primarily, from information submitted by superintendents of schools to the Department’s Information and Reporting Services office and the Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities office. The data highlighted in the publication were selected in accordance with the specific mandates of Section 215-a of Education Law. There are, of course, other data regarding student performance, instructional programs, support services, and resources which must be considered in order to develop fully comprehensive profiles of school districts.

The information contained in this report should be helpful to the Governor, the Legislature, and the citizens of New York State in assessing the effectiveness of the many educational programs supported by the State, and in working with the Board of Regents and school officials to improve learning outcomes for our children and youth.

RICHARD P. MILLS
President of The University
of the State of New York
and Commissioner of Education

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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
The State Education Department
Albany, New York 12234

NEW YORK

THE STATE OF LEARNING

**A Report to the Governor and
the Legislature
on the
Educational Status of the
State's Schools**

**STATEWIDE PROFILE OF THE
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

October 2006

PREFACE

Beginning in 1996, the Board of Regents raised standards at all grade levels throughout the curriculum and redefined the requirements for high school graduation to align with the new standards. In June 2003, the first class of high school students subject to the higher English, mathematics, social studies, and science requirements graduated. The effect of higher standards is already apparent in improved performance on many State assessments.

In 2004–05, more students scored 65 or higher on Regents examinations in all five areas required for graduation than took these examinations in 1996–97. These areas are English, mathematics, global studies (or global history and geography), U.S. history and government, and biology (or living environment).

Of general-education students in the 2001 accountability cohort (students who entered grade 9 in Fall 2001), 90 percent had met the graduation requirement (scored 55 or higher) in English, 89 percent in mathematics, 90 percent in global history and geography, 87 percent in U.S. history and government, and 92 percent in science by the end of their fourth year in high school.

On four of the five Regents examinations used to meet graduation requirements — English, mathematics (mathematics A and sequential mathematics, course III), global history and geography, and living environment — the number of students with disabilities who scored 55 or higher increased between 2002–03 and 2004–05.

Since the implementation of higher graduation requirements in 1996, the percentage of public school graduates earning Regents diplomas increased from 42 to 70 percent.

About 81 percent of 2005 public high school graduates planned to pursue postsecondary education, compared with 66 percent in 1980.

The number of public school students participating in Advanced Placement examinations has more than doubled since 1990. There were more than twice as many Black, Asian, and Hispanic candidates in 2005 as in 1992.

The mean SAT composite score for the class of 2005 was 20 points higher than the mean for the class of 1993.

In 2005, 70.4 percent of fourth-graders in public schools met the standards in English language arts, an increase of over 21 percentage points over 1999. Nearly 85 percent of fourth-graders met the standards in mathematics in 2005, compared with 66.9 percent in 1999.

On the middle-level assessment in English language arts, 48.2 percent of eighth-graders in public schools met the standards in 2005, compared with 48.3 percent in 1999. In 2005, 55.5 percent of eighth-graders met the standards in mathematics, an increase of over 17 percentage points compared with 1999.

The percentage of students with disabilities educated primarily in general-education classes has increased from 53.7 percent in 2003–04 to 54.1 percent in 2004–05.

These signs of progress are encouraging, but too many students and schools have not yet shared in these successes. These, by and large, are schools faced with the challenge of educating large numbers of children placed at risk by poverty, the inability to speak English well, and recent immigration. Throughout this report, in fact, we document a dismaying alignment of disadvantaged students (disproportionately racial/ethnic minorities), schools with the poorest educational resources (fiscal and human), and substandard achievement. Conversely, we find that those schools that serve the fewest at-risk children have the greatest financial resources, teachers with the best credentials, and the highest levels of achievement.

Perhaps the sharpest contrasts exist between public schools in Large City Districts and those in districts (mostly suburban) with low percentages of students in poverty and high levels of income and property wealth (Low-Need Districts). On the 2005 elementary-level State assessment in English language arts, only 54 percent of students in Large City Districts, compared with 88 percent in Low-Need Districts, met the standards by scoring at or above Level 3. The differences in student performance in middle-level mathematics are even more striking. Only 25 percent of students in Large City Districts, compared with 82 percent in Low-Need Districts, met the standards. Seventy percent of general-education students in Large City Districts, compared with 97 percent in Low-Need Districts, who entered grade 9 in 2001 scored at or above 65 in Regents English after four years. Over 50 percent of high school completers in Large City Districts, compared with 88.5 percent in Low-Need Districts, earned Regents-endorsed diplomas in 2004–05. These contrasts in performance parallel contrasts in student need and district resources. Sixty-nine percent of students in Large City Districts, compared with three percent in Low-Need Districts, were eligible for free lunches in Fall 2004. Eleven percent of middle-level mathematics teachers in Large City Districts, compared with three percent in Low-Need Districts, were not certified in mathematics. Despite Large City Districts large numbers of students placed at risk by poverty and limited proficiency in English, the mean expenditure per pupil was 91 percent of that in Low-Need Districts. Consequently, Large City Districts must compete for teachers with more advantaged districts whose median teacher salary exceeds Large Cities by 50 percent.

Consider also these contrasts between low- and high-minority schools and among racial/ethnic groups. Schools with the highest percentages of minority children — who are frequently also poor — have the least experienced teachers, the most teachers teaching out of certification, and the highest rates of teacher turnover. On an average day, 95.6 percent of students in low-minority schools, but only 89.8 percent in high-minority schools, are at school. Only about 54 percent of Black and about 57 percent of Hispanic fourth-graders, compared with 79 percent of White fourth-graders, met the standards on the English language arts assessment for elementary-level students by scoring at or above Level 3. Of general-education students in the 2001 cohort, 92.4 percent of White cohort members met the Regents English examination graduation requirement by scoring at or above 65 after four years; only 68.2 percent of Black and 65.5 percent of Hispanic cohort members did so. In the 2004–05 school year, 80.3 percent of White students, compared with 40.9 percent of Black and 42.3 percent of Hispanic students, earned a Regents diploma. These results are even more disturbing when you consider that in the past five years, the enrollment in high-minority schools has increased, while the enrollment in low-minority schools has decreased.

Nor is underachievement limited to large, urban high-minority schools. Consider these contrasts between those districts discussed above with low percentages of students in poverty and high levels of income and property wealth and those rural districts with high percentages of

students in poverty and low property wealth. The more advantaged districts spend over \$2,800 more per student and pay their teachers \$24,000 more annually. Students in more advantaged districts are substantially more likely than students in less advantaged districts to perform with distinction on Regents examinations, and they are more than twice as likely to plan to attend four-year colleges.

State aid formulas help to ensure that those districts with the least ability to raise resources locally, on average, receive the largest allocations of aid from the State. However, with few exceptions, the formulas do not consider the extra help in achieving the standards needed by children placed at risk by poverty and limited proficiency in English.

What are we doing to correct these problems? The State is raising academic standards, increasing the capacity of schools to achieve excellence, and measuring results to make schools accountable.

To raise academic standards, we have established, through a public process, higher standards throughout the curriculum and aligned State assessments with those standards. We have raised the minimum competency requirements for high school graduation to ensure that all graduates are prepared to succeed in postsecondary education or gain skilled employment. We are implementing the strategies for ensuring that all students meet the new, higher standards recommended by the Regents Task Force on Closing the Performance Gap. We are making efforts to ensure that all students spend their required school time focusing productively on academic learning.

The Regents State Aid Proposal for 2007–08 will request the resources and funding system needed to provide adequate resources through a State and local partnership so that all students have the opportunity to achieve State learning standards. This is a multi-year proposal recommending transition to a foundation program based on the costs of successful educational programs.

We are increasing the capacity of schools to serve the needs of students with disabilities. The focus continues on reducing unnecessary referrals by enhancing early childhood programs and providing general classroom environments that support the special learning needs of students.

To prepare teachers for the new standards and assessments, we have enhanced staff development statewide and are implementing steps recommended by a Task Force on Teaching to assure that all teachers are prepared to assist all students in meeting the new academic standards. We require that all new teachers pass rigorous tests in the content areas they plan to teach. Based on the recommendations of a task force that reviewed the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), we are taking steps to improve the effectiveness of BOCES in preparing students for the challenges of the twenty-first century. Under regulations, teachers and parents are participating in school decisionmaking on such matters as scheduling, staffing, goal-setting, and allocating resources. We are linking educational institutions — schools, colleges, libraries, and museums — through telecommunication networks, so that working with the resources of these institutions will become a daily part of the curriculum for all students.

We have taken steps to require failing schools to reform, reorganize, or close and have amended the regulations that govern registration review to improve our capacity to identify and remedy low performance in schools. The Board of Regents adopted revisions to Commissioner's

Regulations regarding the State's system of accountability for student success to comply with the federal No Child Left Behind Act as an emergency measure in September 2006 to be proposed for confirmation in December 2006. These regulations represent a significant milestone in the evolution of the school accountability program in New York. The accountability program supports the efforts of the Regents to both improve student results and close the gap in student performance. We have implemented a system of school and BOCES reports designed to inform the public about student performance, student demographics, and other conditions of the school.

The Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education, and the State Education Department look forward to working collaboratively with the Governor, the Legislature, boards of education, school personnel, parents, and other interested citizens and students to make the promise of meeting higher standards a reality for all students.

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BOARD OF REGENTS – REPORT TO GOVERNOR, PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF SENATE AND SPEAKER OF ASSEMBLY – EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF STATE’S SCHOOLS

Memoranda relating to this chapter, see Legislative and Executive Memoranda, post

CHAPTER 655

Approved and effective Aug. 5, 1987

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to providing for the annual submission by the regents of the university of the state of New York to the governor and the legislature of a report on the educational status of the schools

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds that the state annually devotes extensive resources to education and that it is important to insure that such resources are spent effectively and efficiently. Accordingly, the legislature determines that the board of regents should submit to the governor, the president pro tem of the senate and the speaker of the assembly an annual report setting forth the educational status of the state’s schools. This report will assist the governor and legislature in assessing the efficacy of the many educational programs supported by the state.

§ 2. The education law is amended by adding a new section two hundred fifteen-a to read as follows:

§ 215-a. Annual report by regents to governor and legislature

The regents of the university of the state of New York shall prepare and submit to the governor, the temporary president [pro tem] of the senate, and the speaker of the assembly, not later than the first day of January, nineteen hundred eighty-nine, nineteen hundred and ninety and nineteen hundred ninety-one and the fifteenth day of February of each year thereafter, a report concerning the schools of the state which shall set forth with respect to the preceding school year: enrollment trends; indicators of student achievement in reading, writing, mathematics, science and vocational courses; graduation, college attendance and employment rates; such other indicators of student performance as the regents shall determine; information concerning teacher and administrator preparation, turnover, in-service education and performance; expenditure per pupil on regular education and expenditure per pupil on special education and such other information as requested by the governor, the temporary president [pro tem] of the senate, or the speaker of the assembly. To the extent practicable, all such information shall be displayed on both a state-wide and individual district basis and by racial/ethnic group and gender. The regents are authorized to require school districts, boards of cooperative educational services and nonpublic schools to provide such information as is necessary to prepare the report. In preparing the report, the regents shall consult with other interested parties, including local school districts, teachers’ and faculty organizations, school administrators, parents and students.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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NEW YORK: THE STATE OF LEARNING

A Report to the Governor and the Legislature
on the Educational Status of the State's Schools

October 2006 Edition

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Part I:

Overview

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1 Overview of the Report

In July 1996, the Board of Regents adopted standards that define what students should know and be able to do as they progress through grades K-12 in New York State schools. These higher standards are necessary to prepare our children to compete successfully in today's demanding global society. Under New York's revised learning standards, students will develop their problem-solving abilities and learn to think independently. Our children will be better equipped to use their knowledge of all subject areas to solve real-life problems and to handle real work situations. They will also be expected to become competent in the visual and performing arts.

These standards focus on seven curriculum areas: English language arts; mathematics, science and technology; social studies; languages other than English; the arts; health, physical education, and family and consumer sciences; and career development and occupational studies. All children are expected to acquire a working knowledge of each area and develop proficiency in applying that knowledge to meaningful tasks.

Defining higher standards is one step in the Regents strategy for raising standards for all students. The strategy includes three elements:

1. set clear, high expectations/standards for all students and develop an effective means of assessing student progress in meeting the standards;
2. build the capacity of schools and districts to enable all students to meet standards; and
3. use and expand the existing systems of public accountability for schools, based on student performance, and provide incentives for improving effectiveness and sanctions for low performance.

This strategy builds on the Regents previous school improvement initiatives: the 1984 *Action Plan to Improve Elementary and Secondary Education Results in New York* and *A New Compact for Learning*. The *Action Plan* raised graduation requirements for all students; the *Compact*, endorsed by educators, public officers, business leaders, parents, and students, provided a comprehensive plan for school reform in New York State.

New York State Education Department Mission

To raise the knowledge, skill, and opportunity of all the people in New York

Regents Goals

1. *All students will meet high standards for academic performance and personal behavior and demonstrate the knowledge and skills required by a dynamic world.*
2. *All educational institutions will meet Regents high performance standards.*
3. *The public will be served by qualified, ethical professionals who remain current with best practice in their fields and reflect the diversity of New York State.*
4. *Education, information, and cultural resources will be available and accessible to all people.*
5. *Resources under our care will be used or maintained in the public interest.*
6. *Our work environment will meet high standards.*

The Regents strategic plan, *Leadership and Learning*, establishes goals for the State of New York and strategies for implementing these goals. This report provides indicators of performance to inform us about our progress in achieving these goals.

This report, like previous reports, documents wide variations in student achievement among districts in New York State. These variations are associated with differences in the social and economic context within which districts operate. Inappropriate educational experiences in any one of the three domains contributing to education — school, family, and community — may result in a child being educationally disadvantaged. Five indicators, each associated with poor school performance, are useful for identifying students at risk of educational disadvantage: living in a poverty household, minority racial/ethnic group identity, living in a single-parent family, having a poorly educated mother, and having a non-English language background.¹

Not all students having one or more of these characteristics are educationally disadvantaged; many families provide supportive environments in the face of challenges. Many disadvantaged children, however, experience a mismatch between the skills they learn at home and in the community and the expectations of traditional schools. This mismatch places them at risk of school failure. When families are characterized by several indicators of educational disadvantage, their children's risk of school failure multiplies. Being born to a single

mother, minority parents, or undereducated parents, for example, substantially increases the likelihood that a child will live in poverty.² Further, poor and minority children too often experience low levels of school and community support for educational achievement and thus are placed at risk in all three domains.

The 2000 Census indicates that 32.7 percent of 5-to-17-year-olds spoke English less than “very well.” In 1999, 19.1 percent of 5-to-17-year-olds were in poverty status. Thirty-nine percent of families with a female householder with related children under 18 and no husband present were in poverty status.

Some districts have disproportionate numbers of children who are at risk of being educationally disadvantaged. These children are more likely than others to do poorly in school. This result, however, is not inevitable. All children can learn given appropriate instructional, social, and health services. The fact that so many children are not learning attests to the failure of one or more domains to provide essential services and experiences. Consequently, this report describes not only the differences among schools in student achievement but also differences in demographic characteristics (including the three indicators for which statistics are available) and in fiscal and personnel resources. These analyses reveal that those children who are most at risk of school failure receive fewer resources than their more advantaged peers.

¹ Aaron M. Pallas, Gary Natriello, and Edward L. McDill, “The Changing Nature of the Disadvantaged Population: Current Dimensions and Future Trends,” *Educational Researcher* 18 (June-July 1989): 16-22.

² Clifford M. Johnson, Andrew M. Sum, and James D. Weill, *Vanishing Dreams: The Economic Plight of America's Young Families* (Washington, D. C.: Children's Defense Fund, 1992).

2 Graduation Requirements

Since 1984, the Regents have acted four times to raise high school graduation requirements. In 1984, the Regents Action Plan increased course and testing requirements for both local and Regents-endorsed diplomas. Before this plan was enacted, Commissioner's Regulations required all students to demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics. Changes to Commissioner's Regulations in 1984 required all students also to demonstrate proficiency in global studies, U.S. history and government, and science. Beginning with the graduating class of 1989, students have been subject to the rigorous requirements of the Regents Action Plan for both local and Regents-endorsed diplomas.

In 1996, the Board of Regents acted to phase out the Regents competency tests (RCTs), alternatives to Regents examinations for demonstrating minimal competency. Beginning with students who entered ninth grade in 1996, all students not eligible for the RCT safety net described below needed to score 65 or higher, 55 or higher with local board of education approval, on the Regents comprehensive examination in English to earn a local diploma. Each successive class of ninth-graders was required to score 55 or higher on one or more additional Regents examinations. Students who entered ninth grade in 1999 were required to score 55 or higher on Regents examinations in five subject areas. To earn a Regents diploma, students who entered grade 9 prior to 2001 were required to score 65 or higher on a minimum of eight Regents examinations. (See the list in the accompanying table.) Beginning with the cohort of students who first entered grade 9 in 2001–02, to earn a Regents diploma, students are required to score 65 or higher on the five Regents examinations required for graduation.

In 1997, the Board of Regents established still more rigorous course requirements for students, beginning with those who entered ninth grade in the 2001–02 school year. The graduation requirements are outlined in the accompanying tables.

In June 2005, the Board of Regents approved a proposal to phase in the requirement that general-education students achieve a score of 65 or above on all five required Regents examinations. General-education students first entering grade 9 in 2005 must achieve a score of 65 or above on two of the five required Regents examinations and a score of 55 or above on the remaining three Regents examinations to receive a local diploma. Each succeeding group of students entering grade 9 must achieve a score of 65 or above on one more Regents examination, resulting in the group entering grade 9 in 2008 being required to achieve a score of 65 or above on all five required Regents examinations. Beginning with that cohort of students, the local diploma will not be an option for general-education students.

To provide additional time for districts to prepare students with disabilities to meet the higher graduation standards, the Regents have adopted a safety net for these students. The RCT safety net requires that eligible students prepare for and take five Regents examinations but allows those unable to pass one or more Regents examinations to earn a local diploma by passing the corresponding RCT(s). The RCT safety net is available to eligible students entering grade 9 from September 1996 through September 2009.

New York State High School Graduation Requirements

Course Requirements

Subject Areas	Students Entering Grade 9 Prior to September 2001		Students Entering Grade 9 in September 2001 and Thereafter	
	Local Diploma	Regents Diploma	Regents Diploma	Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation
English	4	4	4	4
Social Studies	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	2	2	3	3
Science	2	2	3	3
Second Language	0	3 ²	1	3 ³
Arts	1	1	1	1
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Physical Education	2	2	2	2
Units in Core	15.5 ¹	18.5 ¹	18.5	20.5
Total Units Required	20.5	20.5	22	22

¹ Students must also complete a three-unit sequence in two of the following areas: career and technical education, mathematics, science, the arts, or a second language. As an alternative to completing two three-unit sequences, students may complete one five-unit sequence in any of the above areas or one three-unit sequence and a fifth unit of English or social studies.

² Students completing a sequence of not less than five units of credit in career and technical education or the arts may substitute another three-unit or five-unit sequence in place of the three units in a second language.

³ To earn the advanced designation, students must complete one of the following: three units of credit in a second language; or five units of credit in career and technical education plus one unit of credit in a second language; or five units of credit in the arts plus one unit of credit in a second language.

Testing Requirements

Students Entering Grade 9:	Prior to 2010	Prior to 2005	Prior to 2001	2001 and Thereafter	2001 and Thereafter
Type of Diploma:	Local Diploma ⁴	Local Diploma ⁵	Regents Diploma	Regents Diploma	Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation
Score Range Student Must Achieve:	Pass	55–64	65–100	65–100	65–100
Examinations:	RCT Reading & RCT Writing	Regents English	Regents English	Regents English	Regents English
	RCT Mathematics	One Regents Mathematics	Two Regents Mathematics	One Regents Mathematics	Two Regents Mathematics
	RCT Science	One Regents Science	Two Regents Science	One Regents Science	Two Regents Science
	RCT Global Studies	Regents Global History & Geography	Regents Global History & Geography	Regents Global History & Geography	Regents Global History & Geography
	RCT U.S. History & Government	Regents U.S. History & Government	Regents U.S. History & Government	Regents U.S. History & Government	Regents U.S. History & Government
			Regents Second Language ⁶		Regents Second Language ⁶

⁴ The option of using RCTs to fulfill the testing requirement for a local diploma is only available to students with disabilities who have taken and failed the relevant Regents examination at least once.

⁵ Students who enter grade 9 prior to 2005 may fulfill the testing requirement for a local diploma by scoring 55–64 on Regents examinations, but only if this option is approved by the district board of education. Students with disabilities who enter grade 9 in 2005 and thereafter may fulfill the testing requirement for a local diploma by scoring 55–64 on Regents examinations without the requirement of approval by the district board of education.

⁶ Students completing a five-unit sequence in career and technical education or in the arts, in addition to another three-unit sequence, do not have to meet this testing requirement.

3 Overview of State Testing Program

In New York State, the primary measures of student and school performance in the elementary and middle grades in 2003–04 were the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) in English language arts and mathematics, the grades 4 and 8 science tests, and the grades 5 and 8 social studies tests. The Regents examinations and the Regents competency tests (RCTs) are the primary measures in the secondary grades. This section describes these examination programs. Performance in these programs is discussed in the remaining chapters.

New York State Testing Program

Elementary- and Middle-Level English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments

In the 1998–99 school year, new English language arts (ELA) and mathematics tests, reflecting the elementary- and middle-level learning standards, were administered for the first time. These tests, which are administered in grades 4 and 8, assess a broad range of achievement levels from severely deficient to advanced. They provide a standardized measure to assess whether students are proficient in the standards for their grade level. Commissioner’s Regulations require that schools evaluate students scoring at Level 1 or 2 to determine whether academic intervention services are required.

Performance on these criterion-referenced tests is measured on equal-interval scales, each covering 300 to 365 points. Each scale is divided into four performance levels. The scale score ranges associated with each performance level are shown below. Students scoring at Level 1, the lowest, have serious academic deficiencies and show little or no proficiency in the standards for their grade level. Students at this level need extensive academic intervention services to reach the standards. Students at Level 2 show some knowledge and skill in each of the required standards for elementary- or middle-level students but need extra help to reach all of the standards and pass the Regents examinations. Students at Level 3 meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination in the assessed area. Students at Level 4, the highest level, exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.

Elementary- and Middle-Level Science and Social Studies Tests

The Regents Action Plan mandated the creation of tests to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs in elementary-level science and elementary- and middle-level social studies. While the program evaluation tests were designed to evaluate programs, performance on them depended on student ability and motivation as well as program effectiveness. The elementary-level program evaluation test in social studies was administered for the first time in May 1987; the other

2004–05 Scale Score Ranges for Performance Levels New York State Assessment Program

Assessment	Scale Score Ranges			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Elementary-Level ELA	455–602	603–644	645–691	692–800
Elementary-Level Mathematics	448–601	602–636	637–677	678–810
Middle-Level ELA	527–657	658–696	697–736	737–830
Middle-Level Mathematics	517–680	681–715	716–759	760–882

two program evaluation tests were introduced in May 1989. Since scores were used to evaluate programs rather than to identify students in need of academic intervention services, no State reference points were established.

Elementary- and middle-level tests have been revised to reflect the new standards in science and social studies. The grade 8 science and social studies tests were administered for the first time in Spring 2001. The grade 5 social studies test was administered for the first time in November 2001; the grade 4 test in May 2004. These tests are designed to determine whether individual students have achieved the standards expected in these curricular areas. Schools must provide academic intervention services to students scoring below the required level on any of these tests to ensure that they reach the graduation standards.

Regents Examinations

For more than a century, Regents examinations have been an important component of high school education in New York State. In 2004–05, the Regents examinations were provided in 15 subjects, and more than 1.5 million examinations are administered annually.

Regents examinations serve several purposes: chief among them are to measure the commencement-level standards established by the Regents and to motivate student achievement. Each examination is based on a State syllabus or core curriculum. Caution must be exercised in assessing year-to-year changes in examination results, because their content changes periodically as new course syllabi are developed and approved. The difficulty of examinations is maintained at a constant level by pretesting and field testing items, equating forms, and standard setting.

Student success on the Regents examinations is an important indicator of secondary school quality. In 1996, the Regents acted to raise standards by phasing in requirements that students demonstrate proficiency for graduation by passing Regents examinations rather than the less rigorous RCTs.

Phasing out the RCTs shifts the attention and effort of students to the Regents examinations and the higher standards that they measure.

Schools vary both in the percentage of their student enrollment who participate in Regents examinations and in the percentage of tested students who pass. Regents examination performance is reported in two ways. Performance on the Regents examinations in English, mathematics, U.S. history and government, global history and geography, and science, which are required for graduation by students who first entered grade 9 in 2000, is reported as a percentage of students tested. Regents English and mathematics examination results are also presented as a percentage of the 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 cohorts. Performance on Regents examinations in global history and geography and U. S. history and government is reported as a percentage of the 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 cohorts; performance on Regents examinations in science is reported as a percentage of the 1999, 2000, and 2001 cohorts.

Regents Competency Tests

Revisions to the Commissioner’s Regulations that went into effect in 1984 required that all students demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, mathematics, science, global studies, and U.S. history and government to fulfill the testing requirement for a local diploma. (Before this plan was enacted, Commissioner’s Regulations required all students to demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics only.) The Regents competency tests (RCTs) were established as a mechanism for students not participating in Regents courses and examinations to demonstrate competency through criterion-referenced tests. The current Commissioner’s Regulations do not permit general-education students to use RCTs to satisfy diploma requirements.

Students with disabilities who enter ninth grade prior to September 2010 may continue to use RCTs to demonstrate competency but only if they fail the required corresponding Regents examination.

4 Organization of the Report

This report is organized in two volumes, the *Statewide Profile of the Educational System* and the *Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts*. The *Statewide Profile* is organized primarily by content area (listed in the Table of Contents on page xi).

Summary Groups

The *Statewide Profile* provides summary information for the State as a whole, for schools in the public and nonpublic sectors, and for major groups of public schools. Within the public sector, these groups are:

- New York City public schools;
- Large City Districts (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers); and
- Districts Excluding the Big 5 (districts outside New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers).

In some cases, only two groups are used:

- New York City; and
- Rest of State Districts (the State excluding New York City).

These groups of schools are diverse in terms of student and teacher demographics, resources, and performance. Smaller, more homogeneous groups of schools best illustrate the relationships that exist among poverty, minority status, resources, and performance. For this purpose, two additional methods of classifying public schools (by need/resource capacity and by minority composition or race/ethnicity) and two additional methods of classifying nonpublic schools (New York City and the rest of the State, excluding New York City) are used in the report.

Need/Resource Capacity Categories. The need/resource capacity index was developed by assessing each school district's special student needs and ability to provide resources relative to the State average. This classification scheme more clearly indicates where in the State system some children are failing because they have not been provided the resources necessary to succeed. In particular, it recognizes that certain districts in addition to the Big 5 — whether small city, suburban, or rural — serve extraordinarily large numbers of educationally disadvantaged children who have not been given full opportunity to learn and succeed. Definitions of, and information about, need/resource capacity categories are found in *Part IV: Student Needs and School Resources*.

Minority Composition Categories. Chapter 655 legislation mandates that data in this report be aggregated by race/ethnicity when possible. Where data by racial/ethnic group are not available, such as attendance and teacher data, schools are classified based on the percentage of minority students enrolled. This classification scheme is useful for illustrating disparities between low- and high-minority schools in student family income and school resources. Performance, dropout, and graduation data are available by race/ethnicity.

These classification schemes — minority composition category and need/resource capacity category — form groups of similar public schools to illustrate the relationships among demographics, resources, and performance. Other methods of classifying schools (poverty status and attendance rate) and students (race/ethnicity and gender) are used, as necessary, to illuminate the relationships between these factors and performance or resources.

Nonpublic Schools. Information on nonpublic schools statewide can be found in *Part VII: Nonpublic Schools*. Available data for nonpublic schools are reported aggregated to the State level, and for New York City nonpublic schools and nonpublic schools outside New York City. Statistics on nonpublic schools are available for enrollment, student demographic characteristics (such as racial/ethnic group enrollment and poverty), performance, and high school completion.

Schools Under Registration Review. Data are provided in the *Statewide Profile* for one additional group of public schools: Schools Under Registration Review (SURR) during the 2004–05 school year. Beginning in 1996–97, schools farthest from State performance standards were identified for registration review if they were determined to be most in need of improvement. Accountability standards under SURR are in English language arts and mathematics. Appendix B provides statistics on SURR schools comparable to those for all public schools.

School District Data

Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts (the second volume) reports a wide range of data for each of the State’s public school districts. The *Statistical Profiles* begins with a glossary that defines the measures presented and refers readers to the chapter in the *Statewide Profile* where additional information on each data element can be found.

In the 2006 report, the district data are organized into 17 tables. Table 1 reports enrollment; student demographics; attendance, dropout, and suspension rates; college-going rate; and student/staff ratios. Table 2 presents school finance data, including district expenditures for general and special education. Table 3 reports data on class size

and teacher characteristics. Table 4 presents information on special-education classification, placement, and exiting status. Table 5 presents performance on the State elementary- and middle-level English language arts and mathematics assessments. Table 6 reports performance on the State assessments in elementary- and middle-level science. Table 7 reports performance on the State assessments in elementary- and middle-level social studies and Regents diploma data. Tables 8 through 12 report Regents examination performance. Table 13 presents 2001 cohort data for the Regents English and mathematics examinations results. Table 14 presents 2001 cohort data for the Regents examinations in global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and science. Table 15 reports results on Regents competency tests. Table 16 presents results on second language proficiency examinations and the Introduction to Occupations examination. Finally, Table 17 provides information on the universal prekindergarten program. For the reader’s convenience, summary tables (beginning on page 1) report aggregate statistics for each measure for all public schools, for each public school need/resource capacity category, for all nonpublic schools, and for all schools (public and nonpublic) combined. These summary data are provided for the school years 2002–03 to 2004–05.

For the convenience of districts and organizations that would like to perform statistical analyses, the district-level data in the 17 tables are available on CD-ROM. For the benefit of analysts, a glossary is provided with the files. Information about obtaining these files can be obtained by calling (518) 474-7965. These data and comparable school-level data can also be viewed on or downloaded from the Department’s Information and Reporting Services Web site: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/irts>.

Part II:

Accountability System

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1 New York State Accountability System 13

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3 School Accountability 23

☆ Highlights

- ☆ *Sixty-nine percent of districts made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on every accountability measure in 2004–05.*
- ☆ *Over three-fourths of schools made AYP in every measure for which they were accountable.*
- ☆ *In general, the largest numbers of districts and schools were accountable for the following accountability groups: all students, White students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities.*
- ☆ *In the majority of districts that did not make AYP on elementary-, middle-, and secondary-level accountability measures, the students with disabilities group did not make AYP.*
- ☆ *Most schools (48.5 to 69.9 percent) that did not make AYP failed for more than one accountability group.*
- ☆ *Relatively few schools failed to make AYP in English language arts or mathematics at the elementary level — 8.8 percent in English language arts (ELA) and 2.5 percent in mathematics.*
- ☆ *In nearly two-thirds of schools that did not make AYP at the secondary level, the all students group did not make AYP.*
- ☆ *At the middle level, in about two-thirds of schools that did not make AYP, the students with disabilities group did not make AYP.*
- ☆ *At all grade levels, the accountability groups that were most likely to not make AYP were students with disabilities and limited English proficient students.*

1 New York State Accountability System

New York State has established a unified system of accountability, consistent with the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, that applies to all public school districts (including Special Act Districts) and public schools (including charter schools) and includes all students educated in these institutions. Through the 2004–05 school year, New York State’s accountability system used the following measures to determine if districts and schools have made Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP): English language arts (ELA) and mathematics at the elementary, middle, and secondary levels; science at the elementary and middle levels; and graduation rate at the secondary level.

Districts and schools are responsible for the AYP of students in the following accountability groups, assuming sufficient enrollment in the group:

- all students,
- students with disabilities,
- limited English proficient students,
- economically disadvantaged students,
- American Indian students,
- Asian students,
- Black students,
- Hispanic students, and
- White students.

The failure of one group to make AYP on an ELA or mathematics accountability measure means that the district or school does not make AYP on that measure.

At the elementary and middle levels, districts and schools must meet two requirements to make AYP in ELA and mathematics:

- they are required to test 95 percent of enrolled students in each accountability group with 40 or more students; *and*
- the performance of each group with 30 or

more continuously enrolled students must meet or exceed its Effective Annual Measurable Objective (Effective AMO) or the group must make “safe harbor.”

At the secondary level, in 2002–03, districts and schools had to meet only the performance requirement, not the participation requirement, to make AYP in ELA and mathematics. Beginning in 2003–04, districts and schools also had to meet the participation requirement at the secondary level. Ninety-five percent of grade 12 students in each accountability group with 40 or more students must take an applicable test.

NCLB requires that each State use graduation rate as the third indicator at the secondary level and select a third indicator at the elementary and middle levels. New York has selected science as its third indicator at the elementary and middle levels.

To make AYP in science in 2004–05, only the all students group was required to meet the performance requirement; there was no participation requirement. To make AYP on graduation rate, the all students group must achieve a graduation rate of at least 55 percent or improve by one percentage point over its previous year’s performance.

The State has established Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for ELA and mathematics at each grade level. The AMOs increase annually, beginning in 2004–05, in equal increments until reaching the goal of 100 percent student proficiency in 2013–14. Recognizing that the annual performance data for relatively small groups of students are not statistically reliable, the State has established Effective AMOs based on the number of students in a measured group. The Effective AMO is the lowest Performance Index (PI) that an accountability group of a given size can achieve on an accountability measure for the group’s PI not to be considered significantly different from the AMO.

If an accountability group achieves its Effective AMO, it is considered to have made AYP, as long as the participation requirement, if applicable, has been met. The State has established standards on the third indicators, elementary- and middle-level science and high school graduation rate, that districts and schools must meet to make AYP.

An accountability group whose performance in ELA and mathematics does not equal or exceed its Effective AMO in a subject can make “safe harbor” if its performance improves by a specified amount over its previous year’s performance and if its performance on the third indicator equals or exceeds the State standard or improves by 1.0 percentage point on graduation rate and one point on science over the previous year.

If a school does not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same grade and subject, it is designated as a School Requiring Academic Progress (SRAP) under the State system. For a district to be designated as requiring academic progress (DRAP), it must fail to make AYP at all grade levels in the same subject for two consecutive years. If the district or school received federal Title I funding during those two years, it is also designated as a District or School in Need of

Improvement. In each future year that the school fails to make AYP in that grade and subject or the district fails to make AYP at all grade levels in that subject, it moves to the next highest status on the continuum (e.g., SRAP (Year 2), SRAP (Year 3), etc.). If the district or school receives Title I funding in that year, it also advances one step on the federal improvement continuum. Table 2.1 shows the federal and State school and district improvement continua. The first year that a school in improvement status on an accountability measure makes AYP on that measure or a district makes AYP at one or more grade levels in a subject, it remains at the same place on the continuum. If a school or district meets this criterion for two consecutive years, it is designated to be in good standing on that measure.

<p style="text-align: center;">TABLE 2.1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FEDERAL AND STATE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT CONTINUA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 15</p>
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**Table 2.1
Federal and State School and District Improvement Continua**

Federal School Improvement Continuum

Years of Failure Under Title I to Make AYP in Subject and Grade	Status
1	Good Standing
2*	School in Need of Improvement (SINI) — Year 1
3	School in Need of Improvement (SINI) — Year 2
4	Corrective Action
5	Planning for Restructuring
6	Restructuring

Federal District Improvement Continuum

Years of Failure Under Title I to Make AYP in Subject at All Grade Levels	Status
1	Good Standing
2**	District in Need of Improvement (DINI) — Year 1
3	District in Need of Improvement (DINI) — Year 2
4	Corrective Action
5	Planning for Restructuring
6	Restructuring

State School Improvement Continuum

Years of Failure to Make AYP in Subject and Grade	Status
1	Good Standing
2*	School Requiring Academic Progress (SRAP) — Year 1
3	School Requiring Academic Progress (SRAP) — Year 2
4	School Requiring Academic Progress (SRAP) — Year 3
5	School Requiring Academic Progress (SRAP) — Year 4
6	School Requiring Academic Progress (SRAP) — Year 5

State District Improvement Continuum

Years of Failure to Make AYP in Subject and at All Grade Levels	Status
1	Good Standing
2**	District Requiring Academic Progress (DRAP) — Year 1
3	District Requiring Academic Progress (DRAP) — Year 2
4	District Requiring Academic Progress (DRAP) — Year 3
5	District Requiring Academic Progress (DRAP) — Year 4
6	District Requiring Academic Progress (DRAP) — Year 5

*A school must fail to make AYP in a subject and grade for two consecutive years to be placed in improvement status. A school that makes AYP for two consecutive years in the subject and grade for which they are identified is removed from improvement status.

**A district must fail to make AYP in a subject in all grade levels for two consecutive years to be placed in improvement status. A district that makes AYP for two consecutive years at any grade level in a subject for which they are identified is removed from improvement status.

2 District Accountability

District-Level Analysis of Making AYP by Accountability Group

Sixty-nine percent of public school districts made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on all district-level accountability measures in 2004–05. Districts were most likely to make AYP at the elementary level; 87.2 percent did so. Districts were more likely to make AYP at the middle level (81.3 percent) than at the secondary level (72.8 percent) (Figure 2.1). This pattern of performance is similar to that in 2003–04. Note that beginning with the 2003–04 results, districts are not placed in improvement status unless they have failed for two consecutive years to make AYP in a subject at every applicable grade level. Nonetheless, the analyses in this section are based on the performance of districts by subject and grade.

The percentages of districts by level that did not make AYP in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and graduation rate are shown in Figures 2.2 through 2.4. Performance was the greatest cause of not making AYP in elementary- and middle-level ELA and mathematics. Over 10 percent of districts failed to make AYP at the elementary level in ELA and 1.4 percent failed to make AYP in mathematics because of performance. At the middle level, nearly 13 percent of districts failed to make AYP in ELA and mathematics because of performance. At the secondary level, the percentage of districts failing to make AYP for participation rate and performance was similar: 15.2 percent for participation rate and 15.9 percent for performance in ELA, and 14.2 percent for participation rate and 14.0 percent for performance in mathematics. Many districts that failed the participation requirement also failed the performance criteria.

Figure 2.1
Percentage of Districts That Made AYP in All Subjects by Level 2003–04 and 2004–05

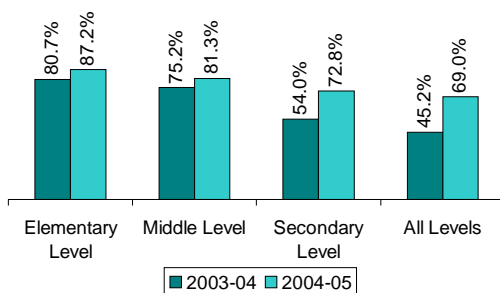


Figure 2.3
Percentage of Districts That Failed to Make AYP at the Middle Level by Subject 2004–05

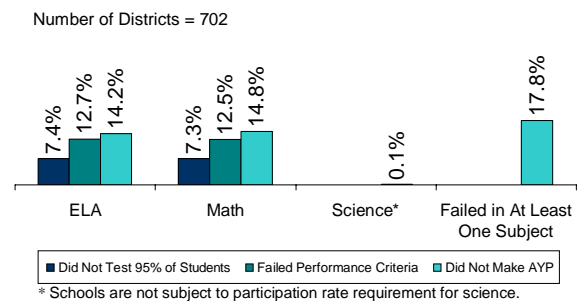


Figure 2.2
Percentage of Districts That Failed to Make AYP at the Elementary Level by Subject 2004–05

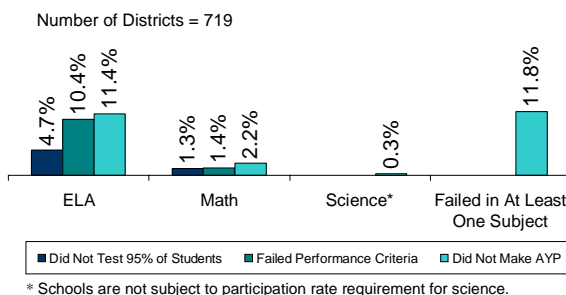
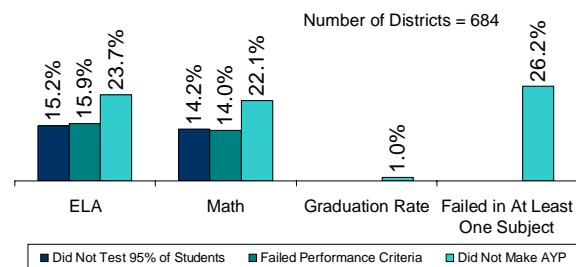
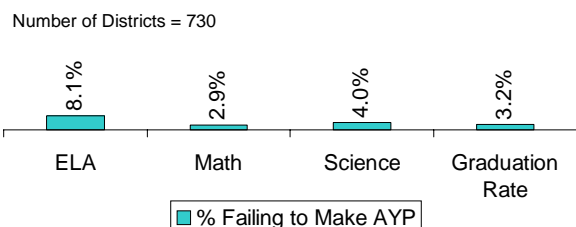


Figure 2.4
Percentage of Districts That Failed to Make AYP at the Secondary Level by Subject/Indicator 2004–05



Beginning with the 2003–04 school year, districts moved along the district improvement continuum only if they did not make AYP at every applicable grade level in a subject (Table 2.1). In every subject area, over 90 percent of districts made AYP in 2004–05 at one or more grade levels (Figure 2.5).

Figure 2.5
Percentage of Districts That Failed to Make AYP
in a Subject at All Grade Levels
2004–05



The discrepancies among grade levels in the percentages of districts not making AYP can be accounted for by two factors: the varying performance of students on the State assessments used for accountability and the average number of groups for which districts at a level were accountable. At the elementary, middle, and secondary levels, the groups for which districts most typically were accountable were all students, White students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities (Tables 2.2–2.7). On each accountability measure, less than one-fifth of districts were accountable for the remaining groups. Districts were accountable for fewer groups at the secondary level than at the elementary or middle level because many districts failed to identify secondary-level students as economically disadvantaged. While more than 45 percent of districts had 30 or more economically disadvantaged students at the elementary and middle levels, only 26.5 percent did so at the secondary level.

Some districts did not make AYP on an accountability measure even though every school in the district made AYP on all accountability measures. This situation occurred when the district had 30 students in a group, but the individual schools did not. The aggregate district enrollment was sufficient to form an accountability group. This situation also occurred when the performance of students placed out of district pulled the district performance below the required level.

TABLE 2.2

DISTRICTS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN ELEMENTARY-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05

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TABLE 2.3

DISTRICTS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN ELEMENTARY-LEVEL MATHEMATICS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05

PAGE 20

TABLE 2.4

DISTRICTS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN MIDDLE-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05

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TABLE 2.5

DISTRICTS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN MIDDLE-LEVEL MATHEMATICS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05

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TABLE 2.6

**DISTRICTS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE
YEARLY PROGRESS IN SECONDARY-
LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY
ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004-05**

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TABLE 2.7

**DISTRICTS FAILING TO MAKE
ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN
SECONDARY-LEVEL MATHEMATICS BY
ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004-05**

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The majority of districts that did not make AYP at the elementary level failed for only one accountability group. No district failed for the all students group at the elementary level in ELA or mathematics. At the middle level, 40.0 percent of the 100 districts not making AYP in ELA and 60.6 percent of 104 districts not making AYP in mathematics failed for one group only. The pattern was different at the secondary level: approximately one-third of districts not making AYP failed for only one group. The all students group in 90 districts did not make AYP in ELA. Of those, only 5 did not have another group that did not make AYP. Similarly, the all students group in 78 districts did not make AYP in mathematics; 7 failed only for the all students group.

If a district failed for only one accountability group, that accountability group was most likely to be students with disabilities. The number of districts where only students with disabilities did not make AYP ranged from 13 districts (81.3 percent of failing districts) in elementary-level mathematics to 55 districts (52.9 percent) in middle-level mathematics. Among districts that did not make AYP, the percentage in which students with disabilities did not make AYP ranged from 59.6 percent in secondary-level mathematics to 89.4 percent in middle-level mathematics.

The number of districts accountable for students with disabilities on each accountability measure ranged from 189 (secondary-level ELA and mathematics) to 258 (middle-level ELA). The number of districts failing to make AYP for the students with disabilities group ranged from 14 (1.9 percent of all districts) in elementary-level mathematics to 97 districts (14.2 percent) in secondary-level ELA. In districts that were accountable for students with disabilities, 6.6 percent (elementary-level mathematics) to 51.3 percent (secondary-level ELA) failed to make AYP for that group.

Of districts failing to make AYP in elementary-level mathematics, 81.3 percent failed solely for the students with disabilities group. This represented the highest percentage of districts failing to make AYP on an accountability measure because of a single accountability group.

The number of districts accountable for limited English proficient (LEP) students ranged from 46 (secondary-level ELA and mathematics) to 59 (elementary-level ELA and mathematics). In districts that were accountable for LEP students, 3.4 percent (elementary-level mathematics) to 69.6 percent (secondary-level ELA) failed to make AYP for the LEP group. Because so few districts were accountable for LEP students, the number of districts failing to make AYP for this group ranged from two (0.3 percent of all districts) in elementary-level mathematics to 41 (5.7 percent of all districts) in elementary-level ELA. No district in which the LEP group did not make AYP in secondary-level mathematics failed for the LEP group only. The largest number of districts that did not make AYP only because LEP students failed to make AYP was 14 districts in elementary-level ELA.

Because more districts were accountable for the students with disabilities group than the LEP group, students with disabilities accounted for more districts not making AYP than the LEP group accounted for. In all but elementary-level mathematics, the LEP group was more likely to not make AYP than the students with disabilities group. For example,

69.5 percent of districts that were accountable for LEP students, compared with 29.2 percent that were accountable for students with disabilities, failed to make AYP in elementary-level ELA. Note that LEP students in grades 4 and 8 who met certain criteria could use the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test as their progress measure in ELA. Further, translations of mathematics accountability assessments are available in five languages.

The same performance gaps among racial/ethnic groups on State assessments occurred among racial/ethnic accountability groups. The majority of districts were accountable for White students.

The percentage of district failing for that group was greatest at the secondary level, where 8.3 percent did not make AYP in mathematics and 8.9 percent did not make AYP in ELA. A great majority of districts made AYP for the Black and Hispanic accountability groups at all grade levels, but the percentage failing increased at each grade level until more than 30 percent of Black and Hispanic groups did not make AYP in ELA at the secondary level: 29.0 percent of Black groups and 37.2 percent of Hispanic groups did not make AYP in mathematics. Nevertheless, in each subject seven percent or fewer of all districts with secondary-level schools failed to make AYP because of the Black or Hispanic accountability groups.

Table 2.2
Districts Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Elementary-Level
English Language Arts by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Districts	719	
Made AYP	629	87.5%
Failed AYP	82	11.4%
Other	8	1.1%

“Other” includes districts with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Districts with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Districts as Percent of Districts with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Districts as Percent of All Districts (b/719)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Districts (b/82)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Districts (c/82)		
All Students	688	5	6.1%	0	0.0%	0.7%	0.7%
Students with Disabilities	216	63	76.8	34	41.5	29.2	8.8
Limited English Proficient	59	41	50.0	14	17.1	69.5	5.7
Economically Disadvantaged	330	11	13.4	3	3.7	3.3	1.5
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	58	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	108	3	3.7	0	0.0	2.8	0.4
Hispanic	118	11	13.4	0	0.0	9.3	1.5
White	663	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percentage of Districts Failing for One Group Only					62.3%		

Table 2.3
Districts Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Elementary-Level
Mathematics by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Districts	719	
Made AYP	696	96.8%
Failed AYP	16	2.2%
Other	7	1.0%

“Other” includes districts with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Districts with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Districts as Percent of Districts with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Districts as Percent of All Districts (b/719)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Districts (b/16)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Districts (c/16)		
All Students	689	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Students with Disabilities	213	14	87.5	13	81.3	6.6	1.9
Limited English Proficient	59	2	12.5	1	6.3	3.4	0.3
Economically Disadvantaged	327	1	6.3	0	0.0	0.3	0.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	58	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	108	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hispanic	116	1	6.3	0	0.0	0.9	0.1
White	664	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percentage of Districts Failing for One Group Only					87.6%		

Table 2.4
Districts Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Middle-Level English Language Arts by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Districts	702	
Made AYP	596	84.9%
Failed AYP	100	14.2%
Other	6	0.9%

“Other” includes districts with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Districts with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Districts as Percent of Districts with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Districts as Percent of All Districts (b/702)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Districts (b/100)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Districts (c/100)		
All Students	685	22	22.0%	0	0.0%	3.2%	3.1%
Students with Disabilities	258	81	81.0	29	29.0	31.4	11.5
Limited English Proficient	51	33	33.0	3	3.0	64.7	4.7
Economically Disadvantaged	339	43	43.0	8	8.0	12.7	6.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6	1	1.0	0	0.0	16.7	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	55	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	113	26	26.0	1	1.0	23.0	3.7
Hispanic	118	24	24.0	0	0.0	20.3	3.4
White	652	5	5.0	0	0.0	0.8	0.7
Percentage of Districts Failing for One Group Only					40.0%		

Table 2.5
Districts Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Middle-Level Mathematics by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Districts	702	
Made AYP	589	83.9%
Failed AYP	104	14.8%
Other	9	1.3%

“Other” includes districts with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Districts with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Districts as Percent of Districts with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Districts as Percent of All Districts (b/702)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Districts (b/104)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Districts (c/104)		
All Students	682	13	12.5%	0	0.0%	1.9%	1.9%
Students with Disabilities	254	93	89.4	55	52.9	36.6	13.2
Limited English Proficient	51	25	24.0	2	1.9	49.0	3.6
Economically Disadvantaged	326	17	16.3	4	3.8	5.2	2.4
American Indian/Alaskan Native	5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	56	1	1.0	1	1.0	1.8	0.1
Black	111	15	14.4	0	0.0	13.5	2.1
Hispanic	118	6	5.8	1	1.0	5.1	0.9
White	652	5	4.8	0	0.0	0.8	0.7
Percentage of Districts Failing for One Group Only					60.6%		

Table 2.6
Districts Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Secondary-Level
English Language Arts by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Districts	684	
Made AYP	513	75.0%
Failed AYP	162	23.7%
Other	9	1.3%

“Other” includes districts with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Districts with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Districts as Percent of Districts with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Districts as Percent of All Districts (b/684)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Districts (b/162)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Districts (c/162)		
All Students	668	90	55.6%	5	3.1%	13.5%	13.2%
Students with Disabilities	189	97	59.9	32	19.8	51.3	14.2
Limited English Proficient	46	32	19.8	2	1.2	69.6	4.7
Economically Disadvantaged	181	60	37.0	7	4.3	33.1	8.8
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	1	0.6	0	0.0	33.3	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	47	4	2.5	0	0.0	8.5	0.6
Black	93	34	21.0	0	0.0	36.6	5.0
Hispanic	94	46	28.4	1	0.6	48.9	6.7
White	639	61	37.7	1	0.6	9.5	8.9
Percentage of Districts Failing for One Group Only					29.6%		

Table 2.7
Districts Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Secondary-Level
Mathematics by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Districts	684	
Made AYP	524	76.6%
Failed AYP	151	22.1%
Other	9	1.3%

“Other” includes districts with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Districts with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Districts as Percent of Districts with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Districts as Percent of All Districts (b/684)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Districts (b/151)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Districts (c/151)		
All Students	668	78	51.7%	7	4.6%	11.7%	11.4%
Students with Disabilities	189	90	59.6	30	19.9	47.6	13.2
Limited English Proficient	46	25	16.6	0	0.0	54.3	3.7
Economically Disadvantaged	181	48	31.8	4	2.6	26.5	7.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	47	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	93	27	17.9	0	0.0	29.0	3.9
Hispanic	94	35	23.2	3	2.0	37.2	5.1
White	639	57	37.7	3	2.0	8.9	8.3
Percentage of Districts Failing for One Group Only					31.1%		

3 School Accountability

School-Level Analysis of Making AYP by Accountability Group

Nearly 82 percent of public schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all subjects and grade levels in 2004–05. Elementary schools were most likely to make AYP; 90.0 percent did so in both 2003–04 and 2004–05. Middle schools were more likely (76.0 percent) than secondary schools (74.7 percent) to make AYP (Figure 2.6). Middle and secondary schools were more likely to make AYP in 2004–05 than in 2003–04.

Figure 2.6
Percentage of Schools That Made AYP in All Subjects by Level 2003–04 and 2004–05

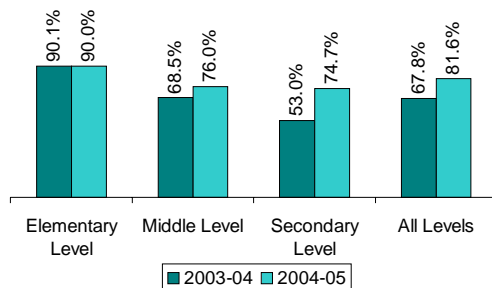
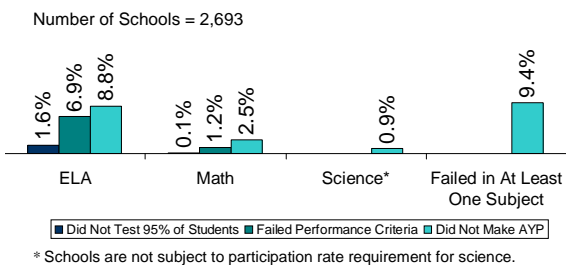


Figure 2.7
Percentage of Schools That Failed to Make AYP at the Elementary Level by Subject 2004–05



The percentage of schools by level that failed to make AYP in English language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and graduation rate are shown in Figures 2.7 through 2.9. Middle- and secondary-level schools were more likely than elementary-level schools to fail the participation rate requirement. At the elementary level, fewer than two percent of schools did not make AYP because of participation rate. At the middle level, 8.6 percent of schools failed the participation requirement in ELA and 6.3 percent of schools failed the participation rate requirement in mathematics. At the secondary level, 8.3 percent of schools failed the participation requirement in ELA and 7.8 percent of schools failed the participation requirement in mathematics. Many schools that failed the participation requirement also failed the performance criteria.

Figure 2.8
Percentage of Schools That Failed to Make AYP at the Middle Level by Subject 2004–05

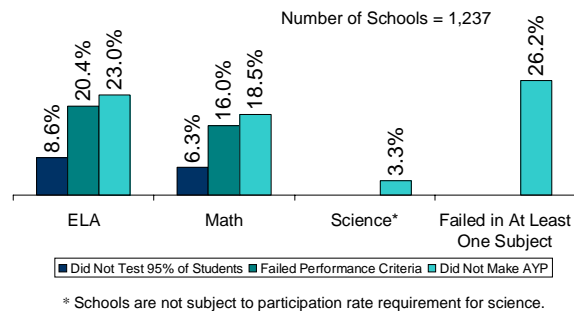
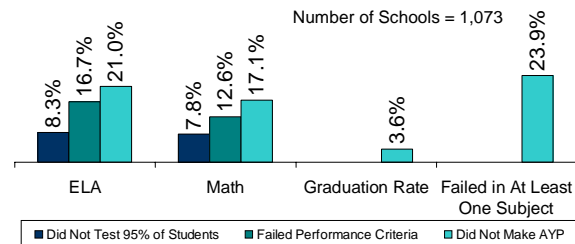


Figure 2.9
Percentage of Schools That Failed to Make AYP at the Secondary Level by Subject/Indicator



The discrepancies among grade levels in the percentages of schools not making AYP can be accounted for by two factors: the varying performance of students on the State assessments used for accountability and the average number of groups for which schools at a level were accountable. At all grade levels, the groups for which schools most typically were accountable were all students, White students, and economically disadvantaged students (Tables 2.8–2.13). Nearly one-third of middle-level schools, but only 16.9 percent of secondary-level schools and 2.1 percent of elementary-level schools, were accountable for students with disabilities. From 16.2 to 28.9 percent of schools were accountable for Black and Hispanic groups. Less than 11 percent of schools were accountable for Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and LEP groups. A smaller percentage of secondary schools than elementary and middle schools were accountable for economically disadvantaged students. This is consistent with the fact that, in general, secondary-level schools have fewer applicants for free- and reduced-price lunches than elementary schools.

Most schools (48.5 to 69.9 percent) that did not make AYP failed for more than one accountability group. Almost 70 percent of secondary schools not making AYP in ELA had at least two groups that did not make AYP. In comparison, over 48 percent of middle-level schools that did not make

AYP in mathematics had at least two groups that did not make AYP.

In middle- and secondary-level ELA and mathematics, if a school failed for only one accountability group, that accountability group was most likely to be students with disabilities. The percentage of failing schools in which only the students with disabilities group did not make AYP ranged from 16.4 percent in secondary-level ELA to 39.7 percent in middle-level mathematics. If an elementary school failed ELA for only one group, that group was most likely to be the limited English proficient group (18.5 percent). More schools failed elementary-level ELA

<p>TABLE 2.8</p> <p>SCHOOLS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN ELEMENTARY-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05</p> <p>PAGE 26</p>

<p>TABLE 2.9</p> <p>SCHOOLS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN ELEMENTARY-LEVEL MATHEMATICS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05</p> <p>PAGE 26</p>

<p>TABLE 2.10</p> <p>SCHOOLS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN MIDDLE-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05</p> <p>PAGE 27</p>
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<p>TABLE 2.11</p> <p>SCHOOLS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN MIDDLE-LEVEL MATHEMATICS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05</p> <p>PAGE 27</p>
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<p>TABLE 2.12</p> <p>SCHOOLS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN SECONDARY-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05</p> <p>PAGE 28</p>

<p>TABLE 2.13</p> <p>SCHOOLS FAILING TO MAKE ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS IN SECONDARY-LEVEL MATHEMATICS BY ACCOUNTABILITY GROUP IN 2004–05</p> <p>PAGE 28</p>

solely because of limited English proficient (LEP) students (44) than solely because of students with disabilities (16). If an elementary school failed mathematics for only one group, that group was most likely to be the All Students group (19.7 percent).

The accountability groups that were least likely to make AYP were the students with disabilities and LEP students. In ELA at all grade levels, of those schools accountable for students with disabilities, more than 40 percent failed to make AYP. Similarly in middle- and secondary-level mathematics, more than 44 percent of schools accountable for students with disabilities did not make AYP. The number of schools accountable for students with disabilities ranged from 57 in elementary-level ELA and mathematics to 377 in middle-level ELA.

While a large percentage of schools that were accountable for one of these groups did not make AYP, the majority of schools did not have sufficient numbers of these students to be held accountable for them. Therefore, relatively few schools did not make AYP because of the students with disabilities or LEP group. Of all schools, the percentage failing to make AYP for students with disabilities ranged from just 0.1 percent (or 2 schools) in elementary-level mathematics to 13.6 percent (or 168 schools) in middle-level ELA.

The number of schools accountable for LEP students ranged from 75 in secondary-level ELA and mathematics to 131 in middle-level ELA. Of those schools accountable for limited English proficient students, at least one-third failed to make AYP on each accountability measure except elemen-

tary-level mathematics. At the secondary level in ELA, 72.0 percent of schools accountable for LEP students did not make AYP.

Of all schools, the percentage failing to make AYP for LEP students ranged from 0.4 percent (or 12 schools) in elementary-level mathematics to 7.1 percent (or 88 schools) in middle-level ELA. The largest number of schools in which the LEP group was the only group that failed to make AYP was 44 schools in elementary-level ELA.

The same performance gaps among racial/ethnic groups seen on State assessments occurred among racial/ethnic accountability groups. While the majority of schools were accountable for White students, at the elementary and middle levels, fewer than 2.0 percent of schools accountable for White students did not make AYP. At the secondary level, in 4.6 percent of all schools, White students did not make AYP. A large majority of Black and Hispanic accountability groups made AYP at the elementary level. At the middle level, approximately one-fourth of Black and Hispanic groups did not make AYP in ELA and less than one-fourth did not make AYP in mathematics. At the secondary level, more than 37 percent of Black and Hispanic groups did not make AYP in ELA and more than 27 percent did not make AYP in mathematics. Nevertheless, fewer than eight percent of all secondary schools failed to make AYP on each accountability measure because of the Black or Hispanic accountability groups. At the secondary level, fewer than three schools failed to make AYP in English or mathematics solely because of the Hispanic or Black group.

Table 2.8
Schools Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Elementary-Level
English Language Arts by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Schools	2,693	
Made AYP	2,414	89.6%
Failed AYP	238	8.8%
Other	41	1.5%

“Other” includes schools with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Schools with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Schools as Percent of Schools with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Schools as Percent of All Schools (b/2,693)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Schools (b/238)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Schools (c/238)		
All Students	2,453	106	44.5%	17	7.1%	4.3%	3.9%
Students with Disabilities	57	23	9.7	16	6.7	40.4	0.9
Limited English Proficient	109	76	31.9	44	18.5	69.7	2.8
Economically Disadvantaged	1,171	110	46.2	19	8.0	9.4	4.1
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	119	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	471	36	15.1	2	0.8	7.6	1.3
Hispanic	437	72	30.3	16	6.7	16.5	2.7
White	1,578	2	0.8	0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Percentage of Schools Failing for One Group Only					47.8%		

Table 2.9
Schools Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Elementary-Level
Mathematics by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Schools	2,693	
Made AYP	2,588	96.1%
Failed AYP	66	2.5%
Other	39	1.4%

“Other” includes schools with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Schools with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Schools as Percent of Schools with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Schools as Percent of All Schools (b/2,693)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Schools (b/66)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Schools (c/66)		
All Students	2,455	27	40.9%	13	19.7%	1.1%	1.0%
Students with Disabilities	57	2	3.0	1	1.5	3.5	0.1
Limited English Proficient	115	12	18.2	11	16.7	10.4	0.4
Economically Disadvantaged	1,167	13	19.7	1	1.5	1.1	0.5
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	122	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	467	11	16.7	3	4.5	2.4	0.4
Hispanic	438	7	10.6	3	4.5	1.6	0.3
White	1,574	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percentage of Schools Failing for One Group Only					48.4%		

Table 2.10
Schools Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Middle-Level
English Language Arts by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Schools	1,237	
Made AYP	890	71.9%
Failed AYP	284	23.0%
Other	63	5.1%

“Other” includes schools with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Schools with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Schools as Percent of Schools with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Schools as Percent of All Schools (b/1,237)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Schools (b/284)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Schools (c/284)		
All Students	1,132	126	44.4%	7	2.5%	11.1%	10.2%
Students with Disabilities	377	168	59.2	63	22.2	44.6	13.6
Limited English Proficient	131	88	31.0	16	5.6	67.2	7.1
Economically Disadvantaged	707	142	50.0	12	4.2	20.1	11.5
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	93	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black	358	110	38.7	6	2.1	30.7	8.9
Hispanic	331	86	30.3	6	2.1	26.0	7.0
White	813	6	2.1	0	0.0	0.7	0.5
Percentage of Schools Failing for One Group Only					38.7%		

Table 2.11
Schools Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Middle-Level
Mathematics by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Schools	1,237	
Made AYP	943	76.2%
Failed AYP	229	18.5%
Other	65	5.3%

“Other” includes schools with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Schools with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Schools as Percent of Schools with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Schools as Percent of All Schools (b/1,237)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Schools (b/229)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Schools (c/229)		
All Students	1,130	68	29.7%	6	2.6%	6.0%	5.5%
Students with Disabilities	365	164	71.6	91	39.7	44.9	13.3
Limited English Proficient	130	51	22.3	7	3.1	39.2	4.1
Economically Disadvantaged	695	69	30.1	3	1.3	9.9	5.6
American Indian/Alaskan Native	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	93	1	0.4	0	0.0	1.1	0.1
Black	351	75	32.8	8	3.5	21.4	6.1
Hispanic	327	35	15.3	3	1.3	10.7	2.8
White	809	9	3.9	0	0.0	1.1	0.7
Percentage of Schools Failing for One Group Only					51.5%		

Table 2.12
Schools Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Secondary-Level
English Language Arts by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Schools	1,073	
Made AYP	813	75.8%
Failed AYP	225	21.0%
Other	35	3.3%

“Other” includes schools with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Schools with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Schools as Percent of Schools with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Schools as Percent of All Schools (b/1,073)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Schools (b/225)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Schools (c/225)		
All Students	894	140	62.2%	8	3.6%	15.7%	13.0%
Students with Disabilities	181	94	41.8	37	16.4	51.9	8.8
Limited English Proficient	75	54	24.0	9	4.0	72.0	5.0
Economically Disadvantaged	350	114	50.7	10	4.4	32.6	10.6
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	1	0.4	0	0.0	50.0	0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	79	9	4.0	0	0.0	11.4	0.8
Black	215	81	36.0	2	0.9	37.7	7.5
Hispanic	190	76	33.8	1	0.4	40.0	7.1
White	719	49	21.8	1	0.4	6.8	4.6
Percentage of Schools Failing for One Group Only					30.1%		

Table 2.13
Schools Failing to Make Adequate Yearly Progress in Secondary-Level
Mathematics by Accountability Group in 2004–05

	Number	Percent
Total Schools	1,073	
Made AYP	855	79.7%
Failed AYP	184	17.1%
Other	34	3.2%

“Other” includes schools with such small student counts that their accountability status has to be determined using special procedures.

Accountability Group	Schools with 30+ Students (a)	Did Not Make AYP				Failing Schools as Percent of Schools with 30+ Students (b/a)	Failing Schools as Percent of All Schools (b/1,073)
		For This Group (b)	Percent of Failing Schools (b/184)	For This Group Only (c)	Percent of Failing Schools (c/184)		
All Students	894	113	61.4%	15	8.2%	12.6%	10.5%
Students with Disabilities	181	84	45.7	33	17.9	46.4	7.8
Limited English Proficient	75	36	19.6	5	2.7	48.0	3.4
Economically Disadvantaged	350	88	47.8	11	6.0	25.1	8.2
American Indian/Alaskan Native	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	79	2	1.1	0	0.0	2.5	0.2
Black	215	59	32.1	1	0.5	27.4	5.5
Hispanic	190	56	30.4	2	1.1	29.5	5.2
White	719	49	26.6	3	1.6	6.8	4.6
Percentage of Schools Failing for One Group Only					38.0%		

Part III:

Longitudinal Trends

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1 Enrollment Trends 32

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3 Performance Trends 51

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5 Attendance, Dropout, and Suspension Rates 88

? Policy Questions 93

★ Highlights

Student Demographics

- ★ *In Fall 2004, 3.29 million students were enrolled in New York State's public and nonpublic schools.*
- ★ *Over 14 percent of the State's school children attended nonpublic schools.*
- ★ *Public school enrollment has increased by 11 percent since 1989, reaching 2.82 million in Fall 2004.*
- ★ *In 2004–05, 73 public schools – 51 in New York City and 22 in other districts – were under registration review. Of all State public school students, 1.9 percent attended one of these schools.*
- ★ *In Fall 2004, 7.2 percent of students in public schools were identified as limited English proficient.*
- ★ *In Fall 2004, 12.3 percent of all students attending public and nonpublic schools were identified as students with disabilities.*

Resources

- ★ *Of the \$40.0 billion in 2003–2004 school district revenues, the State provided 43.8 percent; districts, 49.8 percent; and the federal government, 6.5 percent. Revenues from all three sources increased, compared with 1999–2000.*
- ★ *In 2003–2004, State revenue to schools was \$3.83 billion (28.0 percent) greater than in 1999–2000. Considering inflation, however, State revenue in 2003–2004 was worth 16.4 percent more than in 1999–2000.*
- ★ *Between 1999–2000 and 2003–2004, total district revenues increased 24.7 percent before inflation and 13.4 percent after inflation. Over the five-year period, the mean expenditure per pupil, after adjustment for inflation, increased by 13.9 percent.*
- ★ *In 2004–05, over 227,000 persons taught in the State's public schools; an additional 43,901 served in other professional positions.*

Performance

- ★ *On the New York State Assessment Program in English language arts, 70.4 percent of elementary-level students and 48.2 percent of middle-level students in public schools met the standards in 2005.*

- ☆ *On the New York State Assessment Program in mathematics in 2005, 84.8 percent of elementary-level students in public schools met the standards, but only 55.5 percent of middle-level students did so.*
- ☆ *More students scored 65 or higher on the Regents English, mathematics, global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and living environment examinations in 2005 than took these examinations in 1996.*
- ☆ *In public schools, 90 percent of general-education students in the 2001 cohort met the graduation requirement (scored 55 or higher) on the Regents English examination after four years of high school; 89 percent scored 55 or higher on the Regents mathematics examination after four years.*
- ☆ *The percentage of students with disabilities scoring 55 or higher on the Regents mathematics A examinations increased by 22 percent between 2002–03 and 2004–05.*
- ☆ *In 2005, the largest percentage of public school graduates (70 percent) earned Regents endorsed diplomas since the Regents Action Plan was enacted.*
- ☆ *Over 81 percent of State seniors graduating from public schools in 2005 planned to pursue some form of postsecondary education.*
- ☆ *The mean Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I) composite score of the class of 2005 was 1008, 20 points higher than the mean of the class of 1993.*
- ☆ *Since 1990, the number of students in New York participating in Advanced Placement examinations has more than doubled.*

Attendance, Suspensions, and Dropouts

- ☆ *In 2003–04, 4.8 percent of State public school students were suspended from school one or more times.*
- ☆ *In 2004–05, the public school dropout rate was 4.5 percent. New York City had a higher dropout rate than the rest of the State: the dropout rate was 8.2 percent in New York City public schools and 2.4 percent in districts outside New York City.*
- ☆ *In 2004–05, 1.6 percent of public school students left their secondary schools to attend a preparation program leading to a high school equivalency diploma.*

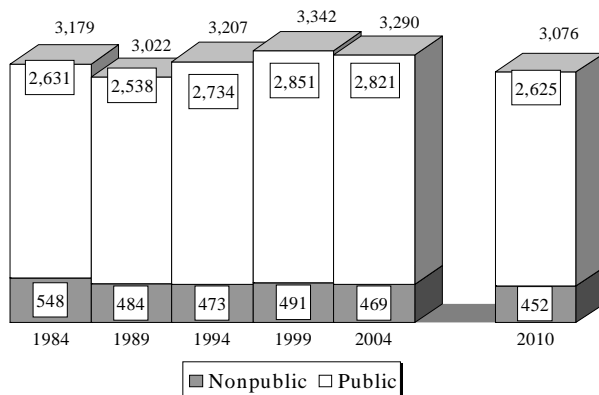
1 Enrollment Trends

In Fall 2004, 3.29 million students were enrolled in New York State's public and nonpublic schools. Of these students, 2.82 million attended public schools and 0.47 million (14.2 percent) attended nonpublic schools (Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1).

TABLE 3.1	
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	
PAGE 38	

Total public and nonpublic enrollment was 1.6 percent lower in 2004 than in 1999, and total enrollment is predicted to decrease by 6.5 percent through Fall 2010. The percentage of students attending nonpublic schools is expected to decrease by 3.6 percent through 2010.

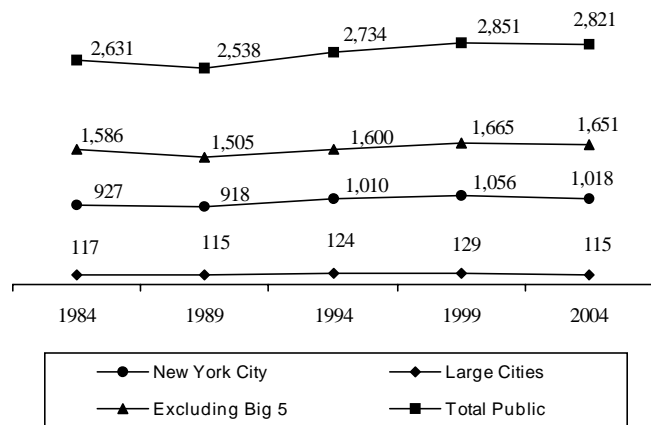
Figure 3.1
Public and Nonpublic K-12 School Enrollment (in thousands) Fall 1984 to Fall 2010 (projected)



Public School Enrollment

In Fall 2004, total public enrollment decreased slightly to 2.82 million. This decrease was due largely to decreases in enrollment in the Big 5 City Districts (Figure 3.2). Public school enrollment was at its highest (3.52 million) in 1971. A period of declining enrollment followed, reaching a low (2.54 million) in 1989. Despite being 11.2 percent higher than in 1989, enrollment was 1.1 percent lower than in 1999. Enrollments are predicted to decline even further to 2.63 million by Fall 2010 (Table 3.1).

Figure 3.2
Enrollment Trends in Public Schools by Location (in thousands) Fall 1984 to Fall 2004



Between 1984 and 1989, enrollments decreased everywhere in the State: 1.0 percent in New York City, 1.7 percent in Large City Districts, and 5.1 in Districts Excluding the Big 5 (Figure 3.2). Between 1989 and 1999, enrollments increased in all categories; however, the rate of increase was greater in New York City (15.0 percent) and Large City Districts (12.2 percent) than in Districts Excluding the Big 5 (10.6 percent). Between 1999 and 2004, enrollments decreased everywhere in the State: 0.8 percent in Districts Excluding the Big 5, 3.6 percent in New York City, and 10.9 percent in Large City Districts.

Schools Under Registration Review (SURR)

Since 1989, the registration review process has been the primary means used by the State Education Department to strengthen teaching and learning in the schools in New York State that are performing the farthest below the State standard. This process is designed to improve student performance by correcting situations that impede quality education. Through registration review, the lowest-performing schools are identified, warned that their registrations may be revoked, and assisted in improving their educational programs. As a last resort, schools that fail to improve have their registrations revoked. Should this occur, the Commissioner of Education would develop a plan to protect the educational welfare of students at the school and require the school district to implement the plan.

Through the 2004–05 school year, 267 schools had been identified for registration review. Two hundred thirty-three of these schools, including 22 during the 2004–05 school year, have been removed from registration review. Nineteen of these 22 schools were removed because they achieved the student performance standards established by the Commissioner. Three schools ceased operation in June 2005 pursuant to closure plans developed by their district and approved by the Commissioner. Eleven schools were identified for registration review in the 2004–05 school year, including three schools that had previously been removed from registration review.

In 2004–05, 73 public schools — 51 in New York City and 22 in other districts — were under registration review (Table 3.2). Of all students enrolled in New York City public schools, 3.8 percent attended a SURR school; outside New York City, 0.8 percent of students were enrolled in SURR schools. Of all public school students statewide, 1.9 percent attended one of these schools. Information on demographics and performance in SURR schools can be found in Appendix B.

TABLE 3.2

NUMBER OF SURR SCHOOLS AND ENROLLMENT

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Prekindergarten Enrollment

One way of promoting equity in achievement is to ensure that all children come to school ready to learn. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching surveyed kindergarten teachers in 1991 and estimated that 36 percent of New York kindergartners were not ready to begin school. Quality preschool programs provide young children placed at risk by their social and economic circumstances with experiences that enhance their readiness to learn.

The Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program, which was established by statute in 1997, completed its seventh year of operation during the 2004–05 school year. In 2004–05, 192 school districts (out of 224 eligible to participate) operated a UPK program. The total number of children served by the UPK program was approximately 57,000. This represents over a 200 percent increase from the initial year of implementation in 1998–99, when 62 districts served 18,200 students. The statute requires districts to form an advisory board, hold a public hearing, and develop a program plan that includes collaboration with community early childhood education programs. Applications from implementing districts indicated that statutory requirements were met.

Between Fall 1984 and Fall 2004, enrollment in prekindergarten programs operated by public and nonpublic schools expanded significantly (Table 3.3). Enrollment increased during each five-year period in New York City and statewide. In Fall 1984, 23.2 percent of the State's four-year-old population was enrolled in these programs. Twenty years later, the number enrolled had increased to 53.4 percent of the State's four-year-olds. The enrollment in these programs nearly tripled statewide during this period, with the greatest increases occurring in New York City. These statistics do not include prekindergarten programs in nonpublic schools that did not have a kindergarten or higher grade.

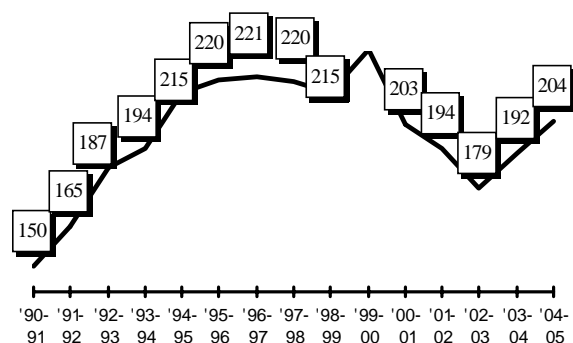
TABLE 3.3	
TRENDS IN PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENTS FOR THE STATE AND NEW YORK CITY	
PAGE 40	

Limited English Proficient Students

Part 154 of Commissioner's Regulations defines students with limited English proficiency (LEP) as students who, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, speak a language other than English, and (1) either understand and speak little or no English; or (2) score below a state designated level of proficiency on the Language Assessment Battery-Revised (LAB-R) or the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Beginning in 2002–03, grades 4 and 8 LEP students who have been enrolled in a school in the United States (not including Puerto Rico) for fewer than three full consecutive years may use the NYSESLAT as the required measure of English language arts proficiency. LEP students may choose to take the mathematics assessment in their native language (if available) or in English. Identified students are entitled to special instructional and assessment services to assist them in learning English and achieving objectives in other academic areas.

In 2004–05, the number of LEP students served by public schools was 36.0 percentage points higher than in 1990–91 (Figure 3.3). Statewide, 7.2 percent of public school students were identified as limited English proficient. A decrease in LEP students in 1998–99 and 2002–03, and an increase in 1999–2000 may be attributed to procedural changes in the identification process in New York City.

Figure 3.3
Number of Public School Students Who Are Limited English Proficient (in thousands)
1990–91 to 2004–05



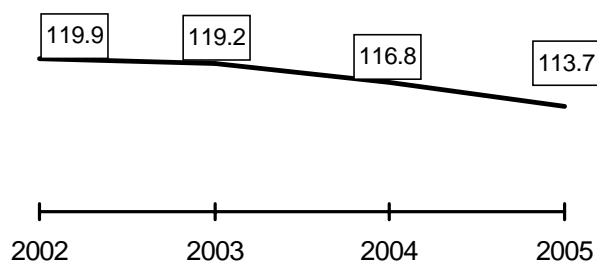
Enrollment of Immigrant Students

Newly immigrated children may require a variety of special services to ensure a smooth transition to American schools. Immigrant students who are limited English proficient are eligible for special programs. Many immigrant students, however, come from other English-speaking countries and are not eligible for these programs. Nonetheless, many of these students, particularly those from developing countries, are poorly prepared for the culture and expectations of American classrooms. Some, for example, emigrated from countries with fewer years of compulsory attendance than American schools. Beginning in 2002 under the new federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, certain districts have been eligible to receive Title III-Immigrant funds. The district allocations are based on formulas determined by the Secretary of Education.

NCLB requires that all immigrant students be reported, regardless of whether their district receives these funds.

Figure 3.4 shows the enrollment of all immigrant students statewide in 2002 through 2005. The number of immigrant students has decreased steadily over these four years. The immigrant enrollment between 2002 and 2005 represents a 5.2 percent decrease.

Figure 3.4
Number of Immigrant Students
Statewide in 2002 to 2005
(in thousands)



Special Education Enrollment

Public agencies provide special education programs for students with disabilities to meet their unique needs as determined by the Committee on Special Education. Local school districts educate the majority of these children. In some cases, however, school districts contract with neighboring districts, BOCES, or approved private schools to provide required special education services. State agencies, such as the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Mental Health, the Office of Children and Family Services, and the Department of Correctional Services, also provide services. Approximately 99 percent of students with disabilities ages 4 to 21 receive services through placements made by public school districts. The remaining students are placed by the courts or State agencies either in State agency programs or in approved private schools.

In the last 20 years, the number of students ages 4 to 21 enrolled in K-12 special education programs statewide has increased 56.4 percent, from 258,611 students in Fall 1984 to 404,369 students in Fall 2004 (Table 3.4). During the same timeframe, statewide public and nonpublic enrollment increased by 3.5 percent. Consequently, the share of total public and nonpublic enrollment represented by students with disabilities increased from 8.1 percent in Fall 1984 to 12.3 percent in Fall 2004.

TABLE 3.4

TRENDS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION
ENROLLMENT FOR THE STATE AND
NEW YORK CITY

PAGE 41

Many factors, including legislative initiatives, court decisions, and State Education Department policy, affect special education enrollments. The federal Education of All Handicapped Children Act (now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) enacted in 1975 guaranteed, for the first time, a free and appropriate public education to all children with disabilities. The law further mandated multidisciplinary evaluations and required that individualized education programs for identified students be delivered in the least restrictive environment. At the State level, Article 89 specifies requirements and procedures for the education of students with disabilities.

Three factors explain most of the increases in special education enrollments. First, in the early 1980s, consistent with federal requirements, New York State Law expanded the categories of disabilities to include learning disabilities, autism, multiply disabled, orthopedic conditions, and health impairments, making more children eligible to receive special education services. Second, the 1979 federal court decision *José P. v. Ambach* resulted in more timely evaluations and more appropriate program placements for children with disabilities in New York City. Third, in 1980 the State altered the method used to allocate State aid for educating children with disabilities, replacing the kind of disability with the intensity of services provided as a factor in distributing aid. This change resulted in a significant in-

crease in the total State funds provided for special education programs.

Further, 1989 legislation gave local school districts responsibility for the delivery of preschool special education services and programs to children with disabilities, ages three to five. Previously, special education preschool services were delivered through the Family Court system. The number of preschool children with disabilities provided special education services has grown from 32,467 on December 1, 1996 to 42,495 on December 1, 2004. Statewide, in 2004–05, of those students whose education was the responsibility of district committees on preschool special education or committees on special education, 9.5 percent were preschool children. The State and counties continue to share the costs of these services. Counties pay for programs and services and then are reimbursed by the State for up to 59.5 percent of their expenditures.

The Board of Regents is concerned about the increasing percentage of students classified as disabled as well as the performance of those students. The Board has proposed a reform of the State special education funding system to encourage schools to place children in the setting that best meets their needs and discourage unnecessary referrals to special education. Since 1996–97, the growth in special education has slowed. The classification rate increased by only 0.5 percentage point in eight years: from 11.6 percent in 1996–97 to 12.1 percent in 2004–05. Several initiatives have been implemented to reduce the classification rate. Chapter 405 of the Laws of 1999 required the Department to identify school districts with very high classification rates and provide technical assistance to these districts. The Department has also been consistently focusing on school district classification rates in school district report cards, in other Department publications, and as a part of the Quality Assurance monitoring process for special education. In addition, the Department is taking steps to ensure that general education settings are better able to meet the needs of students with learning or behavior problems. Strategies for doing this include enhancing early reading and mathematics programs, particularly in low-performing schools, and providing support services for students in general-education settings.

Career and Technical Education Enrollment

In April 1989, the Board of Regents adopted a policy requiring that all high school graduates be prepared for immediate employment and/or postsecondary education. Career education programs offer sequences of courses leading to entry-level employment. In addition, the Department has received federal and State funds to prepare students for the transition from school to work by integrating workplace skills into the curriculum.

As part of its focus on higher academic standards and the increasing need for high school graduates who possess career and technical skills, the Board of Regents, in February 2001, adopted a policy allowing high school students who want to pursue career and technical education programs greater flexibility in their curriculum and courses to meet their graduation requirements. These students may take integrated or specialized courses, or a combination of both, that include English, mathematics, science, and technical courses that incorporate general-education skills and knowledge. Such courses would allow them to meet New York's learning standards by satisfying course requirements and preparing them for required State assessments.

Career and technical education programs are divided into 16 broad categories: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Arts and Communications Services; Business and Administrative Services; Construction; Education and Training Services; Financial Services; Health Services; Hospitality and Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology Services; Legal and Protective Services; Logistics, Transportation, and Distribution Services; Manufacturing; Public Administration/Government Services; Scientific, Engineering, and Technical Services; and Wholesale/Retail Sales and Services. Each category comprises from 3 (Public Administration/Government Services) to 62 (Health Services) programs, preparing students for specialties within the broad area. For example, Logistics, Transportation, and Distribution Services programs include Auto Mechanics, Construction Equipment Operation, and

Small Engine Repair. Within the Health Services career area, programs include Dental Hygienist, Medical Assistant, and Licensed Practical Nurse training.

Table 3.5 indicates that 25.2 percent of secondary students participated in career and technical education programs operated by public school districts or BOCES during the 2004–05 school year. Statewide, the number enrolled was 33 percent less than in 1992–93. A substantially larger percentage of ninth- through twelfth-graders in New York City than in the Rest of State have historically been enrolled in these courses.

Statewide, the number of secondary students enrolled in career and technical education has decreased since 1992–93. The addition of three major program areas in 1989–90 (Home Economics, Technology, and Visual/Performing Arts) partially obscures the trend in declining enrollment. Even counting these programs, statewide, the number of secondary students enrolled in career and technical education has fallen since 1992–93. Many factors may have influenced the statewide decline, such as increases in the course and testing requirements for earning a high school diploma, changing student career interests, opinions about program quality, and the cost of career education programs.

TABLE 3.5

**TRENDS IN SECONDARY CAREER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT
FOR THE STATE, NEW YORK CITY, AND
THE REST OF STATE, INCLUDING BOCES**

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Table 3.1
Elementary and Secondary Public and Nonpublic School Enrollment
New York State
Fall 1984 to Fall 2010 (projected)

Year	Public			Nonpublic			Public/Nonpublic Combined			Nonpublic as a Percent of Total
	K-6	7-12	Total	K-6	7-12	Total	K-6	7-12	Total	
Actual										
Fall 1984	1,305,384	1,325,675	2,631,059	314,411	233,446	547,857	1,619,795	1,559,121	3,178,916	17.2%
Fall 1989	1,400,301	1,137,368	2,537,669	288,900	195,075	483,975	1,689,201	1,332,443	3,021,644	16.0
Fall 1994	1,520,976	1,212,937	2,733,913	283,079	190,133	473,212	1,804,055	1,403,070	3,207,125	14.8
Fall 1999	1,579,936	1,270,888	2,850,824	293,314	197,962	491,276	1,873,250	1,468,850	3,342,100	14.7
Fall 2004	1,473,863	1,347,247	2,821,110	259,167	209,350	468,517	1,733,030	1,556,597	3,289,627	14.2
Projected										
Fall 2010	1,362,086	1,262,695	2,624,782	250,516	201,126	451,642	1,612,602	1,463,822	3,076,424	14.7

Table 3.2
Number of SURR Schools and Enrollment
New York State
1990–91 to 2004–05

Year	New York City		Rest of State		Total Public	
	Number of Schools	Enrollment	Number of Schools	Enrollment	Number of Schools	Enrollment
1990–1991	40	45,418	8	7,245	48	52,663
1992–1993	56	62,353	6	6,038	62	68,391
1993–1994	55	61,117	6	6,077	61	67,194
1994–1995	72	75,066	7	8,092	79	83,158
1995–1996	78	79,027	8	8,714	86	87,741
1996–1997	92	88,762	7	9,281	99	98,043
1997–1998	94	87,201	4	6,304	98	93,505
1998–1999	98	84,918	5	6,628	103	91,546
1999–2000	94	71,611	8	7,462	102	79,073
2000–2001	98	78,063	16	11,787	114	89,850
2001–2002	96	77,288	24	16,850	120	94,138
2002–2003	58	49,641	23	16,326	81	65,967
2003–2004	46	38,539	19	13,454	65	51,993
2004–2005	51	38,474	22	14,778	73	53,252

Table 3.3
Trends in Public and Nonpublic School Prekindergarten
Enrollments for the State and New York City
New York State
Fall 1984 to Fall 2004

Year	Total State (Public and Nonpublic)			New York City (Public and Nonpublic)		
	Estimated 4-Year-Old Population	Pre-kindergarten Enrollment	Prekindergarten Enrollment as Percent of Population	Estimated 4-Year-Old Population	Pre-kindergarten Enrollment	Prekindergarten Enrollment as Percent of Population
Fall 1984	230,543	53,557	23.2%	93,211	21,318	22.9%
Fall 1989	236,730	71,255	30.1	111,400	31,415	28.2
Fall 1994	272,344	86,096	31.6	112,802	34,857	30.9
Fall 1999	257,868	111,089	43.1	109,647	57,680	52.6
Fall 2004	239,100	127,729	53.4	104,700	68,852	65.8

Table 3.4
Trends in Special Education
Enrollment for the State and New York City*
New York State
Fall 1984 to Fall 2004

Year	New York City (Public and Nonpublic)			Rest of State (Public and Nonpublic)			Total State		
	Total Enrollment	Special Education Enrollment	Special Education Enrollment as % of Total	Total Enrollment	Special Education Enrollment	Special Education Enrollment as % of Total	Total Enrollment	Special Education Enrollment	Special Education Enrollment as % of Total
Fall 1984	1,224,704	107,885	8.8%	1,954,212	150,726	7.7%	3,178,916	258,611	8.1%
Fall 1989	1,189,435	106,034	8.9	1,832,209	160,757	8.8	3,021,644	266,791	8.8
Fall 1994	1,272,987	118,003	9.3	1,934,138	212,512	11.0	3,207,125	330,515	10.3
Fall 1999	1,328,759	146,949	11.1	2,013,341	247,920	12.3	3,342,100	394,869	11.8
Fall 2004	1,291,246	150,687	11.7	1,998,381	253,682	12.7	3,289,627	404,369	12.3

*Does not include students with disabilities enrolled in State Agency programs or in residential programs when they are placed by the local Social Services Districts, Courts, or State agencies. (There were 5,422 such students on December 1, 2004.)

Table 3.5
Trends in Secondary Career and Technical Education Enrollment
for the State, New York City, and the Rest of State, including BOCES
New York State
1989–90 to 2004–05

School Year	New York City		Rest of State Including BOCES		Total State Including BOCES		
	9–12 Enrollment	Career & Tech. Education Enrollment as a % of 9–12	9–12 Enrollment	Career & Tech. Education Enrollment as a % of 9–12	9–12 Enrollment	Career & Tech. Education Enrollment	Career & Tech. Education Enrollment as a % of 9–12
1989–1990	247,171	57.6	461,623	35.3	708,794	305,487	43.1
1990–1991	250,033	57.8	453,806	36.0	703,839	308,141	43.8
1991–1992	257,694	58.6	456,550	35.9	714,244	314,837	44.1
1992–1993	266,848	59.2	460,992	35.0	727,840	319,282	43.9
1993–1994	274,742	55.8	465,748	33.4	740,490	309,031	41.7
1994–1995	276,747	53.9	470,190	33.7	746,937	307,778	41.2
1995–1996	281,850	53.1	476,572	32.1	758,422	302,846	39.9
1996–1997	286,289	55.3	483,357	30.7	769,646	306,946	39.9
1997–1998	287,340	52.2	488,897	30.9	776,236	301,043	38.8
1998–1999	282,806	50.9	494,877	30.2	777,683	293,605	37.8
1999–2000	279,461	47.9	502,020	28.3	781,481	275,868	35.3
2000–2001	272,657	46.4	508,231	26.5	780,888	261,042	33.4
2001–2002	269,291	43.2	518,255	24.6	787,546	243,864	31.0
2002–2003	272,592	43.6	528,253	25.7	800,845	254,660	31.8
2003–2004	283,571	38.6	536,765	23.7	820,336	236,796	28.9
2004–2005	291,993	37.6	551,115	18.6	843,108	212,251	25.2

2 Resource Trends¹

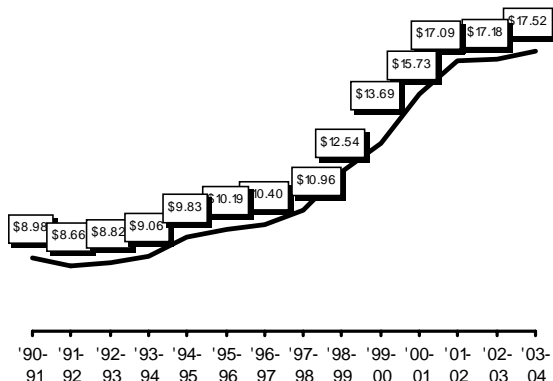
School Finance

Article XI of the New York State Constitution mandates that the Legislature provide for the "... maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated." To fulfill its mandate, the Legislature established and supports a comprehensive system of public education. The Board of Regents, as its legal responsibility, develops legislative recommendations for achieving that mandate.

State, Local, and Federal Support

State revenues to schools were relatively stable between 1990–91 and 1993–94 (Figure 3.5). The State substantially increased revenues to schools each year between 1994–95 and 2001–02. The increases in 2002–03 and 2003–04 were relatively small. These increases coincided with the growing economy, which increased the revenues received by the State.

Figure 3.5
Revenues from the State
to Schools (in billions)
1990–91 to 2003–04



The following discussion is based upon district reports of expenditures and revenues during the five-year period from 1999–2000 to 2003–04 (the latest year for which complete data are available) (Table 3.6). In each year during this period, State revenues to schools increased by at least 0.5 percent. The largest increase, 14.9 percent, occurred in 2000–01. Examining the five-year trend, State revenues to schools were \$3.83 billion (28.0 percent) greater in 2003–2004 than in 1999–2000. Considering inflation, however, State revenue to schools in 2003–2004 was worth 16.4 percent more than in 1999–2000.

TABLE 3.6

**TOTAL REVENUES FOR PUBLIC
 ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND
 SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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In 1998–99, the State began making School Tax Relief (STAR) payments to public school districts. STAR is designed to reduce the property tax burden of homeowners. Homeowners receive a school property tax exemption and the State reimburses the district for the money lost in taxes because of the exemption. Beginning with the 1998–99 school year, revenues from STAR are included in State revenue calculations. STAR payments to school districts in 2003–04 were \$2.8 billion (7.0 percent of total revenues).

Financing public education, like governing schools, is a responsibility shared by the State and local communities, with limited assistance from the federal government. In 2003–04, districts raised

¹ The analyses of public school finance described in this chapter are based on data for major school districts (those with eight or more teachers).

\$19.9 billion through tax levies and other local revenue sources to support education. The district contribution represented an increase of \$3.9 billion or 24.7 percent since 1999–2000.

Traditionally, most federal aid has been allocated to school districts to support specific purposes: to promote educational equity for historically underserved populations, such as children living in poverty; to advance a national purpose, for example, international economic competitiveness or national defense; and to support projects, such as research, that a single educational agency could not afford to undertake. In 2003–2004, the federal contribution to State schools was \$2.6 billion, an increase of 81.4 percent since 1999–2000. Even with this increase, federal revenues amounted to only 6.5 percent of total district revenues.

Because of increases in State, local, and federal revenues, between 1999–2000 and 2003–2004 total district revenues increased by 28.7 percent (17.1 percent after inflation) to \$40.0 billion. State and federal revenues increased at a faster rate than local revenues.

In 2003–04, the State contribution was 43.8 percent, compared with 44.0 percent in 1999–2000. The local share was 49.8 percent, compared with 51.4 percent in 1999–2000; and the federal share was 6.5 percent, compared with 4.6 percent in 1999–2000.

Revenues and Expenditures per Pupil

Because of increasing enrollment, State revenues per pupil increased at a slower rate than total State revenues to schools. State revenues per pupil increased by eight percent or more in the first three years of this period (1999–2000 to 2001–2002), but increased by less than one percent in 2002–03 and by slightly over two percent in 2003–04 (Table 3.7). Comparing 2003–2004 with 1999–2000, in absolute dollars, State revenues per pupil increased 27.6 percent. Adjusted for inflation, State revenues per pupil increased 16.1 percent.

TABLE 3.7

STATE REVENUES PER PUPIL AND EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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During this five-year period, statewide, the mean expenditure per pupil increased at a slower rate than State aid per pupil. The 2003–2004 mean expenditure per pupil was \$13,826, an increase of 25.2 percent over 1999–2000. Over the five-year period, adjusted for inflation, expenditures per pupil increased 13.9 percent.

Public School Teachers and Administrators

In 2004–05, nearly 271,000 professional staff were employed in public elementary and secondary schools. Over 227,000 individuals taught in the State’s public schools; an additional 43,901 professionals worked as administrators, school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, and other professional staff, devoting more than half of their time to nonteaching duties (Table 3.8).

TABLE 3.8

PROFESSIONAL STAFF IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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Tracing a 29-year trend in the number of professional staff employed reveals a decrease of 17,000 staff (8.2 percent) between 1975–76 and 1982–83, followed by an increase of approximately 26,000 staff (13.5 percent) between 1982–83 and 1990–91. Staffing decreased in 1991–92 and then increased continuously, reaching a high of 268,351

in 2002–03. Between 2002–03 and 2003–04, professional staff decreased by 1,451 individuals, responding in part to a decrease in enrollment. The staff decline in the 1970s also responded to a decrease in enrollment. While enrollment continued to fall until 1990, the number of school professionals began to increase in 1983. Part of this increase may be accounted for by greater enrollments in special education, English as a second language, and bilingual programs mandated by law or regulation.

Figure 3.6 contrasts changes in public school enrollment with changes in professional teaching and nonteaching staff. In 2004–05, 260,000 professional staff (full- and part-time) served 2.8 million students. In that year, on average, districts employed one classroom teacher for every 12.7 students compared with one for every 14.3 students in 1994–95 and one for every 15.4 in 1984–85 (Figure 3.7).

In 1991–92, districts eliminated over 7,000 (three percent) professional positions because State and local resources had failed to keep pace with

rising district expense for salaries. This decrease in staff was accompanied by an increase in public school class sizes, partially negating improvements made during the 1980s. Comparing average class sizes in 2004–05 with those in 1990–91, kindergarten and elementary classes in all New York City, Large City District, and Districts Excluding the Big 5 were smaller in 2004–05 (Table 3.9). Secondary classes in English 9 and U.S. history and government were larger in Large City Districts and Districts Excluding the Big 5 but smaller in New York City. Secondary classes in biology were smaller in New York City and Districts Excluding the Big 5 but larger in Large City Districts. Statewide, kindergarten classes in 2004–05 included, on average, 20 students and other classes, 23 students.

<p>TABLE 3.9</p> <p>PUBLIC SCHOOL AVERAGE CLASS SIZE IN SELECTED GRADES AND COURSES</p> <p>PAGE 50</p>

Figure 3.6
Trends in Public School Enrollment and Total Professional Staff
1974–75, 1984–85, 1994–95, and 2004–05

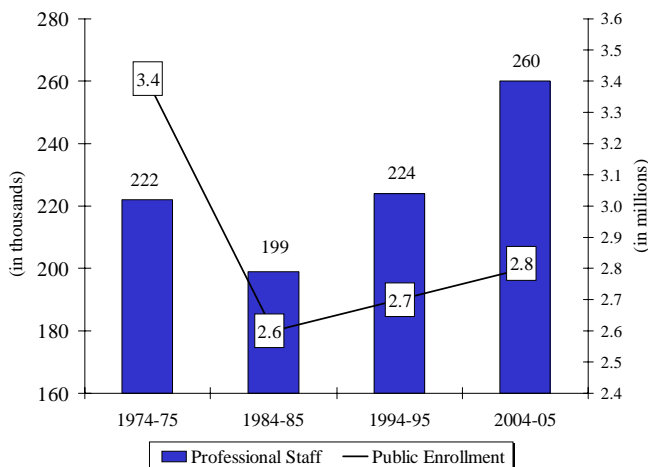
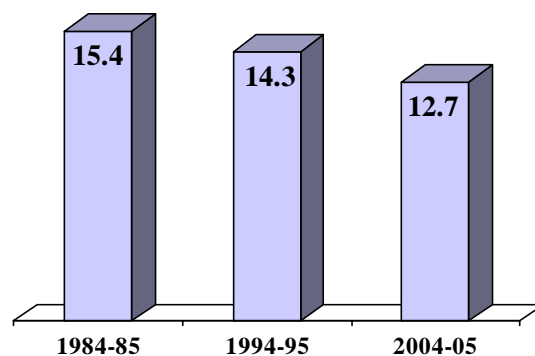


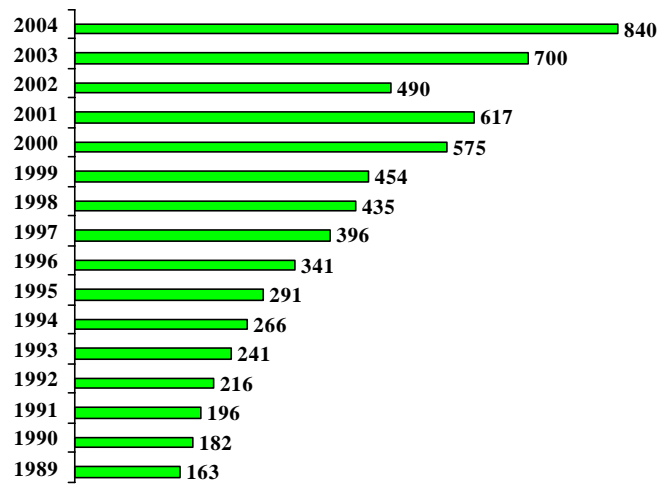
Figure 3.7
Number of Students per Teacher
1984–85, 1994–95, and 2004–05



Microcomputers

To develop proficiency in the use of technology, students must have regular access to computers and other technology accessories. School districts across the State are making progress in giving students opportunities to develop technological literacy. In 2004, the number of microcomputers in New York State's public schools has more than tripled since 1993 (Figure 3.8). (Note that the number of microcomputers in 2002 decreased significantly because counts do not include data from New York City, as they were not available in that year.)

Figure 3.8
Growth in Number of Microcomputers in
New York State Public Schools (in thousands)
Fall 1989 to Fall 2004*



*2002 data do not include New York City.

Table 3.6
Total Revenues for Public Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education
(in thousands)
New York State
1999–2000 to 2003–2004

School Year	Total Revenue From All Sources	Revenues from State Sources*		Revenues from Federal Sources		Revenues from Local Sources	
		Amount	% of Total Revenue	Amount	% of Total Revenue	Amount	% of Total Revenue
1999–2000	31,090,806	13,689,833	44.0	1,425,615	4.6	15,975,358	51.4
2000–2001	33,708,478	15,726,809	46.7	1,483,978	4.4	16,497,691	48.9
2001–2002	35,061,479	17,091,396	48.8	1,766,064	5.0	16,204,019	46.2
2002–2003	37,348,488	17,177,740	46.0	2,142,106	5.7	18,028,642	48.3
2003–2004	40,026,593	17,518,693	43.8	2,585,773	6.5	19,922,177	49.8

Source: Seventeenth Annual School District Fiscal Profile Data Base

*Revenues from State sources include School Tax Relief (STAR) payments.

Table 3.7
State Revenues per Pupil and Expenditures per Pupil in
Public Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Education
New York State
1999–2000 to 2003–2004

School Year	State Revenues per Pupil*	Percent Increase in State Revenues per Pupil Over Prior Year	Expenditures per Pupil	Percent Increase in Expenditures per Pupil Over Prior Year
1999–2000	4,784	8.5	11,040	6.5
2000–2001	5,474	14.4	11,871	7.5
2001–2002	5,926	8.3	12,265	3.3
2002–2003	5,975	0.8	13,085	6.7
2003–2004	6,104	2.2	13,826	5.7

Source: Seventeenth Annual District Fiscal Profile Report Data Base

Note: Expenditures per pupil were calculated using total expenditures, including those charged to the General, Debt Service, and Special Aid Funds. The pupil measure is the duplicated combined adjusted average daily membership, including students enrolled in district programs; students with disabilities educated in district, BOCES, or approved private school programs or at Rome or Batavia; students attending charter schools; incarcerated youth; and students educated in other districts for which the district pays tuition. Pre-kindergarten and half-day kindergarten students are weighted at 0.5.

*State revenues included School Tax Relief (STAR) payments.

Table 3.8
Professional Staff¹ in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools
New York State
1975–76 to 2004–05

Year	Classroom Teachers	Other Professional Staff ²	Total Professional Staff
1975–1976	182,772	27,859	210,631
1976–1977	173,975	25,619	199,594
1977–1978	175,879	27,259	203,138
1978–1979	176,141	27,478	203,619
1979–1980	172,803	29,008	201,811
1980–1981	169,189	27,468	196,657
1981–1982	168,516	27,210	195,726
1982–1983	167,172	26,190	193,362
1983–1984	168,944	27,693	196,637
1984–1985	171,093	27,682	198,775
1985–1986	175,256	28,120	203,376
1986–1987	176,121	31,458	207,579
1987–1988	176,910	36,177	213,087
1988–1989	177,871	35,773	213,644
1989–1990	183,293	31,835	215,128
1990–1991	186,205	33,344	219,549
1991–1992	180,274	31,962	212,236
1992–1993	184,303	33,184	217,487
1993–1994	188,846	34,577	223,423
1994–1995	190,759	32,764	223,523
1995–1996	197,591	31,744	229,335
1996–1997	201,316	33,781	235,097
1997–1998	206,365	31,776	238,141
1998–1999	206,842	39,449	246,291
1999–2000	213,746	41,130	254,876
2000–2001	219,615	42,896	262,511
2001–2002	224,644	43,412	268,056
2002–2003	225,101	43,250	268,351
2003–2004	224,005	42,895	266,900
2004–2005	227,021	43,901	270,922

1 Professional staff counts are totals of full-time and part-time staff and include staff employed by Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

2 Other professional staff includes administrators, school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, and other professional staff who devote more than half their time to non-teaching duties.

Table 3.9
Public School Average Class Size in Selected Grades and Courses
1990–91, 1995–96, and 2000–2001 to 2004–05

Location/Year	Kindergarten	Grades 1-6	English 7	English 9	Regents Biology	Regents U.S. History & Gov't
New York City						
1990–1991	24.7	27.3	29.0	27.9	31.1	29.3
1995–1996	25.4	28.3	30.4	29.9	31.6	30.6
2000–2001	21.7	24.8	28.2	27.8	29.6	29.2
2001–2002	21.3	24.5	28.0	28.1	29.6	29.0
2002–2003*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2003–2004	22.2	23.5	27.1	27.8	28.6	28.8
2004–2005	21.8	23.3	27.9	27.5	28.8	29.2
Large City Districts						
1990–1991	23.5	24.6	22.7	22.1	25.5	22.1
1995–1996	23.6	24.5	24.4	24.1	25.7	23.7
2000–2001	17.1	20.9	23.6	22.8	25.0	24.7
2001–2002	17.7	20.4	23.5	23.0	23.2	24.5
2002–2003	18.4	21.4	24.1	24.9	24.4	25.8
2003–2004	19.6	21.7	25.0	23.6	24.9	25.8
2004–2005	19.8	21.4	24.8	24.4	25.8	26.9
Districts Excluding the Big 5						
1990–1991	20.5	22.0	21.1	20.2	21.8	20.4
1995–1996	20.9	22.4	22.2	21.9	22.4	22.0
2000–2001	18.9	20.9	21.8	21.3	21.5	21.6
2001–2002	18.8	20.7	21.8	21.4	21.4	21.7
2002–2003	18.9	20.7	22.0	21.6	21.4	21.7
2003–2004	19.2	20.8	21.8	21.8	21.6	21.7
2004–2005	19.1	20.6	21.5	21.7	21.5	21.8
Total Public						
1990–1991	21.8	23.6	23.3	22.4	24.1	22.8
1995–1996	22.4	24.2	24.3	24.0	26.2	24.6
2000–2001	19.6	22.0	23.1	22.7	23.8	23.7
2001–2002	19.5	21.8	23.3	23.2	24.1	24.0
2002–2003*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2003–2004	20.1	21.7	22.2	22.1	22.1	22.3
2004–2005	19.9	21.6	23.1	23.5	23.8	24.1

Note: Average class size for Regents biology for 2001–02 includes classes in biology and living environment. Average class size for Regents biology for 2002–03 and 2003–04 is for living environment only.

* Data for New York City are not available for 2002–03.

3 Performance Trends

The elementary- and middle-level examinations, Regents examinations, and Regents competency tests (RCTs) are key indicators of trends in student performance. This section discusses performance trends over five years on these tests. Performance on State assessments is reported for the following school categories: all public schools (Total Public), New York City public schools (New York City), and public schools outside of New York City (Rest of State). The performance of students with disabilities on the New York State Assessment Program, the RCTs, and the Regents examinations is also discussed. A description of these testing programs and definitions of performance levels can be found in *Part I: Overview*.

New York State Testing Program (NYSTP)

Elementary-Level English Language Arts (ELA)

Fourth-graders performed substantially better on the ELA examination in 2005 than in 1999, the first year of test administration. In February 2005, 70.4 percent of public school fourth-graders (compared with 48.9 percent in 1999) demonstrated achievement of the skills and knowledge in ELA expected of elementary-school students by scoring at or above Level 3 (Figure 3.9). The performance of 5.4 percent was severely deficient (Level 1) (Figure 3.10). New York City fourth-graders also showed improved performance in 2005: 59.5 percent of tested students scored at or above Level 3 compared with 34.4 percent in 1999.

Middle-Level English Language Arts (ELA)

Eighth-graders statewide scored higher on the ELA assessment in 2005 than in the previous five years. In 2005, 48.2 percent of eighth-graders demonstrated proficiency in the ELA standards for their grade compared with 45.0 percent in 2000 and 2001, 44.3 percent in 2002, 45.2 percent in 2003, and 47.3 percent in 2004 (Figure 3.11). Statewide, approximately the same percentage of eighth-graders demonstrated proficiency in ELA in 1999 and 2005: 48.3 percent in 1999 and 48.2 percent in 2005 were proficient. The percentage of New York City public school students demonstrating proficiency decreased from 35.7 percent in 1999 to 32.8 percent in 2005. Fifty-six percent of students in the Rest of State demonstrated proficiency on the middle-level ELA standards. Statewide, the percentage of students scoring at Level 1 decreased from 8.9 percent in 1999 to 6.6 percent in 2005 (Figure 3.12). The students who scored at or above Level 3, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents English examination. Students below those levels will need varying degrees of academic intervention to succeed on the Regents English examination.

Elementary-Level Mathematics

In every year since 1999, a larger percentage of tested students succeeded in meeting the State standards on the elementary-level mathematics assessment than on any other assessment in the NYSTP (Figure 3.13). In 2005, a much larger percentage of students scored at or above Level 3 than in 1999 (84.8 percent in 2005 compared with 66.9 percent in 1999). Only 3.1 percent scored at Level 1 (Figure 3.14). On average, students in public schools outside New York City were more likely to meet the standards than New York City students were. Nevertheless, the percentage of New York City public school students demonstrating proficiency increased from 50.0 percent in 1999 to 77.5 percent in 2005.

Middle-Level Mathematics

From 1999 to 2002, the majority of eighth-graders were not able to demonstrate proficiency in the mathematical knowledge and skills expected of middle-level students (Figure 3.15). These results caused many school districts statewide to examine the curriculum and instruction provided to middle-level students to ensure that they are aligned with the middle-level standards for mathematics. In 2003, 51.4 percent scored at or above Level 3. In 2005, this percentage increased to 55.5. Statewide in 2005, 13.0 percent showed no evidence of proficiency in these skills (Figure 3.16). A full 40.9 percent of New York City students were able to meet the standards in 2005 compared with 22.7 percent in 1999.

Elementary- and Middle-Level Science and Social Studies Tests

Elementary-Level Science

In the 2003–04 school year, the grade 4 science test based on the new standards was administered for the first time. This test assesses knowledge and skills gained in grades K–4 in science. The percentage of students demonstrating the achievement of the skills and knowledge expected of elementary-school students in science in public schools statewide increased from 78.8 percent in 2004 to 80.2 percent in 2005 (Figure 3.17). Statewide, the percentage of public school students performing at Level 1 remained stable: 5.1 percent in 2004 and 5.2 percent in 2005 (Figure 3.18).

Middle-Level Science

The grade 8 science test based on the new standards was administered for the first time in 2000–01. Data on this test were collected for the first time in 2001–02, the second year of testing.

This test assesses knowledge and skills gained in grades 5–8 in scientific inquiry, living environment, and physical setting. Performance statewide on this test decreased slightly between 2002 and 2005: 74.8 percent scored at or above Level 3 in 2002; 68.3 percent did so in 2005 (Figure 3.19). A similar trend was seen in New York City. Statewide, the percentage of students scoring at Level 1 increased since 2002: 5.7 percent in 2002 and 8.5 percent in 2005 (Figure 3.20).

Elementary-Level Social Studies

The grade 5 social studies test based on the new standards was administered for the first time in 2001–02. Data on this test were collected for the first time in that year. This test assesses knowledge and skills gained in grades K–4 in New York State history, United States history, world history, geography, economics, and civics, citizenship, and government. The percentage of students statewide scoring at or above Level 3 increased from 71.5 percent in 2003 to 77.1 percent in 2005 (Figure 3.21). The percentage scoring at Level 1 also increased slightly between those years, from 13.2 to 13.7 percent. Similar trends were seen in New York City and the Rest of State (Figure 3.22).

Middle-Level Social Studies

The grade 8 social studies test based on the new standards was administered for the first time in 2000–01. Data on this test were collected for the first time in 2001–02, the second year of testing. This test assesses knowledge and skills gained in grades 7–8 in United States history, geography, and economics. Performance statewide increased between 2004 and 2005: 44.8 percent in 2004 compared with 58.2 percent in 2005 scored at or above Level 3 (Figure 3.23). New York City saw a significant decrease in students scoring at Level 1, from 22.8 percent in 2004 to 16.9 percent in 2005 (Figure 3.24).

Figure 3.9
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level English Language Arts
1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 207,245
 Number Tested in 2000 = 216,786
 Number Tested in 2001 = 215,037
 Number Tested in 2002 = 212,820

Number Tested in 2003 = 209,905
 Number Tested in 2004 = 206,246
 Number Tested in 2005 = 196,481

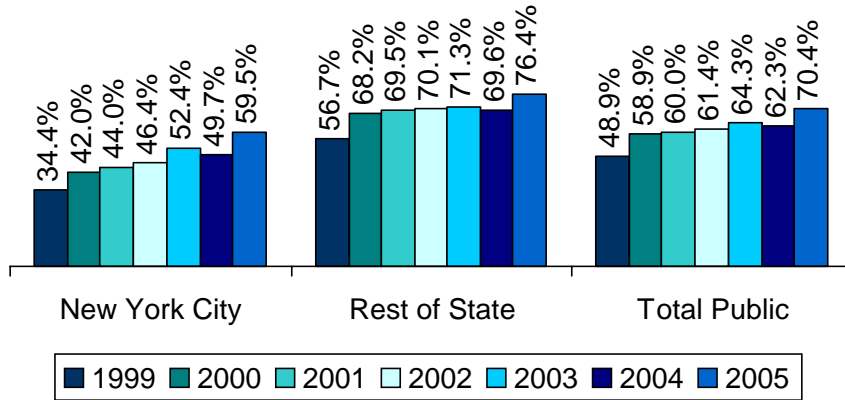


Figure 3.10
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Elementary-Level English Language Arts
1999 to 2005

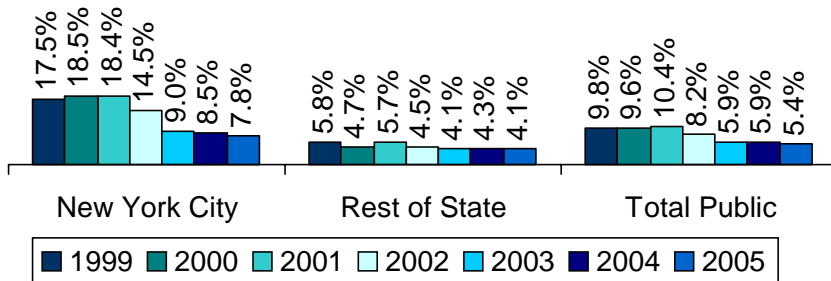


Figure 3.11
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Middle-Level English Language Arts
1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 187,312
 Number Tested in 2000 = 195,996
 Number Tested in 2001 = 196,473
 Number Tested in 2002 = 206,418

Number Tested in 2003 = 212,706
 Number Tested in 2004 = 218,092
 Number Tested in 2005 = 216,149

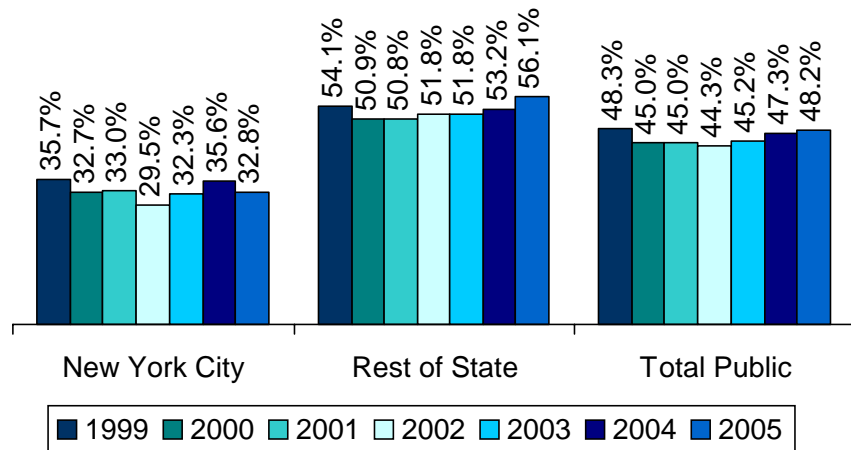


Figure 3.12
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level English Language Arts
1999 to 2005

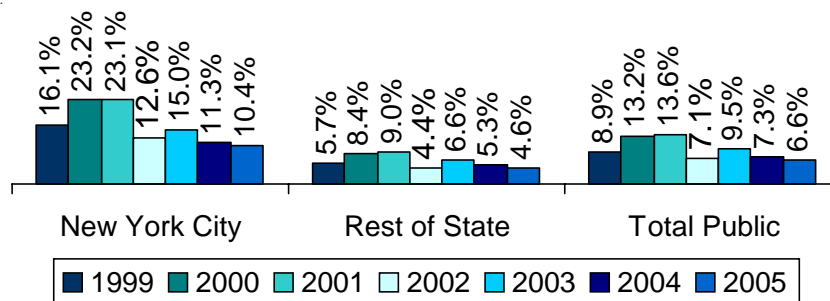


Figure 3.13
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 214,433
 Number Tested in 2000 = 220,669
 Number Tested in 2001 = 219,854
 Number Tested in 2002 = 216,521
 Number Tested in 2003 = 218,179
 Number Tested in 2004 = 214,696
 Number Tested in 2005 = 207,677

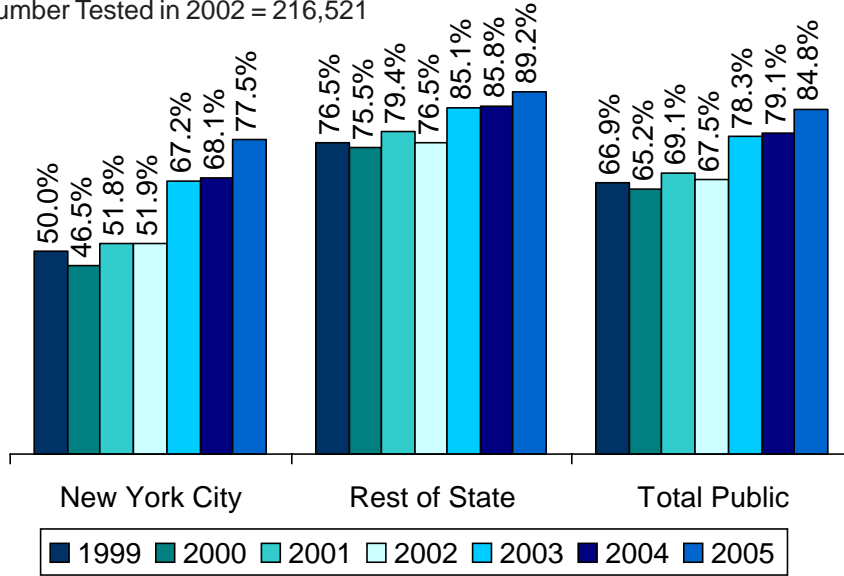


Figure 3.14
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Elementary-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

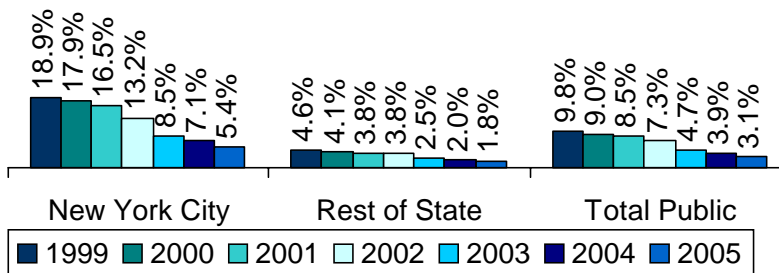


Figure 3.15
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Middle-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 192,140 Number Tested in 2003 = 219,002
 Number Tested in 2000 = 198,094 Number Tested in 2004 = 223,284
 Number Tested in 2001 = 199,984 Number Tested in 2005 = 221,994
 Number Tested in 2002 = 208,183

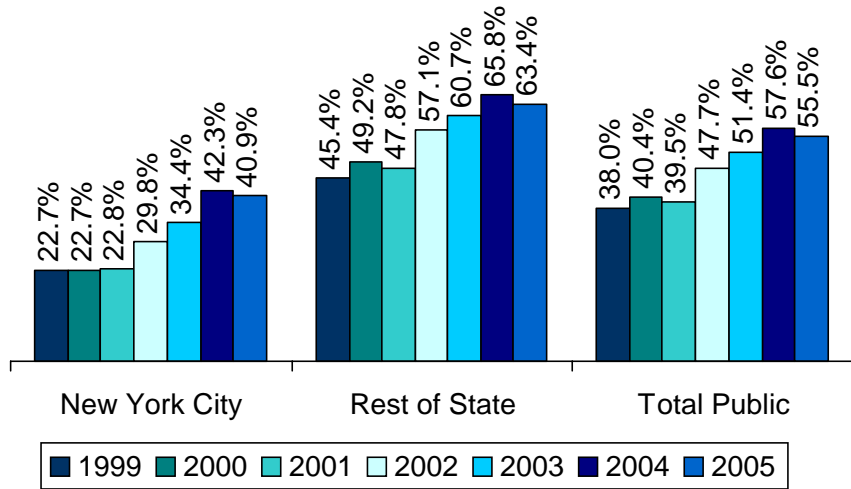


Figure 3.16
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

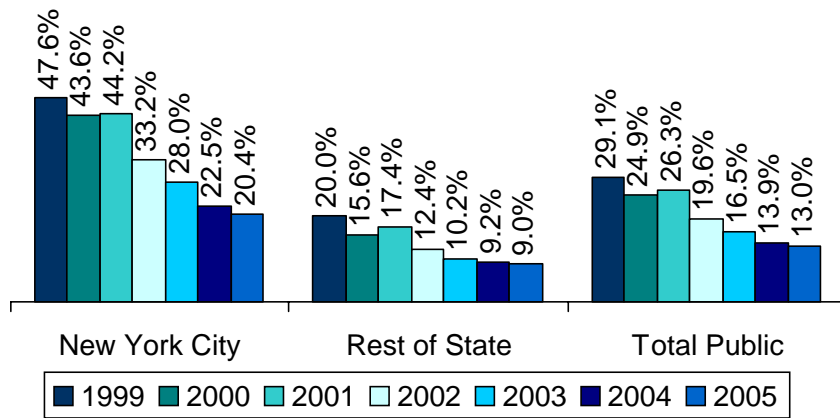


Figure 3.17
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level Science
2004 and 2005

Number Tested in 2004 = 212,216
 Number Tested in 2005 = 205,147

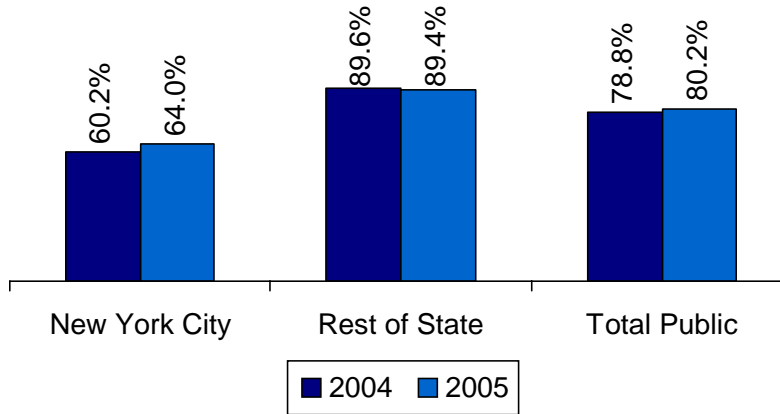


Figure 3.18
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Elementary-Level Science
2004 and 2005

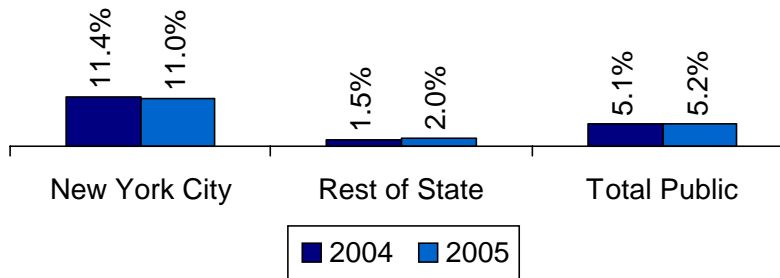


Figure 3.19
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Middle-Level Science
2002 to 2005

Number Tested in 2002 = 178,367
 Number Tested in 2003 = 185,477

Number Tested in 2004 = 194,861
 Number Tested in 2005 = 195,432

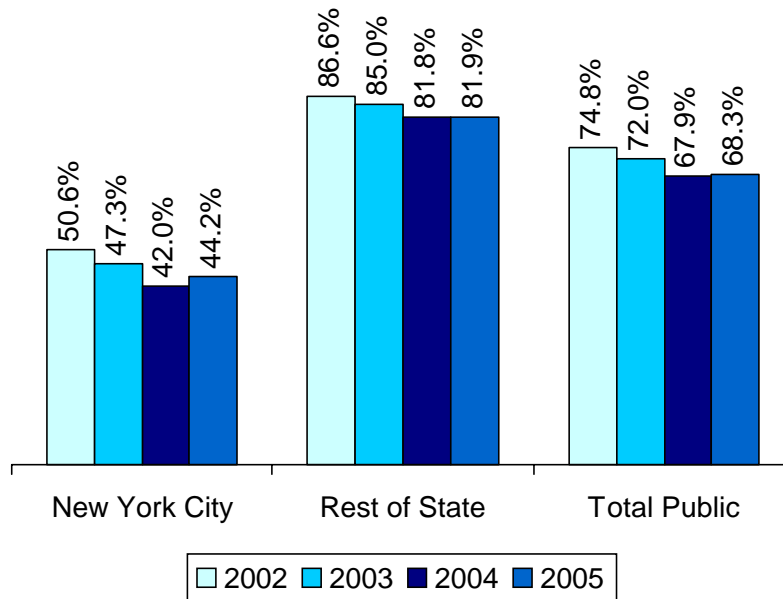


Figure 3.20
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level Science
2002 to 2005

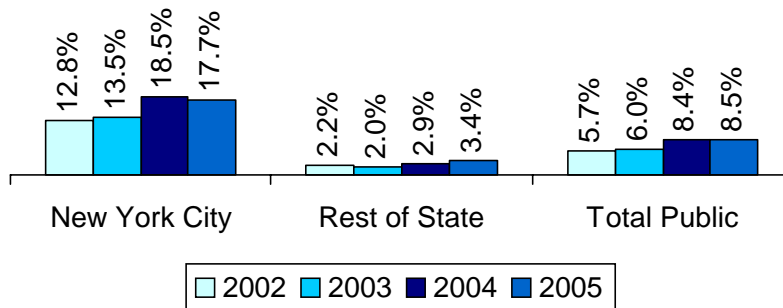


Figure 3.21
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level Social Studies 2002 to 2005

Number Tested in 2002 = 216,132
 Number Tested in 2003 = 216,154

Number Tested in 2004 = 216,247
 Number Tested in 2005 = 213,239

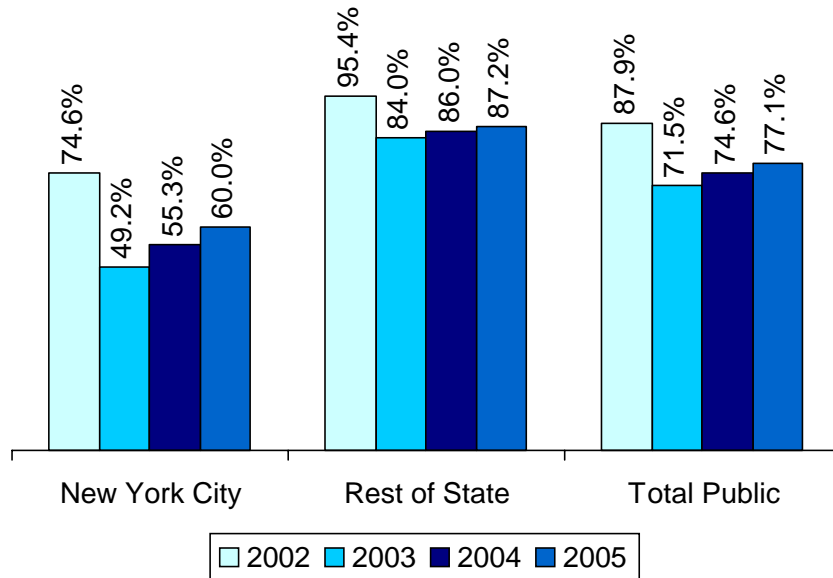


Figure 3.22
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at Level 1 on Elementary-Level Social Studies 2002 to 2005

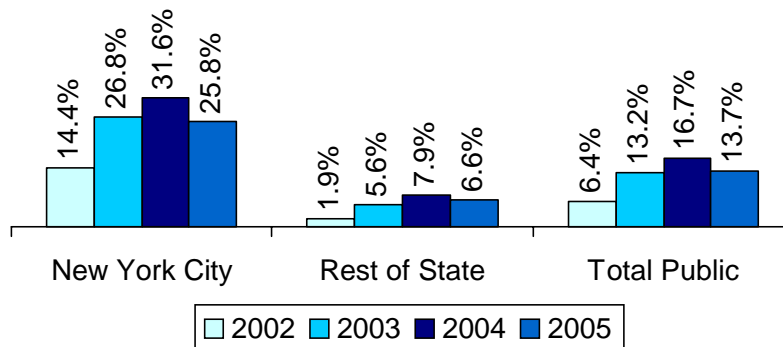


Figure 3.23
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Middle-Level Social Studies
2002 to 2005

Number Tested in 2002 = 195,303
 Number Tested in 2003 = 205,106

Number Tested in 2004 = 217,329
 Number Tested in 2005 = 216,369

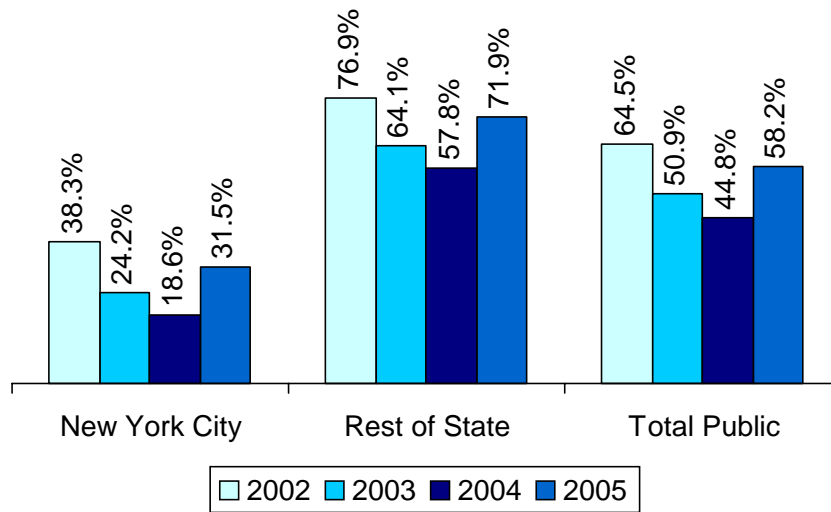
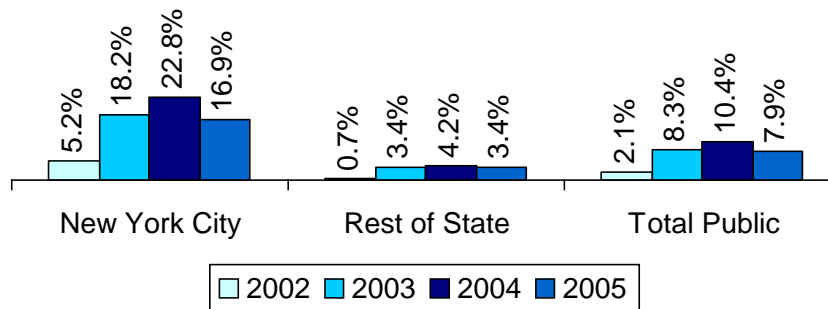


Figure 3.24
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level Social Studies
2002 to 2005



Regents Examinations

General-education students who entered ninth grade for the first time in 1996 were required to score at least 65 (55 with local board approval until the requirements are fully implemented) on the Regents examination in English; students who entered ninth grade in 1997 were required to score at least 65 (55 with local board approval) on the Regents English examination and a Regents mathematics examination; students who entered ninth grade in 1998 were also required to score at least 65 (55 with local board approval) on the Regents global history and geography and the Regents U.S. history and government examinations; and students who entered ninth grade in 1999 or later were also required to score at least 65 (55 with local board approval) on a Regents science examination. Students may also meet the Regents graduation requirement by passing approved alternative assessments. (See *Part I: Overview* for a description of high school graduation requirements.)

Performance on the Regents examinations is reported using two measures: First, in the five curricular areas in which Regents examinations are required for graduation, the number of students tested scoring 55–100 and the number scoring 65–100 are reported. Second, performance on the Regents English, mathematics, global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and science examinations is reported as a percentage of the number of students enrolled in a cohort, for each cohort for which the subject was a graduation requirement.

Beginning in 1996, for each examination, schools reported results for students tested in January and/or June, and only one score, the student's higher score, was reported if the student took an examination more than once during the school year. In 1998, schools began reporting results for students tested the previous August, January, and/or June.

Number Tested and Passing

Test results show that the number of students tested and the number of students scoring 55 or higher on all five core Regents examinations has increased substantially since 1996 (Figures 3.25–3.29). In fact, on all five Regents examinations — comprehensive English; sequential mathematics, course I, and/or mathematics A; global studies (or global history and geography); U.S. history and government; and biology and/or living environment — the number of public school students scoring 55 or higher was greater in 2005 than the number tested in 1996. The 2001–02 downturn in the number of students tested in mathematics reflects the greater amount of time and coursework needed to prepare for the mathematics A examination compared with the sequential mathematics, course I, examination (Figure 3.26).

In 2005, 88 percent of tested students scored 55 or higher on the Regents English examination; 90 percent did so on the Regents mathematics A examination. Scoring 55 or higher on these examinations satisfies the minimum graduation requirements in English and mathematics during the phase-in of new graduation requirements.

Figure 3.25
Trends in Numbers Tested and Scoring
55–100 and 65–100 on the Regents
Comprehensive Examination in English
1995–96 to 2004–05

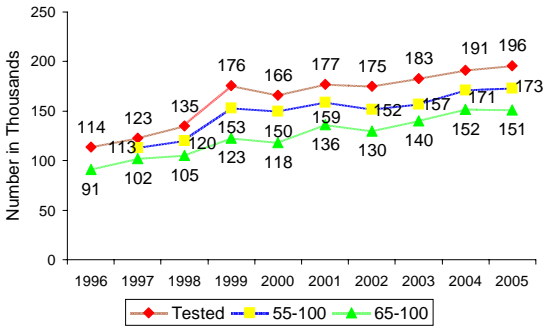


Figure 3.26
Trends in Numbers Tested and Scoring
55–100 and 65–100 on the Regents
Examinations in Sequential Mathematics, Course I,
and/or Mathematics A
1995–96 to 2004–05

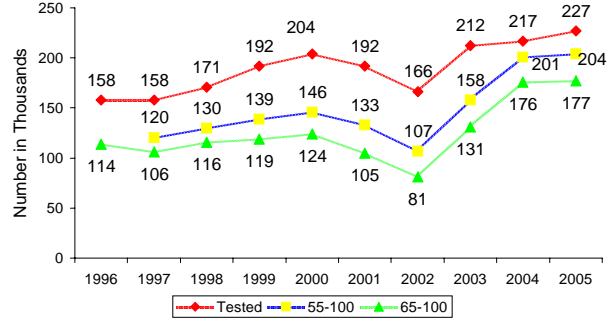


Figure 3.27
Trends in Numbers Tested
and Scoring 55–100 and 65–100
on the Regents Examinations in
Global Studies and/or Global History and Geography
1995–96 to 2004–05

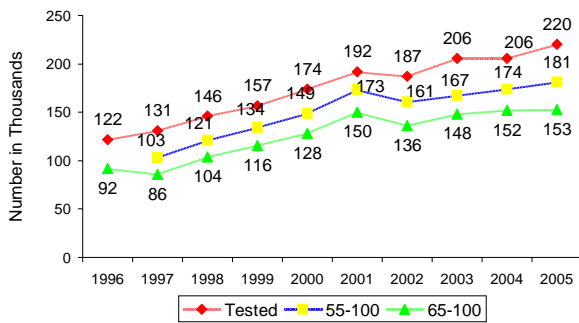


Figure 3.28
Trends in Numbers Tested
and Scoring 55–100 and 65–100
on the Regents Examination in
U.S. History & Government (old and new)
1995–96 to 2004–05

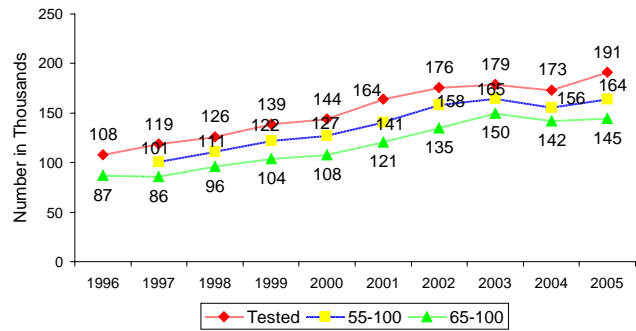
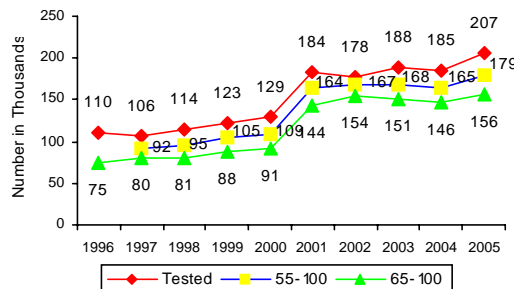


Figure 3.29
Trends in Numbers Tested
and Scoring 55–100 and 65–100
on the Regents Examinations in
Biology and/or Living Environment
1995–96 to 2004–05



Cohort Performance after Four Years of High School

A “cohort” consists of all students, regardless of their current grade status, who first entered grade 9 in a particular year and were enrolled in the reporting school on BEDS day (the first Wednesday in October of the school year, the date on which Basic Educational Data System (BEDS) enrollment data are collected) two years later (or, in the case of ungraded students with disabilities, reached their seventeenth birthday during the school year in which the graded students in the cohort first entered grade 9). For instance, the 1998 accountability cohort consists of all students, regardless of their current grade status, who were enrolled in the school on October 4, 2000 (BEDS day) and either first entered grade 9 (anywhere) during the 1998–99 school year (July 1, 1998 through June 30, 1999) or, in the case of ungraded students with disabilities, reached their seventeenth birthday during the 1998–99 school year.

General-Education District Accountability Cohort Members

General-education students in the 2001 district accountability cohort were more successful in meeting the graduation requirement to score 65 or higher on the Regents English examination than general-education students in any previous cohort (Figure 3.30). Eighty-four percent scored 65 or higher on the Regents examination in English within four years, a nine point increase compared with the 1996 cohort. The percentage of students scoring 55–100 has varied slightly (between 87 and 90 percent) from cohort to cohort, and a small percentage of students in each cohort were not tested.

The percentage of general-education cohort members scoring 65 or higher on a Regents mathematics examination has increased since the 1996 cohort, the first cohort required to meet the Regents mathematics graduation requirement. Eighty-two percent in the 2001 cohort compared with 73 percent in the 1996 cohort scored 65 or higher. The percentage of general-education cohort members scoring 55 or higher has shown a similar pattern. Some of the variations in passing rate across years can be attributed to changes in the high school mathematics standards (Figure 3.31).

Eighty-three percent of general-education students in the 2001 cohort compared with 78 percent in the 1998 cohort scored 65 or higher on the Regents global history and geography graduation requirement within four years (Figure 3.32). The performance of the 1998 and 2001 cohorts on the Regents U.S. history and government examination was similar: 77 percent of the 1998 cohort scored 65–100 after four years; 81 percent of the 2001 cohort did so (Figure 3.33). Students typically take the global history and geography examination in the second year of high school, the U. S. history and government examination in the third year. Figure 3.34 shows the performance of the 1999, 2000, and 2001 cohorts in Regents science. The 1999 cohort was the first group that was required to take and pass a Regents science examination to receive a high school diploma. Eighty percent of this group scored 65–100 on a Regents science examination after four years; 87 percent of the 2001 cohort did so.

Figure 3.30
Performance of General-Education Students
in District Accountability Cohort in
Regents English after Four Years
1996 to 2001 Cohorts

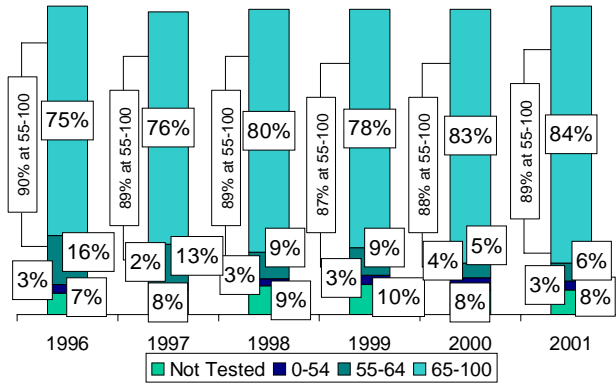


Figure 3.31
Performance of General-Education Students
in District Accountability Cohort in
Regents Mathematics after Four Years
1996 to 2001 Cohorts

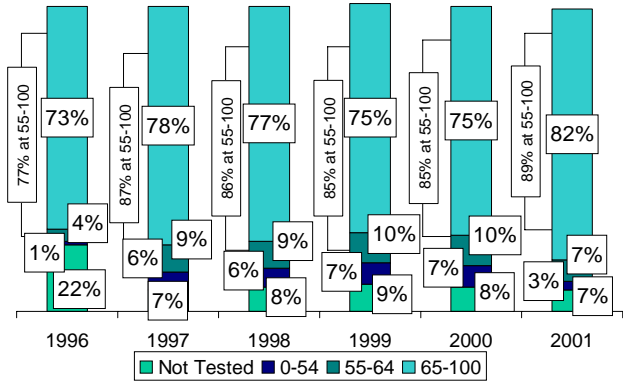


Figure 3.32
Performance of General-Education Students
in District Accountability Cohort in Regents
Global History and Geography after Four
Years

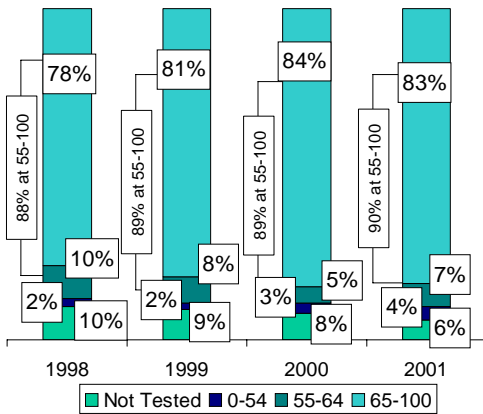


Figure 3.33
Performance of General-Education Students
in District Accountability Cohort in Regents
U.S. History and Government after Four Years
1998 to 2001 Cohorts

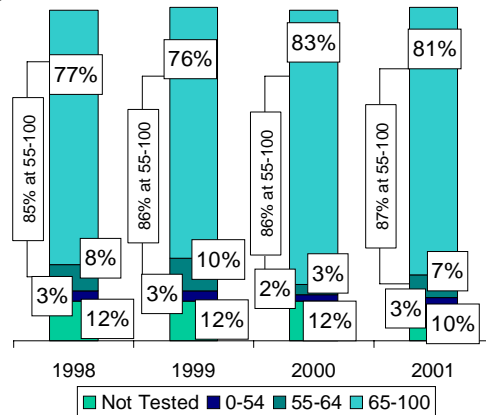
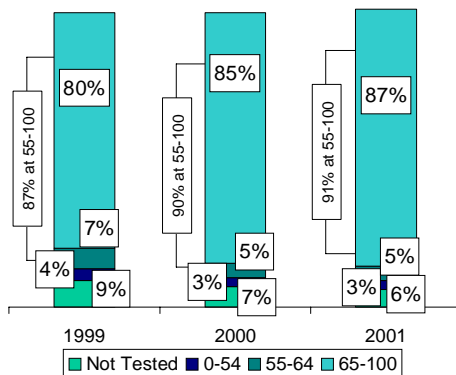


Figure 3.34
Performance of General-Education Students
in District Accountability Cohort in
Regents Science after Four Years
1999 to 2001 Cohorts



Enrollment of General-Education
Students in District Accountability
Cohort after Four Years:

1996: 143,500
1997: 145,000
1998: 144,500
1999: 154,500
2000: 155,000
2001: 157,000

Note: The counts and percentages for the 1996 to 1998 cohorts include students who were continuously enrolled in schools within the district. The 1999 to 2001 cohort counts and percentages also include continuously enrolled students who transferred between schools within a district or who were out of district placements.

General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities Cohort Members

Considering all cohort members, general-education students and students with disabilities, the percentage scoring 65–100 in Regents English increased by 6.9 percentage points between the 1996 and 2001 cohorts (Table 3.10). The performance of cohort members in New York City and in districts outside the Big Five improved substantially.

TABLE 3.10

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN THE 1996 TO 2001 COHORTS SCORING 55-100 AND 65-100 IN REGENTS ENGLISH AFTER FOUR YEARS

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The percentage of general-education students, students with disabilities, and all students in the 2001 cohort scoring 55–100 and 65–100 in Regents mathematics was greater than that of students in the 2000 cohort in New York City, Large City Districts, and statewide (Table 3.11).

TABLE 3.11

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN THE 1997 TO 2001 COHORTS SCORING 55-100 AND 65-100 IN REGENTS MATHEMATICS AFTER FOUR YEARS

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The percentage of 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001 cohort members scoring 55–100 in Regents global history and geography is relatively similar (Table 3.12). However, the percentage of students in the 2001 cohort scoring 65–100 on this examination is smaller than the percentage of students in the 2000 cohort. This trend applies to both general-education students and students with disabilities.

TABLE 3.12

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN THE 1998 TO 2001 COHORTS SCORING 55-100 AND 65-100 IN REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY AFTER FOUR YEARS

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In general, the performance of students in the 2001 cohort was not as good as that of the 2000 cohort in Regents U.S. history and government in all areas of the State and for both general-education students and students with disabilities (Table 3.13).

TABLE 3.13

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN THE 1998 TO 2001 COHORTS SCORING 55-100 AND 65-100 IN REGENTS U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT AFTER FOUR YEARS

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The percentage of students in the 2001 cohort scoring 65–100 in Regents science was greater than the percentage in the 1999 and 2000 cohorts (Table 3.14). The greatest difference was in New York City.

TABLE 3.14

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN THE 1999 AND 2001 COHORTS SCORING 55-100 AND 65-100 IN REGENTS SCIENCE AFTER FOUR YEARS

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Performance of Students with Disabilities

In keeping with the Department's goal of raising standards for all children, one objective is to increase the percentage of students with disabilities who participate in the State testing program. Elementary- and middle-level students must participate in the NYSTP or the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) for students with severe disabilities. The NYSAA, first administered in the 2001–02 school year, measures the progress of students with severe cognitive disabilities in meeting alternate assessment standards. These students are designated as eligible for the NYSAA by the Committee on Special Education (CSE).

No student may earn a high school diploma without demonstrating competency for high school graduation by passing the Regents competency tests (RCTs) or Regents examinations (or approved alternatives) in required areas. The local CSE sets individualized goals for students with disabilities. Those students they judge to be unable to meet the competency requirements earn IEP (Individualized Education Program) diplomas or local certificates when they complete the goals established in their IEPs. Students who do not take the competency tests are required to take the NYSAA, if eligible, or the general assessment. Some students working toward IEP diplomas may take State tests in some academic areas and the NYSAA in others. (See *Part I: Overview* for a description of high school graduation requirements.)

RCT results for students with disabilities are compiled separately from those of general-education students. Results reported earlier for the NYSTP in ELA and mathematics include students with disabilities. Regents examination results sometimes include both general-education students and students with disabilities. Cohort results are reported for general-education students, students with disabilities, and all students.

Students with disabilities have been afforded increased access to general-education programs leading to high school diplomas and, consequently, have been participating in the testing program with greater frequency. This section reviews their performance on the NYSTP, Regents examinations, and RCTs. The Regents examinations document proficiency at the level required for graduation. The RCTs document minimum competency for graduation for students not subject to the revised graduation requirements. Districts must provide a plan for academic intervention services for students who score below Level 3 on NYSTP tests, who fail RCTs, or who score below the approved local passing grade on Regents examinations.

New York State Testing Program: Elementary- and Middle-Level English Language Arts and Mathematics

In 2005, from 13.4 to 14.6 percent of public school students who participated in the elementary- and middle-level NYSTP in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics were disabled. The performance of public school students with disabilities on the elementary-level English language arts assessment has shown no consistent pattern of improvement since 1999; in 2005, 28.2 percent of fourth graders achieved the standards (Table 3.15). The performance of elementary-level students with disabilities has improved substantially in mathematics; 55.0 percent achieved the standards in 2005, compared with 36.0 percent in 1999. The number of eighth grade students with disabilities par-

ticipating in the general assessments increased by 33 percent in ELA and 27 percent in mathematics between 1999 and 2005. The percentage of students with disabilities meeting the middle-level ELA standards increased from 9.3 percent in 1999 to 9.9 percent in 2005. The percentage meeting the middle-level mathematics standards more than doubled to 18.9 percent.

The performance of students with disabilities lags behind that of general-education students. A number of federal and State initiatives are designed to increase the achievement of students with disabilities. General-education students were 10 times more likely than students with disabilities to score at Level 4 on the elementary-level English language arts assessment in 2005 (24.0 compared with 2.4 percent) and nearly three times as likely to score at or above Level 3 (77.0 compared with 28.2 percent) (Figure 3.35).

At the middle level, the disparity between the performance of general-education students and students with disabilities in English was even greater: 10.6 percent of general-education students compared with 0.4 percent of students with disabilities scored at Level 4; 54.7 percent compared with 9.9 percent scored at or above Level 3 (Figure 3.36).

TABLE 3.15

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TESTED AND PERCENT SCORING AT EACH PERFORMANCE LEVEL, NYSTP: ELEMENTARY- AND MIDDLE-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) AND MATHEMATICS

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Figure 3.35
Elementary-Level English Language Arts Results for General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities 2004 and 2005

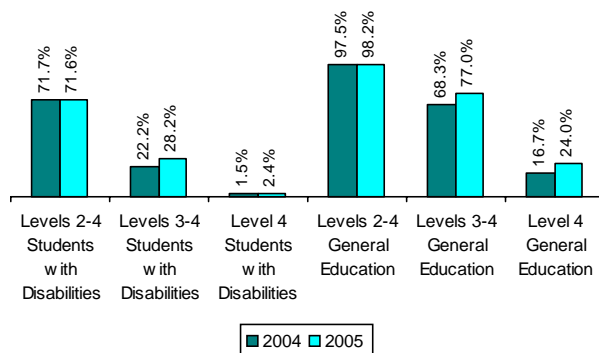
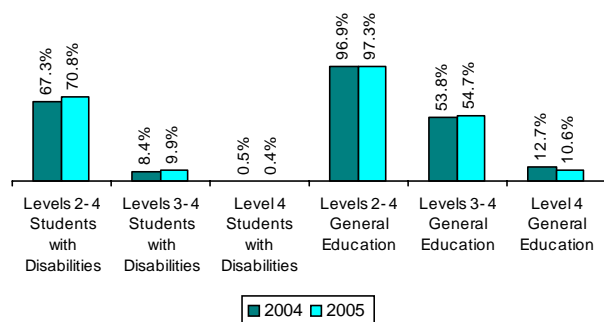


Figure 3.36
Middle-Level English Language Arts Results for General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities 2004 and 2005



Elementary- and Middle-Level Science and Social Studies

The trend in the performance of students with disabilities taking the elementary- and middle-level science and social studies tests was similar to that of all public school students statewide. Fifty-seven percent of public school students with disabilities tested on the elementary-level science test scored at or above Level 3 in 2005 (Table 3.16), compared with 80 percent of all public school students statewide. The performance of both students with disabilities and all public students statewide on the middle-level science assessment declined between 2002 and 2005: 48.6 percent of students with disabilities scored at or above Level 3 in 2002 and 41.2 percent did so in 2005, compared with 74.8 percent of all public students statewide in 2002 and 68.3 percent in 2004. A steady increase in the performance of both students with disabilities and all public students statewide was seen between 2003 and 2005 on the elementary-level social studies assessment: 42.6 percent of students with disabilities scored at or above Level 3 in 2003, 44.8 percent did so in 2004, and 47.5 percent did so in 2005, compared with 71.5 percent of public school students statewide in 2003, 74.6 percent in 2004, and 77.1 percent in 2005. The performance of both students with disabilities and all public students statewide on the middle-level social studies assessment increased between 2004 and 2005: 16.1 percent of students with disabilities scored at or above Level 3 in 2004 and 26.5 percent did so in 2005, compared with 44.8 percent of all public students statewide in 2004 and 58.2 percent in 2005.

TABLE 3.16

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TESTED AND PERCENT SCORING AT EACH PERFORMANCE LEVEL: ELEMENTARY- AND MIDDLE-LEVEL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

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Regents Examinations

While students with disabilities are allowed to meet the assessment requirement for a local diploma by passing the RCTs, all students must take five

Regents examinations before graduation; consequently, larger numbers of students with disabilities are taking Regents examinations. Between 2002–03 and 2004–05, on all five Regents examinations required for graduation, the number of students with disabilities tested has increased (Table 3.17). The percentage of students scoring 55–100 increased between 2002–03 and 2004–05 on the examinations in comprehensive English, mathematics A, and global history and geography and decreased in U.S. history and government and living environment. In U. S. history and government, the percent decreased by 11.7 percentage points.

TABLE 3.17

TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TESTED AND THE NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGE OF TESTED SCORING AT OR ABOVE 55 ON NEW YORK STATE REGENTS EXAMINATIONS

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Cohort Performance after Four Years of High School

Since the Department began describing secondary-level performance using cohorts based on the year of first entry into grade 9, the number of students with disabilities included in the cohort has increased substantially. These increases reflect closer adherence to the cohort definition by school districts and changes in the definition to include more students with disabilities. The 2001 cohort included 19,000 students with disabilities, compared with 11,000 in the 1996 cohort. As more students with disabilities and students with more severe disabilities were included, the percentage of disabled cohort members meeting the graduation assessments in English and mathematics decreased. The number of students with disabilities meeting the standards in English and mathematics was greater in the 2001 cohort than in the 1997 or 1998 cohorts. However, the percentage of 2001 cohort members with disabilities compared with the percentage of 2000 cohort members with disabilities meeting the requirements in English and mathematics increased: 48 percent compared with 47 percent in English and 45 percent compared with 39 in mathematics. (See Figures 3.37 and 3.38.)

Regents Competency Tests

Students with disabilities who do not achieve the minimum score on a Regents examination required for graduation may meet the assessment requirement for a local diploma by passing the Regents competency test (RCT) in the same area. In all subjects, the number of students taking the RCT increased between 2001 and 2005 (Table 3.18). The greatest percentage of increase (60.6 percent) was in reading. Students with disabilities were most successful in passing the RCT in writing: 69.7 percent of tested students passed this assessment. In four RCT areas — mathematics, science, global studies, and U.S. history and government — fewer than 50 percent of tested students with disabilities passed.

TABLE 3.18

TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TESTED AND PERCENTAGE PASSING REGENTS COMPETENCY TESTS

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New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)

The New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) was administered for the first time in 2001–02 to students designated by a district Committee on Special Education as having severe cognitive disabilities. In 2004–05, the NYSSAA was offered in four subjects: English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students eligible to take the NYSSAA used this assessment rather than the general assessment to gauge progress. In English language arts, at least 89 percent of tested students at the elementary, middle, and secondary level scored at or above Level 3 (Table 3.19). In mathematics, over 86 percent did so at all three grade levels. In science over 84 percent scored at or above Level 3, and in social studies over 86 percent did so.

TABLE 3.19

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES TESTED AND PERCENT SCORING AT EACH PERFORMANCE LEVEL: NEW YORK STATE ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

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Figure 3.37
Percentage of Students with Disabilities in the 1996 to 2001 Cohorts Meeting Graduation Requirements in Regents English after Four Years All Public Schools

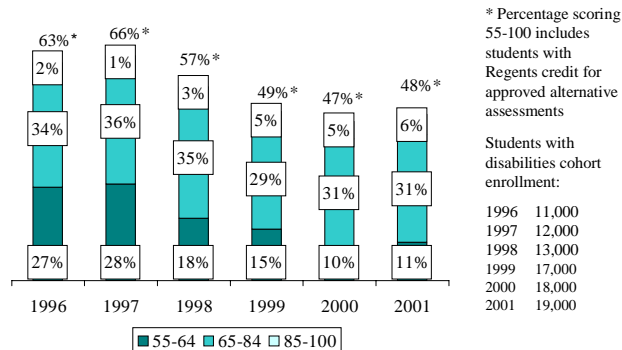
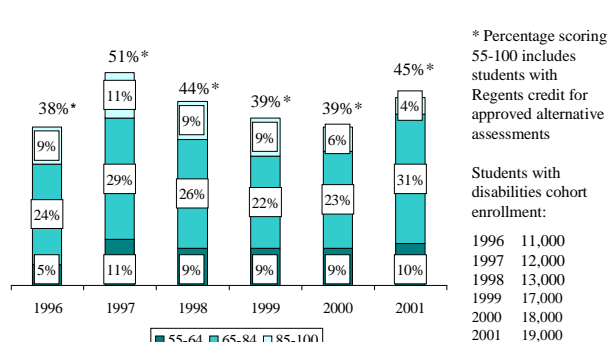


Figure 3.38
Percentage of Students with Disabilities in the 1996 to 2001 Cohorts Meeting Graduation Requirements in Regents Mathematics after Four Years All Public Schools



Performance of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Students

The performance of limited English proficient (LEP) students on the elementary-level English language arts assessment improved from 2004 to 2005 (Figure 3.39). The percentage scoring at or above Level 3 increased from 20.6 percent in 2004 to 30.6 percent in 2005. The percentage of non-LEP students scoring at or above Level 3 also increased, from 63.2 percent in 2004 to 71.3 percent in 2005.

Figure 3.39
Performance of LEP and Not LEP Students on the Elementary-Level English Language Arts Assessment 2004 and 2005

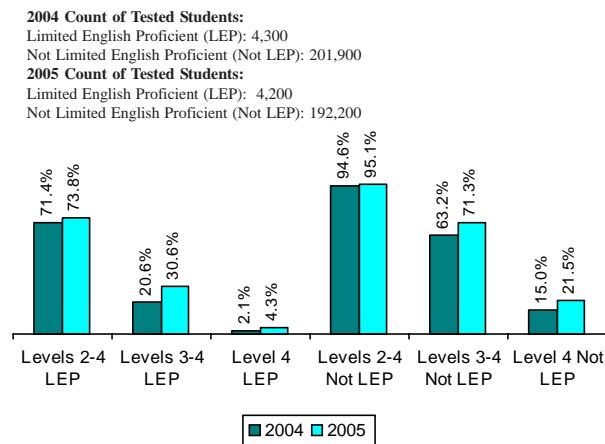
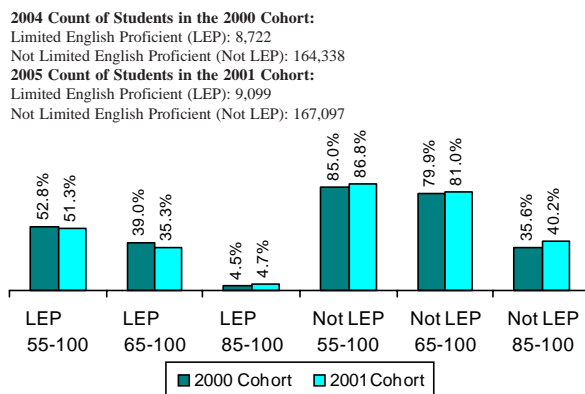


Figure 3.41
Performance of LEP and Not LEP Students in the 2000 and 2001 Cohorts on the Regents English Assessment after Four Years



In middle-level English, the performance of both LEP and non-LEP students remained relatively stable between 2004 and 2005 (Figure 3.40). In 2005, 5.0 percent of LEP students, compared with 5.2 percent in 2004, scored at or above Level 3. In 2005, 49.3 percent of non-LEP students, compared with 48.5 percent in 2004, scored at or above Level 3.

More than half of the LEP students in the 2001 cohort scored 55 or higher in Regents English after four years of high school; more than one-third scored 65 or higher (Figure 3.41). Over 60 percent of LEP students in the 2001 cohort scored 55 or higher in Regents mathematics and nearly 50 percent scored 65 or higher (Figure 3.42).

Figure 3.40
Performance of LEP and Not LEP Students on the Middle-Level English Language Arts Assessment 2004 and 2005

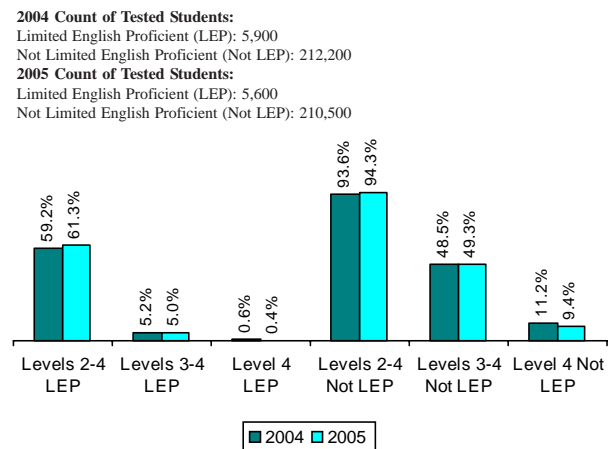


Figure 3.42
Performance of LEP and Not LEP Students in the 2000 and 2001 Cohorts on the Regents Mathematics Assessments after Four Years

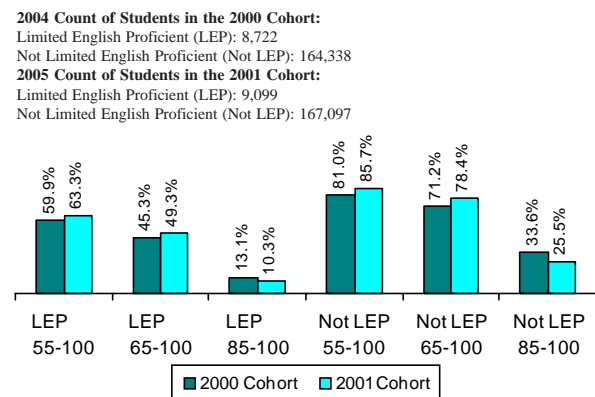


Table 3.10
Percentage of Students in the 1996 to 2001 Cohorts Scoring 55–100 and 65–100 in Regents English after Four Years: New York State

Cohort	Location	General-Education Students			Students with Disabilities			All Students		
		Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100
1996	New York City	46,870	77.0%	53.3%	1,485	55.4%	16.5%	48,355	76.3%	52.2%
	Large City Districts	4,939	84.4	57.9	365	40.3	16.7	5,304	81.4	55.1
	Districts Excluding Big 5	91,740	97.0	86.2	8,988	65.2	39.5	100,728	94.1	69.1
	Total Public*	143,549	90.0%	74.5%	10,838	63.0%	35.6%	154,387	88.1%	71.8%
1997	New York City	47,554	76.7%	55.6%	1,698	50.4%	18.7%	49,252	75.8%	54.4%
	Large City Districts	4,812	80.7	54.1	537	32.8	14.9	5,349	75.9	50.1
	Districts Excluding Big 5	92,738	95.9	87.3	9,820	69.9	42.2	102,558	93.4	83.0
	Total Public*	145,237	89.1%	75.8%	12,060	65.5%	37.7%	157,297	87.3%	72.8%
1998	New York City	45,591	79.1%	63.5%	2,842	39.6%	19.9%	48,433	76.8%	60.9%
	Large City Districts	4,684	81.3	63.6	485	36.9	20.0	5,169	77.2	59.5
	Districts Excluding Big 5	94,327	93.4	88.4	9,866	62.6	45.1	104,193	90.4	84.2
	Total Public*	144,644	88.5%	79.7%	13,202	56.7%	38.8%	157,846	85.8%	76.3%
1999	New York City	48,878	75.9%	61.0%	3,621	31.2%	15.1%	52,499	72.9%	57.8%
	Large City Districts	5,056	79.7	61.1	832	32.0	16.1	5,888	73.0	54.8
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,587	92.7	87.0	12,425	55.4	41.1	113,012	88.6	82.0
	Total Public*	154,521	87.0%	77.9%	16,878	49.1%	34.3%	171,399	83.3%	73.6%
2000	New York City	48,954	77.8%	69.6%	2,884	33.1%	22.9%	51,838	75.3%	67.0%
	Large City Districts	5,197	80.8	69.6	1,077	25.3	16.7	6,274	71.3	60.6
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,842	92.9	89.6	14,106	51.1	41.0	114,948	87.7	83.6
	Total Public*	154,993	87.7%	82.6%	18,067	46.7%	36.6%	173,060	83.4%	77.8%
2001	New York City	50,276	79.7%	69.3%	3,896	29.4%	18.0%	54,172	76.1%	65.6%
	Large City Districts	5,218	82.3	70.2	1,152	28.0	16.4	6,370	72.4	60.4
	Districts Excluding Big 5	101,414	94.7	91.6	14,102	55.0	44.2	115,516	89.8	85.8
	Total Public*	157,031	89.5%	83.7%	19,165	48.1%	37.2%	176,196	85.0%	78.7%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

Table 3.11
Percentage of Students in the 1997 to 2001 Cohorts Scoring 55–100 and 65–100 in Regents Mathematics after Four Years
New York State

Cohort	Location	General-Education Students			Students with Disabilities			All Students		
		Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100
1997	New York City	47,554	72.2%	58.7%	1,698	30.2%	18.0%	49,252	70.5%	57.3%
	Large City Districts	4,812	70.2	55.6	537	15.1	10.4	5,349	64.7	51.5
	Districts Excluding Big 5	92,738	95.0	89.1	9,820	56.4	45.5	102,558	91.3	85.0
	Total Public*	145,237	86.6%	78.0%	12,060	50.8%	40.1%	157,297	83.9%	75.1%
1998	New York City	45,591	74.4%	59.1%	2,842	25.6%	14.7%	48,433	71.6%	56.5%
	Large City Districts	4,684	73.2	53.3	485	23.9	16.7	5,169	68.6	49.8
	Districts Excluding Big 5	94,327	92.3	86.7	9,866	50.8	41.7	104,193	88.4	82.5
	Total Public*	144,644	86.0%	76.9%	13,202	44.4%	35.0%	157,846	82.5%	73.4%
1999	New York City	48,878	70.4%	54.5%	3,621	18.4%	9.3%	52,499	66.8%	51.4%
	Large City Districts	5,056	70.8	50.4	832	15.4	10.8	5,888	63.0	44.8
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,587	92.0	86.1	12,425	47.1	38.2	113,012	87.0	80.8
	Total Public*	154,521	84.4%	74.9%	16,878	39.4%	30.6%	171,399	80.0%	70.6%
2000	New York City	48,954	73.5%	57.3%	2,884	23.3%	13.0%	51,838	70.7%	54.9%
	Large City Districts	5,197	70.6	51.1	1,077	16.2	10.5	6,274	61.3	44.1
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,842	90.9	84.2	14,106	43.3	34.0	114,948	85.1	78.1
	Total Public*	154,993	84.8%	74.6%	18,067	38.5%	29.3%	173,060	79.9%	69.9%
2001	New York City	50,276	80.0%	67.2%	3,896	24.4%	13.5%	54,172	76.0%	63.3%
	Large City Districts	5,218	80.3	63.6	1,152	24.0	13.6	6,370	70.1	54.6
	Districts Excluding Big 5	101,414	94.5	90.4	14,102	52.2	42.4	115,516	89.4	84.5
	Total Public*	157,031	89.4%	82.0%	19,165	44.8%	34.8%	176,196	84.5%	76.9%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

**Table 3.12
Percentage of Students in the 1998 to 2001 Cohorts Scoring 55–100 and 65–100 in Regents Global History and Geography after Four Years: New York State**

Cohort	Location	General-Education Students			Students with Disabilities			All Students		
		Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100
1998	New York City	45,591	78.7%	61.5%	2,842	39.6%	19.9%	48,433	76.4%	59.1%
	Large City Districts	4,684	85.1	62.3	485	40.2	26.0	5,169	80.9	58.9
	Districts Excluding Big 5	94,327	92.1	86.2	9,866	65.3	47.8	104,193	89.5	82.6
	Total Public*	144,644	87.7%	77.7%	13,202	58.8%	40.9%	157,846	85.3%	74.6%
1999	New York City	48,878	78.7%	64.1%	3,621	38.9%	19.7%	52,499	76.0%	61.1%
	Large City Districts	5,056	85.4	69.2	832	41.7	25.8	5,888	79.2	63.1
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,587	93.5	89.7	12,425	67.4	54.0	113,012	90.6	85.8
	Total Public*	154,521	88.5%	81.0%	16,878	60.0%	45.3%	171,399	85.7%	77.4%
2000	New York City	48,954	78.5%	71.1%	2,884	37.4%	25.5%	51,838	76.3%	68.6%
	Large City Districts	5,197	83.5%	72.2%	1,077	30.7	21.2	6,274	74.5	63.4
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,842	93.8	90.4	14,106	59.8	46.7	114,948	89.6	85.1
	Total Public*	154,993	88.6%	83.7%	18,067	54.5%	41.8%	173,060	85.1%	79.3%
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	Large City Districts	5,218	83.4	70.2	1,152	34.2	22.2	6,370	74.5	61.6
	Districts Excluding Big 5	101,414	94.7	90.7	14,102	57.3	46.8	115,516	90.1	85.3
	Total Public*	157,031	89.6%	83.0%	19,165	50.5%	39.8%	176,196	85.3%	78.3%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

Table 3.13
Percentage of Students in the 1998 to 2001 Cohorts Scoring 55–100 and 65–100 in
Regents U.S. History and Government after Four Years: New York State

Cohort	Location	General-Education Students			Students with Disabilities			All Students		
		Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100
1998	New York City	45,591	73.0%	60.8%	2,842	30.5%	18.6%	48,433	70.5%	58.4%
	Large City Districts	4,684	77.2	57.9	485	35.1	21.9	5,169	73.2	54.6
	Districts Excluding Big 5	94,327	91.1	85.0	9,866	60.2	45.6	104,193	89.2	82.2
	Total Public*	144,644	85.0%	76.5%	13,202	52.9%	38.9%	157,846	82.3%	73.3%
1999	New York City	48,878	72.3%	57.7%	3,621	28.9%	16.0%	52,499	69.3%	54.9%
	Large City Districts	5,056	76.9	58.7	832	35.9	19.2	5,888	71.1	53.1
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,587	91.9	85.3	12,425	59.1	44.4	113,012	88.3	80.8
	Total Public*	154,521	85.2%	75.7%	16,878	51.5%	37.1%	171,399	81.9%	71.9%
2000	New York City	48,954	74.4%	69.2%	2,884	36.9%	29.8%	51,838	72.3%	67.0%
	Large City Districts	5,197	79.1	71.1	1,077	29.4	23.6	6,274	70.6	62.9
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,842	92.4	89.9	14,106	59.6	50.9	114,948	88.4	85.1
	Total Public*	154,993	86.3%	82.8%	18,067	54.1%	45.9%	173,060	82.9%	78.9%
2001	New York City	50,276	75.7%	64.6%	3,896	30.2%	20.0%	54,172	72.4%	61.4%
	Large City Districts	5,218	77.7	63.3	1,152	29.2	18.8	6,370	68.9	55.2
	Districts Excluding Big 5	101,414	93.6	89.8	14,102	56.5	46.9	115,516	89.1	84.5
	Total Public*	157,031	87.3%	80.8%	19,165	49.5%	39.7%	176,196	83.2%	76.3%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

**Table 3.14
Percentage of Students in the 1999 and 2001 Cohorts Scoring 55–100 and 65–100 in Regents Science after Four Years
New York State**

Cohort	Location	General-Education Students			Students with Disabilities			All Students		
		Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Cohort Enrollment	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100
1999	New York City	48,878	74.4%	59.2%	3,621	26.9%	14.4%	52,499	71.1%	56.1%
	Large City Districts	5,056	85.7	70.2	832	40.5	27.3	5,888	79.3	64.1
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,587	94.0	90.7	12,425	62.3	51.9	113,012	90.5	86.4
	Total Public*	154,521	87.5%	80.1%	16,878	53.6%	42.7%	171,399	84.2%	76.4%
2000	New York City	48,954	78.8%	67.5%	2,884	37.4%	22.5%	51,838	76.5%	65.0%
	Large City Districts	5,197	88.4	76.5	1,077	38.5	26.9	6,274	79.8	68.0
	Districts Excluding Big 5	100,842	95.7	93.3	14,106	65.2	56.3	114,948	91.9	88.8
	Total Public*	154,993	90.1%	84.6%	18,067	59.1%	49.1%	173,060	86.9%	80.9%
2001	New York City	50,276	81.5%	71.3%	3,896	32.1%	20.0%	54,172	77.9%	67.6%
	Large City Districts	5,218	87.3	77.7	1,152	41.2	30.2	6,370	79.0	69.1
	Districts Excluding Big 5	101,414	96.7	94.6	14,102	65.7	56.8	115,516	92.9	90.0
	Total Public*	157,031	91.5%	86.5%	19,165	57.4%	47.7%	176,196	87.8%	82.3%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

Table 3.15
Number of Public School Students with Disabilities
Tested and Percent Scoring at Each Performance Level
New York State Testing Program
Elementary- and Middle-Level English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
1999 to 2005

Assessment	Year Tested	Number Tested	% at Level 1	% at Level 2	% at Level 3	% at Level 4
Elementary-Level ELA	1999	24,958	31.5%	49.5%	18.4%	0.6%
	2000	27,859	31.6	42.8	23.1	2.5
	2001	28,142	34.8	39.6	22.7	2.8
	2002	27,393	27.6	42.8	25.6	4.1
	2003	26,583	28.7	48.7	19.7	2.8
	2004	26,884	28.3	49.5	20.6	1.5
	2005	26,640	28.4	43.4	25.8	2.4
Middle-Level ELA	1999	23,753	33.4	57.2	9.0	0.3
	2000	25,734	44.0	47.6	7.9	0.5
	2001	26,554	46.7	45.3	7.4	0.5
	2002	28,483	27.7	63.1	8.7	0.5
	2003	30,172	38.4	53.7	7.5	0.3
	2004	31,024	32.7	58.9	7.9	0.5
	2005	31,580	29.2	60.9	9.5	0.4
Elementary-Level Math	1999	28,223	30.1	33.9	29.9	6.1
	2000	28,299	29.4	35.6	30.0	5.0
	2001	28,767	28.7	32.5	31.2	7.7
	2002	27,660	26.0	36.8	31.1	6.1
	2003	27,216	20.2	32.0	39.0	8.8
	2004	27,788	17.4	34.1	40.9	7.6
	2005	27,791	15.6	29.3	43.8	11.2
Middle-Level Math	1999	24,475	66.3	25.9	7.4	0.4
	2000	25,799	59.8	30.4	9.3	0.4
	2001	26,995	61.9	28.6	9.1	0.4
	2002	28,156	51.6	33.7	13.8	0.9
	2003	29,921	48.5	35.0	15.7	0.7
	2004	30,566	45.0	35.8	18.2	1.0
	2005	31,202	42.3	38.8	18.2	0.7

Table 3.16
Number of Public School Students with Disabilities
Tested and Percent Scoring at Each Performance Level
Elementary- and Middle-Level Science and Social Studies
2002 to 2005

Assessment	Year Tested	Number Tested	% at Level 1	% at Level 2	% at Level 3	% at Level 4
Elementary-Level Science*	2004	27,040	15.0%	27.9%	41.3%	15.8%
	2005	27,147	16.4	26.1	39.1	18.3
Middle-Level Science	2002	25,244	17.4	34.0	40.2	8.4
	2003	25,733	18.1	36.5	38.3	7.1
	2004	27,114	22.8	36.6	34.8	5.8
	2005	28,091	23.1	35.7	34.2	7.0
Elementary-Level Social Studies	2002	28,779	22.1	10.7	56.7	10.6
	2003	28,295	35.4	22.0	39.1	3.5
	2004	28,894	42.1	13.1	38.7	6.1
	2005	29,653	37.1	15.4	39.5	8.0
Middle-Level Social Studies	2002	25,614	8.8	59.7	30.4	1.0
	2003	26,869	25.4	55.6	18.0	0.9
	2004	29,110	29.4	54.5	15.2	0.9
	2005	29,874	23.8	49.7	24.6	1.9

*The elementary-level science test based on the new standards was administered for the first time in 2003–04.

Table 3.17
Trends in the Number of Students with Disabilities Tested and the Numbers and
Percentage of Tested Scoring at or above 55 on New York State Regents Examinations
2002–03 to 2004–05

Regents Examinations	2002–03			2003–04			2004–05		
	Number Written	55 or Above	% at or Above 55	Number Written	55 or Above	% at or Above 55	Number Written	55 or Above	% at or Above 55
Comprehensive English	16,309	9,680	59.4%	17,321	11,194	64.6%	18,949	12,144	64.1%
Mathematics A	16,826	7,709	45.8	19,015	13,663	71.9	22,129	15,000	67.8
Global History and Geography	19,864	11,267	56.7	20,582	12,797	62.2	23,190	13,803	59.5
U.S. History & Government	15,668	11,824	75.5	15,754	11,346	72.0	17,112	10,910	63.8
Living Environment	16,001	11,427	71.4	17,637	12,619	71.5	19,804	13,552	68.4

Table 3.18
Trends in the Number of Students with Disabilities Tested
and Percentage Passing Regents Competency Tests
New York State
2001 to 2005

Regents Competency Test	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Number Written	Percent Passing	Number Written	Percent Passing	Number Written	Percent Passing	Number Written	Percent Passing	Number Written	Percent Passing
Mathematics	16,181	63.7%	13,051	55.1%	18,093	62.7%	17,730	58.8%	17,199	47.5%
Science	14,723	39.8	11,536	38.9	13,877	38.6	14,339	46.6	16,539	39.0
Reading	7,130	60.3	6,762	58.7	9,837	61.2	8,526	59.7	11,450	51.0
Writing	6,465	69.9	5,380	69.2	7,181	68.2	8,019	78.4	8,801	69.7
Global Studies	9,624	31.9	8,381	31.6	11,665	35.7	11,000	35.7	12,292	18.9
U.S. History and Government	7,254	42.9	5,216	46.7	6,504	45.4	5,886	46.9	7,546	35.8

Table 3.19
Number of Public School Students with Severe Disabilities
Tested and Percent Scoring at Each Performance Level
New York State Alternate Assessment
2004–05

Assessment	Number Tested	% at Level 1	% at Level 2	% at Level 3	% at Level 4
English Language Arts					
Elementary Level	1,803	1.3%	9.8%	19.5%	69.5%
Middle Level	1,822	0.8	8.0	18.8	72.5
Secondary Level	1,551	1.5	8.8	17.9	71.8
Mathematics					
Elementary Level	1,753	2.8	10.5	19.3	67.4
Middle Level	1,793	1.9	10.3	18.0	69.8
Secondary Level	1,515	2.5	9.2	17.5	70.8
Science					
Elementary Level	1,751	3.0	12.2	18.7	66.1
Middle Level	1,772	1.9	10.7	18.4	69.0
Secondary Level	1,457	2.0	9.0	16.3	72.8
Social Studies					
Elementary Level	1,732	2.5	11.0	18.9	67.5
Middle Level	1,744	1.8	9.3	16.7	72.2
Secondary Level	1,474	1.8	8.1	18.9	71.2

4 Other Performance Measures

Performance measures other than State tests can be used to assess student achievement. These measures include Regents and local diplomas awarded, college-going rates, national scholarships, and results of national assessment programs. Descriptions of current and future graduation requirements can be found in *Part I: Overview*.

State Measures

The ultimate goal of elementary, middle, and secondary education is for students to acquire the proficiencies required for employment and postsecondary education. Credentials awarded by secondary schools and college-going rates are two measures of success in accomplishing this goal. The measures are displayed by the following categories of public schools: New York City, Large City Districts, and Districts Excluding the Big 5.

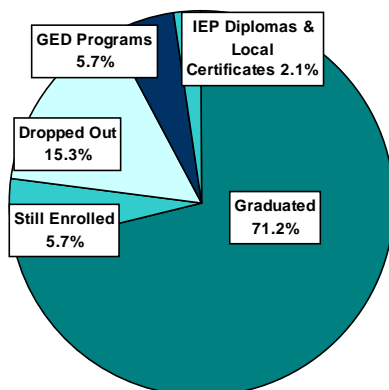
Credentials

In New York State, a Regents-endorsed local diploma (Regents diploma) is generally regarded as an indicator of rigorous effort and excellent accomplishment. The percentage of students receiving Regents diplomas each year is an indicator of attainment for the educational system. It should be noted, however, that many public schools offer courses of study that exceed the minimum standards established by

the State Education Department for awarding Regents diplomas.

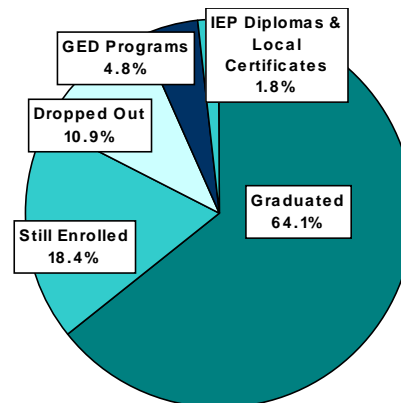
Data by Total Cohort have been released for the 2000 and 2001 Total Cohorts. A Total Cohort includes students who first entered grade nine or, for ungraded students, reached their seventeenth birthday in a particular school year and who were enrolled in a district for a minimum of five months, unless the student transferred to another approved diploma granting program. For example, the 2000 Total Cohort consists of all students who first entered grade nine or, in the case of ungraded students with disabilities, reached their seventeenth birthday in the 2000–01 school year, and were enrolled in a district for a minimum of five months, unless the student transferred to another approved diploma granting program. Figures 3.43 and 3.44 show the outcomes of students in the 2000 and 2001 Total Cohorts. As of June 2005, five years after first entering grade 9, over 70 percent of cohort members had earned high school diplomas. Four years after first entering grade 9, 64.1 percent of 2001 cohort members had earned diplomas. Comparing results for these cohorts suggests that many students who are still enrolled after four years will either graduate or drop out in the fifth year. The percentages of students graduating and dropping out were greater after five years than after four. Conversely, fewer students were still enrolled after five years than after four.

Figure 3.43
2000 Total Cohort: Outcome Status Including Credentials Earned After Five Years as of June 2005



Count of students = 210,159

Figure 3.44
2001 Total Cohort: Outcome Status Including Credentials Earned After Four Years as of June 2005



Count of students = 214,494

Statewide Results

In 2005, 153,202 public school students statewide graduated from high school, compared with 136,754 in 1996 when the new standards were adopted (Figure 3.45). The percentage of high school graduates receiving Regents diplomas dropped dramatically in 1988–89, the year that the provisions of the Regents Action Plan increasing graduation requirements were fully implemented (Figure 3.46). Thirty-six percent of the graduates of New York State’s public schools earned Regents diplomas in 1988–89, compared with 49 percent the previous year. Between 1989–90 and 1998–99, only small increases were achieved in the percentage of graduates earning Regents diplomas. Between 1998–99 and 2003–04, the percentage of graduates earning Regents diplomas increased by 12 percentage points: 57 percent of graduates earned Regents endorsements in 2003–04.

Beginning in January 2005, students who first entered grade 9 in 2001 or later were subject to new requirements for earning a Regents diploma. Consequently, in 2004–05, the percentage of graduates earning Regents diplomas increased in all areas of the state. Public schools statewide increased their Regents diploma rate from the previous year by 13 percentage points, in New York City by 6 points, in Large City Districts by 22 points, and in districts outside the Big 5 by 15 points. Prior to January 2005, students were required to pass eight Regents examinations with a score of 65–100 to receive a Regents diploma and eight Regents examinations with a score of 90–100 to receive a Regents diploma with Honors. After January 2005, students were required to pass only five Regents examinations with a score of 65–100 to receive a Regents diploma and five Regents examinations with a score of 90–100 to receive a Regents diploma with Honors. To receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, students were required to pass eight Regents examinations with a score of 65–100; to receive a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation with Honors, students were required to pass eight Regents examinations with a score of 90–100.

College-Going Rate

Table 3.20 shows trends in the college-going rate of New York State high school graduates. The rate is based on secondary schools’ reports of the number of graduates who intend to enroll in four-year and two-year postsecondary institutions as well as other postsecondary education programs.¹ Public school college-going rates for 1980 and 1990 are not directly comparable to those for 1998 and later. Prior to 1998, New York City apportioned students with no specified plans among all categories, including a share to the postsecondary education categories. In 1998, New York City placed unknowns in “Other,” reducing the counts in postsecondary education categories for all public schools.

TABLE 3.20

TRENDS IN COLLEGE-GOING RATE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1980, 1990, AND 2000 TO 2005

PAGE 87

The public school college-going rate in 2005 (81.1 percent) was substantially higher than that in 1980 (66.3 percent). Increases in the percentage of high school graduates planning to attend a four-year institution accounted for most of the increase; this group increased from 37.8 to 51.7 percent. The percentage of graduates who planned to pursue their education at two-year institutions declined between 1990 and 2000, increased between 2000 and 2004, but then declined slightly to 28.1 in 2005. The percentage of graduates planning to attend other postsecondary institutions has declined since 1980; 1.4 percent of 2005 graduates planned to attend these institutions.

¹Prior to 2002, these data were based on aggregate data provided by principals. These data do not reflect actual postsecondary enrollment data. The 2002 to 2005 data for public schools were taken from individual student records submitted to the Department using the System for Tracking Education Performance (STEP) and may be more accurate.

Figure 3.45
Number of Public High School Graduates
1995-96 to 2004-05

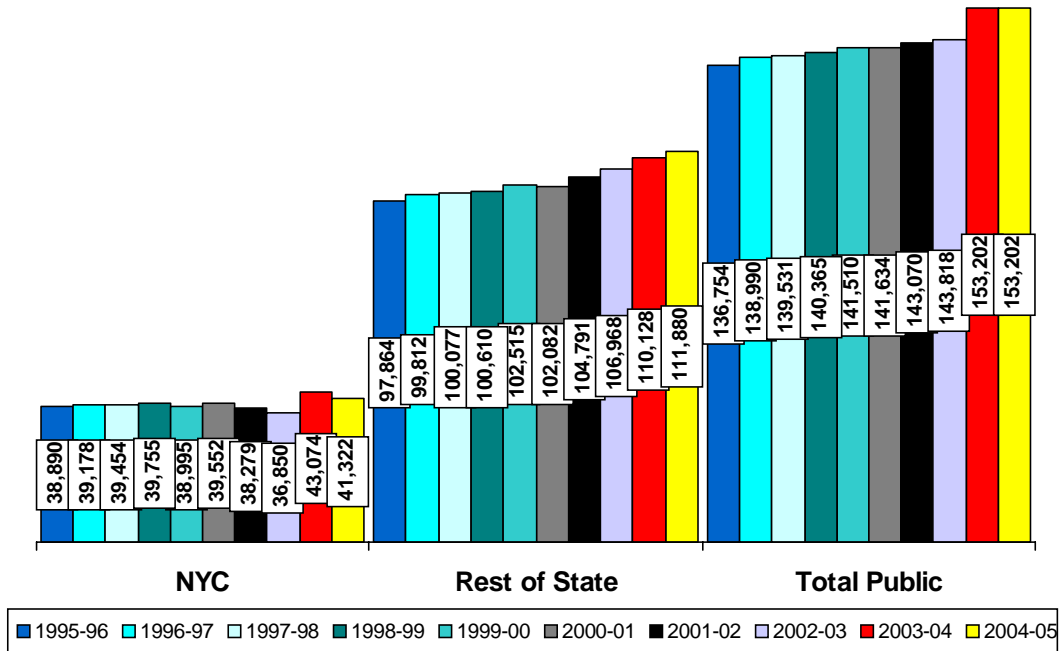
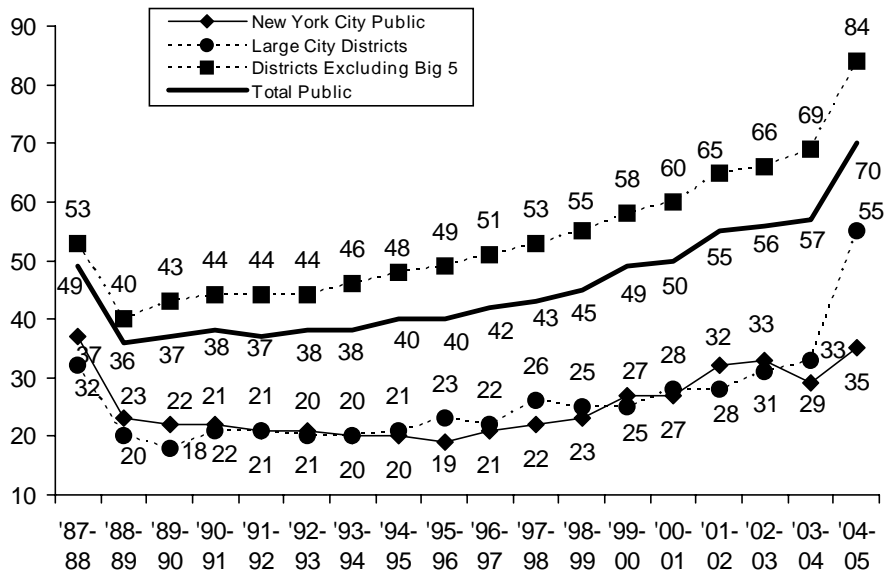


Figure 3.46
Percent of Public High School Graduates Receiving Regents Diplomas
1987-88 to 2004-05



National Programs

The performance of New York State and national students can be compared on national scholarship programs and College Entrance Examination Board programs. (Information about the participation of minority students in national standardized testing programs can be found in *Part V: Minority Issues*.)

College Entrance Examination Board

The College Entrance Examination Board sponsors a series of tests for secondary school students. The Scholastic Assessment Test or SAT I (formerly the Scholastic Aptitude Test) is designed to measure verbal and quantitative reasoning skills, developed over many years of education, that are related to academic performance in college. The SAT II: Subject Tests (formerly achievement tests) measure achievement in a wide range of secondary-level courses. The Advanced Placement Program measures achievement in college-level courses offered in secondary schools to determine whether participants are qualified for college credit.

Scholastic Assessment Test

Each year about one million college-bound students nationwide take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I). There are two components to the SAT I: the verbal test measures vocabulary and reading comprehension skills, and the mathematics test measures the ability to solve problems involving arithmetic reasoning, algebra, and geometry. The SAT is intended to predict student performance in college; it measures abilities that are developed over years of study and use, both in and out of school. Since it does not measure achievement in a particular curriculum, it is not an appropriate measure of a given instructional program's quality and effectiveness.

In April 1995, the College Board recentered the score scales for the SAT I and II. These tests were originally developed with scales ranging from 200 to 800 and a mean of 500. As larger and larger percentages of high school students took the SAT, the mean of tested students dropped substantially below 500. The recentering, based on a sample from the senior class of 1990, reestablished the mean at about 500.

In 1996, for the first time, the College Board reported State SAT results on the recentered scale. Figures 3.47 and 3.48 show recentered scores for senior classes from 1993 to 2005. If students took the test more than once, their most recent score was used in this calculation. In New York State, approximately 154,000 students, or 79 percent of the senior class of 2005, took the SAT during their high school years. The mean composite score for these students was 1008, which was eight points higher than the mean of the classes of 2000, 2001, and 2002, and 20 points higher than the mean of the class of 1993.

A 1993 research study examined the mean SAT scores in 38 states with adequate numbers of test-takers.¹ The study concluded that when factors known to be related to SAT scores – family income, parental education, race, and gender of test-taker – were controlled, New York State had the highest adjusted-mean SAT score among states examined. A study by John Bishop of Cornell University attributes New York's high ranking to the Regents examinations.² This attribution was based on his study of the Canadian education system, which led him to conclude that externally set curriculum-based examinations (such as the Regents examinations) were associated with higher performance on the International Assessment of Education Progress in mathematics and science. The examinations apparently influence students, parents, teachers, and administrators in ways that lead to higher achievement.

¹Amy Graham and Thomas Husted. "Understanding State Variation in SAT Scores," *Economics of Education* 12 (1993): 197-202.

² John Bishop. *Impact of Curriculum-Based Examinations on Learning in Canadian Secondary Schools* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, December 1994).

Figure 3.47
Mean Verbal SAT I Scores
Senior Classes of 1993 to 2005

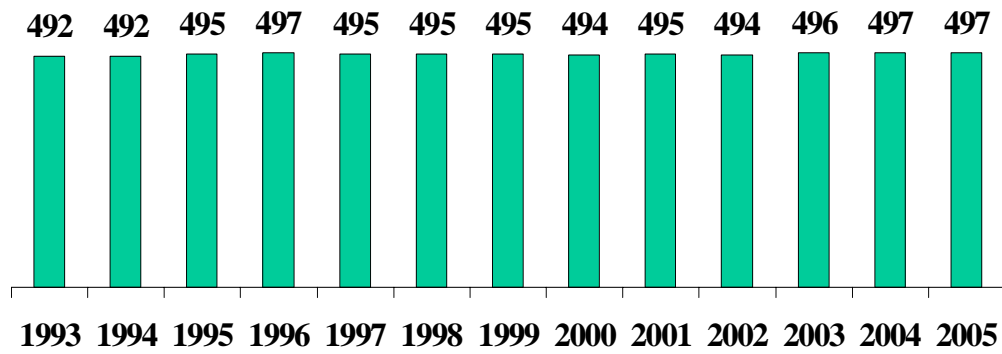
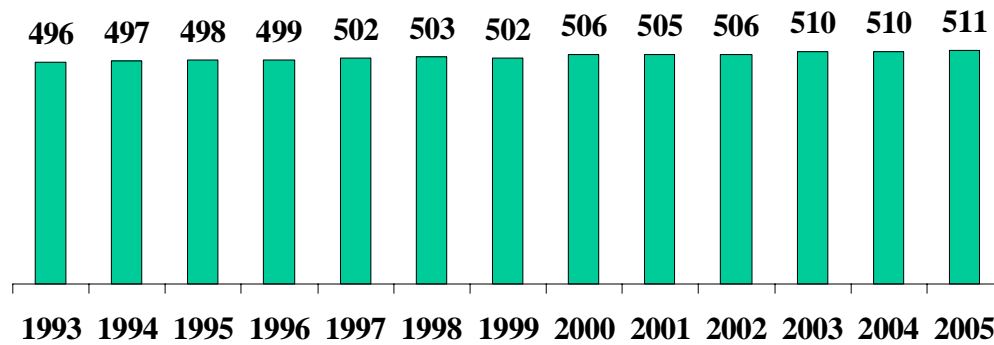


Figure 3.48
Mean Mathematics SAT I Scores
Senior Classes of 1993 to 2005



An analysis conducted by the Texas Education Agency supports the contention that New York State students do exceptionally well on the SATs. The Texas analysis examined the percentage of 1994 high school graduates in each state who scored 500 or above on the verbal and the mathematics sections of the SATs. Nationally, 11.1 percent of high school graduates scored at least 500 on the verbal section; 18.7 percent scored that high on the mathematics section. In New York State, 18.8 percent of high school graduates achieved that criterion on the verbal section; 32.3 percent did so in mathematics. New York State ranked fourth among states in verbal and third in mathematics. It should be noted that just as states with the largest percentages of test-takers are disadvantaged in the traditional ranking of states by SAT scores, by the Texas criterion, those states with the smallest percentages of test-takers are disadvantaged. In both cases, the percentage of SAT-takers in a state strongly influences its ranking.

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program

The advanced placement program consists of 34 courses and exams offered in 19 subject areas. High school students may earn college credit at postsecondary institutions throughout the country using this program. The 99,034 New Yorkers who participated composed 8.1 percent of national participants and wrote 7.9 percent of examinations. Since 1990, the number of New Yorkers participating has more than doubled (Figure 3.49) and the number of exams taken has almost tripled (Figure 3.50). Sixty-three percent of tests written by New York State students, compared with 59 percent nationally, received a score of three or more, qualifying them for college credit.

Figure 3.49
Advanced Placement Candidates (in thousands)
New York State Public and Nonpublic Schools
1990 to 2005

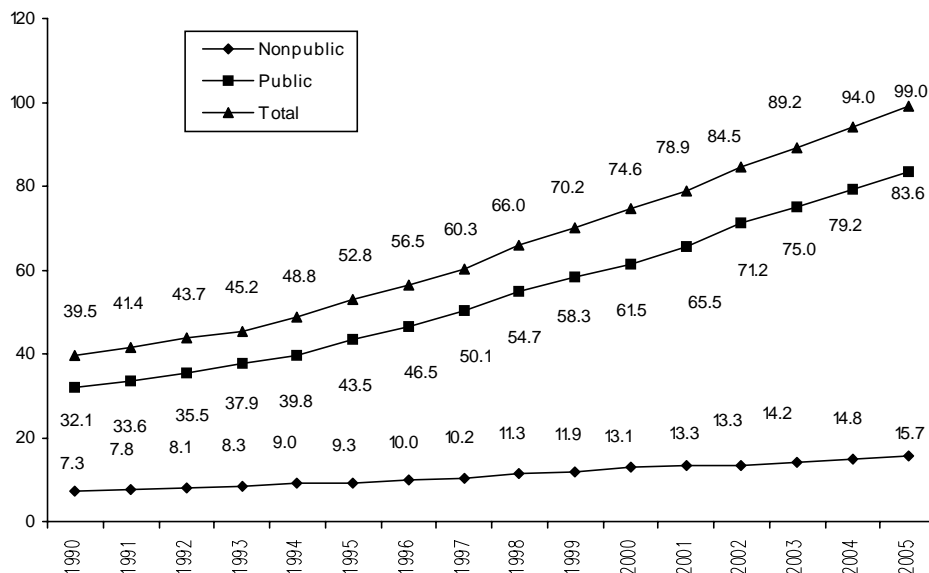


Figure 3.50
Advanced Placement Examinations Written (in thousands)
New York State Public and Nonpublic Schools
1990 to 2005

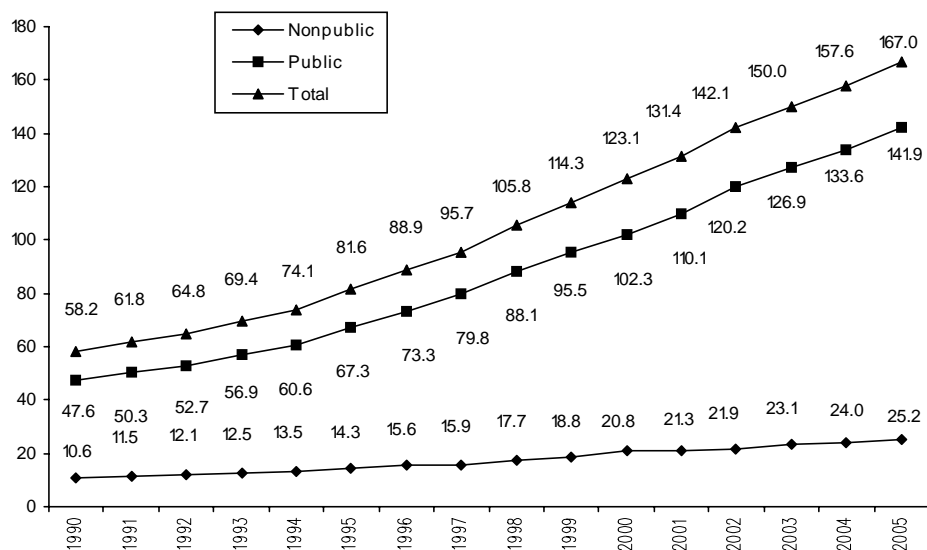


Table 3.20
Trends in College-Going Rate of Public School Students
Graduating Classes of 1980, 1990, and 2000 to 2005
New York State

Postsecondary Plans	Percent of High School Graduates Entering Postsecondary Education in the Fall of:							
	1980	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
4-Year	37.8%	44.7%	50.1%	50.9%	52.6%	52.9%	50.9%	51.7%
2-Year	24.7	29.4	25.1	26.2	26.8	27.7	28.5	28.1
Total	62.5	74.1	75.1	77.1	79.3	80.6	79.3	79.8
Other Postsecondary	3.8	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4
Total Postsecondary	66.3%	76.6%	76.7%	78.6%	80.6%	81.9%	80.8%	81.1%

Note: New York City's methodology for reporting these data changed in 1998. Prior to 1998, New York City apportioned students with no specified plans among all categories. In 1998, New York City placed unknowns in the "Other" category, reducing the percentage going to postsecondary education.

5 Attendance, Dropout, and Suspension Rates

Attendance, dropout, and suspension rates are important indicators of student achievement and behavior. Previous analysis has demonstrated the relationship between school attendance rates and the percentage of students scoring above the minimum standard on the elementary-level reading test. Suspensions and dropout rates are indicators of the school's ability to engage students in learning and retain students in school until completion.

Attendance Rates

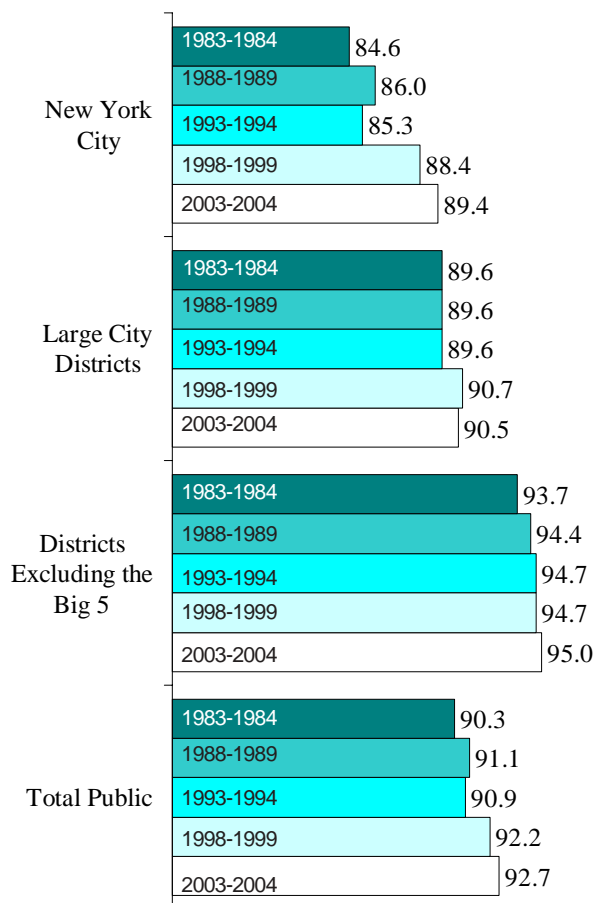
The average attendance rate in State public schools for 2003–04 (the most recent year for which complete data are available) was 92.7 percent (Figure 3.51). In other words, on average, nearly 93 out of every 100 enrolled students attended school for some portion of each school day. Attendance has improved statewide and in every major summary group in 2003–04 compared to 1983–84.

Student Suspensions

Suspension from school is a form of discipline imposed for serious or repeated infractions of school rules. Variations in school suspension rates are difficult to interpret because they may result from either differing incidence of misconduct or varying school discipline policies. Some schools serve large numbers of students whose home and community circumstances place them at risk of school failure. If these students become alienated from school, they may be less likely than other students to conform to school rules and thus be subject to disciplinary measures more frequently. On the other hand, some schools may impose suspensions in situations where other schools would not.

For the twelfth year, the Department has collected data on the number of students who were suspended from school for one or more days. In 2003–04, 4.8 percent of public high school students were suspended one or more times (Figure 3.52). Since 1992–93, the public high school suspension

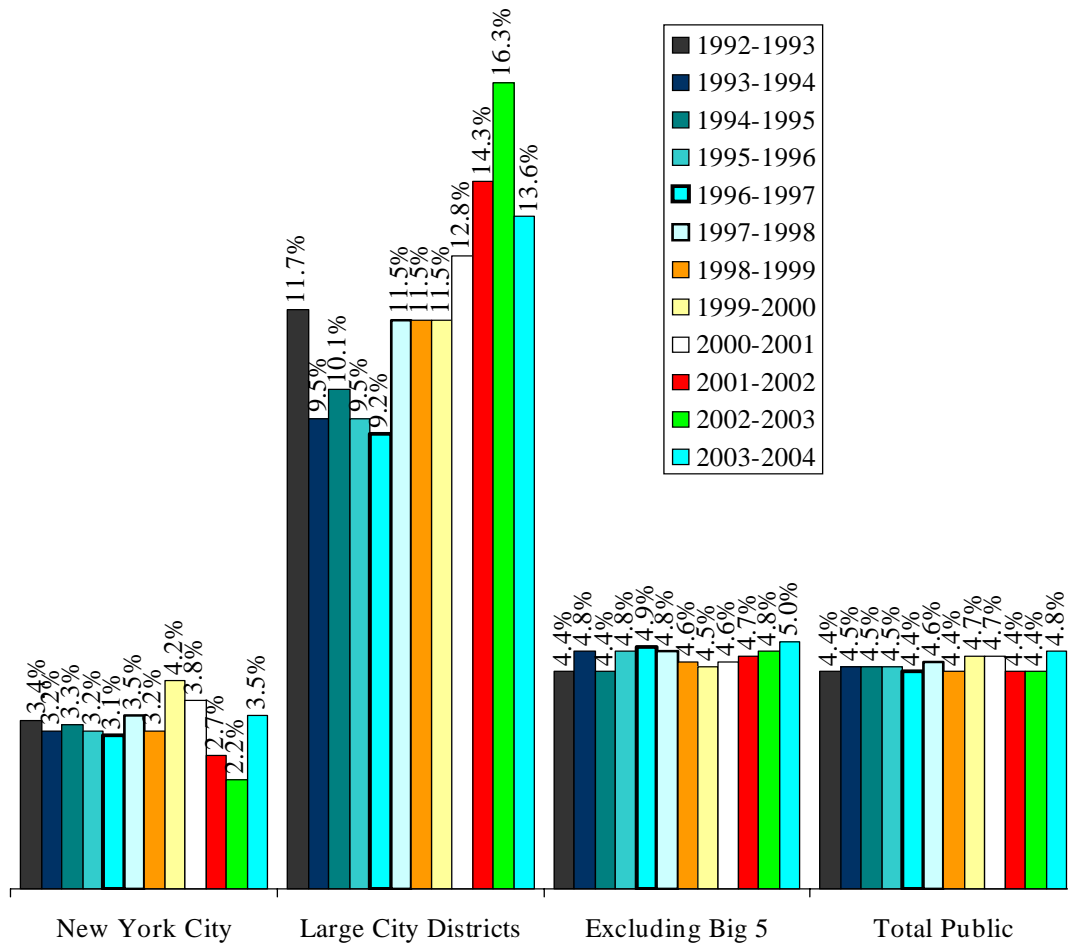
Figure 3.51
Public School Annual Attendance Rate
1983–84 to 2003–04
in Five-Year Intervals



rate has varied between 4.4 and 4.8 percent. This consistency is due largely to the consistent suspension rate in districts outside the Big 5. The suspension rate in Large City Districts has varied substantially and reached a high of 16.3 percent in 2003–04. The majority of suspensions occurred at the middle and secondary levels: 6.7 percent of middle-level students and 7.7 percent of secondary-level students were suspended. In contrast, elementary schools suspended only 1.8 percent of their students.

Suspensions result in missed classes and, possibly, increased alienation from school. Because of the relationship between suspension and dropout rates and because suspension rates vary dra-

Figure 3.52
Public High School Annual Suspension Rates by Location
1992-93 to 2003-04



matically among racial/ethnic groups (see *Part V: Minority Issues*), high rates of suspension are of grave concern. The Department is examining ways to assist schools in providing appropriate support systems for students to prevent the behaviors that lead to suspension and eventually to dropping out.

High School Completion

To assess efforts at improving student retention, accurate and consistent measures of the incidence of dropping out are necessary. One major obstacle to measuring dropouts is failure to agree on a standard definition. Should all premature school leavers be defined as dropouts? What about students not enrolled in a regular school program who are pursuing formal education through general-education development classes, alternative night schools, the military, or community colleges? Where a standard definition exists, districts may not

always know whether a student has transferred to another program or dropped out. A related issue is timing: At what point does a youth's status change from chronic truant to dropout?

The incidence of dropping out is measured in a variety of ways. The first, the status dropout rate, conforms to our intuitive notion of what we mean by dropout rate: that is, the number of individuals at a given time in a given age group who are not enrolled in school and have not earned a diploma or its equivalent. The status dropout rate is important because it indicates the extent of the problem in the population and provides a basis for planning alternative programs for preparing dropouts to participate fully in society.

Status dropout rates, however, are not sensitive to year-to-year changes in the number of stu-

dents leaving school and thus cannot be used to evaluate the short-term success of dropout prevention efforts. Therefore, an alternative measure, the event dropout rate, is used for measuring retention power in the State and the nation. It represents the share of students who leave without completing high school during a single year. The event (or annual) dropout rate can be calculated using statistics that are readily available for all high schools; it is easily usable when computing statistics at the district, regional, and State levels.

The event dropout rate, however, does not address the number who return to school at some later date and eventually graduate or earn high school equivalency diplomas. To determine patterns of leaving and reentering school, educators must track the progress of individual students through their education careers. This longitudinal tracking allows the computation of a cohort dropout rate, indicating the educational attainment of a single group (or cohort) of students. Deriving cohort statistics requires a commitment to tracking former students that was considered too burdensome for most schools, districts, and states.

Traditionally, cohort dropout rates have been available only from longitudinal research studies, such as those sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. Now, however, with the implementation of the System for Tracking Education Performance (STEP) data collection system, the Department has begun to track the progress of students from first entry into grade 9 through the ending of their enrollment in public schools, whether the enrollment ends with earning a credential, transferring to a program leading to a high school equivalency diploma, or dropping out. This process has allowed us to calculate the Total Cohort dropout rates, shown in Figures 3.43 and 3.44. Five years after first entering grade 9, 15.3 percent of 2000 Total Cohort members had left school without earning a diploma or IEP. The State's ability to determine a cohort dropout rate will be enhanced by the implementation of a unique student ID system. The State implemented this system in the 2005–06 school year.

During the 1990s, approximately 472,500 students left New York State public schools without completing requirements for high school graduation. In 2004–2005, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 40,452 students dropped out of school. Over two-thirds (72.3 percent) of these students attended school in the Big 5 districts. A disproportionate percentage of these students were minorities. (See *Part V: Minority Issues.*)

The dropout statistics for 2003–04 are based on data submitted electronically using the System for Tracking Education Performance by public school principals and the New York City Department of Education. In New York State, a dropout is any student, regardless of age, who left school prior to graduation for any reason except death and has not been documented as having entered another school or a program leading to a high school equivalency diploma.

The event (or annual) dropout rate has been the standard for measuring dropout rates in New York State for many years and is calculated by dividing the number of dropouts during a single year by the grade 9–12 enrollment for that year.

Annual Dropout Rate

In 2004–05, 4.5 percent of secondary students left school without earning a credential and without entering a high school equivalency preparation program (Figure 3.53). Excluding New York City, State dropout rates varied from 2.2 to 2.5 percent between 1995–96 and 2004–05. New York City rates, however, have varied widely, and much of this variation can be attributed to changes in reporting decision rules. In 1998–99, New York City's reporting and record-keeping procedures were improved, resulting in what the City determined to be a more accurate reflection of dropout rates. Before 2001–02, only students who dropped out of high school were included in the dropout counts. All students, including those in junior high schools and middle schools, who dropped out were included in the 2001–02 dropout counts. In addition, New York City began reflecting student status as of June 30th of the reporting year, rather than the fall of the following year.

Programs Leading to a High School Equivalency Diploma

In response to growing concern about the number of students who are failing to complete high school and the consequences of this failure, many districts provide students who are not succeeding in the traditional school structure with preparation programs for the General Educational Development (GED) test. Applicants who meet required standards on the GED are eligible for a high school equivalency diploma from New York State. In 2004–05, 1.6 percent of students left their schools to attend equivalency preparation programs, compared with 2.0 percent in 2002–03 and 3.0 in 2000–01 (Figure 3.54). The percentage of students moving to these programs in 2004–05 was 2.3 in New York City, 0.3 percentage point higher than the previous year.

Figure 3.53
Public High School Annual Dropout Rates by Location
1995-96 to 2004-05

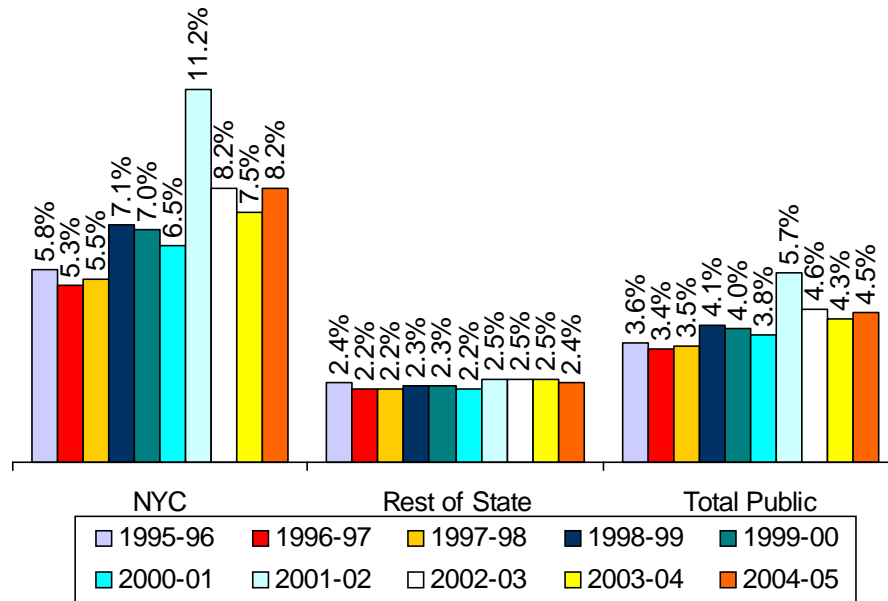
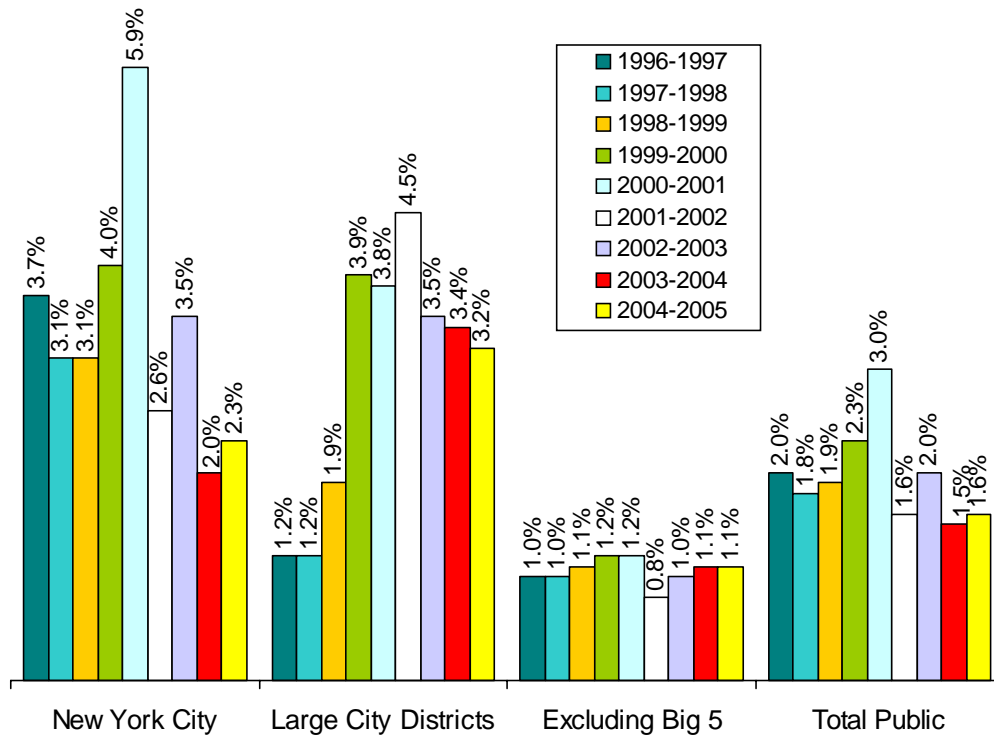


Figure 3.54
Percentage of Public School Students Transferring to
High School Equivalency Diploma Preparation Programs
1996-97 to 2004-05



? Policy Questions

- ? How can the State assist districts that have insufficient building capacity to accommodate increasing enrollments?
- ? How can State funds best be allocated to meet the needs of students placed at risk by poverty and limited English proficiency?
- ? What special services and programs are needed to assist newly immigrated students in adjusting to school?
- ? What kinds of staff development programs are needed to give teachers the skills to prepare all students to meet the new higher standards?
- ? What programs are most successful in helping ill-prepared students succeed in Regents-level courses?
- ? What changes in program and policy are needed to better prepare students for skilled employment following high school graduation?
- ? How does student performance in the Regents curriculum relate to postsecondary performance?
- ? What new policies and programs are needed to improve attendance in low-performing schools?
- ? As the State implements higher academic standards for students, what is the effect on the dropout rate and on the rate of transfer to preparation programs leading to alternative credentials?
- ? What percentage of students who leave general high school programs for alternative programs leading to high school equivalency diplomas eventually earn credentials?

Part IV:

Student Needs and School Resources

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☆ Highlights

- ☆ *Districts are divided into three categories — Low, Average, and High Need/Resource Capacity (N/RC) — based on student need, as measured by poverty level, relative to ability to raise resources locally.*
- ☆ *In Fall 2004, more than one-half (54.3 percent) of the State's public school enrollment attended schools in districts with less than average capacity to meet their needs through local resources. The Urban-Suburban and Rural High N/RC Districts enrolled 14.1 percent of public school students; the Big 5 districts enrolled 40.2 percent.*
- ☆ *Eighty-four percent of minority students attended schools in the Big 5 districts or in other High N/RC Districts.*
- ☆ *On average, Low N/RC Districts spent the most per pupil (\$15,837); Rural High-Need Districts spent the least (\$12,975).*
- ☆ *With the exception of charter schools, Rural High N/RC Districts paid the lowest median teacher salary (\$45,000); Low N/RC Districts paid the highest (\$69,042).*
- ☆ *On average, students in Rural High N/RC Districts had more access to microcomputers and library books than did students in other districts.*
- ☆ *Among High N/RC Districts, rural districts on average performed better on State assessments than Urban-Suburban and Big 5 districts.*
- ☆ *In elementary- and middle-level English language arts and mathematics, students in New York City and the Large City Districts were less likely than students in other N/RC categories to meet the State standards (score at or above Level 3). Schools in the Average and Low N/RC Districts had the largest percentages of students meeting the standards.*
- ☆ *The largest percentages of general-education students in the 2001 cohort met the minimum requirement for Regents English in Rural High, Average, and Low N/RC Districts. Regents mathematics followed the same pattern.*
- ☆ *As student poverty in a district decreased in relation to its capacity to raise resources, the percentage of students participating in, passing, and performing with distinction on Regents examinations increased.*
- ☆ *As student poverty decreased relative to the district's capacity to raise revenues locally, the percentage of high school completers earning Regents diplomas increased.*
- ☆ *Students in Low N/RC Districts had the highest college-going rate (94.2 percent); students from charter schools and New York City had the lowest rates (69.6 and 64.2 percent, respectively).*

- ☆ *Outside the Big 5 districts, urban and suburban schools in the High N/RC Districts had the lowest average attendance rate (92.7 percent); Low N/RC Districts had the highest rate (95.8 percent). New York City and the Large City Districts had the lowest attendance rates overall (89.4 and 90.5 percent, respectively).*
- ☆ *Among the High N/RC Districts, the Large City Districts had the highest suspension rate (16.3 percent) followed by urban and suburban schools (10.0 percent). The Low N/RC Districts had the lowest suspension rate (2.4 percent).*
- ☆ *New York City had the highest average dropout rate (8.2 percent) in 2004–05; Low N/RC Districts had the lowest dropout rate (0.5 percent). New York City students were over 16 times as likely to drop out as students in Low N/RC Districts.*
- ☆ *The percentage of students with disabilities educated primarily in general-education classes has increased in the last 10 years. In December 2004, 54.1 percent of students with disabilities were in general-education classes.*
- ☆ *In public schools statewide, more than 70 percent of students with disabilities scored at or above Level 2 on the elementary-level ELA and mathematics and the middle-level ELA assessments. Only 57.7 percent scored at or above Level 2 on the middle-level mathematics assessment.*
- ☆ *Nearly half of students with disabilities in the 2001 cohort met the English graduation requirement by scoring 55 or higher on Regents English. Low N/RC districts had the largest percentage (77.9 percent) meeting the standards.*
- ☆ *Nearly 45 percent of students with disabilities in the 2001 cohort met the mathematics graduation requirement by scoring 55 or higher on a Regents mathematics examination.*
- ☆ *In 2004–05, nearly two-thirds of public high school completers with disabilities statewide and 87.1 percent of those in Low N/RC Districts succeeded in meeting graduation requirements.*

1 Need/Resource Capacity Categories

Six public school district groups defined by need/resource capacity (N/RC) are described in this chapter. This classification system indicates where in the State system some children are failing because they have not been provided the resources necessary to succeed. In particular, it recognizes that certain districts in addition to the Big 5 — whether small city, suburban, or rural — serve exceptional numbers of educationally disadvantaged children who are not achieving at desired levels. We know that all children can learn, but children who have been placed at risk by poverty, homelessness, poor nutrition, or inadequate care, often require special educational and support services to master required competencies. These services incur an extra financial burden for the district and increase the cost of education.

The need/resource capacity (N/RC) index divides districts into three categories based on their ability to meet the special needs of their students with local resources: those with the highest need relative to resource capacity (High N/RC); those with average need relative to resource capacity (Average N/RC); and those with less than average need relative to resource capacity (Low N/RC). The High N/RC Districts are subdivided

into four groups: New York City, Large City Districts, Urban-Suburban Districts, and Rural Districts. New York City and Large City Districts are treated as separate groups because of the large number of students they serve and because of the special challenges associated with these large urban districts. The High N/RC districts, outside the Big 5, that meet specified criteria are classified as rural districts, and the remaining districts are classified as urban and suburban districts. Table 4.1 defines the three N/RC categories.

<p>TABLE 4.1</p> <p>NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY DEFINITIONS</p> <p>PAGE 100</p>
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The State map in Figure 4.1 illustrates the geographic location of districts in each N/RC category. The Low N/RC Districts are found in the suburbs around New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, Buffalo, and in the central Adirondack and Capital District regions. The High N/RC Districts are found throughout the State from Long Island to the North Country and the Southern Tier.

Figure 4.1
Map of Public School Districts Showing
Need/Resource Capacity Categories
New York State
2004-05

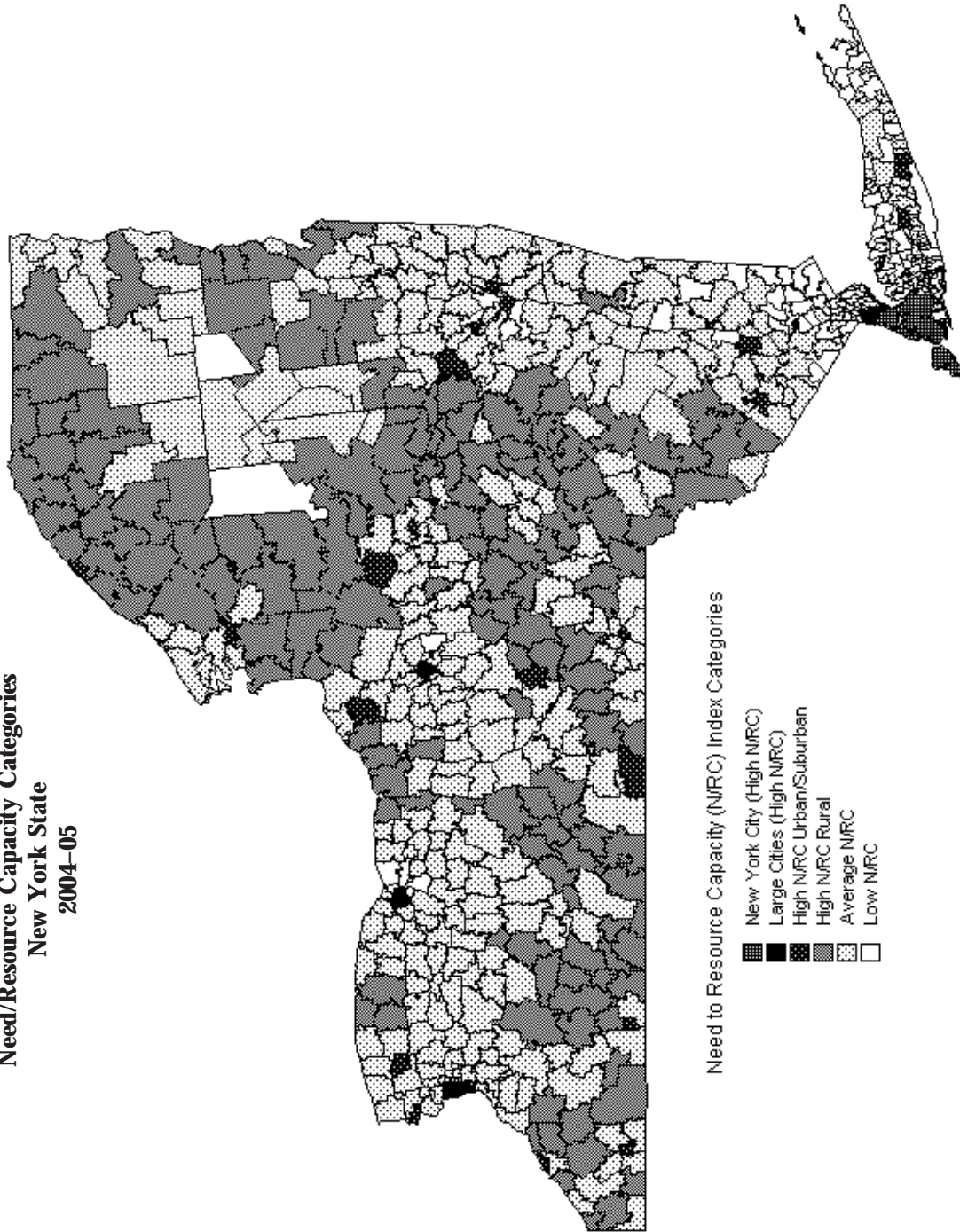


Table 4.1
Need/Resource Capacity Category Definitions

The need/resource capacity index, a measure of a district's ability to meet the needs of its students with local resources, is the ratio of the estimated poverty percentage¹ (expressed in standard score form) to the Combined Wealth Ratio² (expressed in standard score form). A district with both estimated poverty and Combined Wealth Ratio equal to the State average would have a need/resource capacity index of 1.0. Need/Resource Capacity (N/RC) categories are determined from this index using the definitions in the table below.

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Definition
High N/RC Districts	
New York City	New York City
Large City Districts	Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers
Urban-Suburban	All districts at or above the 70th percentile (1.188) that have: 1) at least 100 students per square mile; or 2) an enrollment greater than 2,500 and more than 50 students per square mile.
Rural	All districts at or above the 70th percentile (1.188) that have: 1) fewer than 50 students per square mile; or 2) fewer than 100 students per square mile and an enrollment of less than 2,500.
Average N/RC Districts	All districts between the 20th (0.7706) and 70th (1.188) percentile on the index.
Low N/RC Districts	All districts below the 20th percentile (0.7706) on the index.
Charter Schools	Each charter school is a district.

¹ **Estimated Poverty Percentage:** A weighted average of the 2000–01 and 2001–02 kindergarten through grade 6 free-and-reduced-price-lunch percentage and the percentage of children aged 5 to 17 in poverty according to the 2000 Decennial Census. (An average was used to mitigate errors in each measure.) The result is a measure that approximates the percentage of children eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches.

² **Combined Wealth Ratio:** The ratio of district wealth per pupil to State average wealth per pupil, used in the 1998–99 Governor's proposal.

2 Student Demographics

In Fall 2004, 40.2 percent of public school students attended school in New York City and the Large City Districts (Table 4.2). The Average N/RC category includes 358 districts; almost one-third of the State's public enrollment attended these schools. There were 133 districts in the Low N/RC category. About one in seven students (14.2 percent) attended school in a Low N/RC District.

TABLE 4.2

**NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DISTRICTS,
SCHOOLS, AND ENROLLMENT BY
NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY**

PAGE 103

Outside the Big 5 districts, the High N/RC Districts are divided into two subcategories: urban-suburban and rural. The urban-suburban subcategory includes 46 districts. The rural subcategory includes 156 small, sparsely populated districts. The urban-suburban and rural high-need districts enrolled 14.1 percent of public school students. More than one-half (54.3 percent) of the State's public enrollment attended schools in districts with less than average capacity to meet their needs through local resources.

Limited English Proficient Students

Part 154 of Commissioner's Regulations defines students with limited English proficiency (LEP) as students who, by reason of foreign birth or ancestry, speak a language other than English, and (1) either understand and speak little or no English; or (2) score below a state designated level of proficiency on the Language Assessment Battery-Revised (LAB-R) or the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Identified students are entitled to special instructional and assessment services to assist them in learning English and achieving objectives in other academic areas.

In Fall 2004, 7.1 percent of public school students were identified as LEP (Table 4.3). These students were concentrated in New York City, where public schools enrolled 69.7 percent of all identified LEP students attending State public schools. Another 16.3 percent attended schools in other High-Need Districts, and 13.7 percent attended schools in Average- or Low-Need Districts. LEP students made up 13.8 percent of New York City's public school enrollment and 9.1 percent of Large City District enrollment.

TABLE 4.3

**NUMBER AND PERCENT OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT
STUDENTS BY LOCATION**

PAGE 104

Racial/Ethnic Group Enrollment

Minority students attending public schools were overrepresented in districts that serve large percentages of students in poverty (Table 4.4). In Fall 2004, nearly 75 percent of minority students attended schools in the Big 5 districts. Another 10.7 percent attended schools in other High N/RC Districts (9.5 percent in urban-suburban districts and 1.2 percent in rural districts). Nearly 84 percent of minority students attended schools in High N/RC Districts, while about 10 percent attended schools in Average N/RC Districts and about four percent attended schools in Low N/RC Districts.

TABLE 4.4

**RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP ENROLLMENT
PERCENTAGES BY NEED/RESOURCE
CAPACITY CATEGORY**

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Poverty

Poverty has a pervasive effect on children's physical, emotional, and cognitive health. Research has documented that low-income children are more likely than others to go without necessary food, shelter, and health care; less likely to be in good preschool programs or day care settings; and more likely to be retained in school, drop out, become teenaged parents, and be unemployed.¹ Despite the inability of schools to control the economic situation of their students, this report documents the relationship between poverty and achievement for two reasons. First, society has a responsibility to ensure that all children learn, regardless of their family circumstances. Second, we hope that the documentation of this relationship will inspire solutions that will remove children from the devastating circumstances of poverty.

Three measures are used to gauge the percentage of very low-income students attending schools in the State: poverty status, indicating the percentage of students who, in the principals' judgments, come from families on public assistance (discussed in *Part V: Minority Issues*); 2000 Census data, indicating the percentage of children below the federal poverty threshold; and the percentage of free-and-reduced-price-lunch-program applicants in the enrollment. Since the percentage of free-and-reduced-price-lunch-program applicants and the Census poverty rate were used in determining the need/resource capacity index, high-poverty schools are, by definition, most likely to be in High N/RC Districts.

School district poverty rates based on the 2000 Census indicate the percentage of 5- to 17-year-olds in families with incomes below the 1999 federal poverty threshold, \$17,029 for a family of four. The State poverty rate was 19.1 percent. According to the 2000 Census, 125 districts outside the Big 5 had 20 percent or more resident children liv-

ing in poverty (Table 4.5). All but 22 were High N/RC Districts. In fact, more than half of High N/RC Districts had poverty rates of 20 percent or more; only three had Census poverty rates below 10 percent. In contrast, 76 of the 135 Low N/RC Districts had Census poverty rates below five percent.

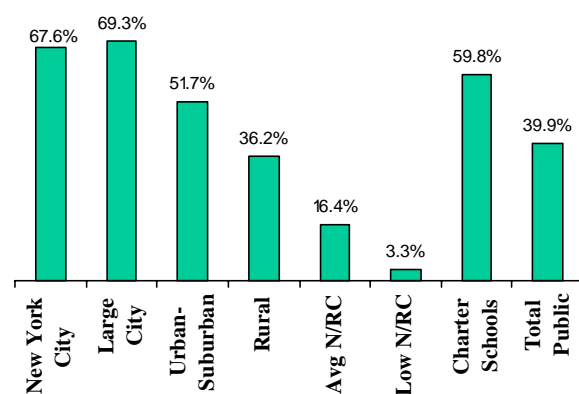
TABLE 4.5

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF DISTRICTS IN EACH 2000 CENSUS POVERTY CATEGORY (5- TO 17-YEAR-OLDS IN FAMILIES BELOW THE POVERTY LINE) BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY

PAGE 105

Another indicator of student poverty and its concentration in schools is the number of students participating in the free-lunch program. In Fall 2004, 39.9 percent of all public school students were eligible for free lunches; 69.3 percent of students in

Figure 4.2
Percentage of K-6 Students Eligible to Participate in the Free-Lunch Program by Need/Resource Capacity Category Fall 2004



¹ Clifford M. Johnson, Andrew M. Sum, and James D. Weill, *Vanishing Dreams: The Economic Plight of America's Families* (Washington, D.C.: Children's Defense Fund, 1992).

Large City Districts and 67.6 percent of student in New York City (Figure 4.2). Many additional students were eligible for reduced-price lunches. These participation rates may not reflect the total need for subsidized lunches. In other schools, particularly secondary schools, not all students eligible to receive subsidized lunches applied for benefits.

The High N/RC Districts outside the Big 5 had high rates of participation in the free-lunch program in Fall 2004. More than one-half of students in urban and suburban districts participated, as did 36.2 percent in rural districts. By definition, much smaller percentages of students in Average and Low N/RC Districts participated. (See *Part V: Minority Issues* for additional information on school poverty.)

Table 4.2
Number and Percent of Districts, Schools, and Enrollment
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
Fall 2004

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Districts		Schools		Enrollment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High N/RC Districts						
New York City	1	0.0%	1,367	30.7%	1,017,951	36.1%
Large City Districts	4	0.5	194	4.4	114,986	4.1
Urban-Suburban	46	6.3	347	7.8	224,364	8.0
Rural	156	21.2	409	9.2	171,389	6.1
Average N/RC Districts	358	48.7	1,461	32.7	855,687	30.3
Low N/RC Districts	133	18.1	615	13.8	399,423	14.2
BOCES	38	5.2	—	—	18,896	0.7
Charter Schools	—	—	61	1.4	18,414	0.7
Total Public	736	100%	4,454	100%	2,821,110	100%

Table 4.3
Number and Percent of Public School Limited English Proficient Students by Location
New York State
Fall 2004

Sector/Location	Students	
	Number	Percent of Enrollment
High N/RC Districts		
New York City	140,040	13.8%
Large City Districts	10,475	9.1
Urban-Suburban	20,838	9.3
Rural	1,419	0.8
Average N/RC Districts	17,984	2.1
Low N/RC Districts	9,524	2.4
Charter Schools	497	2.7
Total Public	200,777	7.1%

Table 4.4
Racial/Ethnic Group Enrollment Percentages by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
Fall 2004

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Total Enrollment	Percent Black	Percent Hispanic	Percent American Indian/Alaskan Native	Percent Asian and Pacific Islander	Percent White
High N/RC Districts						
New York City	1,017,951	33.4%	38.9%	0.4%	12.9%	14.3%
Large City Districts	114,986	52.6	21.8	0.9	2.6	22.0
Urban-Suburban	224,364	31.2	21.8	0.4	2.4	44.2
Rural	171,389	3.5	3.3	1.6	0.7	90.9
Average N/RC Districts	855,687	6.5	6.3	0.4	2.4	84.4
Low N/RC Districts	399,423	3.0	5.0	0.1	6.5	85.3
BOCES	18,896	14.4	7.0	0.7	1.5	76.4
Charter Schools	18,414	68.6	16.6	0.4	1.4	13.0
Total Public	2,821,110	19.8%	19.7%	0.5%	6.7%	53.4%

Table 4.5
Number and Percent of Districts in Each 2000 Census Poverty Category
(5- to 17-Year-Olds in Families Below the Poverty Line)
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Census Poverty Category											
	0.0 to 4.9%		5.0 to 9.9%		10.0 to 14.9%		15.0 to 19.9%		20.0% or more		Number	Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
High N/RC Districts	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
New York City	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	100.0
Large City Districts	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.3	12	27.9	30	69.8		
Urban-Suburban	1	0.6	2	1.3	18	11.3	65	40.9	73	45.9		
Rural	39	11.3	131	38.0	95	27.5	59	17.1	21	6.1		
Average N/RC Districts	76	56.3	45	33.3	11	8.1	2	1.5	1	0.7		
Low N/RC Districts	116	16.9	178	25.9	125	18.2%	138	20.1%	130	18.9%		
Total Public												

3 Resources

Children who have been placed at risk by poverty, homelessness, poor nutrition, or inadequate care, often require special educational and support services to master basic competencies. Expenditures per pupil, teacher characteristics, and the availability of microcomputers and library books are indicators of the instructional program districts are able to provide.

School Finance

Table 4.6 demonstrates variations in average expenditures per pupil in 2003–04 among categories. In general, Low N/RC Districts spent the most, \$15,837 or 115 percent of the State average. Large City Districts had the next highest average expenditure (\$14,479), followed by Urban-Suburban High N/RC Districts (\$14,027). Rural High N/RC Districts had the lowest average expenditure (\$12,975), 94 percent of the State average. Average N/RC Districts had the second lowest average expenditure (\$13,151), 95 percent of the State average. New York City had an average expenditure of \$13,640, which is 99 percent of the State average.

<p style="text-align: center;">TABLE 4.6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL UNIT, STATE REVENUE SHARE, COMBINED WEALTH RATIO, AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PAGE 110</p>

State Aid Distribution

The State allocates most categories of aid to districts in inverse proportion to their combined wealth ratios (CWR), a measure of the district's income and property wealth relative to the State average (Table 4.6). (See *Part III: Longitudinal Trends* for more information.)

In 2003–04, the Rural High N/RC Districts had the lowest mean CWR (0.481) and received the largest percentage of their funding from the State (66.8 percent). The Low N/RC Districts had the highest average CWR (1.920) and received the smallest percentage of their funding from the State (23.1 percent). The average State revenue provided per pupil varied from \$3,694 in the Low N/RC Districts to \$9,586 in the Large City Districts.

The CWR reflects calculations based on district property values, income, and students compared to the corresponding State averages as legislated each year.

Budget Allocation

Across N/RC categories, average districts allocated roughly comparable portions of their budgets to instruction, central administration, transportation, and debt service in 2003–04 (Table 4.6). The largest expenditure category was instruction, which accounted for 77.9 percent of expenditures statewide.

Central administration costs accounted for a small percentage of total expenditures, averaging 1.8 percent statewide. Department data indicate that central administration costs, as a percentage of all expenses, generally diminish with increased district size, but may constitute a five- to six-percent share of overall expense in very small districts. The percentage of total expenditures devoted to transportation was 5.1 percent. Debt service (generally for capital improvements) accounted for 5.1 percent of total expenditures.

New York City spent the largest percentage on instruction (81.7 percent). Rural High N/RC Districts had the smallest percentage (73.0 percent) expended for instruction. Outside New York City, the Urban-Suburban High N/RC and Large City Districts spent the largest percentage on instruction (78.8 percent and 77.2 percent, respectively).

Among categories, Rural High N/RC Districts spent the largest percentage on debt service (8.5 percent). Large City Districts spent the smallest percentage (1.2 percent) on central administration. These districts, in fact, spent a smaller percentage on central administration than New York City. The relatively large size of these districts may have allowed them to operate more efficiently than districts outside the Big 5.

Expenditure Differences Among Districts

Table 4.7 shows the variations in expenditures within categories as well as increases in expenditures over the five-year period. (In Table 4.7, median and percentile expenditures are shown, whereas in Table 4.6 means or averages are shown.) In 2003–2004, the median district statewide spent 25.9 percent more per pupil than in 1999–2000. The largest percentage increase (\$3,066 or 30.2 percent) occurred in Rural Districts. At the 10th percentile in Urban-Suburban High-Need Districts, expenditures increased by a smaller percentage (19.5 percent) than in any other category. The increase in New York City (\$3,171 or 30.3 percent) was greater than the increase in the median district statewide (\$2,748 or 25.9 percent).

TABLE 4.7

**PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURES PER
PUPIL UNIT BY NEED/RESOURCE
CAPACITY CATEGORY**

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Despite a smaller than average percentage increase in expenditure per pupil over the five-year period, Low N/RC Districts maintained their fiscally advantageous position. The median Low N/RC District spent \$3,000 to \$4,400 more per pupil than the median districts in the other N/RC categories, and \$3,400 more than New York City. Further, Low N/RC Districts spent more in 1999–2000 than

the median districts in other N/RC categories except Large City Districts spent in 2003–2004. Again, we see that those districts with the largest percentages of students placed at-risk of educational failure, generally, had lower expenditures per pupil than districts with few students at risk.

There were large variations in expenditures per pupil within as well as between categories. In 2003–2004, statewide, the median district spent \$13,353 per pupil. The district at the 90th percentile of expenditure per pupil spent 62 percent more than the district at the 10th percentile (\$18,039 versus \$11,123 per pupil). Statewide, the expenditure gap between the 10th and 90th percentile districts increased in actual dollars but decreased as a percentage between 1999–2000 and 2003–2004. In two categories, Urban-Suburban High-Need and Low-Need Districts, the expenditure gap increased. The expenditure gaps within N/RC categories were large: 43 to 87 percent. The expenditure gap in Rural High-Need Districts (42.7 percent) was smaller than in any other category.

Another concern is the disparity between New York City and its suburbs, which are subject to similar regional costs. The mean expenditure in New York City was \$13,640 compared with a median of \$17,064 in the Low N/RC Districts, the majority of which were New York City suburbs.

Both the expenditure measure and the pupil count used in this analysis are designed to reflect a district's educational costs as accurately as possible. Hence, expenditures include those charged to the General, Debt Service, and Special Aid Funds. The pupil measure is based on enrollment and includes students enrolled in district programs; students with disabilities educated in district, BOCES, approved private school programs, and Section 4405 programs; students enrolled in charter schools; incarcerated youth; and students educated in other districts. Prekindergarten and half-day kindergarten students are weighted at 0.5.

Classroom Teachers

Since the largest portion of school district budgets was spent on staff salaries, those districts with the highest expenditures per pupil generally pay the highest teacher salaries (Table 4.8). In Fall 2004, teachers in Low N/RC Districts had a median salary of \$69,042, compared with the State median of \$55,665. These districts had fewer students per teacher (12.2) than the State average (12.8) and the largest percentage of teachers with at least 30 credits beyond the master's degree (39.1 percent). The median years of experience of teachers in this category was 11.

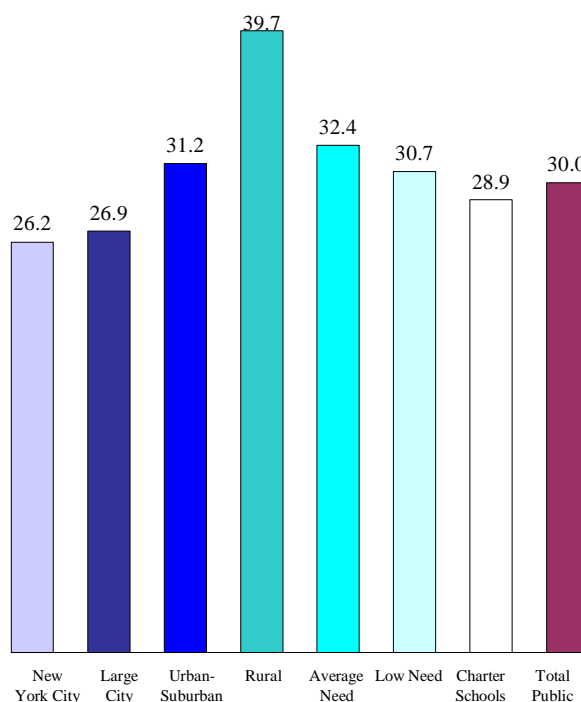
<p>TABLE 4.8</p> <p>SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM TEACHER CHARACTERISTICS BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY</p> <p>PAGE 112</p>
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Not considering charter schools, Rural High N/RC Districts had the smallest percentage (12.0 percent) of teachers with at least 30 credits beyond the master's degree and the fewest students per teacher (11.6). New York City had the least experienced teachers (9 median years of experience). Twenty percent of teachers in New York City in Fall 2003 were not teaching in the district in Fall 2004. This was the highest turnover rate in the State. On the other hand, New York City had the second greatest percentage of teachers with at least 30 credits beyond a master's degree (37.1 percent) in Fall 2004. Teachers' median years of experience ranged from 4 in charter schools to 13 in Rural High N/RC Districts.

Microcomputers and Library Books

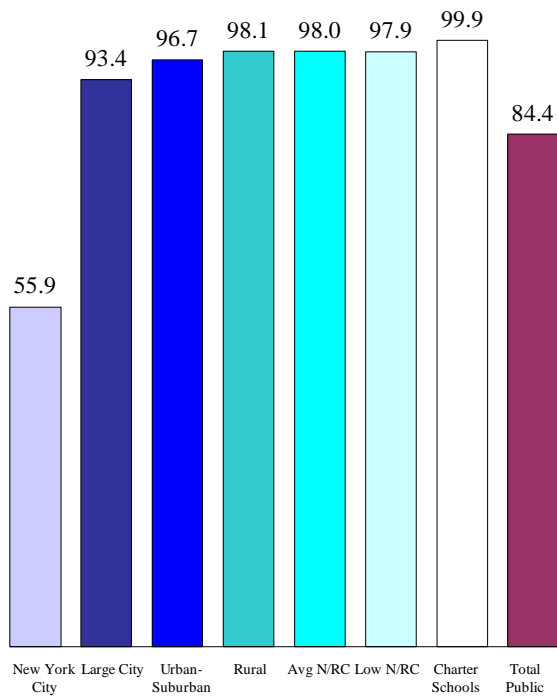
In Fall 2004, on average students in public schools in Rural Districts had greater access to microcomputers than did students in other categories (Figure 4.3). Students in New York City and the Large City Districts had least access to microcomputers.

Figure 4.3
**Number of Microcomputers
per 100 Students
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
Fall 2004**



Charter schools and schools in Rural High-Need, Average, and Low N/RC Districts had the largest percentages of computers classified as new generation, that is, those capable of using the latest instructional technology (Figure 4.4). New-generation computers are defined as equivalent to or more powerful than Pentiums and Power-PCs. New York City had a substantially smaller percentage (55.9 percent) of computers that were new generation.

Figure 4.4
Percent of Microcomputers Classified as
New Generation by Need/Resource
Capacity Category
Fall 2004



Rural Districts had more library books per student, on average, than districts in other categories (Figure 4.5). Students in Low N/RC Districts had the second largest number of library books per student. New York City, Large City Districts, and, particularly, charter schools had considerably fewer books per student. These resource differences among N/RC categories follow the same pattern as differences in performance among the categories. In evaluating differences among categories, note that the range, recency, and relevance of the topics covered in accessible books are as important as the number of books.

Figure 4.5
Number of Library Books per Student by
Need/Resource Capacity Category
Fall 2004

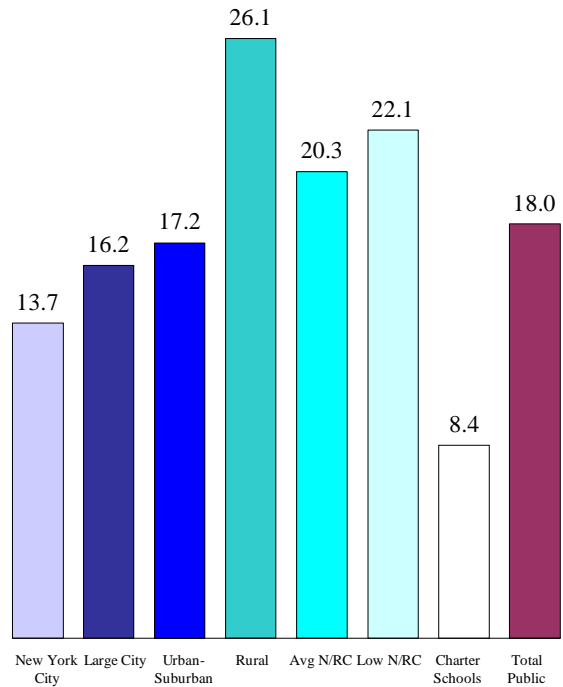


Table 4.6
Public School Expenditures per Pupil Unit, State Revenue Share, Combined Wealth Ratio,
and Percent Distribution of Expenditures by Need/Resource Capacity Category

New York State
2003-04

Location	Fiscal Data			Percent Distribution of Expenditures							
	Expend Per Pupil Unit	NYS Revenue Share	Combined Wealth Ratio	Instruction			Central Administration	Transportation	Debt Service	Misc.	
				Excluding Fringe Benefits	Fringe Benefits	Total					
High N/RC Districts											
New York City	\$13,640	\$5,719	41.9%	0.998	61.2%	20.5%	81.7%	1.8%	4.7%	4.3%	7.5%
Large City Districts	14,479	9,586	64.7	0.508	59.8	17.4	77.2	1.2	5.8	4.8	10.9
Urban-Suburban	14,027	7,796	55.0	0.626	63.0	15.7	78.8	1.5	4.9	4.1	10.7
Rural	12,975	8,750	66.8	0.481	57.4	15.6	73.0	2.2	5.1	8.5	11.1
Average N/RC Districts	13,151	6,161	46.1	0.871	60.0	15.4	75.4	1.8	5.5	6.1	11.2
Low N/RC Districts	15,837	3,694	23.1	1.920	61.7	14.9	76.6	2.0	5.0	4.7	11.7
Total Public	\$13,826	\$6,104	43.8%	1.000	60.8%	17.1%	77.9%	1.8%	5.1%	5.1%	10.0%

Note: The expenditure categories are defined in the Glossary to the *Statistical Profiles of Public School Districts*. Data for charter schools are not available.

Table 4.7
Public School Expenditures per Pupil Unit
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
1999–2000 and 2003–2004

Location	Expend. per Pupil Unit ¹ 1999–2000	Expend. per Pupil Unit ¹ 2003–2004	Expend. Change \$	Expend. Change %	Expend. Gap Index ² 1999–2000	Expend. Gap Index ² 2003–2004
High N/RC Districts						
New York City	\$10,469	\$13,640	\$3,171	30.3%		
Large City Districts						
Median	\$11,742	\$14,114	\$2,372	20.2%		
Urban-Suburban						
10 th	\$9,261	\$11,071	\$1,810	19.5%		
50 th	11,168	13,426	2,258	20.2	52.7%	60.0%
90 th	14,140	17,715	3,575	25.3		
Rural						
10 th	\$8,785	\$11,113	\$2,328	26.5%		
50 th	10,158	13,224	3,066	30.2	42.7%	42.7%
90 th	12,539	15,855	3,316	26.4		
Average N/RC Districts						
10 th	\$8,694	\$10,999	\$2,305	26.5%		
50 th	10,137	12,626	2,489	24.6	57.9%	51.0%
90 th	13,727	16,611	2,884	21.0		
Low N/RC Districts						
10 th	\$10,172	\$12,455	\$2,283	22.4%		
50 th	13,862	17,064	3,202	23.1	83.6%	86.6%
90 th	18,678	23,240	4,562	24.4		
Total Public						
10 th	\$8,943	\$11,123	\$2,180	24.4%		
50 th	10,605	13,353	2,748	25.9	65.0%	62.2%
90 th	14,756	18,039	3,283	22.2		

¹ Expenditures per pupil were calculated as in Table 4.6.

² The expenditure-gap index is calculated by determining the expenditure per pupil difference between the 10th and 90th percentiles, dividing the difference by the expenditure per pupil at the 10th percentile, and multiplying the result by 100.

Table 4.8
Selected Public School Classroom Teacher Characteristics
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
Fall 2004

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Selected Classroom Teacher Characteristics					
	Pupil-Teacher Ratio	Median Teacher Salary	Teacher Turnover Rate Fall 2003 to Fall 2004	Percent Teaching Out of Certification Area	Percent with Master's Plus 30 Hours or Doctorate	Median Years of Experience
High N/RC Districts						
New York City	13.4	\$52,947	20%	18.3%	37.1%	9
Large City Districts	12.2	46,030	14	6.9*	25.6	12
Urban-Suburban	13.1	59,530	10	3.2	30.0	12
Rural	11.6	45,000	10	2.8	12.0	13
Average N/RC Districts	12.6	53,897	10	1.8	23.4	12
Low N/RC Districts	12.2	69,042	10	1.8	39.1	11
Charter Schools	N/A	41,000	N/A	30.3	8.8	4
Total Public	12.8	\$55,665	13%	7.6%	30.0%	11

*Data for Buffalo are not available.

4 Performance Trends

Two key indicators of student performance are the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) at the elementary and middle levels and the Regents examinations at the secondary level. NYSTP performance is indicated at four performance levels, ranging from deficient (Level 1) to advanced (Level 4). Students scoring at Level 3 have demonstrated proficiency in the standards expected for their grade level. Students scoring at Level 2 have demonstrated only partial proficiency. In response to the Regents concern with excellence, Level 4 identifies students who have demonstrated mastery of the tested skills and knowledge beyond that expected in their grade. On Regents examinations, three performance standards have been set: competency for a local diploma, passing at Regents level, and passing with distinction. A score of 55 is required to demonstrate competency for a local diploma; 65 is required to receive credit toward a Regents diploma; and 85 is required for distinction. An overview of the State testing program can be found in *Part I: Overview*.

New York State Testing Program

Figures 4.6 to 4.14 relate performance on the NYSTP to N/RC categories. Students in New York City and the Large City Districts were less likely to meet the State standards (score at Level 3 or Level 4) than students in other N/RC categories. Schools in the Average and Low N/RC Districts had the largest percentages of students meeting the standards. Among High N/RC Districts, rural districts performed better than districts in other categories. Performance on the elementary-level English language arts test illustrates the relationship between performance and N/RC category. On this test, the percentage of fourth-graders scoring at or above Level 3 ranged from 54.2 percent in Large City Districts to 88.1 percent in Low-Need Districts (Figure 4.7). The percentage of students scoring at Level 1 ranged from 1.3 percent in Low-Need Districts to 11.1 percent in Large City Districts (Figure 4.11).

Students statewide had greater difficulty meeting the State standards at the middle level than at the elementary level in both English and mathematics. Only 55.5 percent of tested students statewide scored at or above Level 3 in middle-level mathematics, compared with 84.8 percent of students in elementary-level mathematics (Figure 4.10). The performance gaps among N/RC categories were greatest on the middle-level mathematics assessment. While 82.3 percent of tested eighth-graders in Low N/RC Districts scored at or above Level 3, only 40.8 percent of New York City students and 25.2 percent of Large City District students achieved that standard (Figure 4.10). Eighth-graders scoring substantially below Level 3 can be expected to have difficulty completing the mathematics graduation requirement.

Figure 4.6 contrasts the percentage of students in each N/RC category meeting the standard on the middle-level mathematics assessment with the percentage of uncertified mathematics teachers in that category. In Large City Districts, where 11 percent of mathematics teachers at the middle level were not certified to teach mathematics, only 25 percent of students scored at or above Level 3. In Low N/RC Districts, where 82 percent of students achieved the standard in mathematics, only three percent of mathematics teachers were teaching out of certification.

Districts with greater capacity to meet students' needs with local resources have higher percentages of tested students performing at or above Level 3. The better performance of students in the Low N/RC Districts was particularly evident in the percentages of students meeting or exceeding the standard. For example, 88.1 percent of the fourth-graders in these districts met the standard on the ELA; 75.2 percent of eighth-graders did so. In contrast, in Urban-Suburban High N/RC Districts, only 66.6 percent of fourth-graders performed that well on the ELA; 38.9 percent of eighth-graders did so. For each assessment, at each grade level, there were consistently larger percentages of students meeting the standard in districts having lower student need-to-resource ratios.

Figure 4.6
Percentages of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 2 and
at or above Level 3 on Middle-Level Mathematics Compared with
Percentages of Uncertified Mathematics Teachers
2005

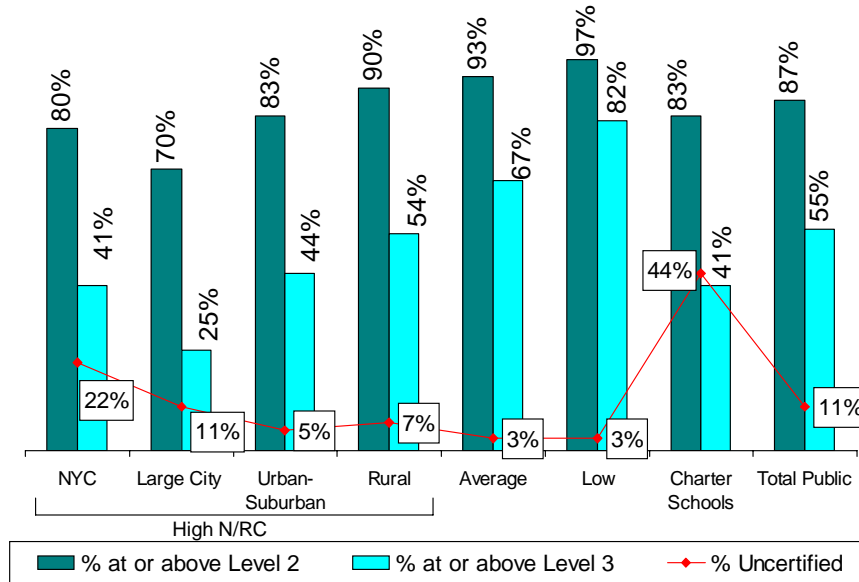


Figure 4.7
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3
on Elementary-Level English Language Arts by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005

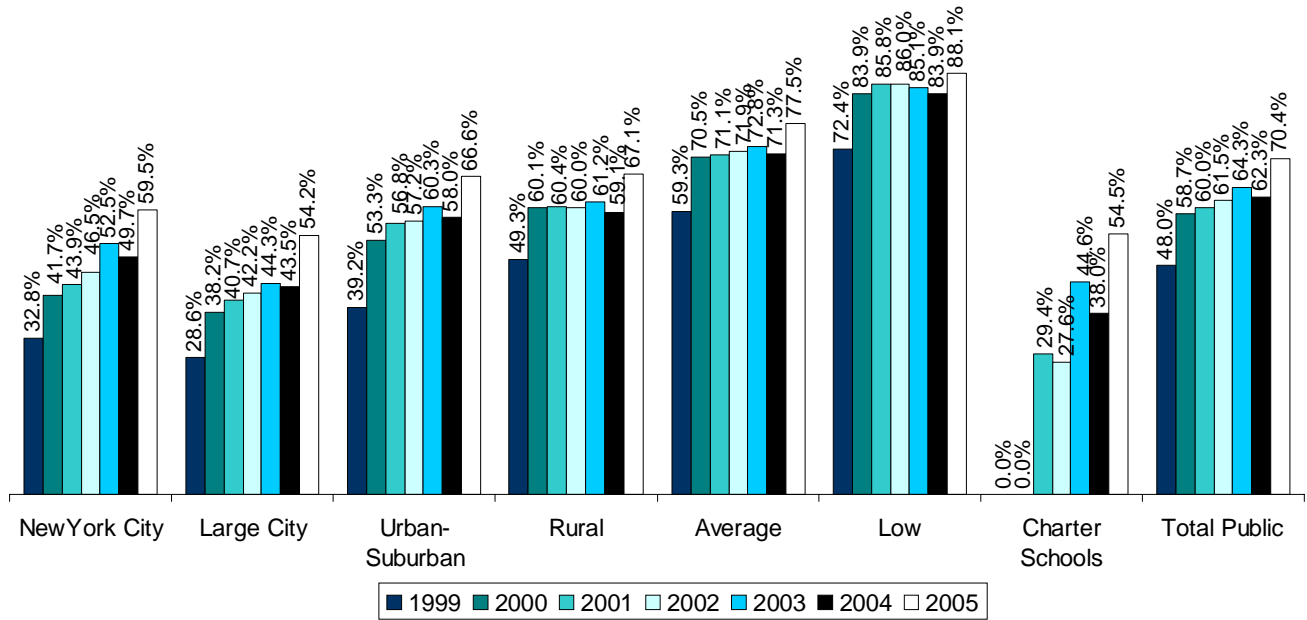
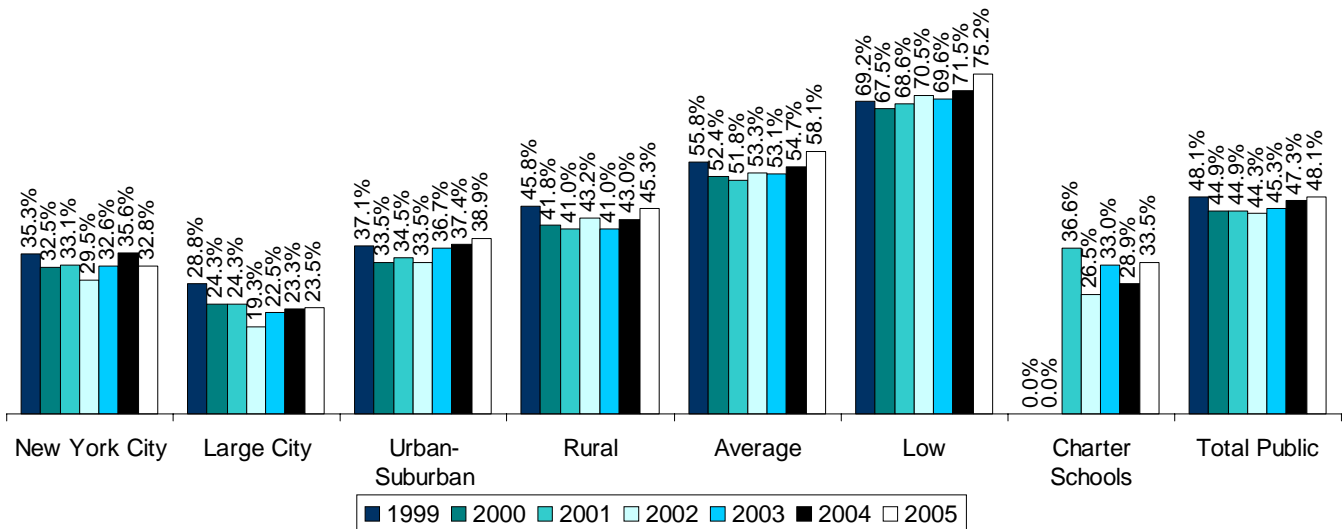


Figure 4.8
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3
on Middle-Level English Language Arts by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005



Charter school data are not available for 1999 and 2000.

Figure 4.9
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3
on Elementary-Level Mathematics by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005

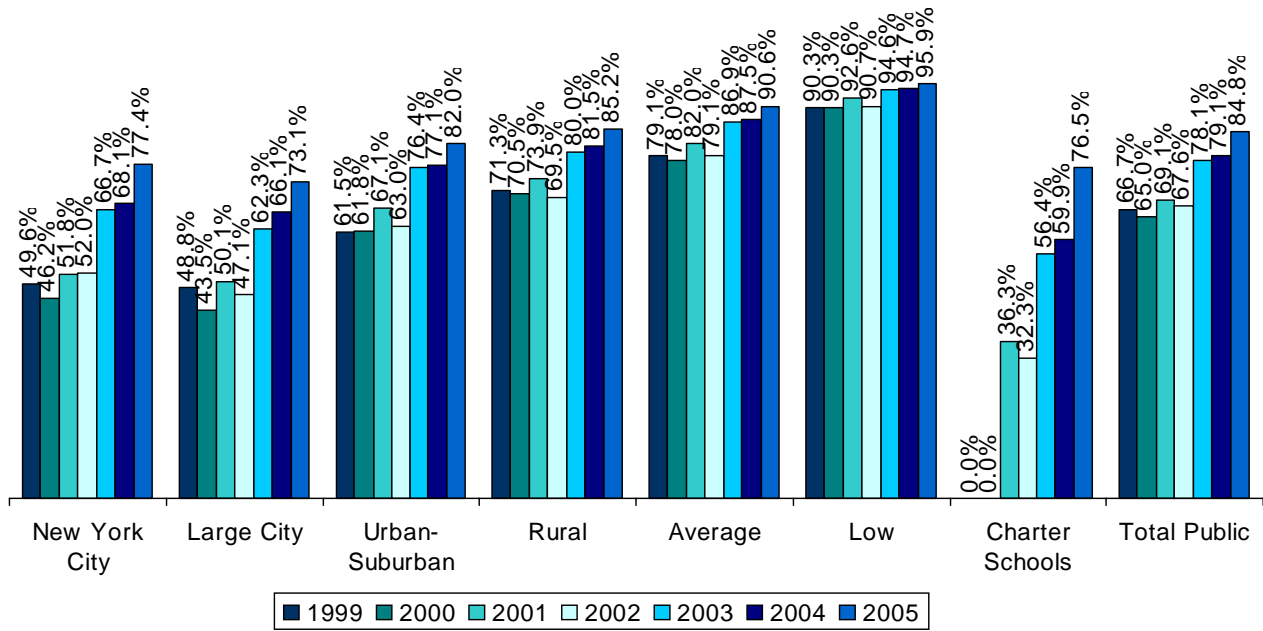
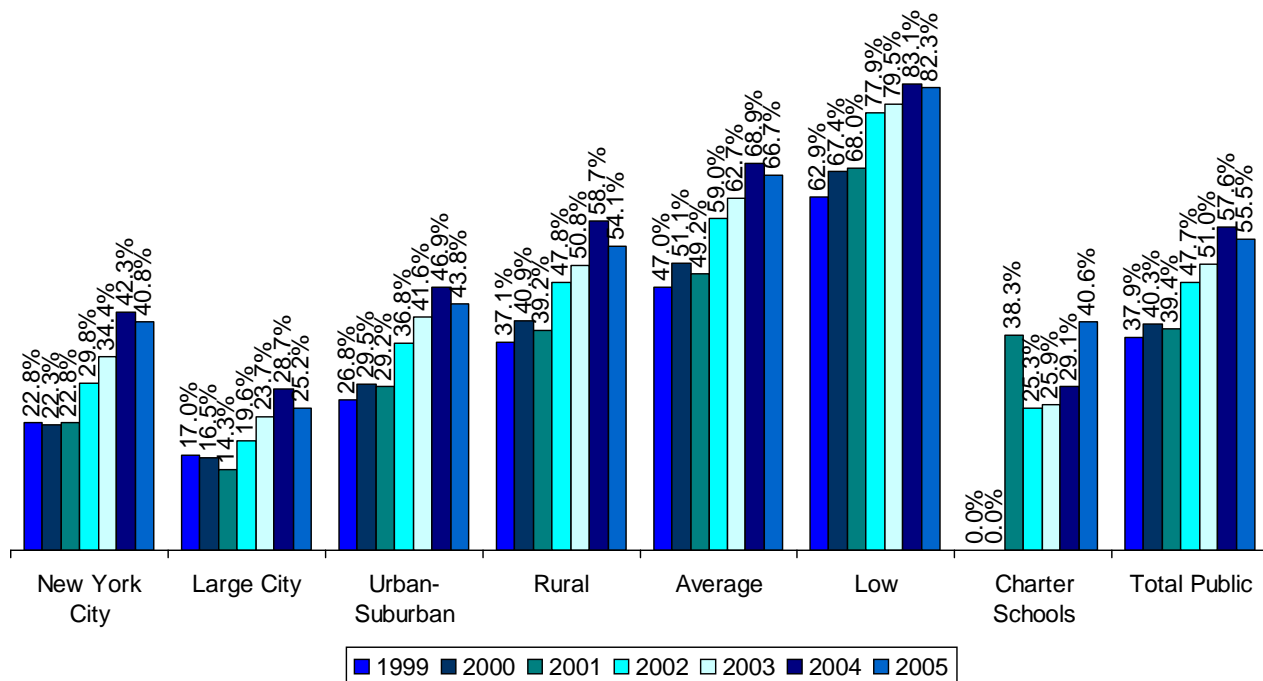


Figure 4.10
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3
on Middle-Level Mathematics by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005



Charter school data are not available for 1999 and 2000.

Figure 4.11
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at Level 1
on Elementary-Level English Language Arts by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005

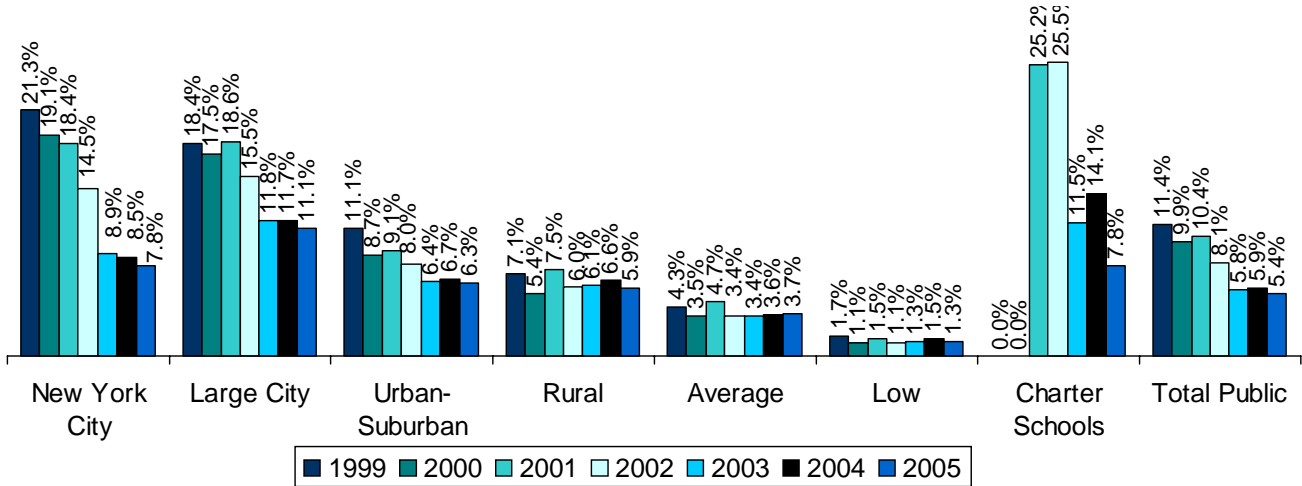
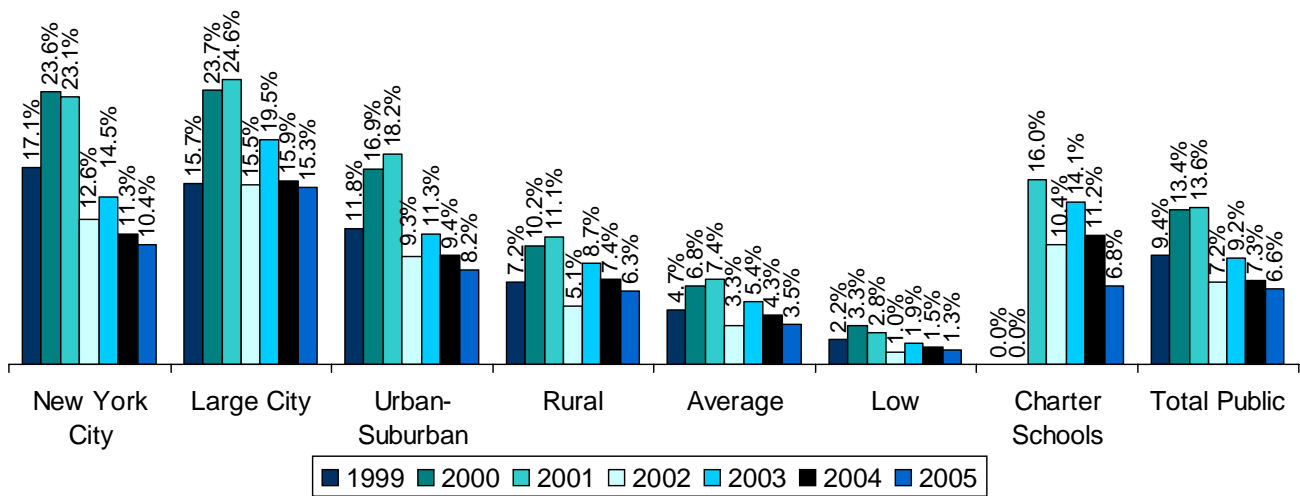


Figure 4.12
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level English Language Arts by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005



Charter school data are not available for 1999 and 2000.

Figure 4.13
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Elementary-Level Mathematics by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005

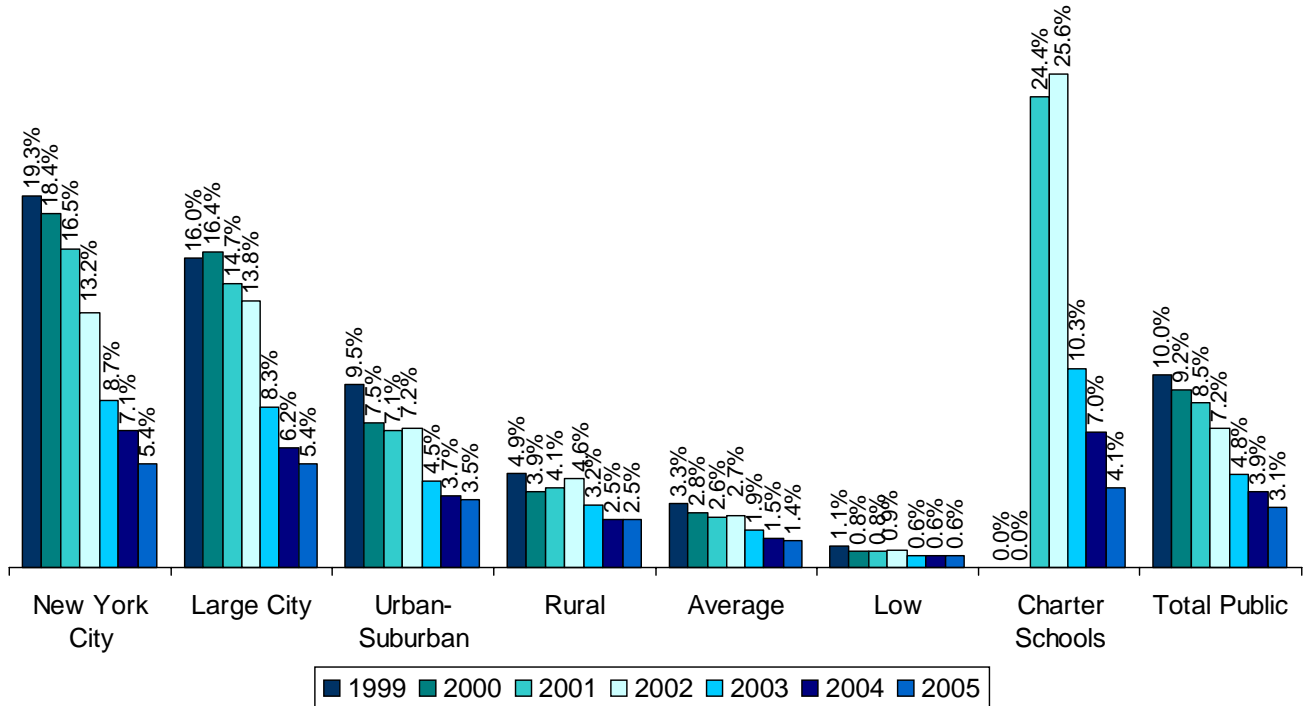
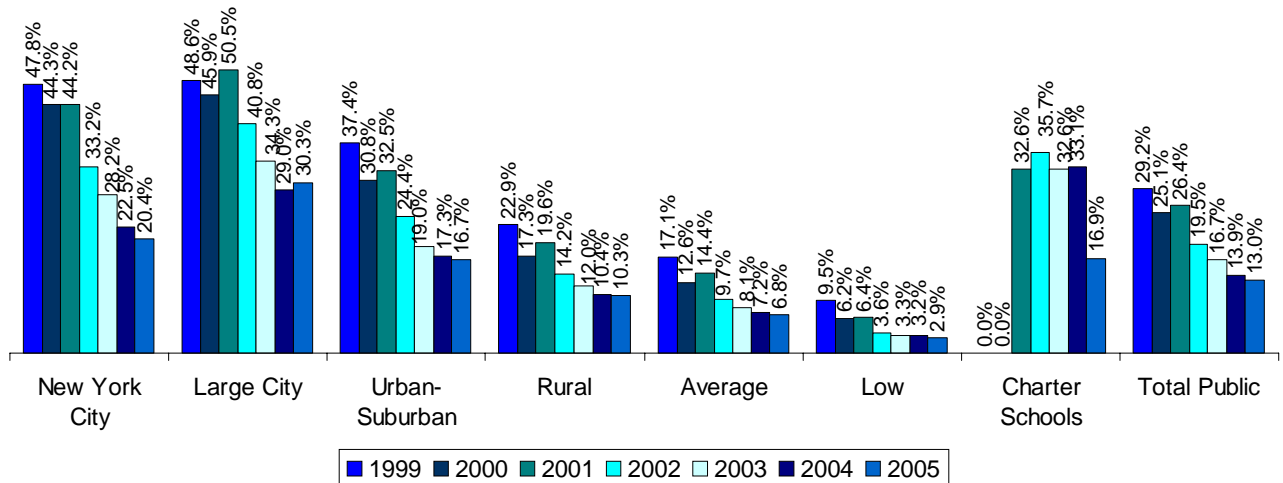


Figure 4.14
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level Mathematics by Need/Resource Capacity Category
1999 to 2005



Charter school data are not available for 1999 and 2000.

Figures 4.15 to 4.18 show elementary- and middle-level performance in ELA and mathematics based on income. A greater percentage of not economically disadvantaged students, compared with economically disadvantaged students, scored at or above Level 3 on all four examinations. This performance disparity was true in Low N/RC Districts as well as High N/RC Districts. In general, the differences between economic

groups were greater at the middle level than at the elementary level. Statewide, the greatest disparity between percentages of advantaged and disadvantaged students was on the middle-level English language arts examination. Sixty-three percent of not disadvantaged students compared with 30 percent of disadvantaged students (a difference of 33 percentage points) scored at or above Level 3 on this examination.

Figure 4.15
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level English Language Arts by Family Income 2005

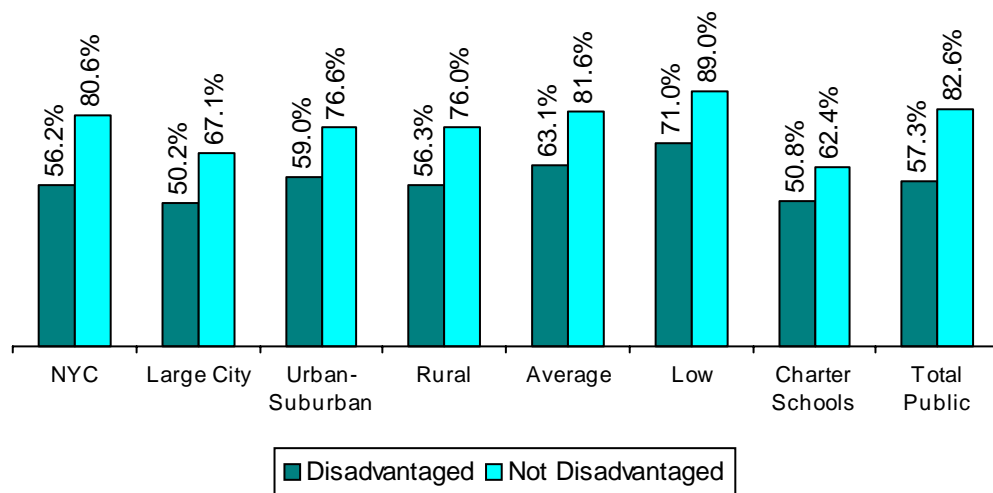


Figure 4.16
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on Middle-Level English Language Arts by Family Income 2005

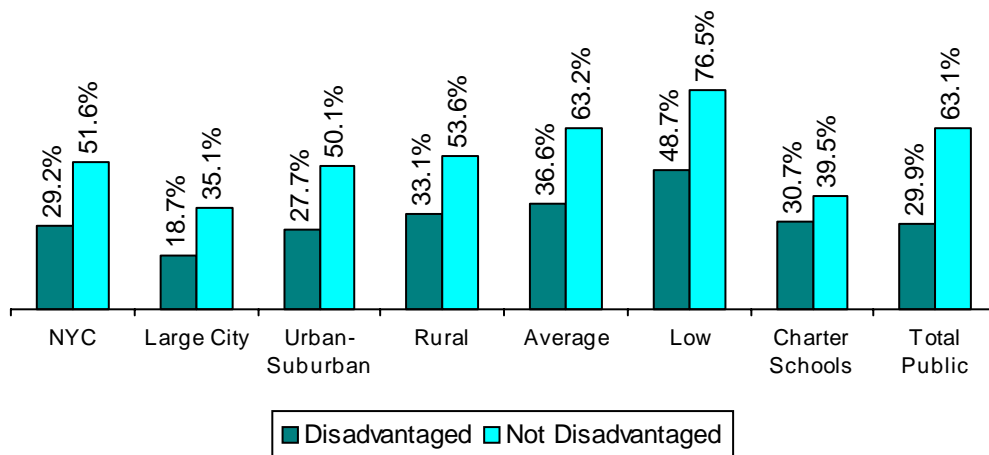


Figure 4.17
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3
on Elementary-Level Mathematics by Family Income
2005

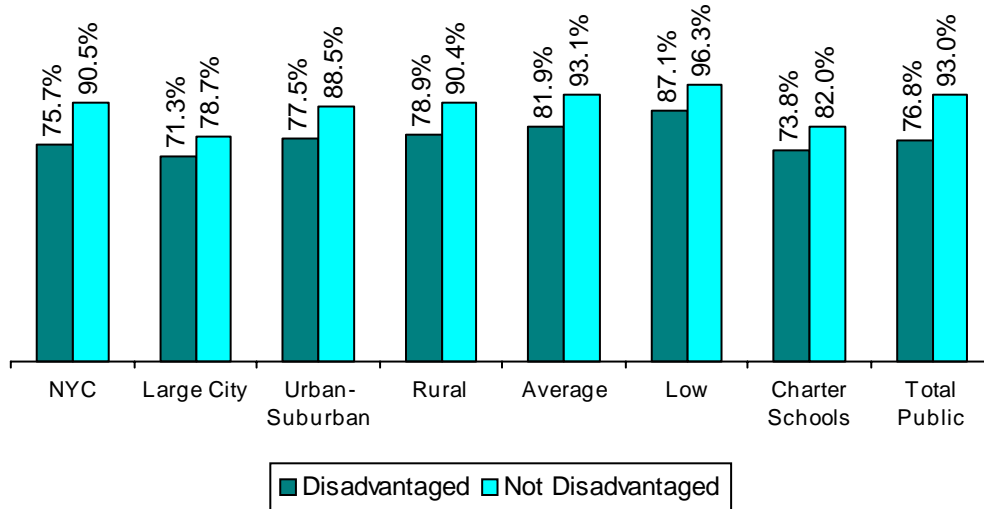
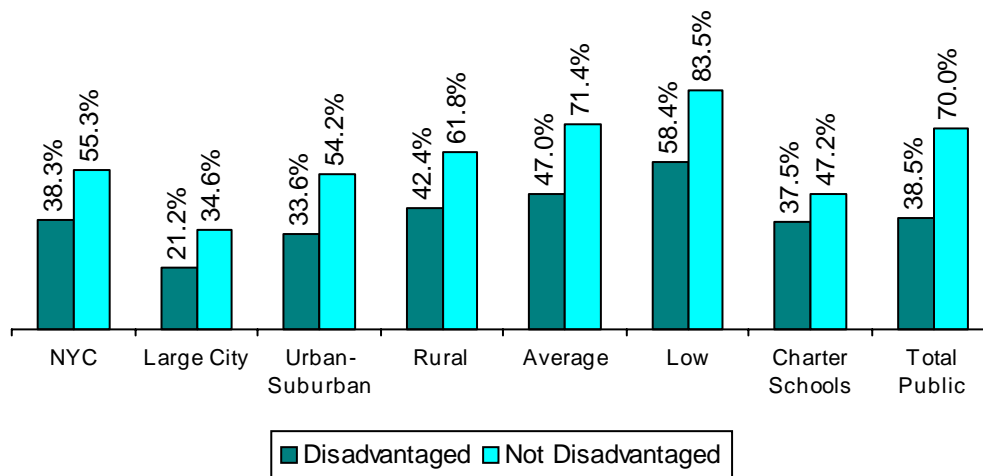


Figure 4.18
Percentage of Tested Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3
on Middle-Level Mathematics by Family Income
2005



Regents Examinations

The revised graduation requirements demand that all students strive to succeed at the Regents level or higher. General-education students who first entered grade 9 in 1996–97 or later were required to score 55 or higher on the Regents examination in English or an approved alternative to graduate. Each succeeding ninth-grade class was required to score 55 or higher on additional Regents examinations to graduate. General-education students in the class who entered grade 9 in 1999–2000 or later must score 55 or higher on Regents examinations in five areas — English, mathematics, global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and science. When the transition to the new graduation requirements is complete, all students will be required to score 65 or higher on a Regents examination in each of the five areas. (See *Part I: Overview* for a description of graduation requirements.)

This section reports performance on Regents examinations that can be used to meet these graduation requirements. Regents examination results are reported in two ways: Performance is reported as a percentage of students tested and by student cohort. (See *Part I: Overview* for a discussion of cohort.)

Using either of these measures, the pattern of performance among N/RC categories found on these Regents examinations was similar to that found in the NYSTP. As the student need in a district decreased in relation to its capacity to raise resources, the percentage of students participating in, passing, and performing with distinction on these Regents examinations increased.

Results as a Percentage of Tested Students

In public schools statewide, 196,219 students took the Regents comprehensive examination in English between August 2004 and June 2005 (Figure 4.19). Similar numbers took the Regents U.S. history and government (191,130), living environment (206,842), and global history and geography (220,479) examinations. From 82 to 88 percent of tested students scored 55–100 on those tests. A significantly greater number of students were tested on the Regents mathematics A examination (227,043); still, the percentage scoring 55 or higher was high (90 percent).

On every examination, a substantially larger percentage of tested students in the Low-Need Districts than in other categories scored 85 or higher. On the Regents comprehensive examination in English, 57 percent of tested students in Low-Need Districts compared with 18 percent of students in the Large City Districts scored 85 or higher. Similarly, smaller percentages scored 55–64 or 0–54 in Low-Need Districts than in other categories.

In most N/RC categories, tested students were most successful on the Regents mathematics A examination and the failure rate (students scoring 0 to 54) was highest on the global history and geography examination. The disparity in performance among N/RC categories was greatest on the global history and geography and living environment examinations.

Figure 4.19
Percentage of Tested Students Scoring 55–64, 65–84, and 85–100
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
All Students in Public Schools
August 2004, January 2005, and June 2005

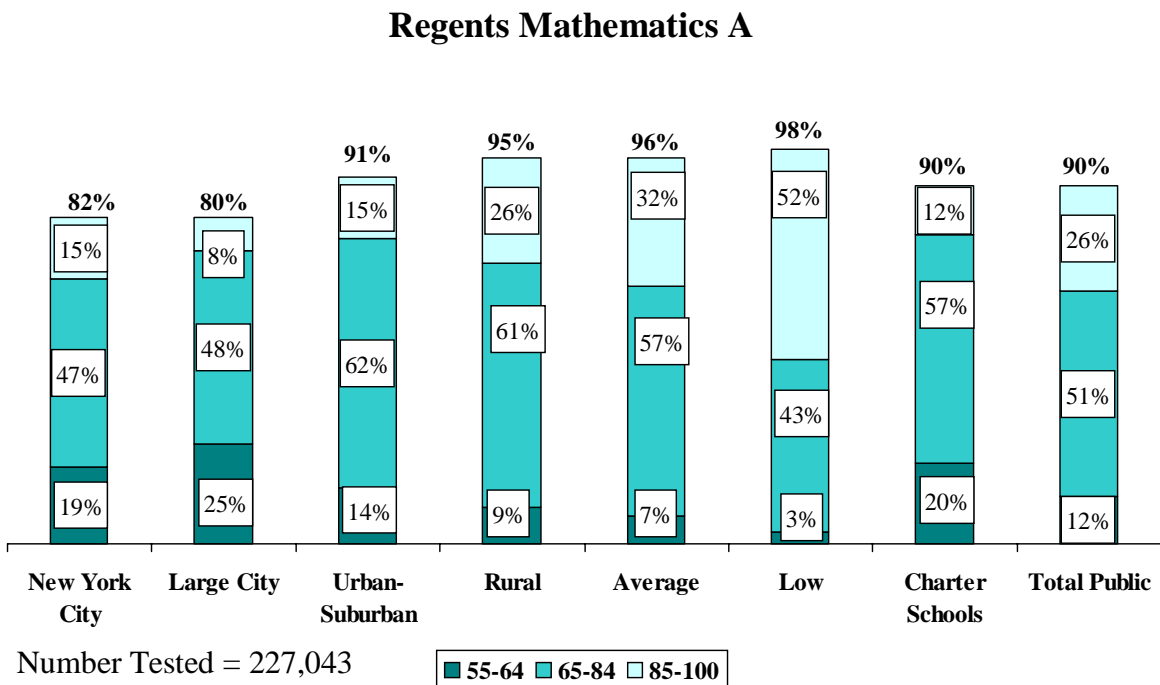
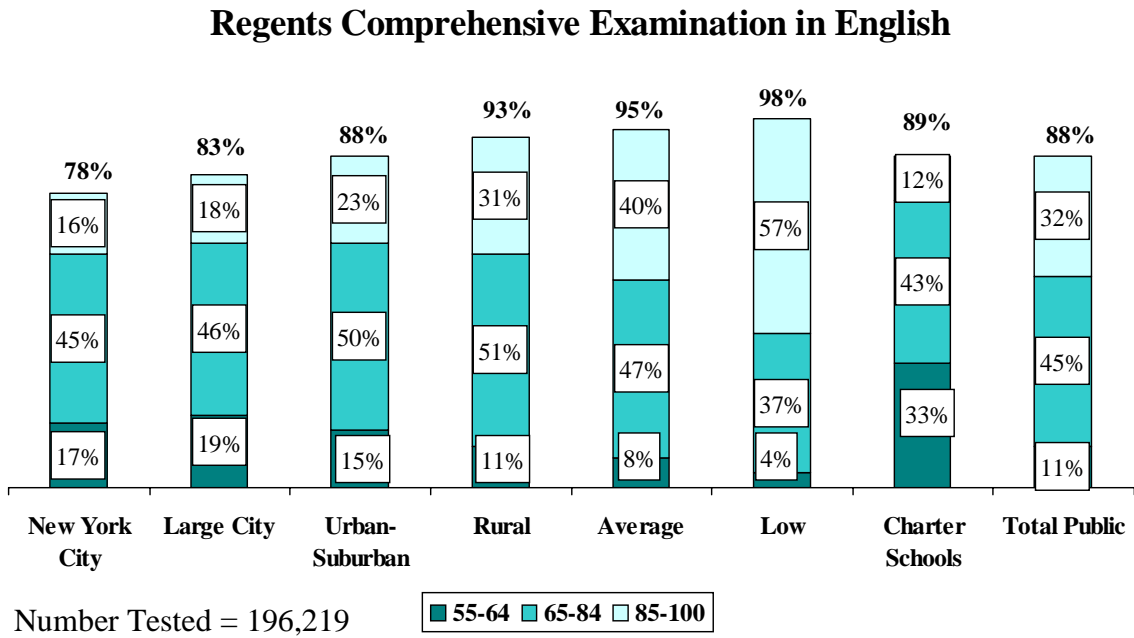
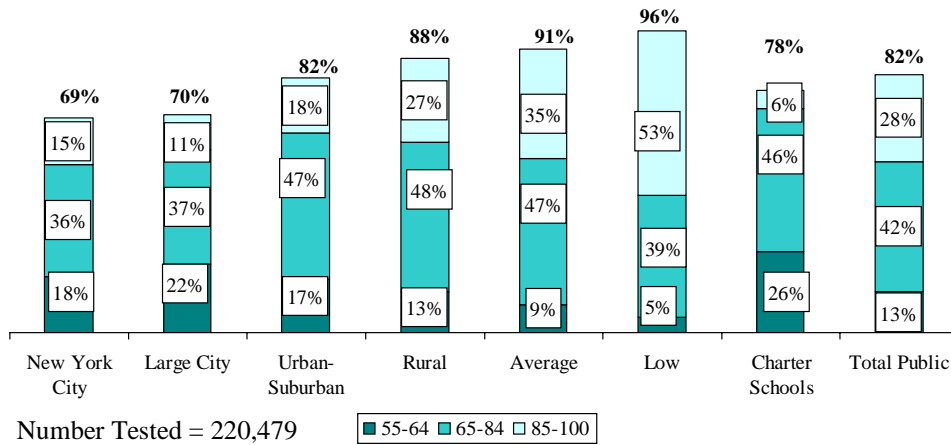
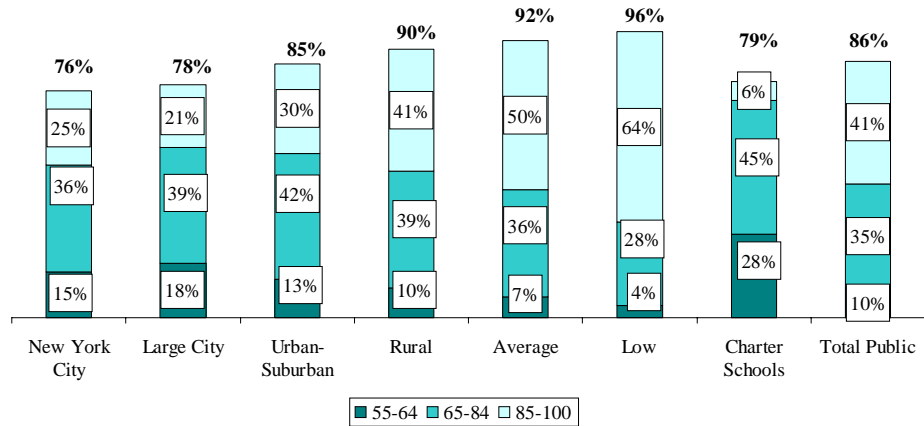


Figure 4.19 (continued)
Percent of Tested Students Scoring 55–64, 65–84, and 85–100
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
All Students in Public Schools
August 2004, January 2005, and June 2005

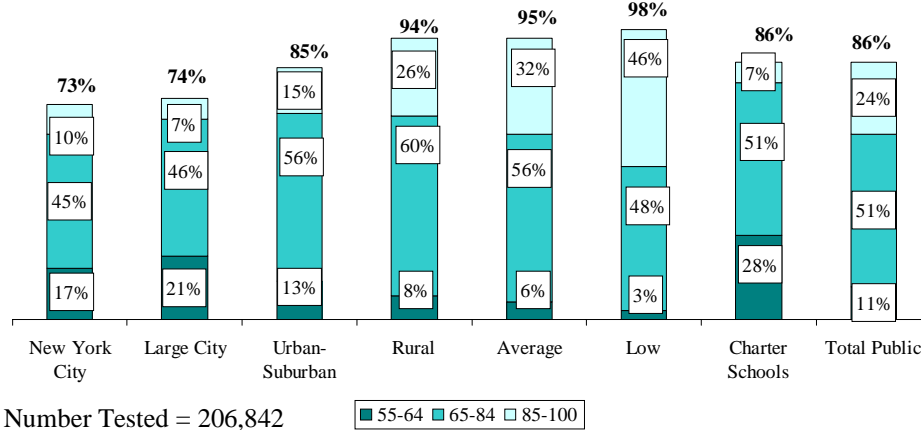
Regents Global History and Geography



Regents U.S. History and Government



Regents Living Environment



Note: Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

2001 District Cohort Performance after Four Years

The Department collected data to assess the success of students in the 2001 district cohort in meeting the graduation requirements in English, mathematics, global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and science (Tables 4.9–4.13). With the exception of charter schools, New York City and the Large City Districts had the smallest percentages of 2001 general-education cohort members meeting the revised Regents English requirement after four years of high school, 79.7 and 82.3 percent, respectively. In Low N/RC Districts, 98.4 percent of general-education students had met the requirement by scoring 55 or higher on the Regents examination or earning an acceptable score on an approved alternative examination (Table 4.9).

The performance of general-education students in the 2001 cohort in three required examination areas was very similar to their English performance. On the Regents examinations in global history and geography and science, about 70 percent of New York City cohort members had achieved scores of 65 or higher; about 96 percent of cohort members

in Low-Need Districts had done so. In all categories except charter schools, cohort members were more likely to have scored 65 or higher on the science examination than on any other. In contrast, charter school cohort members were less likely to have scored 65 or higher in science than in any other examination area except mathematics.

Statewide after four years of high school, 89.4 percent of general-education students in the 2001 district cohort scored 55 or higher — and 82.0 percent scored 65 or higher — on a Regents mathematics examination or an approved alternative (Table 4.10). The percentages of students with Regents examination credit in mathematics were much higher in the Low, Average, and Rural N/RC Dis-

<p>TABLE 4.9</p> <p>NUMBER AND PERCENT OF GENERAL-EDUCATION STUDENTS IN THE 2001 DISTRICT COHORT REPORTED WITH GRADUATION CREDIT FOR REGENTS ENGLISH BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY AFTER FOUR YEARS</p> <p>PAGE 125</p>
<p>TABLE 4.10</p> <p>NUMBER AND PERCENT OF GENERAL-EDUCATION STUDENTS IN THE 2001 DISTRICT COHORT REPORTED WITH GRADUATION CREDIT FOR REGENTS MATHEMATICS BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY AFTER FOUR YEARS</p> <p>PAGE 126</p>

<p>TABLE 4.11</p> <p>NUMBER AND PERCENT OF GENERAL-EDUCATION STUDENTS IN THE 2001 DISTRICT COHORT REPORTED WITH GRADUATION CREDIT FOR REGENTS GLOBAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY AFTER FOUR YEARS</p> <p>PAGE 126</p>
<p>TABLE 4.12</p> <p>NUMBER AND PERCENT OF GENERAL-EDUCATION STUDENTS IN THE 2001 DISTRICT COHORT REPORTED WITH GRADUATION CREDIT FOR REGENTS U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY AFTER FOUR YEARS</p> <p>PAGE 127</p>
<p>TABLE 4.13</p> <p>NUMBER AND PERCENT OF GENERAL-EDUCATION STUDENTS IN THE 2001 DISTRICT COHORT REPORTED WITH GRADUATION CREDIT FOR REGENTS SCIENCE BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY AFTER FOUR YEARS</p> <p>PAGE 127</p>

tricts than in the other categories. Not including charter schools, the gap between the lowest and the highest performing categories was greater when counting students scoring at 65 or above (33.0 percent gap between Large City and Low N/RC Districts) than those scoring at 55 or above (17.9 percent between Large City and Low N/RC Districts).

Table 4.9
Number and Percent of General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Reported with Graduation Credit for Regents English by Need/Resource Capacity Category after Four Years
New York State
June 2005

Need/Resource Category	2001 Cohort Enrollment	55–100 Including Alternative		65–100 Including Alternative	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High N/RC Districts					
New York City	50,276	40,093	79.7%	34,862	69.3%
Large City Districts	5,218	4,292	82.3	3,661	70.2
Urban/Suburban	11,612	9,954	85.7	9,159	78.9
Rural	10,499	9,718	92.6	9,176	87.4
Average N/RC Districts	54,775	52,226	95.3	50,676	92.5
Low N/RC Districts	24,528	24,130	98.4	23,889	97.4
Charter Schools	123	68	55.3	50	40.7
Total Public	157,031	140,481	89.5%	131,473	83.7%

Table 4.10
Number and Percent of General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Reported with
Graduation Credit for Regents Mathematics by Need/Resource Capacity Category after Four Years
New York State
June 2005

Need/Resource Category	2001 Cohort Enrollment	55–100 Including Alternative		65–100 Including Alternative	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High N/RC Districts					
New York City	50,276	40,220	80.0%	33,788	67.2%
Large City Districts	5,218	4,190	80.3	3,320	63.6
Urban/Suburban	11,612	9,925	85.5	8,962	77.2
Rural	10,499	9,728	92.7	9,048	86.2
Average N/RC Districts	54,775	52,136	95.2	49,954	91.2
Low N/RC Districts	24,528	24,088	98.2	23,687	96.6
Charter Schools	123	50	40.7	32	26.0
Total Public	157,031	140,337	89.4%	128,791	82.0%

Table 4.11
Number and Percent of General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort
Reported with Graduation Credit for Regents Global History and Geography
by Need/Resource Capacity Category after Four Years
New York State
June 2005

Need/Resource Category	2001 Cohort Enrollment	55–100 Including Alternative		65–100 Including Alternative	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High N/RC Districts					
New York City	50,276	40,296	80.1%	34,589	68.8%
Large City Districts	5,218	4,351	83.4	3,665	70.2
Urban/Suburban	11,612	10,067	86.7	9,046	77.9
Rural	10,499	9,743	92.8	9,099	86.7
Average N/RC Districts	54,775	52,224	95.3	50,236	91.7
Low N/RC Districts	24,528	23,960	97.7	23,608	96.2
Charter Schools	123	54	43.9	38	30.9
Total Public	157,031	140,695	89.6%	130,281	83.0%

Table 4.12
Number and Percent of General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort
Reported with Graduation Credit for Regents U.S. History and Government
by Need/Resource Capacity Category after Four Years
New York State
June 2005

Need/Resource Category	2001 Cohort Enrollment	55–100 Including Alternative		65–100 Including Alternative	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High N/RC Districts					
New York City	50,276	38,068	75.7%	32,497	64.6%
Large City Districts	5,218	4,053	77.7	3,301	63.3
Urban/Suburban	11,612	9,747	83.9	8,766	75.5
Rural	10,499	9,637	91.8	8,980	85.5
Average N/RC Districts	54,775	51,634	94.3	49,708	90.7
Low N/RC Districts	24,528	23,939	97.6	23,580	96.1
Charter Schools	123	52	42.3	39	31.7
Total Public	157,031	137,130	87.3%	126,871	80.8%

Table 4.13
Number and Percent of General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Reported with
Graduation Credit for Regents Science by Need/Resource Capacity Category after Four Years
New York State
June 2005

Need/Resource Category	2001 Cohort Enrollment	55–100 Including Alternative		65–100 Including Alternative	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High N/RC Districts					
New York City	50,276	40,964	81.5%	35,842	71.3%
Large City Districts	5,218	4,556	87.3	4,052	77.7
Urban/Suburban	11,612	10,431	89.8	9,696	83.5
Rural	10,499	10,075	96.0	9,813	93.5
Average N/RC Districts	54,775	53,312	97.3	52,358	95.6
Low N/RC Districts	24,528	24,261	98.9	24,100	98.3
Charter Schools	123	45	36.6	33	26.8
Total Public	157,031	143,644	91.5	135,894	86.5

5 Other Performance Measures

Credentials

As student need decreased relative to the district's capacity to raise revenues locally, the percentage of high school completers earning Regents diplomas increased (Table 4.14). In New York City and Large City districts, one in three completers earned Regents diplomas. In Urban-Suburban High N/RC Districts, 64.9 percent of the completers earned Regents diplomas; in Low N/RC Districts, 88.5 percent did so. An inverse relationship was observed among N/RC groups between the percentages of students receiving Regents diplomas and the percentages earning IEPs or certificates. Categories with the largest percentages of Regents diplomas had the smallest percentages of IEP diplomas. (See page 82 of *Part III: Longitudinal Trends* for information regarding new diploma requirements in 2004–05.

TABLE 4.14

CREDENTIALS EARNED BY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY

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Figure 4.20 shows the percentage of students in the 2000 total cohort who earned a local diploma (with or without a Regents endorsement) and the status of cohort members who had not earned a local diploma as of June 2005, that is, five years after first entering grade 9. Nearly three-fourths of students in the 2000 total cohort earned a diploma by June 2005. Students in Low-Need Districts were most likely to have earned a high school diploma and least likely to have dropped out. Figure 4.21 shows similar trends for students in the 2001 total cohort four years after first entering grade 9. Students in Low-Need Districts were most likely to have earned a high school diploma and least likely to have dropped out. Over 64 percent of students in the 2001 total cohort earned a high school diploma after four years.

Figures 4.22 through 4.25 show the percentages of the 2000 and 2001 total cohorts graduating as of June 2005 by disability classification and English proficiency status, respectively. Sixty-eight percent of general-education students and 37.3 percent of students with disabilities in the 2001 total cohort graduated after four years. A full 74.2 percent of general-education students and 48.1 percent of students with disabilities in the 2000 total cohort graduated after five years. Only 29.6 percent of limited English proficient (LEP) students, compared with 66.4 percent of English proficient students, in the 2001 total cohort graduated after four years. However, 43.5 percent of limited English proficient students and 72.9 percent of English proficient students in the 2000 total cohort graduated after five years.

Figure 4.20
2000 Total Cohort Graduation Rate and Status as of June 2005
by Need/Resource Capacity Category

2000 Total Cohort = 210,159

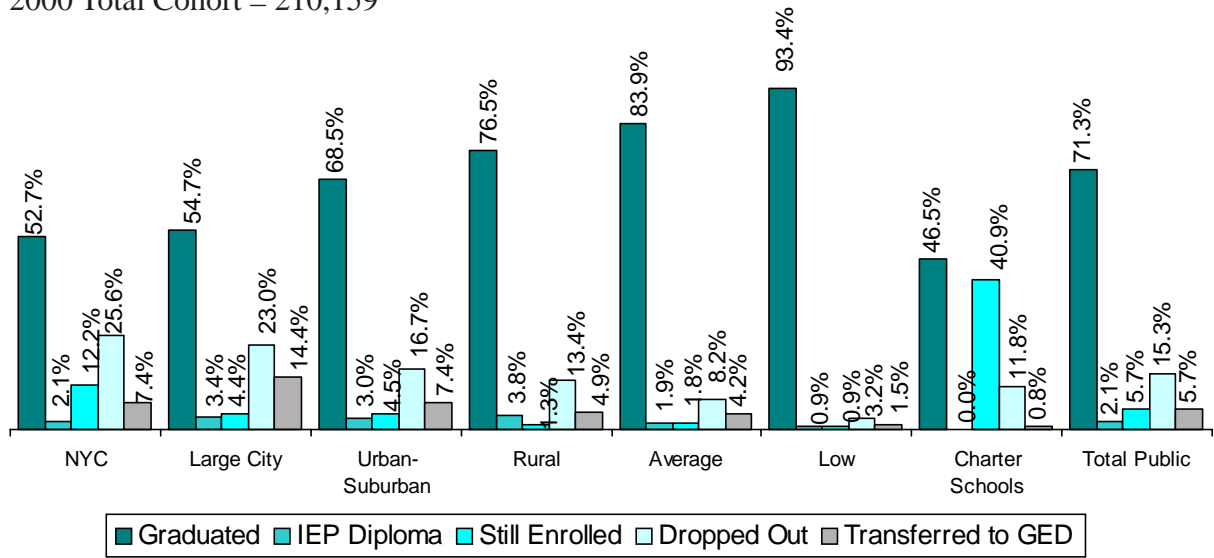


Figure 4.21
2001 Total Cohort Graduation Rate and Status as of June 2005
by Need/Resource Capacity Category

2001 Total Cohort = 214,494

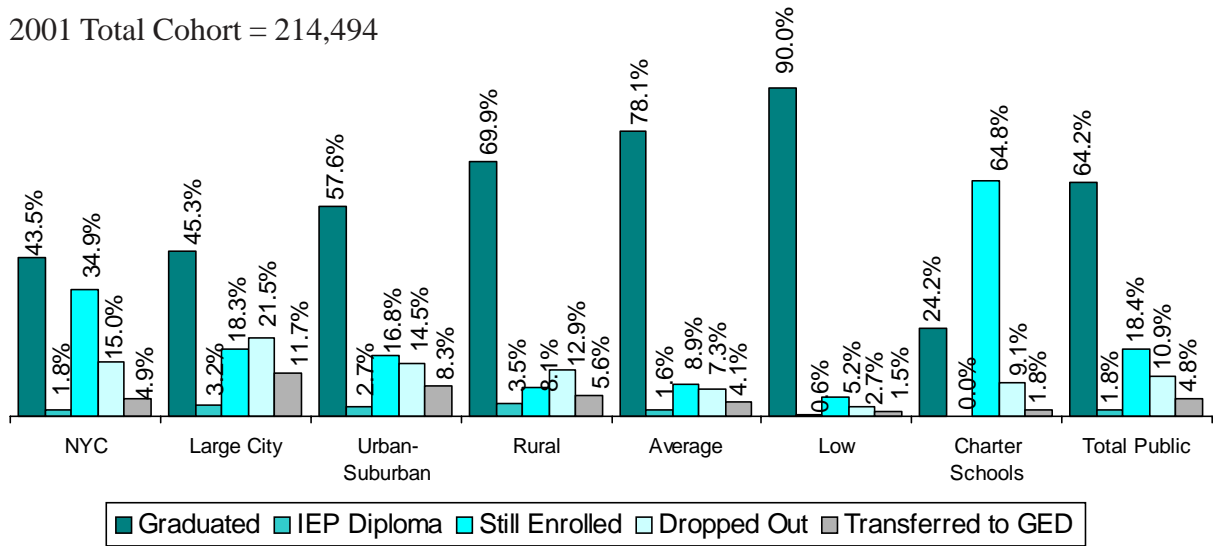


Figure 4.22
2000 Total Cohort Graduation Rate as of June 2005
by Need/Resource Capacity Category and Disability Classification

2000 Total Cohort = 210,159

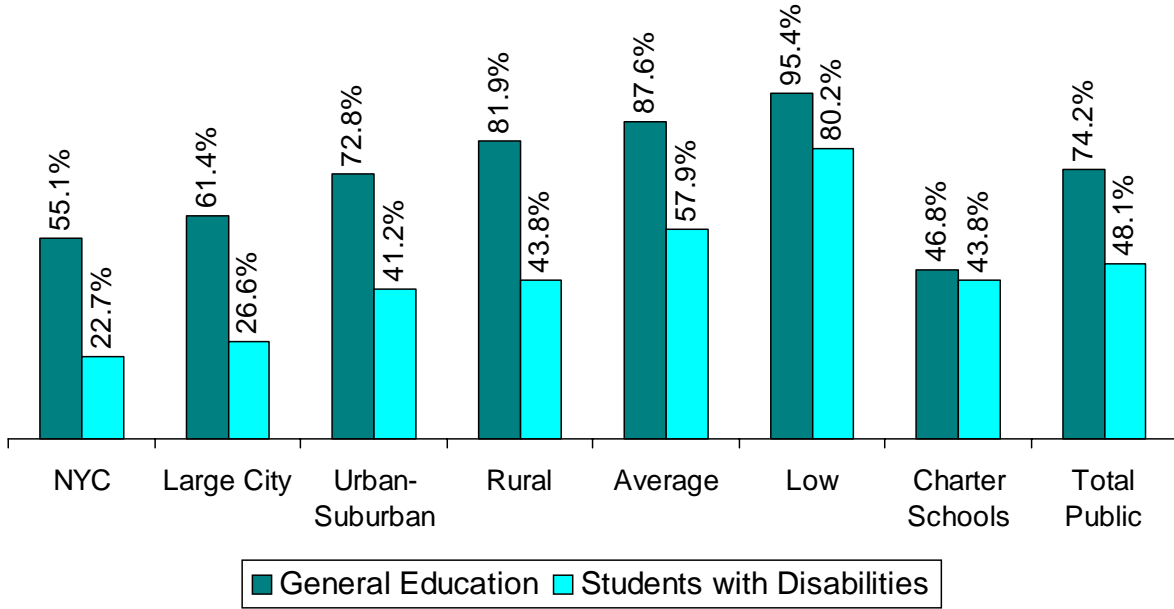


Figure 4.23
2001 Total Cohort Graduation Rate as of June 2005
by Need/Resource Capacity Category and Disability Classification

2001 Total Cohort = 214,494

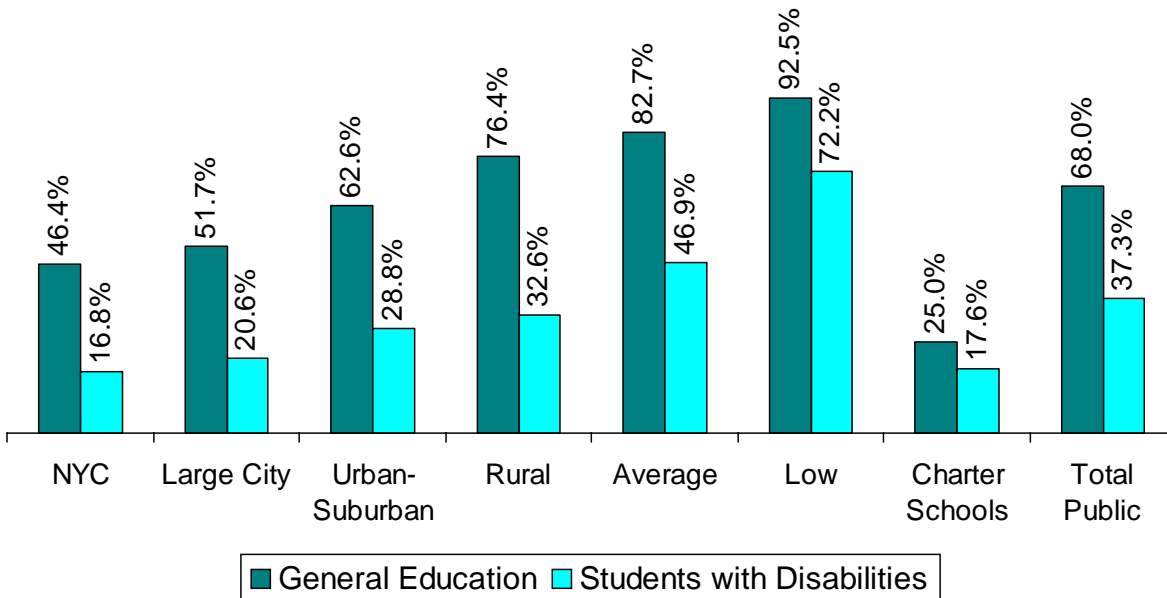
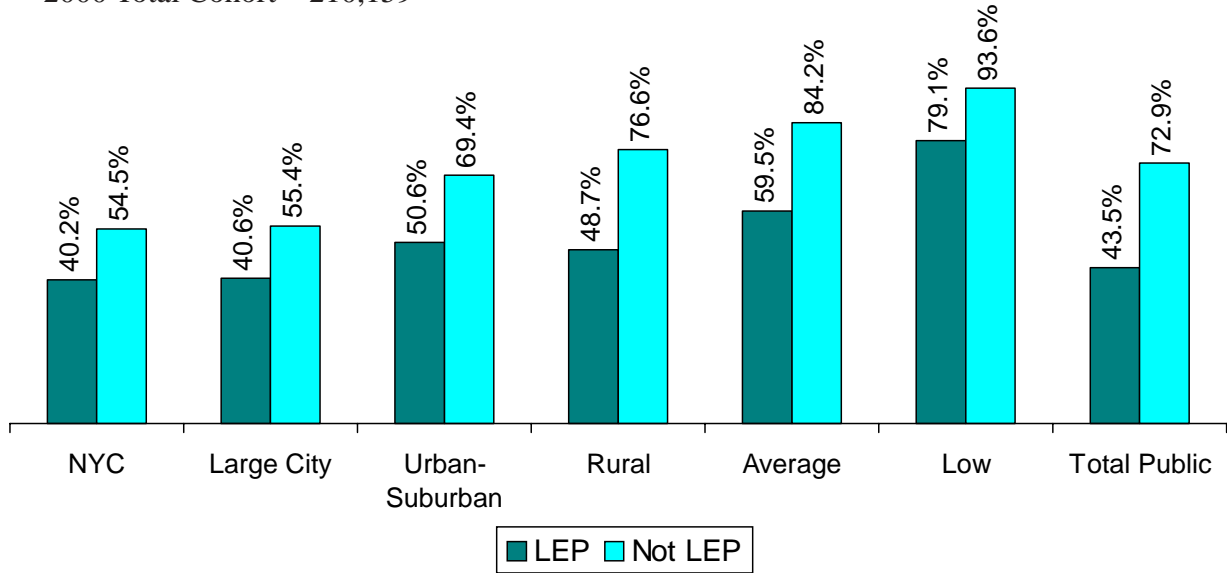


Figure 4.24
2000 Total Cohort Graduation Rate as of June 2005
by Need/Resource Capacity Category and English Proficiency Status

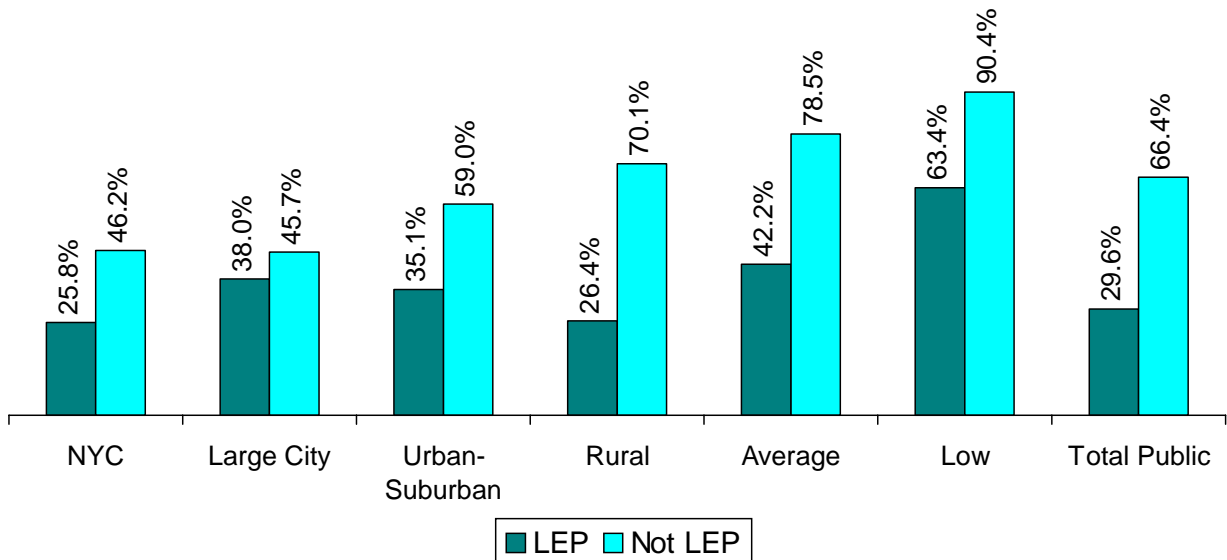
2000 Total Cohort = 210,159



Charter school data are not shown because there were fewer than five limited English proficient students in the cohort.

Figure 4.25
2001 Total Cohort Graduation Rate as of June 2005
by Need/Resource Capacity Category and English Proficiency Status

2001 Total Cohort = 214,494



Charter school data are not shown because there were fewer than five limited English proficient students in the cohort.

College-Going Rate

Students in Low N/RC Districts had the highest college-going rate (94.2 percent) among public school categories (Table 4.15). The majority of these students planned to attend four-year institutions (74.2 percent). Only 79.4 percent of students from Rural High N/RC Districts planned on furthering their education, the smallest percentage among all categories except New York City (64.2 percent) and charter schools (69.6 percent). Only 35.0 percent of students from rural districts, the smallest percentage of all district categories, planned to attend four-year institutions.

TABLE 4.15

COLLEGE-GOING RATES OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY

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Table 4.14
Credentials Earned by Public High School Completers
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
2004–05

Need/Resource Capacity Category	High School Completion Credentials				
	Number of Completers	Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates
High N/RC Districts					
New York City	43,502	61.4%	29.8%	3.8%	5.0%
Large City Districts	5,050	41.7	38.4	12.0	7.9
Urban-Suburban	11,819	29.7	39.4	25.5	5.3
Rural	11,534	18.7	41.0	34.6	5.6
Average N/RC Districts	59,268	14.3	39.6	43.6	2.5
Low N/RC Districts	27,590	10.3	30.5	58.0	1.1
Charter Schools	116	82.8	16.4	0.0	0.9
Total Public	158,879	28.9%	35.4%	32.2%	3.6%

Table 4.15
College-Going Rates of Public High School Graduates
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
2004–05

Need/Resource Capacity Category	College-Going Rate			
	Percent to 4-Year College	Percent to 2-Year College	Percent to Other Postsecondary	Total
High N/RC Districts				
New York City	47.3%	15.6%	1.3%	64.2%
Large City Districts	45.6	35.6	1.7	82.9
Urban-Suburban	39.7	40.4	2.0	82.1
Rural	35.0	42.4	2.0	79.4
Average N/RC Districts	50.2	35.5	1.4	87.1
Low N/RC Districts	74.2	19.1	0.9	94.2
Charter Schools	39.1	30.4	0.0	69.6
Total Public	51.7%	28.1%	1.4%	81.1%

6 Attendance, Suspension, and Dropout Rates

Attendance, suspension, and dropout rates serve as useful measures of schools' abilities to retain students and motivate learning.

Attendance Rates

The Big 5 districts had the lowest average attendance rates among the N/RC categories (Table 4.16). Urban and suburban schools in High N/RC Districts had the lowest average attendance rate (92.7 percent) outside the Big 5 districts. Low N/RC Districts had the highest average attendance rate (95.8 percent). Differences in attendance rate are related to differences among schools in the incidence of poverty. In secondary schools statewide, the correlation between attendance rate and the percentage of students reported eligible for free lunches was significant ($r = -0.45$, 1996 data).

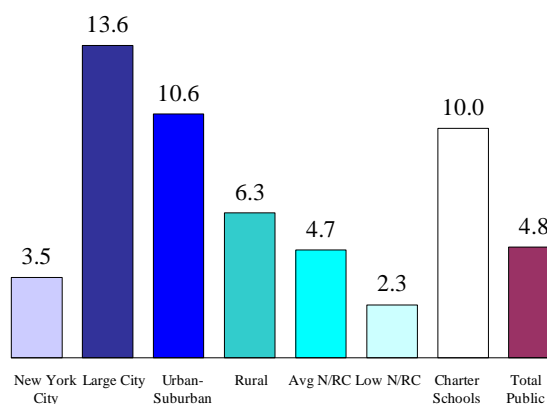
<p>TABLE 4.16</p> <p>PUBLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATES BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY</p> <p>PAGE 136</p>
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Secondary schools with low attendance rates tend to have high dropout rates. Many of the factors that lead to frequent absences, alienation from the schooling process, economic difficulties, and family problems, may also cause students to leave school prematurely. Among New York State public schools serving grades 9 through 12, the correlation between average attendance rate and annual dropout rate was significant ($r = -0.54$, 1996 data).

Student Suspensions

Suspension from school is a form of discipline imposed for serious or repeated infractions of school rules. Variations in school suspension rates can result from either differing incidence of misconduct or differences in school discipline policies. For example, the suspension rate in New York City (3.5 percent) was the lowest of any N/RC category with the exception of Low N/RC Districts (2.3 percent) (Figure 4.26). This finding is consistent with district policy discouraging suspensions for nonviolent acts; in New York City most students were suspended for interpersonal violent acts or for use or possession of a weapon. Outside New York City, most suspensions were for nonviolent acts. Average N/RC Districts had the next lowest suspension rate (4.7 percent); Large City Districts, High N/RC Urban-Suburban Districts, and charter schools had much higher rates, at least 10 percent in each category.

Figure 4.26
Public School Suspension Rates by Need/Resource Capacity Category 2003–04



Dropout Rates

As with attendance and suspension rates, reported dropout rates varied significantly among summary groups. In 2004–05, students in New York City were over 16 times as likely to drop out as students in Low N/RC Districts (Table 4.17). The other High N/RC Districts reported dropout rates of 3.2 to 7.7 percent in 2004–05.

TABLE 4.17

**PUBLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL DROPOUT
RATES BY NEED/RESOURCE
CAPACITY CATEGORY**

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Ninth-Grade Repeaters

The proportion of ninth-grade students who repeat the grade (do not earn enough units of credit or do not pass courses required for promotion to tenth grade) can be an indicator of future dropout rates, as students who have been retained in grade are more likely to drop out than other students. Statewide in Fall 2004, 14.7 percent of ninth-graders were repeaters (Table 4.18). In New York City, 25.3 percent of the ninth-grade enrollment were repeaters. While this rate is high, it is lower than the percentage of repeaters (27.0 percent) reported by New York City in Fall 2003. The repeat rate in the Large City Districts (24.1 percent) in Fall 2004 was similar to that in New York City. The repeat rate in other categories was considerably lower. In Low N/RC Districts, the ninth-grade repeat rate was 1.2 percent. (Data for ninth-grade repeaters in Fall 2003 and Fall 2004 were obtained from the System for Tracking Education Performance (STEP); data from previous years were obtained from the Basic Educational Data System (BEDS).)

TABLE 4.18

**NUMBER OF NINTH-GRADERS AND PER-
CENTAGE REPEATING NINTH GRADE
BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY**

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High School Equivalency

Students at severe risk of dropping out of general high school programs who meet certain age and performance criteria may enter alternative programs leading to high school equivalency diplomas. The rate of participation in these programs is computed using the same pupil base used to compute the dropout rate. The rate of leaving high school for equivalency program participation increased slightly from 1.5 percent in 2003–04 to 1.6 percent in 2004–05 (Table 4.19). Large City Districts and Urban-Suburban High-Need Districts had the highest percentages (3.2 and 2.5 percent, respectively) of students leaving diploma programs in 2004–05. While students entering alternative programs are not counted as dropouts, the rate of successful completion of high school equivalency requirements is not known and may not be high. Federal reporting standards stipulate that students who do not earn high school equivalency diplomas be counted as dropouts. Beginning with the 2001–02 school year, New York State reported non-completion rates, including traditional dropouts and transfers to high school equivalency programs.

TABLE 4.19

**ALTERNATIVE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
EQUIVALENCY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION
AND PARTICIPATION RATE BY NEED/
RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY**

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Table 4.16
Public School Annual Attendance Rates
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
2003–04

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Percent
High N/RC Districts	
New York City	89.4%
Large City Districts	90.5
Urban-Suburban	92.7
Rural	94.7
Average N/RC Districts	95.2
Low N/RC Districts	95.8
Total Public	92.7%

Charter school data are not available.

Table 4.17
Public School Annual Dropout Rates
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
2004–05

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Dropout Rate
High N/RC Districts	
New York City	8.2%
Large City Districts	7.7
Urban-Suburban	5.2
Rural	3.2
Average N/RC Districts	1.8
Low N/RC Districts	0.5
Charter Schools	3.4
Total Public	4.5%

Table 4.18
Number of Ninth-Graders and Percentage Repeating
Ninth Grade by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
Fall 2004

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Grade 9 Enrollment	Percent Repeaters
High N/RC Districts		
New York City	124,504	25.3%
Large City Districts	13,201	24.1
Urban/Suburban	19,755	11.1
Rural	17,581	7.3
Average N/RC Districts	86,575	5.9
Low N/RC Districts	34,879	1.2
Charter Schools	748	5.9
Total Public	297,243	14.7%

Table 4.19
Alternative Public High School Equivalency Program Participation
and Participation Rate by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
2003–04 and 2004–05

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Rate 2003–04	Rate 2004–05
High N/RC Districts		
New York City	2.0%	2.3%
Large City Districts	3.4	3.2
Urban/Suburban	2.4	2.5
Rural	1.4	0.9
Average N/RC Districts	1.0	1.0
Low N/RC Districts	0.3	0.4
Total Public	1.5%	1.6%

Note: Alternative Program Participation Rate equals number of students who left a regular public high school program and entered an alternative program or other diploma program leading to a High School Equivalency Diploma, divided by grades 9–12 enrollment, including the portion of ungraded secondary enrollment that can be attributed to grades 9–12.

7 Students with Disabilities

Performance results in this section reflect data for those students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) does not place them in the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) program for severely disabled students.

Students with disabilities benefit by integration in age-appropriate general-education classrooms to the maximum extent consistent with achieving their individual educational goals. Serving students with disabilities with their nondisabled peers in the least restrictive environment ensures them the same opportunities and expectations for successful accomplishment. Four categories of placements have been established based on the percentage of time spent outside the general-education classroom. From less to more restrictive, these categories are less than 21 percent, 21 to 60 percent, more than 60 percent of time outside the general-education classroom, and separate education setting. Separate education settings are in buildings where no general-education students are being educated.

A Department objective is to increase the percentage of students with disabilities receiving special-education services in classrooms with general-education students. The percentage of students with disabilities educated primarily in general-education classes has increased in the last 10 years. In December 2004, 54.1 percent of students with disabilities, compared with 39.2 percent in December 1994, were educated in general-education classes; that is, they spent less than 21 percent of their time outside general education (Table 4.20). Nationally in 2004–05, 52.1 percent of students with disabilities were educated in general-education classes. New York State continues to exceed the national average in the number of students with disabilities placed in general-education classes for 80 percent or more of the school day. This improvement may be attributed to more accurate data-collection procedures and implementation of the Regents policy on the responsibilities of local school districts to implement federal and State requirements for least restrictive environment.

TABLE 4.20

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND PERCENT IN EACH PLACEMENT BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY

PAGE 141

In public schools statewide in December 2004, 6.4 percent of students with disabilities were educated in separate settings. The Urban-Suburban High N/RC Districts, New York City, and the Large City Districts had relatively large percentages of students educated in separate settings. The Rural High N/RC Districts had the smallest percentages of students educated in separate settings.

Students with disabilities educated in public school buildings are reported in three categories, from less to more restrictive. The Big 5 districts and the Urban-Suburban High N/RC Districts assigned the largest percentages to the more restrictive category: 40.6 percent in New York City, 31.2 percent in Large City Districts, and 29.2 percent in Urban-Suburban High Need Districts. In Low N/RC Districts, about one in nine was placed in the more restrictive setting and more than one-half of students (65.7 percent) spent less than 21 percent of their time outside the general-education classroom.

NYSTP Performance

Students with disabilities at the elementary and middle levels who are not assigned to the NYSAA by the local committee on special education must participate in the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP).

In all district categories, a majority of tested students with disabilities scored at or above Level 2 on both elementary-level assessments in the NYSTP (Table 4.21). Statewide, students with disabilities were nearly twice as likely to score at or above Level 3 on the elementary-level mathematics assessment (55.1 percent) as on the elementary-level ELA assessment (28.2 percent). In most N/RC categories, students with disabilities were about twice as likely to score at or above Level 3 in mathematics as in ELA at both the elementary and the middle levels. At the middle level, students were more likely to score at or above Level 3 on ELA than on mathematics.

TABLE 4.21

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TESTED AND PERCENT SCORING AT OR ABOVE LEVELS 2 AND 3 BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

PAGE 142

Students with disabilities, like general-education students, had more difficulty with the middle- than the elementary-level assessments. The majority of students with disabilities in all district categories scored at or above Level 2 on the middle-level ELA assessment. The majority in all district categories except the Big 5 did so in middle-level mathematics. Students in Low-Need Districts were more than twice as likely as students in High-Need Districts to score at or above Level 3 on the elementary-level ELA assessment.

As with students in general education, the patterns of performance in each N/RC category and on each test were consistent and parallel; the Low N/RC Districts had the highest percentages scoring at or above Level 2 and at or above Level 3; the High N/RC Districts had the lowest percentages.

Cohort Performance on Regents English and Mathematics

Two benchmarks of progress toward meeting higher standards are the percentages of students with disabilities who have demonstrated proficiency in English language arts by passing the Regents examination in comprehensive English and proficiency in mathematics by passing a Regents mathematics examination by the end of their fourth year of high school. In the Low N/RC Districts, 77.9 percent of students with disabilities in the 2001 cohort had fulfilled the minimum English requirement by scoring 55 or higher and 72.7 percent had achieved the minimum mathematics requirement. Over 69 percent of students with disabilities had scored 65 or higher on the Regents examination in comprehensive English; 64.3 percent had done so on a Regents mathematics examination. In each of the other N/RC categories, the percentages were smaller. In New York City, approximately one in five students with disabilities in the 2001 cohort scored 65 or higher on the English Regents examinations; in mathematics, about one in seven did so (Table 4.22).

TABLE 4.22

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE 2001 COHORT SCORING 55-100 AND 65-100 ON REGENTS EXAMINATIONS IN ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY

PAGE 143

High School Completions and Dropouts

In 2004–05, 18,114 students with disabilities earned high school diplomas, certificates, or equivalency diplomas and 298 students reached age 21 (when entitlement to public education ends) (Table 4.23). In public schools statewide, the majority of these students succeeded in meeting graduation requirements: 24.2 percent earned Regents diplomas and 41.3 percent earned local diplomas. An additional 4.6 percent earned high school equivalency diplomas. The remainder of these students (28.4 percent) earned IEP diplomas or special certificates, signifying completion of at least 12 or 13 years of school beyond kindergarten and accomplishment of the goals established in their last IEP.

TABLE 4.23

CREDENTIALS EARNED BY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS WITH DISABILITIES BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY

PAGE 144

High school completers with disabilities in the Big 5 districts and in other High N/RC Districts were less likely than those in Average or Low N/RC Districts to earn Regents or local diplomas. About 87.1 percent of high school completers with disabilities in Low N/RC Districts achieved this goal, compared with 50.1 percent in New York City and 46.8 percent in the Large City Districts.

An additional 6,485 students with disabilities left school without completing diploma or certificate requirements in 2004–05 (Table 4.24). A dropout is any student, regardless of age, who left school prior to graduation for any reason, except death or leaving the country, and has not been documented to have entered another school or program leading to a high school diploma or program leading to a high school equivalency diploma. The dropout rate is calculated from data reported in STEP and is determined by the status of a student as of the end of the school year. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of students classified as dropouts by the total number of students reported in grades 9–12 plus any ungraded students with disabilities who are age 15 or older as of October 1st. Using this procedure, the dropout rate for students with disabilities in public schools statewide was 5.4 percent.

TABLE 4.24

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO LEFT PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITHOUT COMPLETING REQUIREMENTS BY NEED/RESOURCE CAPACITY CATEGORY

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Table 4.20
Number of Public School Students with Disabilities and Percent in
Each Placement by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
December 2004

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Number of Students (Age 6–21)	Percent of Time Spent Outside the Classroom in Public School Buildings			Separate Education Settings
		Less than 21 Percent	21 to 60 Percent	More Than 60 Percent	
High N/RC Districts:					
New York City	142,843	49.1%	1.2%	40.6%	9.2%
Large City Districts	22,952	54.9%	7.7%	31.2%	6.2%
Urban-Suburban	34,934	49.0%	15.3%	29.2%	6.6%
Rural	25,994	54.1%	22.5%	21.6%	1.7%
Average N/RC Districts	111,531	56.8%	21.1%	17.7%	4.4%
Low N/RC Districts	47,930	65.7%	17.9%	10.9%	5.6%
Total State Excluding the Big 5	220,389	57.2%	19.6%	18.5%	4.7%
Total Public	386,184	54.1%	12.0%	27.4%	6.4%

Note: The data include students in school-age programs (ages 6 through 21) who were the responsibility of public school district committees on special education. Data are not included for students enrolled in State-agency operated programs or students with disabilities who are placed by the local Social Services, districts, the courts, or other State agencies (Article 81 placements).

Table 4.21
Number of Students with Disabilities Tested and Percent Scoring
at or above Levels 2 and 3 by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State Assessment Program
2004–05

Need/Resource Capacity Category	Elementary-Level ELA			Middle-Level ELA			Elementary-Level Mathematics			Middle-Level Mathematics		
	Number Tested	At or Above Level 2	At or Above Level 3	Number Tested	At or Above Level 2	At or Above Level 3	Number Tested	At or Above Level 2	At or Above Level 3	Number Tested	At or Above Level 2	At or Above Level 3
High N/RC Districts												
New York City	10,001	64.3%	20.8%	10,857	59.6%	4.2%	10,704	76.2%	44.0%	10,594	43.1%	9.4%
Large City Districts	1,461	63.3	20.7	1,850	55.8	5.0	1,567	82.5	46.6	1,851	42.0	9.0
Urban/Suburban	2,178	68.7	24.2	2,679	68.1	7.6	2,314	84.1	51.3	2,648	54.3	16.3
Rural	1,665	66.6	18.6	2,375	69.5	8.1	1,684	85.9	52.5	2,315	59.8	18.0
Average N/RC Districts	7,658	76.2	31.8	9,918	79.3	12.1	7,787	90.7	63.1	9,899	67.1	22.8
Low N/RC Districts	3,522	89.6	51.5	3,835	90.4	25.6	3,583	95.4	77.8	3,832	82.1	42.3
Total Public*	26,640	71.6%	28.2%	31,580	70.8%	9.9%	27,791	84.4%	55.1%	31,202	57.7%	18.9%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

Table 4.22
Percentage of Students with Disabilities in the 2001 Cohort
Scoring 55–100 and 65–100 on Regents Examinations in English and Mathematics
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
June 2005

Need/Resource Category	2001 Cohort Enrollment	Regents English		Regents Mathematics	
		Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100	Percent 55–100	Percent 65–100
High N/RC Districts					
New York City	3,896	29.4%	18.0%	24.4%	13.5%
Large City Districts	1,152	28.0	16.4	24.0	13.6
Urban Suburban	1,843	35.2	25.0	32.3	23.0
Rural	1,642	38.1	27.3	38.5	29.8
Average N/RC	7,322	53.4	41.5	51.0	40.3
Low N/RC	3,295	77.9	69.3	72.7	64.3
Total Public*	19,165	48.1%	37.2%	44.8%	34.8%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

Table 4.23
Credentials Earned by Public High School Completers with Disabilities
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
June 2005

Location	Reason For Leaving										
	Regents-Endorsed Local Diploma		Local Diploma		IEP or Special Certificate		High School Equivalency Diploma		Total*	Reached Maximum Age	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	
High N/RC Districts											
New York City	269	6.3%	1,873	43.8%	2,000	46.8%	130	3.0%	4,272	59	
Large City Districts	90	9.8%	341	37.0%	444	48.2%	47	5.1%	922	5	
Urban/Suburban	255	16.1%	642	40.5%	632	39.8%	58	3.7%	1,587	18	
Rural	289	18.8%	543	35.4%	607	39.5%	97	6.3%	1,536	25	
Average N/RC Districts	1,861	27.7%	3,005	44.8%	1,470	21.9%	379	5.6%	6,715	132	
Low N/RC Districts	1,611	52.3%	1,073	34.8%	269	8.7%	129	4.2%	3,082	59	
Total Public	4,375	24.2%	7,477	41.3%	5,153	28.4%	840	4.6%	18,114	298	

* Total number of completers does not include students who reached maximum age.

Table 4.24
Number and Percent of Students with Disabilities
Who Left Public Secondary Schools without Completing Requirements
by Need/Resource Capacity Category
New York State
2004–05

Location	Number of Dropouts	Dropout Rate
High N/RC Districts		
New York City	3,092	8.3%
Large City Districts	701	10.7
Urban/Suburban	725	6.7
Rural	477	5.5
Average N/RC Districts	1,302	3.2
Low N/RC Districts	180	1.1
Charter Schools	8	5.4
Total Public	6,485	5.4%

? Policy Questions

- ? How can the State change its method of financing public schools to bring about greater equity in resources among districts and taxpayers?
- ? What would constitute fiscal equity among school districts and how should it be measured?
- ? What can the State do to encourage individuals to obtain certification in subject areas that are underrepresented? What can the State do to attract certified highly qualified teachers to localities where there are shortages?
- ? How can better qualified teachers and administrators be attracted to low-performing schools?
- ? How can instructional technology be used to broaden the curriculum in rural schools?
- ? What can the State do to close the performance gap among districts with different levels of student need?
- ? What policy and program changes are needed to increase the likelihood that insufficiently prepared students will succeed in Regents-level courses?
- ? What new policies and programs are needed to improve attendance in low-performing schools?
- ? How can we provide students in rural schools with the opportunity to pursue advanced secondary and college-level courses? How do we improve their access to postsecondary education?

Part V:

Minority Issues

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1 Student Demographics 150

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4 Other Performance Measures 173

5 Attendance, Suspension, and Dropout Rates 180

? Policy Questions 187

★ Highlights

Student Demographics

- ★ *Minority students constituted 46.7 percent of students attending public schools in Fall 2004, compared with 42.2 percent in 1994 and 45.9 percent in 1984. The largest group of minority students was Blacks, followed by Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and American Indian/Alaskan Natives.*
- ★ *In Fall 2004, over 73 percent of minority students attending public schools were enrolled in the Big 5 districts.*
- ★ *In Fall 2000, 30.8 percent of public school students attended high-minority schools. By Fall 2004, 31.8 percent did. In fact, enrollment increased by 29,000 in high-minority schools while public school enrollments decreased by nearly 30,000.*

Resources

- ★ *Statewide, in Fall 2004, compared with teachers in low-minority schools, teachers in high-minority schools were more likely to leave their schools (22 versus 14 percent) and had less experience (a median of 9 years versus 12).*
- ★ *The percentage of minority professional staff has increased over the last 20 years in the Big 5 cities. Nonetheless, the Fall 2004 racial/ethnic distribution of school educators did not reflect the distribution of the student body.*

Performance

- ★ *In both English language arts and mathematics, substantially larger percentages of Whites and Asian/Pacific Islanders than students from other minority groups met or exceeded the standards for elementary- and middle-level students.*
- ★ *Statewide, of those completing high school, Whites were nearly twice as likely as either Blacks or Hispanics to earn Regents diplomas.*
- ★ *Statewide, in public schools, about 8 in 10 class of 2004–05 graduates in the White and Other Minorities group planned to pursue postsecondary education. The percentage of Whites and Other Minorities (86.8 and 79.2 percent, respectively) planning to pursue postsecondary education was greater than the percentage of Blacks (69.2 percent) or Hispanics (66.6 percent) planning to do so.*
- ★ *Mean SAT scores for the class of 2005 differed substantially according to race/ethnicity. Whites achieved the highest mean composite score, 1057; followed by Asians, 1056; Other Minorities, 977; American Indian/Alaskan Natives, 949; Hispanics, 897; and Blacks, 867.*
- ★ *Minority participation in the Advanced Placement program has increased significantly: There were more than twice as many Black, Asian, and Hispanic candidates in 2005 as in 1992.*

Attendance, Suspensions, and Dropouts

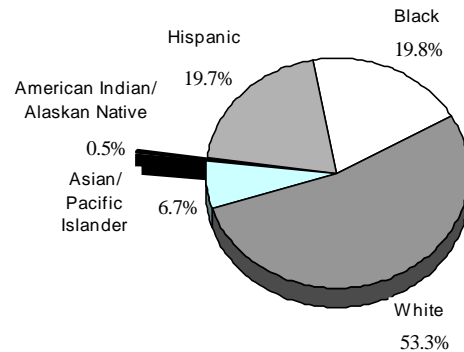
- ☆ *Schools with few minority students had higher attendance rates than schools with many minority students. In 2003–04, low-minority schools had an average attendance rate of 95.6 percent compared with 89.8 percent in high-minority schools.*
- ☆ *Black students were suspended at higher rates than students belonging to other racial/ethnic groups in 2003–04.*
- ☆ *In 2004–05, public secondary schools that enrolled 81–100 percent of minority students and had the highest poverty levels had the highest annual dropout rates; 1 in 9 students attending these schools dropped out. In contrast, 1 in 71 students attending schools in the low-poverty, low-minority category dropped out.*

1 Student Demographics

White students constituted a small majority (55.5 percent) of students attending public and nonpublic schools in Fall 2004 (Table 5.1). The largest group of minority students was Blacks (19.2 percent), followed by Hispanics (18.6 percent), Asian/Pacific Islanders (6.4 percent), and American Indian/Alaskan Natives (0.4 percent). The racial/ethnic composition of public school enrollment was very similar to that of the total State enrollment. The public school percentages are shown in Figure 5.1.

<p>TABLE 5.1</p> <p>RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP ENROLLMENT PERCENTAGES BY SECTOR/LOCATION</p> <p>PAGE 157</p>
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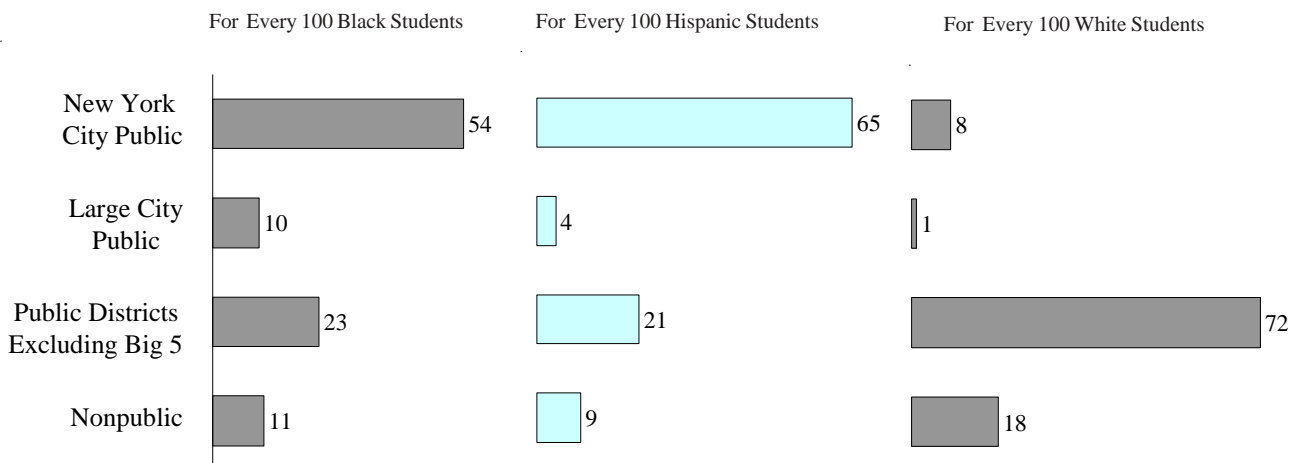
Figure 5.1
Racial/Ethnic Group Enrollment in Public Schools
Fall 2004



Minority students were concentrated in the Big 5 districts. Minorities constituted 85.7 percent of New York City's public school enrollment, 78.0 percent of the Large City District enrollment, but only 20.2 percent of enrollment in districts outside the Big 5 cities. Over 73 percent of minority students attending public schools were enrolled in the Big 5 districts.

Black and Hispanic schoolchildren were about seven times as likely as White children to attend schools in New York City; in contrast, White students were more than three times as likely as Black and Hispanic children to attend public schools outside the Big 5. White children were also more likely than Black and Hispanic children to attend nonpublic schools (Figure 5.2).

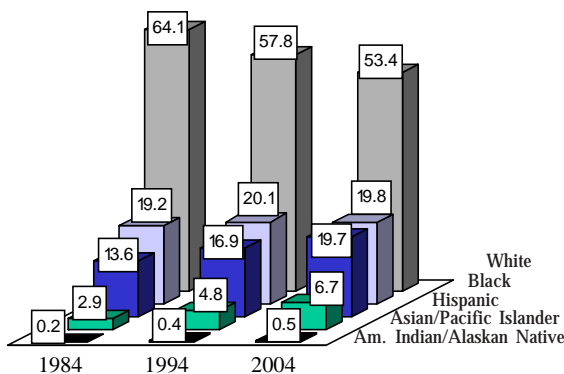
Figure 5.2
Locations Where Black, Hispanic, and White Students Attended School
Fall 2004



Statewide, 68.4 percent of students in nonpublic schools were White. The disparity in nonpublic enrollment between majority and minority students was particularly wide in New York City, where 58.7 percent of the enrollment in nonpublic schools was White, in contrast to 14.3 percent of that in public schools. Fifty-two percent of White students in New York City attended nonpublic schools. Fourteen percent of American Indian/Alaskan Natives and 13 percent of Black students, larger percentages than for any other minority group, attended nonpublic schools in New York City.

Mirroring population changes in the State, minorities are a growing share of State public school enrollment. Each minority group increased its share of the total public enrollment between 1984 and 2004. The greatest growth occurred among Asians and Pacific Islanders (Figure 5.3). Their 2004 share of enrollment was over two times greater than their 1984 share.

Figure 5.3
Racial/Ethnic Group Enrollment Trends
in Public Schools
Fall 1984, 1994, and 2004



The State map in Figure 5.4 illustrates the concentration of minority students in urban and certain rural areas of the State in Fall 2004. Within New York City, the concentration varied among community school districts (Figure 5.5). The percentage of minorities in New York City's boroughs ranged from less than 60 percent in Staten Island to 80 percent or more in all community school districts in the Bronx. All community school districts in Manhattan, the Bronx, Kings, and Queens fell in the two highest minority enrollment categories, ranging from 60 to 100 percent. Suburban and rural high-minority districts were located on Long Island and in Westchester, Orange, Rockland, Monroe, and Sullivan counties.

Figures 5.6 and 5.7 show grades four and eight enrollment by race/ethnicity and need/resource categories in 2004–05. The majority of Black, Hispanic, and Asian students were enrolled in New York City. Almost three-quarters of White students were enrolled in Average or Low Need Districts. No racial/ethnic group, except Blacks, had more than 0.7 percent enrolled in charter schools; 2.5 percent of Blacks were enrolled in charter schools. At the secondary level, similar enrollment trends exist for the 2001 district accountability cohort (Figure 5.8).

Figure 5.4
Map of Public School Districts Showing
Minority Enrollment by District
New York State
Fall 2004

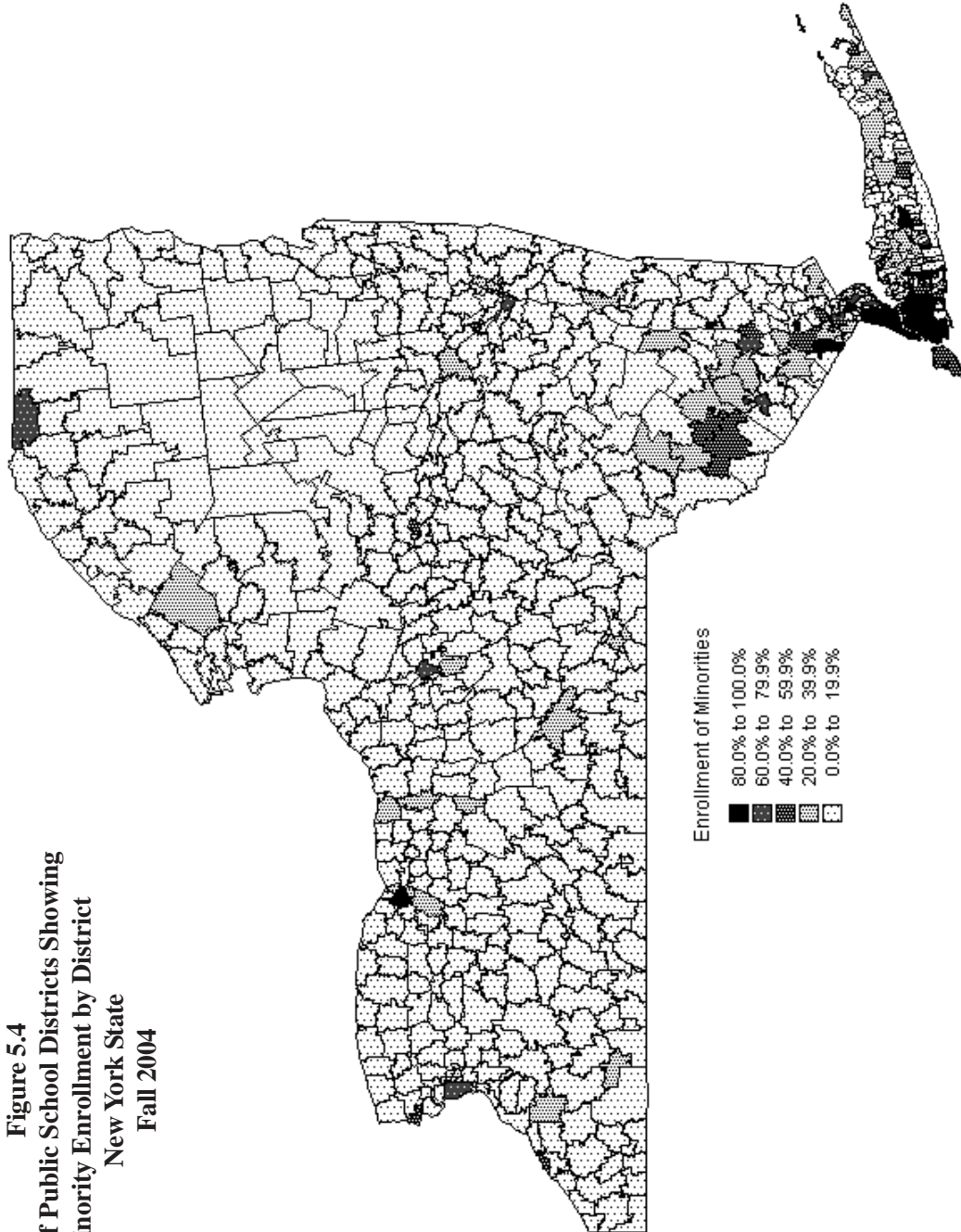


Figure 5.5
Map of Community School Districts
Showing Minority Enrollment by District
New York City
Fall 2004

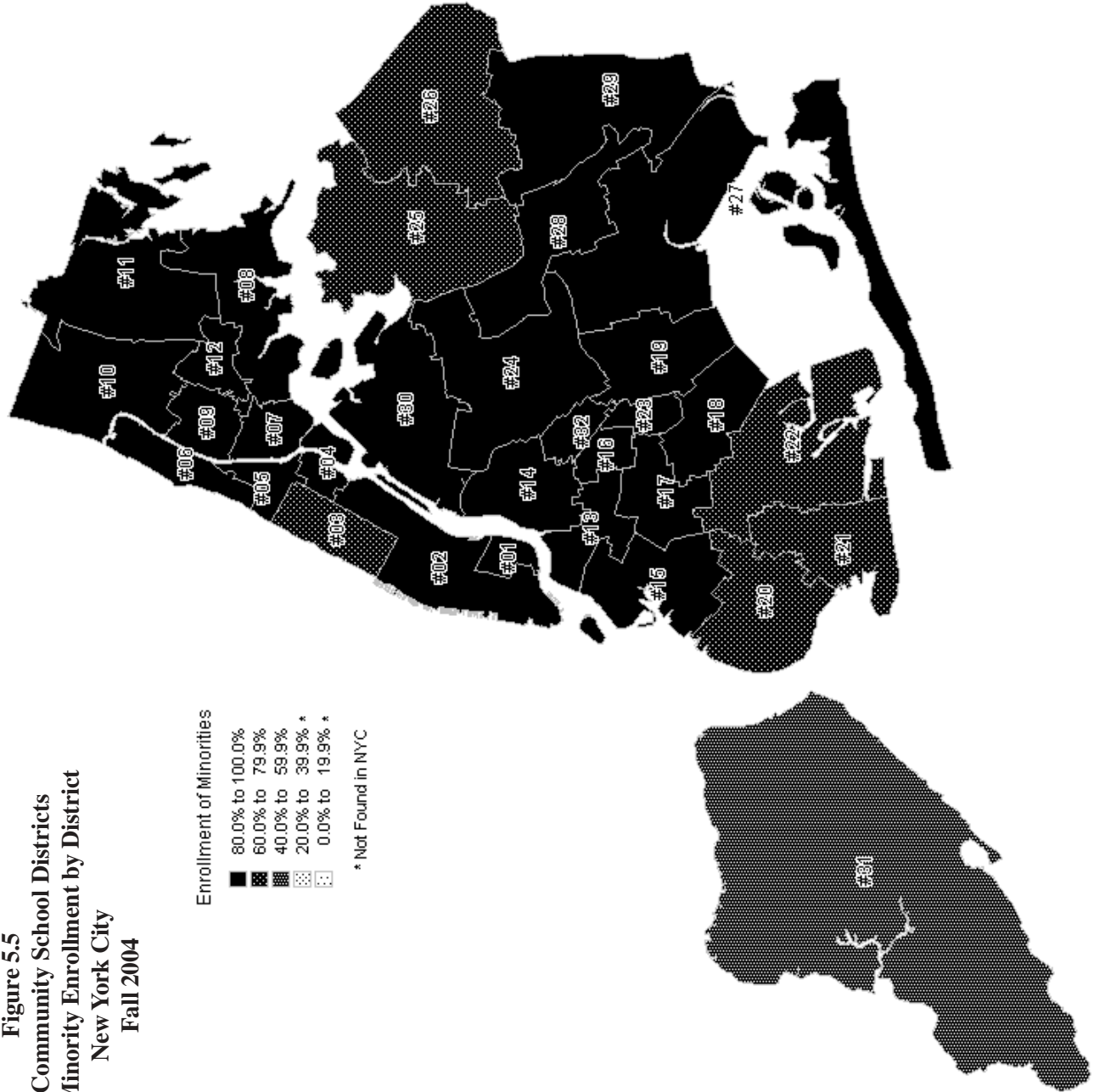


Figure 5.6
Grades 4 and 8 Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group and Need/Resource Capacity Category
2004-05

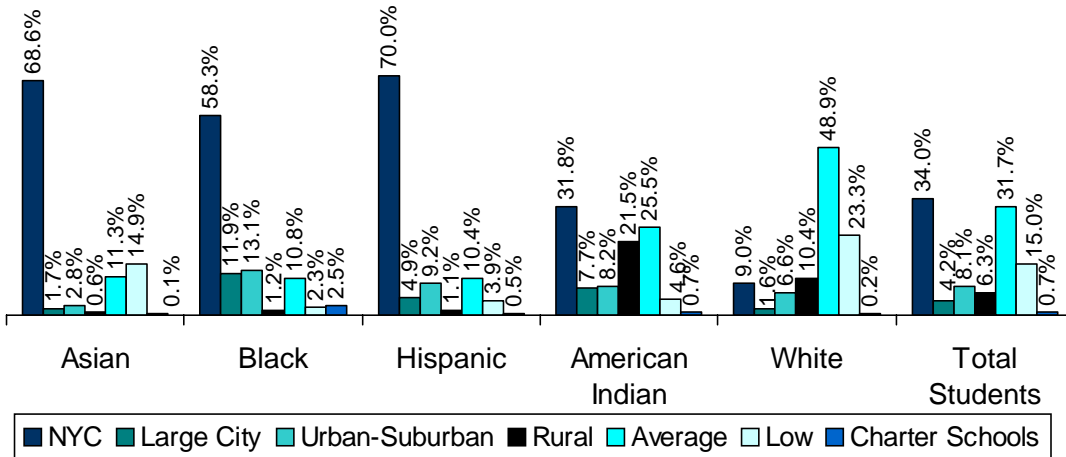


Figure 5.7
Percentage of Grades 4 and 8 Enrollment Consisting of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian Students by Need/Resource Capacity Category
2004-05

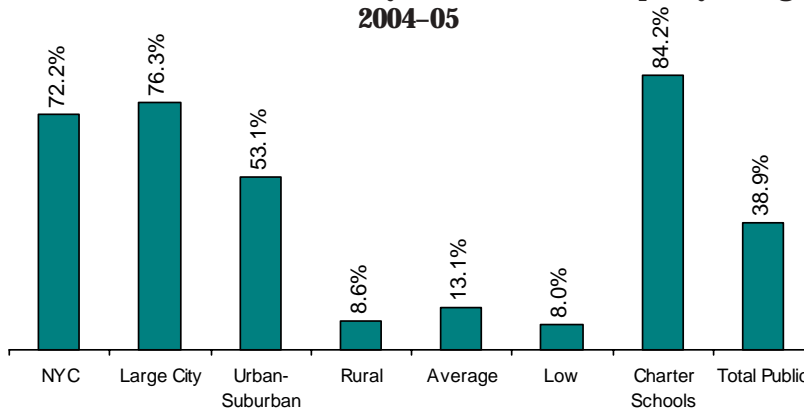
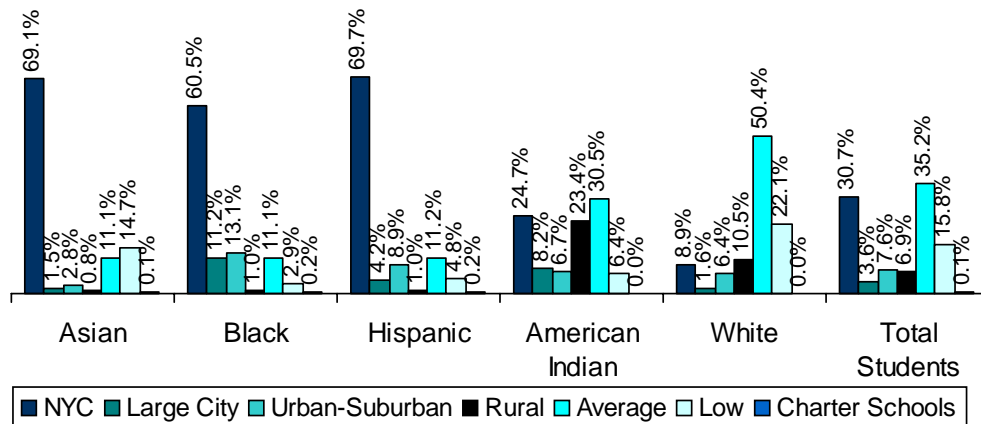


Figure 5.8
2001 District Accountability Cohort Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group and Need/Resource Capacity Category after Four Years



Minority Composition Categories

For purposes of comparison, public schools are divided into five categories based on minority enrollment: 0 to 20 percent (low-minority schools), 21 to 40 percent, 41 to 60 percent, 61 to 80 percent, and 81 to 100 percent (high-minority schools). For some measures, comparisons among these groups of schools are the only means of assessing equity between minority and majority students.

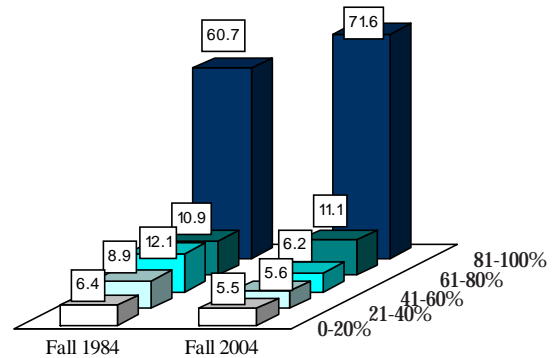
Table 5.2 provides information about the number of public schools and the number of students in each minority-composition category in Fall 2004. In New York City, most schools were high minority (77.3 percent); in districts outside the Big 5 cities, most schools were low minority (71.5 percent).

TABLE 5.2	
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ENROLLMENT BY MINORITY COMPOSITION CATEGORY	
PAGE 158	

Across the State, a large majority of students attended either low- or high-minority schools: 41.3 percent attended low-minority schools; 32.9 percent attended high-minority schools (Table 5.2). Sixty-seven percent of minority students attended high-minority schools (Table 5.3). Only seven percent of minority students attended low-minority schools. This pattern of minority-student segregation has not changed since Fall 1984. Consistently, since that time, about 60 percent of Black and Hispanic students have attended schools where 81 percent or more of the enrollment was Black or Hispanic (Figure 5.9).

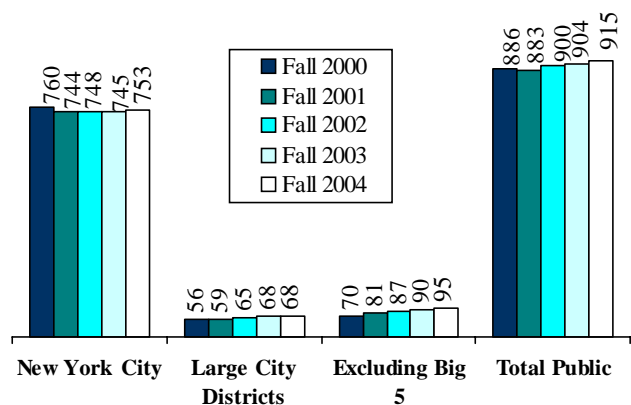
TABLE 5.3	
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF MINORITY STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF DIFFERING MINORITY COMPOSITION BY LOCATION	
PAGE 159	

Figure 5.9
Percent of Black and Hispanic Students in Public Schools of Differing Minority Composition Fall 1984 and Fall 2004



Moreover, the number of students attending high-minority schools increased between Fall 2000 and Fall 2004 (Figure 5.10). In Fall 2000, 30.8 percent of public school students attended high-minority schools. By Fall 2004, 31.8 percent did so. In fact, during this period, enrollment in high-minority schools increased by 29,000 students, while enrollment in all public schools decreased by nearly 30,000.

Figure 5.10
Enrollment in High-Minority Schools (in thousands) Fall 2000 to Fall 2004



Poverty

In Fall 2004, minority students were more likely than White students to attend public schools with concentrated poverty; that is, where more than 40 percent of students' families were on public assistance (Table 5.4). Figure 5.11 shows the poverty status of high-minority schools compared with that of low-minority schools. In New York State, 1,198 high-minority schools (93.6 percent) had concentrated poverty. Among low-minority schools, only 213 (10.5 percent) had such a large percentage of families receiving public assistance. Among New York City's 961 high-minority schools, only 6 were in the lowest-poverty category (with 20 percent or fewer students coming from families on public assistance). (Changes in calculation methodology in New York City may account for this small number of schools being reported in this low-poverty category.) The close association between minority status and poverty is cause for grave concern. Children in poverty have less access to medical care, proper nutrition, and quality daycare and preschool programs than other children and are thus more likely to be placed at risk of educational failure.

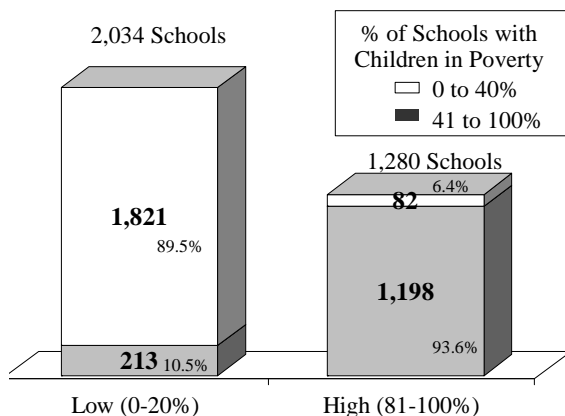
TABLE 5.4

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS BY MINORITY COMPOSITION AND POVERTY STATUS OF SCHOOL

PAGE 160

Figure 5.11

**Contrasting Levels of Poverty in High- and Low-Minority Schools
Fall 2004**



Minority Composition of School Enrollment

School Student Stability

One obstacle to educational progress is frequent transfers between schools. Moreover, schools that have many children transferring in and out during a school year have more difficulty meeting students' individual needs than do schools with stable enrollments. Therefore, educators are concerned about achievement in schools with high percentages of transfers. National Assessment of Educational Progress data demonstrated the effect of changing schools on mathematics proficiency. Nationally, fourth-graders who had changed schools three or more times in the previous two years achieved an average proficiency of 199 on the 500-point scale, while those who had not changed schools scored 224. The average scores for comparable groups of eighth-graders were 244 and 270.

A school's student stability rate is estimated by the percentage of students in its highest grade who were also enrolled in the same school during the previous year. Statewide in Fall 2004, 78 percent of public schools had high stability rates (Table 5.5). Schools are defined as having high student stability if at least 91 percent of students enrolled in the highest grade had also been enrolled in the same school in the previous year. Another 18 percent had medium stability rates (between 81 and 90 percent); four percent had lower rates.

TABLE 5.5

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT STABILITY RATES BY LOCATION AND MINORITY COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL

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High-minority schools have lower student stability rates than other schools. In Fall 2004, only 65 percent of high-minority schools had high rates, compared with 86 percent of low-minority schools. Statewide, seven percent of high-minority schools had unstable enrollments; that is, they had 80 percent or fewer students in the highest grade who were enrolled the year before.

Table 5.1
Racial/Ethnic Group Enrollment Percentages by Sector/Location
New York State
Fall 2004

Sector/Location	Total Enrollment	Percent Black	Percent Hispanic	Percent American Indian/Alaskan Native	Percent Asian and Pacific Islander	Percent White
Public						
New York City	1,017,951	33.4%	38.9%	0.4%	12.9%	14.3%
Large City Districts	114,986	52.6	21.8	0.9	2.6	22.0
Districts Excluding the Big 5	1,650,863	8.7	7.8	0.5	3.2	79.8
BOCES	18,896	14.4	7.0	0.7	1.5	76.4
Total Public*	2,821,110	19.8	19.7	0.5	6.7	53.4
Total Nonpublic	468,517	15.0	12.0	0.2	4.4	68.4
Total State	3,289,627	19.2%	18.6%	0.4%	6.4%	55.5%

*Total public includes charter schools, which are not included in the other counts.

Table 5.2
Number and Percent of Public Schools and Enrollment
by Minority Composition Category
New York State
Fall 2004

Location/Minority Composition of Schools	Schools		Enrollment	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
New York City				
0–20 Percent	24	1.8%	21,861	2.1%
21–40 Percent	36	2.6	22,238	2.2
41–60 Percent	102	7.5	77,850	7.6
61–80 Percent	148	10.8	143,150	14.1
81–100 Percent	1,057	77.3	752,852	74.0
Large City Districts				
0–20 Percent	1	0.5%	207	0.2%
21–40 Percent	6	3.1	3,921	3.4
41–60 Percent	19	9.8	11,654	10.1
61–80 Percent	52	26.8	31,402	27.3
81–100 Percent	116	59.8	67,802	59.0
Districts Excluding the Big 5				
0–20 Percent	2,023	71.5%	1,129,012	68.5%
21–40 Percent	408	14.4	267,762	16.2
41–60 Percent	150	5.3	96,200	5.8
61–80 Percent	88	3.1	63,196	3.8
81–100 Percent	162	5.7	94,693	5.7
Total Public				
0–20 Percent	2,048	46.6%	1,151,080	41.3%
21–40 Percent	450	10.2	293,921	10.6
41–60 Percent	271	6.2	185,704	6.7
61–80 Percent	288	6.6	237,748	8.5
81–100 Percent	1,335	30.4	915,347	32.9

Table 5.3
Number and Percent of Minority Students in Public Schools
of Differing Minority Composition by Location
New York State
Fall 2004

Location/Minority Composition of Schools	Number of Minority Students	Percent of Minority Students
New York City		
0–20 Percent	3,191	0.4%
21–40 Percent	7,429	0.9
41–60 Percent	38,477	4.4
61–80 Percent	98,019	11.2
81–100 Percent	725,719	83.1
Large City Districts		
0–20 Percent	36	0.0%
21–40 Percent	1,259	1.4
41–60 Percent	5,765	6.4
61–80 Percent	21,827	24.4
81–100 Percent	60,746	67.8
Districts Excluding the Big 5		
0–20 Percent	85,013	25.5%
21–40 Percent	72,430	21.7
41–60 Percent	45,732	13.7
61–80 Percent	43,205	13.0
81–100 Percent	86,678	26.0
Total Public		
0–20 Percent	88,240	6.8%
21–40 Percent	81,118	6.3
41–60 Percent	89,974	6.9
61–80 Percent	163,051	12.6
81–100 Percent	873,143	67.4

Table 5.4
Number of Public Schools and Number and Percent of Students by
Minority Composition and Poverty Status of School
New York State
Fall 2004

Location/Minority Composition and Poverty Status of School	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Percent of Students ¹
New York City			
Low Minority (0–20%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	19	4,941	0.5%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	5	16,920	1.7
High Poverty (41–100%)	—	—	—
High Minority (81–100%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	6	8,251	0.8%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	43	60,566	5.9
High Poverty (41–100%)	912	685,921	67.4
Large City Districts			
Low Minority (0–20%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	—	—	—
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	—	—	—
High Poverty (41–100%)	1	207	0.2%
High Minority (81–100%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	2	990	0.9%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	2	1,280	1.1
High Poverty (41–100%)	112	65,532	57.0
Districts Excluding the Big 5			
Low Minority (0–20%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	1,259	797,018	48.3%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	549	251,905	15.3
High Poverty (41–100%)	215	80,089	4.9
High Minority (81–100%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	22	11,100	0.7%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	13	8,616	0.5
High Poverty (41–100%)	127	74,977	4.5
Total Public			
Low Minority (0–20%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	1,278	801,959	28.8%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	554	268,825	9.7
High Poverty (41–100%)	216	80,296	2.9
High Minority (81–100%)			
Low Poverty (0–20%)	30	20,341	0.7%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)	58	70,462	2.5
High Poverty (41–100%)	1,151	826,430	29.7

Note: This table excludes New York City Special Schools, Special Act Districts, and New York City schools with citywide enrollment that do not provide percent on welfare.

¹Percent of students by location attending schools in each poverty status/minority composition category. Percentages do not add to 100 percent because students attending schools with 21 to 80 percent minority students are not included in the displayed data.

Table 5.5
Distribution of Public School Student Stability Rates
by Location and Minority Composition of School
New York State
Fall 2004

Location/Minority Composition of School	Average Stability Rate	Percent of School Having		
		Low Rate	Medium Rate	High Rate
New York City				
0–20 percent	93.7	4%	8%	88%
21–40 percent	94.7	—	9	91
41–60 percent	94.8	1	11	88
61–80 percent	90.1	—	17	83
81–100 percent	77.7	5	29	66
Total	81.4	4%	25%	71%
Large City Districts				
0–20 percent	80.0	100%	—	—
21–40 percent	88.8	33	17%	50%
41–60 percent	94.3	—	26	74
61–80 percent	89.1	12	29	59
81–100 percent	90.0	12	28	60
Total	90.1	12%	28%	60%
Districts Excluding the Big 5				
0–20 percent	95.0	2%	12%	86%
21–40 percent	93.4	5	18	77
41–60 percent	92.3	7	23	70
61–80 percent	91.0	12	25	63
81–100 percent	87.4	19	21	60
Total	94.1	4%	14%	82%
Total Public				
0–20 percent	95.0	2%	12%	86%
21–40 percent	93.4	5	17	78
41–60 percent	93.4	4	19	77
61–80 percent	90.2	6	22	72
81–100 percent	80.2	7	28	65
Total	90.4	4%	18%	78%

Note: Student Stability Rate is the percentage of students in the highest grade in a school in 2004–05 who were also enrolled in the same school in 2003–04. The low rate is 1–80 percent; medium rate, 81–90 percent; high rate, 91–100 percent.

2 Resources

The most important resource in any school is its personnel: administrators, teachers, and other support staff. More than any other factor, the quality, training, and effort of these individuals determine the quality of the instructional program.

Teacher Characteristics

The contrasts found in classroom teacher characteristics among public schools with varying minority composition portend the disparities found in performance among these groups (Table 5.6). Statewide, compared with teachers in low-minority schools, teachers in high-minority schools were more likely to leave their schools (22 versus 14 percent) and had less experience (a median of 9 years versus 12). A larger percentage of teachers in high-minority schools (34.1 percent in high-minority schools compared with 24.2 in low-minority schools), however, had completed 30 credits beyond the master's degree.

TABLE 5.6

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM TEACHER CHARACTERISTICS BY LOCATION AND MINORITY COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL

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In New York City, teachers in high-minority schools earned smaller median salaries (\$51,156) than teachers in low-minority schools (\$60,729). This pattern was not true in Districts Excluding the Big 5, where teachers in high-minority schools earned larger median salaries (\$69,000) than teachers in low-minority schools (\$53,806). This finding reflects the low minority enrollment and low teacher salaries of schools in Rural Districts and the higher minority enrollments and higher teacher salaries of suburban New York City schools. (See *Part IV: Student Needs and School Resources*.)

Comparing schools with the highest minority enrollments in New York City with those in Districts Excluding the Big 5, teachers in New York City schools earned lower salaries, had higher turnover rates, were almost four times as likely to teach out of certification, were less likely to have college

credit beyond the master's degree, and had fewer years experience teaching.

The Fall 2004 racial/ethnic distribution of school educators did not reflect that of the student body. Statewide, in comparison with their representation among students, Whites were overrepresented in the professional staff. This pattern of disparities was true in New York City, Large City Districts, and Districts Excluding the Big 5 (Table 5.7).

TABLE 5.7

RACIAL/ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND STUDENTS

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Comparing Fall 1984 with Fall 2004 data, the percentage of minority teachers has increased in New York City, Large City Districts, and Districts Excluding the Big 5 (Figure 5.12). The increases in Black and Hispanic teachers in New York City particularly have been substantial. In the rest of the State, the percentages of Hispanic and Other Minorities teachers have increased slightly. In Large City Districts the percentage of Black teachers has decreased slightly but the percentage of Hispanics has almost doubled. In Districts Excluding the Big 5, the percentage of Black teachers has remained the same.

Figure 5.12
Percent Distribution of Public School Classroom Teachers by Race/Ethnicity
Fall 1984 and Fall 2004

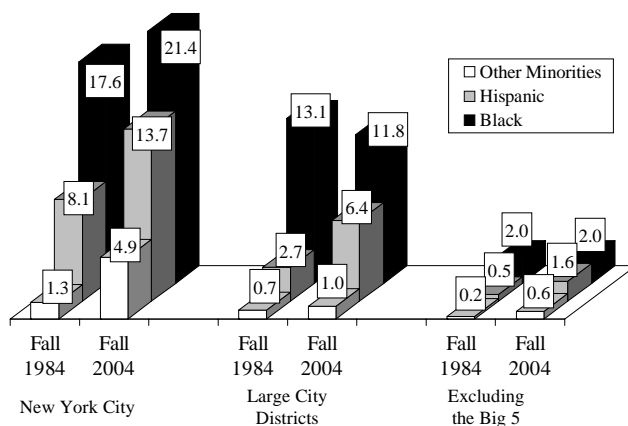


Table 5.6
Selected Public School Classroom Teacher Characteristics
by Location and Minority Composition of School
New York State
Fall 2004

Location/Minority Composition of School	Selected Classroom Teacher Characteristics				
	Median Teacher Salary	Teacher Turnover Rate Fall 2003 to Fall 2004	Percent Teaching Out of Certification	Percent with Master's Plus 30 Hours or Doctorate	Median Years of Experience
New York City					
0–20 percent	\$60,729	16%	12.3%	55.8%	14
21–40 percent	57,804	17	12.2	46.6	11
41–60 percent	55,942	17	13.0	45.6	10
61–80 percent	57,804	19	15.3	46.1	11
81–100 percent	51,156	22	19.8	33.9	9
Large City Districts					
0–20 percent	N/A	12%	N/A	38.5%	22
21–40 percent	\$52,115	19	3.1%	23.5	18
41–60 percent	49,465	16	7.6	22.2	15
61–80 percent	48,252	20	6.8	27.3	12
81–100 percent	45,975	24	8.2	25.8	11
Districts Excluding the Big 5					
0–20 percent	\$53,806	14%	4.1%	23.8%	12
21–40 percent	62,009	15	4.0	34.6	11
41–60 percent	64,746	16	4.0	37.7	12
61–80 percent	66,368	14	4.0	35.4	12
81–100 percent	69,000	16	5.4	41.0	11
Total Public					
0–20 percent	\$53,976	14%	4.3%	24.2%	12
21–40 percent	61,286	15	4.9	35.2	11
41–60 percent	60,729	17	8.9	39.6	11
61–80 percent	59,262	18	11.8	40.4	11
81–100 percent	53,017	22	17.8	34.1	9

Table 5.7
Racial/Ethnic Composition of Public School
Professional Staff and Students
New York State
Fall 2004

Location	Enrollment	Principals & Assistant Principals	Classroom Teachers	Other Professional Staff
New York City				
Black	33.3%	28.1%	21.4%	22.5%
Hispanic	38.9	16.5	13.7	17.4
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	12.9	1.8	4.6	4.5
White	14.3	53.0	60.0	55.4
Large City Districts				
Black	52.5%	35.7%	11.8%	17.8%
Hispanic	21.8	7.9	6.4	5.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.9	0.2	0.2	1.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7	0.5	0.8	0.7
White	22.1	55.8	80.7	75.3
Districts Excluding the Big 5				
Black	8.7%	6.6%	2.0%	4.2%
Hispanic	7.9	2.1	1.6	2.7
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.2	0.3	0.5	0.5
White	79.7	91.0	95.8	92.4
Total Public				
Black	19.6%	17.8%	9.3%	12.5%
Hispanic	19.9	9.0	6.1	9.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.8	1.0	2.0	2.2
White	53.3	71.9	82.5	76.0

3 Performance Trends

This section examines differences among racial/ethnic groups in performance on the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) and Regents examinations. Information about the State testing program can be found in *Part I: Overview*.

New York State Testing Program

In both English language arts and mathematics, substantially larger percentages of White and Asian/Pacific Islander students than students from other minority groups succeeded in meeting or exceeding the standards (scoring at or above Level 3) for elementary- and middle-level students in 1999 through 2005 (Figures 5.13–5.16). In 2005, the greatest disparity among racial/ethnic groups occurred on the middle-level mathematics assessment, on which over three-quarters of tested Asian/Pacific Islander students scored at or above Level 3

but less than a third of tested Black students did so. By contrast, the smallest disparity occurred on the elementary-level mathematics test, on which student performance was strongest. White students were approximately one-and-a-quarter times as likely as Black or Hispanic students to score at or above Level 3 on this assessment. With the exception of Asian and Black students in middle-level ELA, the percentage of tested students meeting or exceeding the standards has increased between 1999 and 2005 in all racial/ethnic groups and on all of these assessments.

Substantially smaller percentages of White and Asian/Pacific Islander students than students from other minority groups scored at Level 1 on these assessments (Figures 5.17–5.20). The percentage of tested students scoring at Level 1 has decreased between 1999 and 2005 in all racial/ethnic groups and on all of these assessments.

Figure 5.13
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on the Elementary-Level English Language Arts Assessment by Race/Ethnicity 1999 to 2005

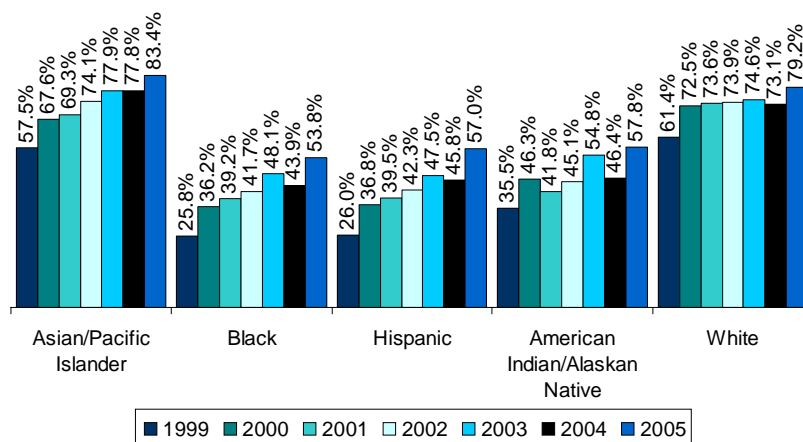


Figure 5.14
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on the Middle-Level English Language Arts Assessment by Race/Ethnicity 1999 to 2005

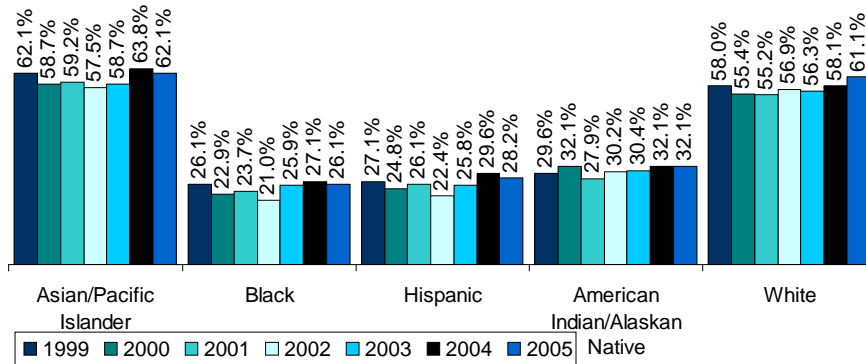


Figure 5.15
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on the Elementary-Level Mathematics Assessment by Race/Ethnicity 1999 to 2005

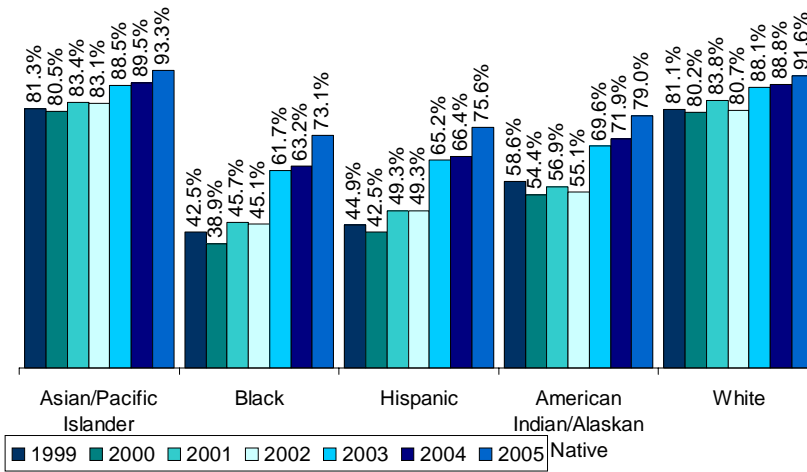


Figure 5.16
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on the Middle-Level Mathematics Assessment by Race/Ethnicity 1999 to 2005

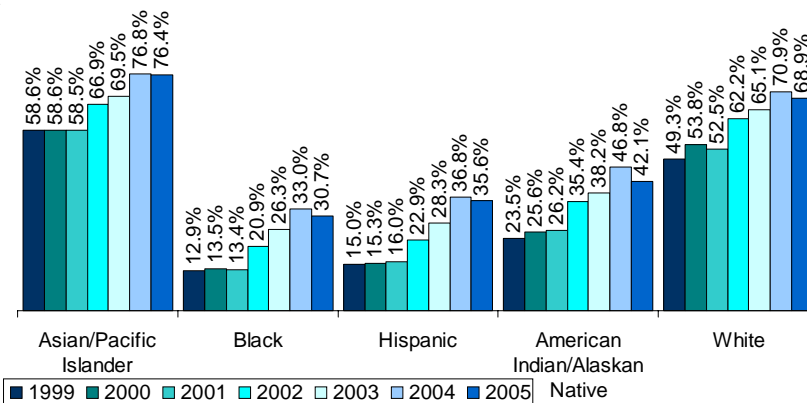


Figure 5.17
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at Level 1 on the
Elementary-Level English Language Arts Assessment by Race/Ethnicity
1999 to 2005

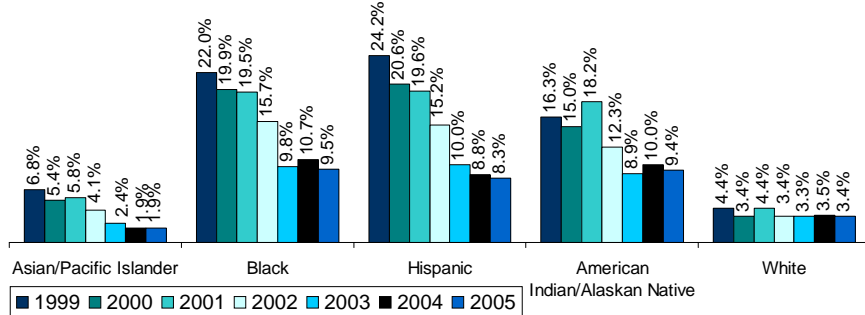


Figure 5.18
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at Level 1 on the
Middle-Level English Language Arts Assessment by Race/Ethnicity
1999 to 2005

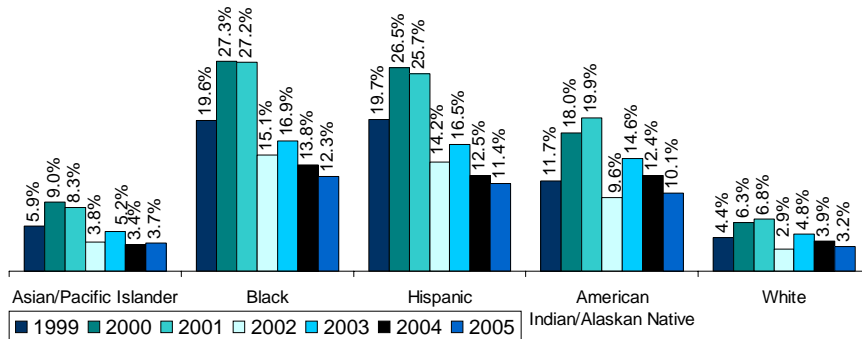


Figure 5.19
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at Level 1 on the
Elementary-Level Mathematics Assessment by Race/Ethnicity
1999 to 2005

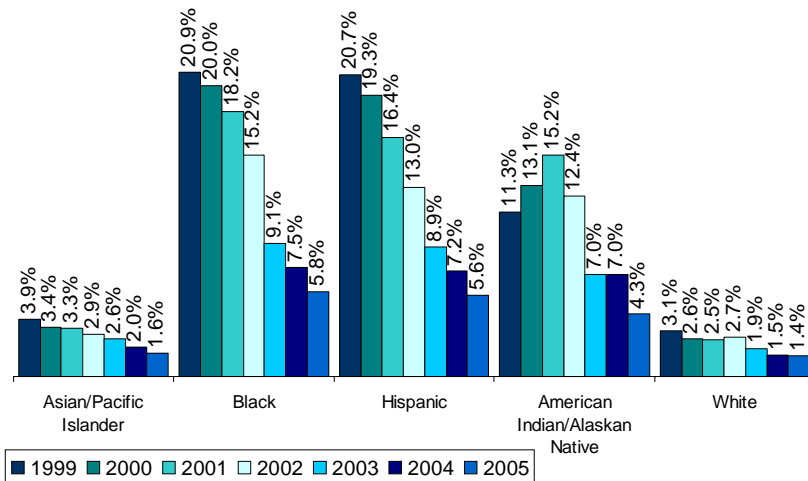
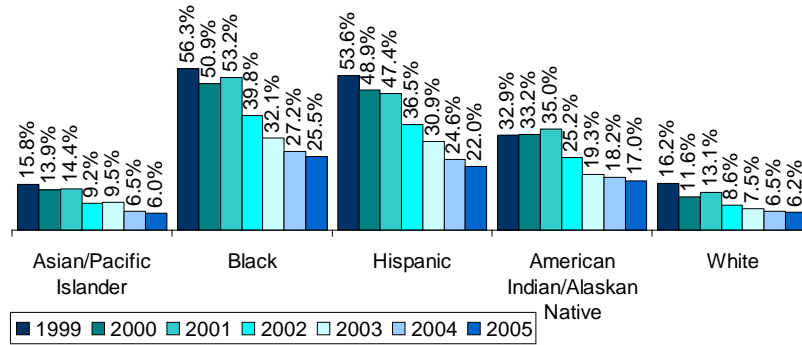


Figure 5.20
Percentage of Public School Students Scoring at Level 1 on the
Middle-Level Mathematics Assessment by Race/Ethnicity
1999 to 2005



Regents Examination Results for the 2001 District Cohort

Regents examinations discriminate among students in courses sufficiently challenging to prepare students for postsecondary education. In 1996, the Board of Regents determined that all students need the skills and knowledge assessed on five key Regents examinations to be prepared for life in the 21st century.

Students who first entered grade 9 in the 2000–01 school year were required to score 65–100 (55–100 with local board approval) on Regents exami-

nations in five subjects — English, mathematics, global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and science — to earn a local diploma. Figures 5.21–5.30 show the results of the 2001 cohort after four years of secondary-level study. On all five required examinations, substantially larger percentages of White and Asian students in the cohort met the graduation requirements. The greatest disparity among racial/ethnic groups was in meeting the U. S. history and government requirement: 90.5 percent of White general-education students met the requirement by scoring 65–100 but only 59.6 percent of Hispanic students did so (Figure 5.24).

Figure 5.21
Percentage of Public School Students (General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities) in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents English Examination by Race/Ethnicity 2005

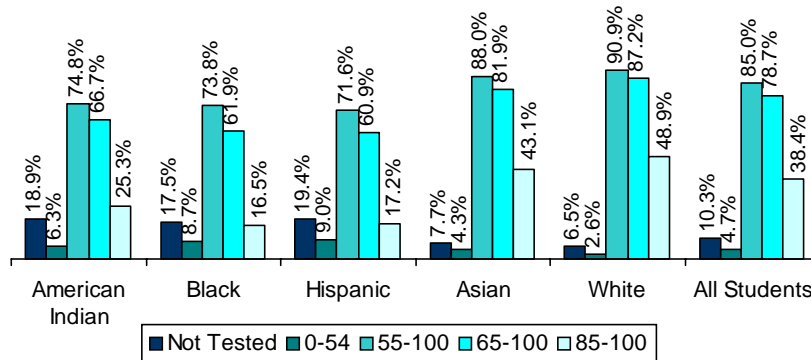


Figure 5.22
Percentage of Public School General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents English Examination by Race/Ethnicity 2005

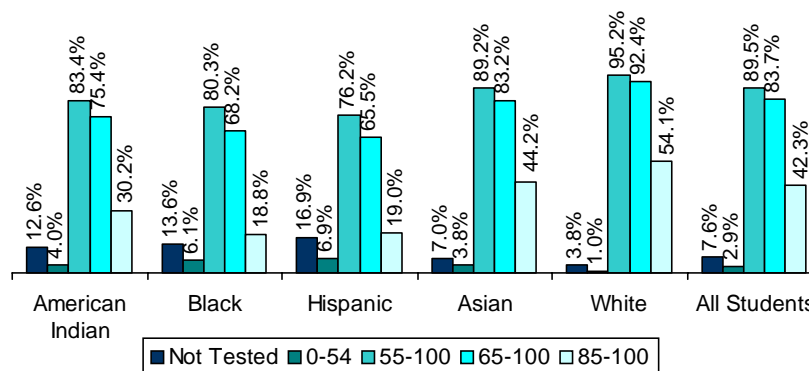


Figure 5.23
Percentage of Public School Students (General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities) in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents Mathematics Examinations by Race/Ethnicity 2005

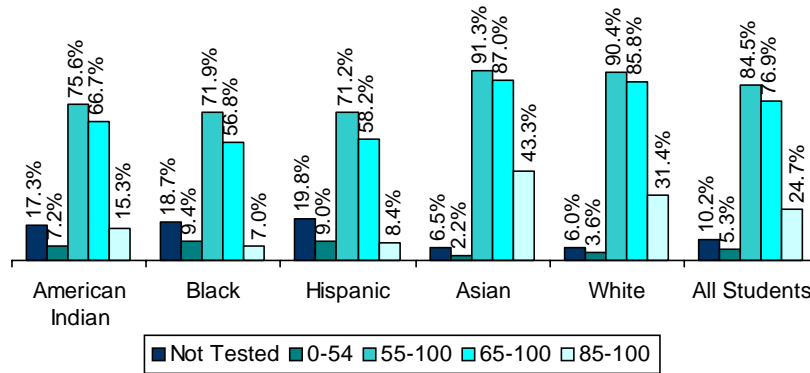


Figure 5.24
Percentage of Public School General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents Mathematics Examinations by Race/Ethnicity 2005

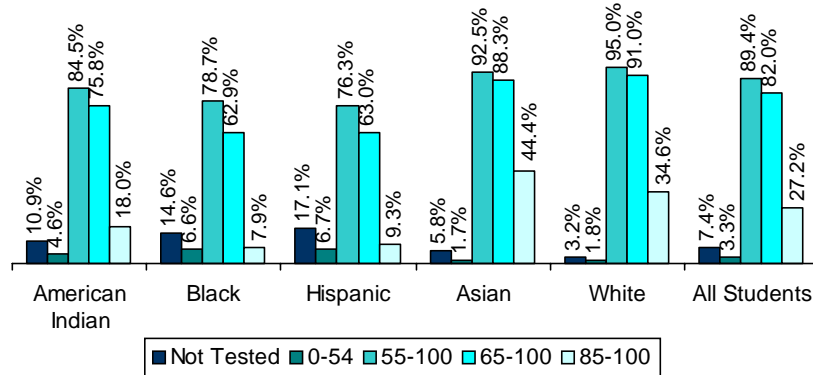


Figure 5.25
Percentage of Public School Students (General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities) in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents Global History and Geography Examination by Race/Ethnicity 2005

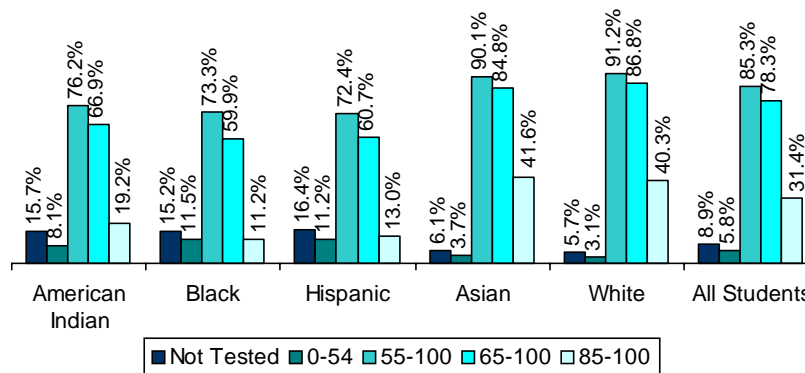


Figure 5.26
Percentage of Public School General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents Global History and Geography Examination by Race/Ethnicity 2005

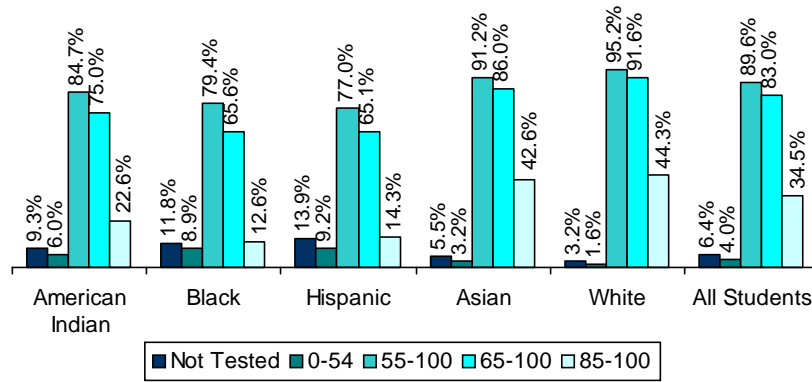


Figure 5.27
Percentage of Public School Students (General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities) in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents U.S. History and Government Examination by Race/Ethnicity 2005

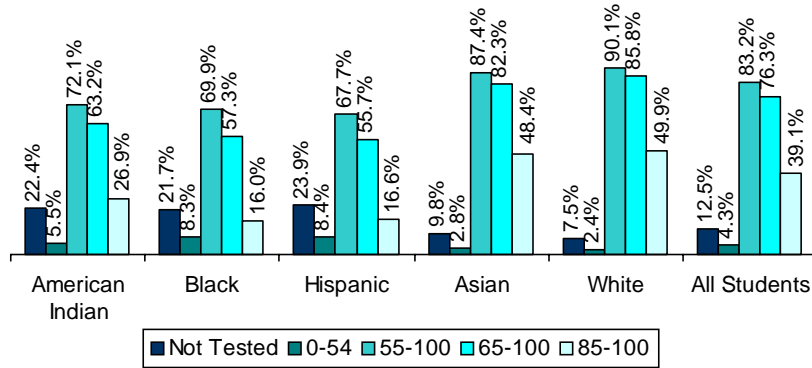


Figure 5.28
Percentage of Public School General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents U.S. History and Government Examination by Race/Ethnicity 2005

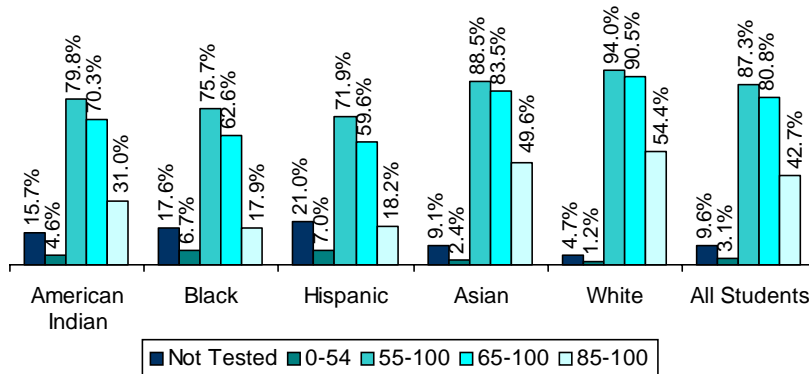


Figure 5.29
Percentage of Public School Students (General-Education Students and Students with Disabilities) in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents Science Examinations by Race/Ethnicity 2005

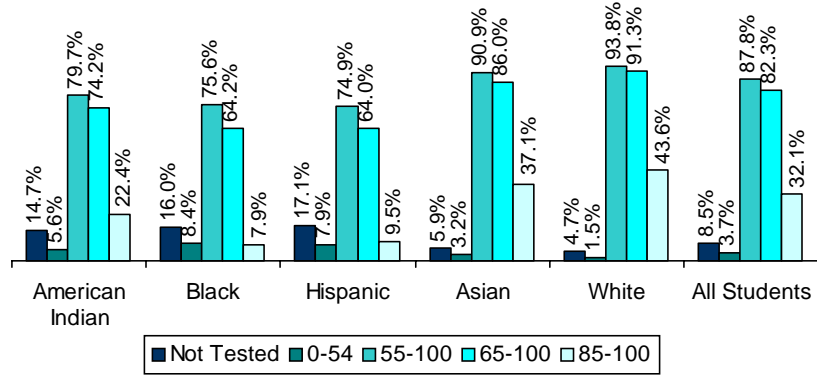
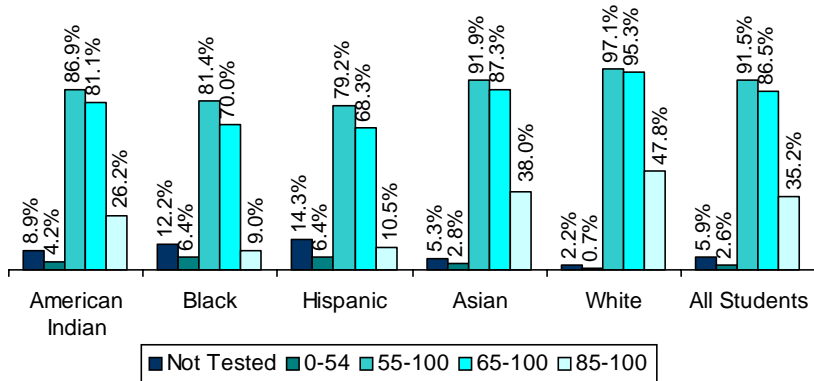


Figure 5.30
Percentage of Public School General-Education Students in the 2001 District Cohort Scoring at Various Levels on the Regents Science Examinations by Race/Ethnicity 2005



4 Other Performance Measures

Other measures supplement the State testing program in assessing the academic performance of students. The measures for which data are reported by race/ethnicity include high school credentials earned, college-going rates, and performance on some national assessments.

Credentials

As in previous years, there were differences among racial/ethnic groups in the proportions of students completing high school who received local diplomas, Regents diplomas with or without honors or advanced designation, and IEP diplomas or local certificates in 2004–05 (Table 5.8). (See the requirements for receiving various diplomas in *Part I: Overview*.) Statewide, Whites were nearly twice as likely as either Blacks or Hispanics to earn Regents diplomas. About 80 percent of Whites earned Regents diplomas with or without honors or advanced designation, compared with 41 percent of Blacks and 42 percent of Hispanics.

TABLE 5.8

**CREDENTIALS EARNED BY PUBLIC
HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS BY
RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP**

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In New York City, Hispanics were underrepresented among completers when compared with their representation in total enrollment (30.2 percent completed, 38.9 percent were enrolled). Conversely, White students comprised 19.8 percent of the New York City completers, while they accounted for only 14.3 percent of the total enrollment. Minority students attending public schools outside the Big 5 were more successful in earning Regents diplomas than those attending schools in the Big 5.

Smaller percentages of Whites and Other Minorities than Blacks or Hispanics were awarded IEP diplomas and local certificates for students with disabilities. In public schools, 7.0 percent of Blacks and 5.8 percent of Hispanics earned IEP diplomas or local certificates, whereas 2.6 percent of Whites and 1.3 percent of Other Minorities earned these credentials. This pattern was seen in all categories.

The Department has collected outcomes on the cohorts of students who first entered grade 9 in the 2000–01 and 2001–02 school years, known as the 2000 and 2001 Total Cohorts, respectively. Figures 5.31 and 5.32 show outcomes for the 2000 Total Cohort after five years and the 2001 Total Cohort after four years, respectively.

Of students in the 2000 Total Cohort, Black, Hispanic, and Native American students were less likely to have graduated and more likely to still be enrolled, dropped out, or transferred to GED than White and Asian students after five years, that is, as of June 2005. Statewide, 52.6 percent of Black students and 49.4 percent of Hispanic students earned a local diploma, whereas 75.7 percent of Asian students and 83.3 percent of White students did so. Similar results can be seen for students in the 2001 Total Cohort after four years. Statewide, 43.3 percent of Black students and 40.0 percent of Hispanic students earned a local diploma, whereas 67.7 percent of Asian students and 77.9 percent of White students did so.

Figure 5.31
2000 District Total Cohort Status by Race/Ethnicity as of June 2005

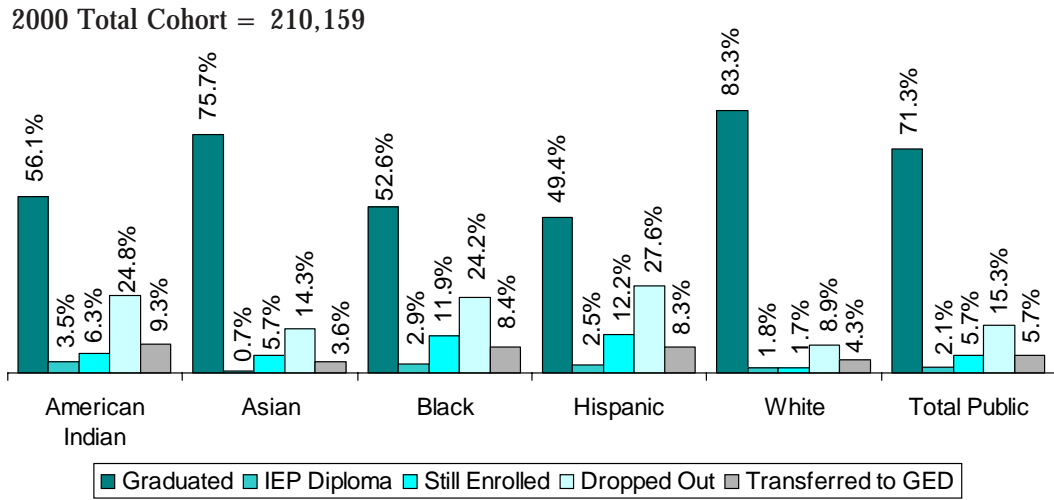
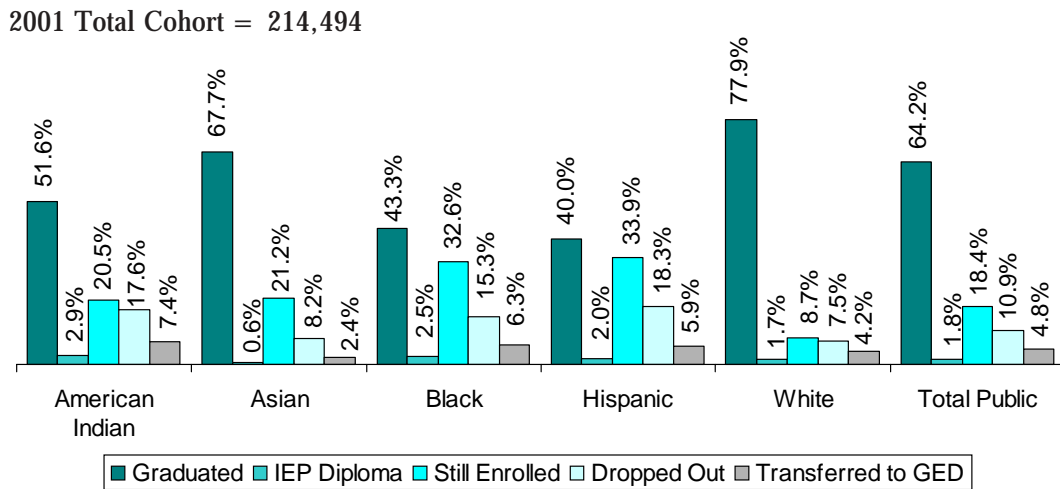


Figure 5.32
2001 District Total Cohort Status by Race/Ethnicity as of June 2005



College-Going Rate

In New York State, the majority of 2004–05 public school graduates, regardless of race/ethnicity, planned to pursue postsecondary education (Table 5.9). Graduates in the Other Minorities and White groups were most likely to plan to enroll in college. About eight in ten of these students planned to pursue postsecondary education. Students in the Other Minorities and White groups were also more likely than those in the Black and Hispanic groups to plan to enroll in four-year institutions.

TABLE 5.9

COLLEGE-GOING RATES OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES BY LOCATION AND RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP

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The reported college-going rates of all racial/ethnic groups, but most notably those of Blacks and Hispanics, reflect a change in reporting policy by New York City Public Schools. Until 1998, New York City distributed students whose postsecondary plans were unknown across all categories. Beginning in 1999, in reporting postsecondary plans for graduates, New York City assigned all students whose plans were unknown to the “Other” category.

College Entrance Examination Board

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is most frequently written by students who intend to apply to competitive colleges and universities. Mean SAT scores for the class of 2005 differed substantially according to race/ethnicity (Table 5.10). Whites achieved the highest mean composite score (1057), followed by Asians (1056), Other Minorities (977), American Indians/Alaskan Natives (949), Hispanics (897), and Blacks (867).

TABLE 5.10

SAT SCORES FOR PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS BY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP AND GENDER

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An analysis conducted by the College Board on self-reported data from New York State college-bound seniors taking the SAT in 1995 suggested that socioeconomic factors influence the racial/ethnic differences in SAT scores. Black and Hispanic test-takers, who as a group received lower scores than Whites, reported significantly lower parental incomes than White test-takers. Almost one-fifth (18 percent) of Black students and over one-fifth (22 percent) of Hispanic students reported parental income below \$12,000. In contrast, only three percent of Whites reported parental incomes that low.

Between 1992 and 2005, participation by minority students in the Advanced Placement (AP) program increased significantly. While the total number of public school candidates increased by 91 percent, there were more than twice as many Black, Asian, and Hispanic candidates in 2005 as in 1992. Nevertheless, Black, Hispanic, and American Indian students continued to be severely underrepresented among this elite group. In 2005, only five percent of candidates were Black and only eight percent were Hispanic. Only 396 American Indian students took AP examinations in New York State.

There were differences among minority groups in the examinations that they chose to take. For example, 31 percent of Asian candidates took a calculus examination, 18 percent took English literature, and 4 percent took the Spanish language examination. In contrast, 32 percent of Hispanic candidates took Spanish, 16 percent took English literature, and 9 percent took a calculus examination (Figure 5.33).

Figure 5.33
Percent of Public School Advanced Placement Candidates within Each Racial/Ethnic Group
Participating in Selected Advanced Placement Examinations
May 2005

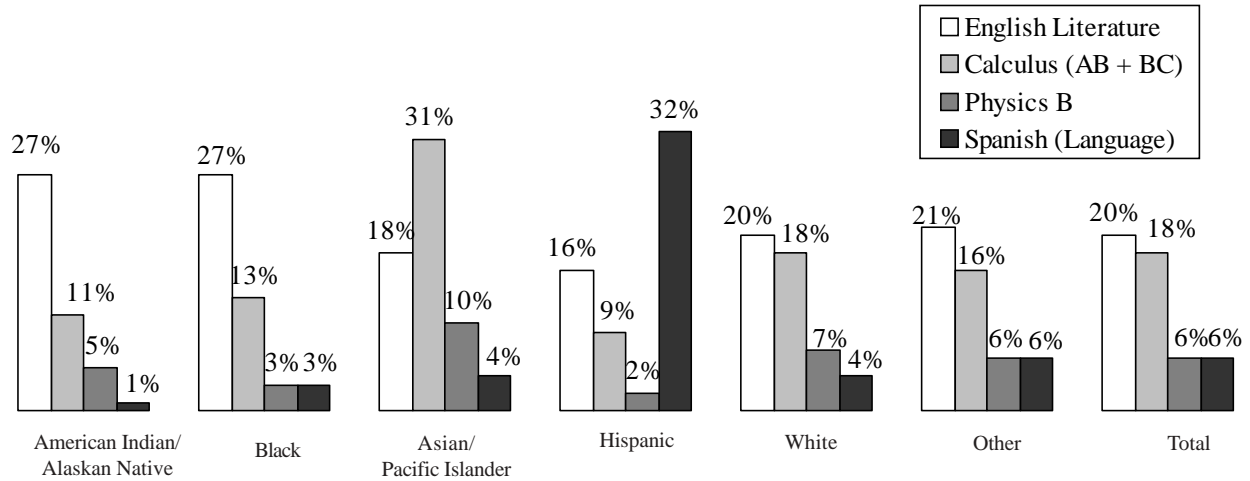


Table 5.8
Credentials Earned by Public High School Completers by Racial/Ethnic Group
New York State
2004–05

Sector/Location and Diplomas/Certificates	Racial/Ethnic Group			
	Black	Hispanic	Other Minority*	White
New York City				
Number of Completers	14,288	13,164	7,432	8,618
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	63.9%	63.7%	66.2%	60.6%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	29.1	30.2	26.7	32.8
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	1.5	2.0	8.8	6.1
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	7.2	6.6	1.0	2.4
Large City Districts				
Number of Completers	2,443	862	220	1,525
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	50.1%	42.8%	27.3%	33.8%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	35.7	41.8	45.5	39.7
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	6.6	8.1	24.5	20.9
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	8.7	8.7	2.7	7.1
Districts Excluding the Big 5				
Number of Completers	7,648	5,896	4,082	92,701
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	35.7%	35.0%	14.0%	14.2%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	41.4	41.9	25.8	37.3
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	18.6	21.9	60.0	47.1
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	6.1	3.7	1.7	2.5
Total Public**				
Number of Completers	24,379	19,922	11,734	102,844
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	53.7%	54.3%	47.3%	18.4%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	33.6	34.2	26.8	37.0
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	7.3	8.1	26.9	43.3
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	7.0	5.8	1.3	2.6

*Includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, and Pacific Islander.

**Total public includes counts of students in charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

Table 5.9
College-Going Rates of Public High School Graduates
by Location and Racial/Ethnic Group
New York State
2004–05 Graduates

Location and Postsecondary Type	Race/Ethnicity				
	Black	Hispanic	Other Minority*	White	Total
New York City					
Percent to 4-Year College	39.6%	38.9%	61.3%	59.2%	47.3%
Percent to 2-Year College	18.3	18.8	9.6	12.0	15.6
Percent to Other Postsecondary	1.4	1.6	0.7	1.2	1.3
Total to Postsecondary	59.3%	59.4%	71.6%	72.4%	64.2%
Large City Districts					
Percent to 4-Year College	43.8%	36.0%	61.7%	51.4%	45.6%
Percent to 2-Year College	38.6	37.9	26.2	30.9	35.6
Percent to Other Postsecondary	1.3	3.1	1.9	1.4	1.7
Total to Postsecondary	83.7%	76.9%	89.7%	83.8%	82.9%
Districts Excluding the Big 5					
Percent to 4-Year College	45.8%	37.5%	71.9%	54.5%	53.7%
Percent to 2-Year College	35.3	41.1	20.1	32.3	32.5
Percent to Other Postsecondary	1.7	2.2	0.8	1.3	1.4
Total to Postsecondary	82.8%	80.8%	92.8%	88.2%	87.6%
Total Public					
Percent to 4-Year College	42.0%	38.4%	65.0%	54.9%	51.7%
Percent to 2-Year College	25.7	26.4	13.6	30.6	28.1
Percent to Other Postsecondary	1.5	1.9	0.7	1.3	1.4
Total to Postsecondary	69.2%	66.6%	79.2%	86.8%	81.1%

* Includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, and Pacific Islander.

Table 5.10
SAT Scores for Public and Nonpublic High School Seniors
by Racial/Ethnic Group and Gender
New York State
Senior Class of 2005

Race/Ethnicity	Male			Female			Total					
	Number	Verbal	Math	Combined	Number	Verbal	Math	Combined	Number	Verbal	Math	Combined
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	381	476	494	970	376	464	463	927	757	470	479	949
Asian	5,327	485	579	1064	5,291	489	560	1049	10,618	487	569	1056
Black	6,829	436	443	879	10,116	432	427	859	16,945	434	433	867
Hispanic*	6,272	455	472	927	8,865	440	436	876	15,137	446	451	897
White	38,102	526	549	1075	42,666	520	520	1040	80,768	523	534	1057
Other Minority	2,797	487	511	998	3,687	481	480	961	6,484	483	494	977
No Response	12,198	498	521	1019	11,990	488	490	978	24,188	493	505	998
Total (All Seniors)	59,708	502	528	1030	71,001	492	496	988	130,709	497	511	1008

Source: The College Board

*Includes Mexican or Mexican American, Puerto Rican, Latin American, South American, Central American, or Other Hispanic or Latino.

5 Attendance, Suspension, and Dropout Rates

Attendance, suspension, and dropout rates are important measures of school success. Absence from school for any reason deprives children of opportunities for learning.

Attendance Rates

Schools with few minority students had higher attendance rates than schools with many minority students. Figure 5.34 illustrates the negative relationship between the minority enrollment of public schools and average annual attendance rates. In 2003–04, low-minority schools had an average attendance rate of 95.6 percent (93.4 percent in New York City), compared with 89.8 percent (89.1 percent in New York City) in high-minority schools (Table 5.11).

Figure 5.34
Total Public Annual Average Attendance Rate
by Minority Composition of School
2003–04

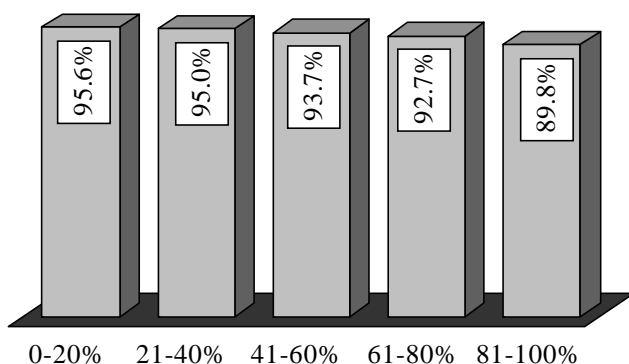


Table 5.11 presents average annual attendance rates and the percentage of schools within each minority-composition category that had low, medium, or high annual attendance rates. Statewide, 84 percent of all high-minority schools, but only 12 percent of low-minority schools, had annual attendance rates lower than 94 percent.

TABLE 5.11

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATES BY LOCATION AND MINORITY COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL

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Student Suspensions

Black students were consistently suspended at higher rates than students belonging to other racial/ethnic groups. The statewide suspension rate of each racial/ethnic group is shown in Figure 5.35. In districts outside New York City, on average, Black suspension rates were extraordinarily high: 17.5 percent in the Large City Districts and 13.3 percent in districts outside the Big 5, compared with 5.5 percent in New York City (Table 5.12).

Figure 5.35
Public School Suspension Rates
by Race/Ethnicity
2003–04

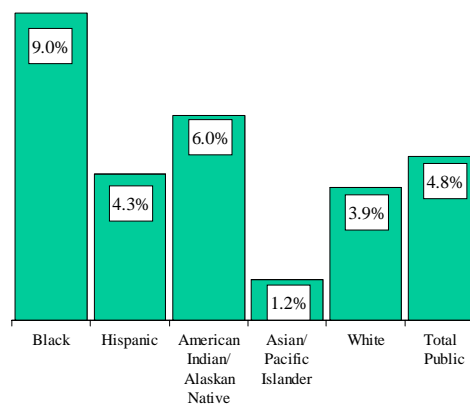


TABLE 5.12

PUBLIC SCHOOL RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP SUSPENSION RATES BY LOCATION

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Dropout Rates

Statewide in 2004–05, minority students were more likely than White students to drop out. The percentage of students who left school without completing requirements in each racial/ethnic group is shown in Figure 5.36. Generally, minority students attending schools outside the Big 5 were less likely to drop out than their peers attending schools in the Big 5 (Table 5.13).

Figure 5.36
Public School Annual Dropout Rates
by Race/Ethnicity
2004–05

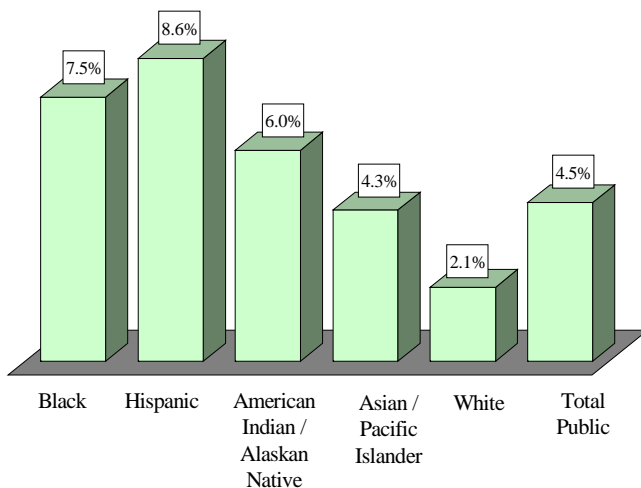


TABLE 5.13

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND LOCATION

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Statewide between 1995–96 and 2004–05, the annual dropout rate increased from 3.6 to 4.5 percent. (See Figure 3.52 in *Part III: Longitudinal Trends*.) A similar trend in dropout rates occurred for minority students, where the dropout rate for Black students over a five-year period (from 2000–01 to 2004–05) increased by 1.3 percent, for Hispanic students increased by 1.6 percent, for American Indian/Alaskan Native students decreased by 0.6

percent, and for Asian students increased by 1.4 percent. Dropout rates for White students remained the same (2.1 percent).

Schools with large percentages of minority students had higher dropout rates than schools with small percentages of minority students (Table 5.14). On average, in low-minority schools, only 1 student in 56 dropped out in 2004–05. In contrast, in high-minority schools, 1 student in 16 dropped out. Regardless of racial/ethnic origin, students attending high-minority schools dropped out at higher rates than students attending low-minority schools. For example, the dropout rate was 2.8 percent among Hispanics attending low-minority schools but 7.0 percent among those attending high-minority schools. The contrast in dropout rates between Asian and Pacific Islanders attending low- and high-minority schools was about the same, 1.0 compared with 5.0 percent. In interpreting these results, the reader should consider the strong association between minority status and poverty. The high poverty rates in high-minority schools may increase the dropout rates of students in those schools.

TABLE 5.14

PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL DROPOUT RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY AND MINORITY COMPOSITION CATEGORY

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Schools with concentrated poverty also had higher dropout rates than other schools. Public secondary schools that enrolled 81–100 percent of minority students and had the highest poverty level had the highest annual dropout rates, averaging 11.3 percent in 2004–05; 1 in 9 students attending these schools dropped out in that year (Table 5.15). In contrast, 1 in 83 students (1.2 percent) attending schools in the low-poverty, medium-minority category dropped out. Figure 5.37 displays the observed relationship of school poverty status, minority composition, and average annual dropout rate in 2004–05.

Across the State, concentrated-poverty, high-minority schools accounted for a disproportionate number (62 percent) of dropouts. Historically, within each minority composition category, as poverty increases, so does the dropout rate. In 2004–05 among high-minority schools, the dropout rate of concentrated-poverty schools was 11.3 percent; medium-poverty schools, 4.9 percent; and low-poverty schools, 2.8 percent.

TABLE 5.15
PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES BY POVERTY STATUS AND MINORITY COMPOSITION OF SCHOOL
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Figure 5.37
Public High School Annual Dropout Rates by Poverty Status and Minority Composition of School 2004–05

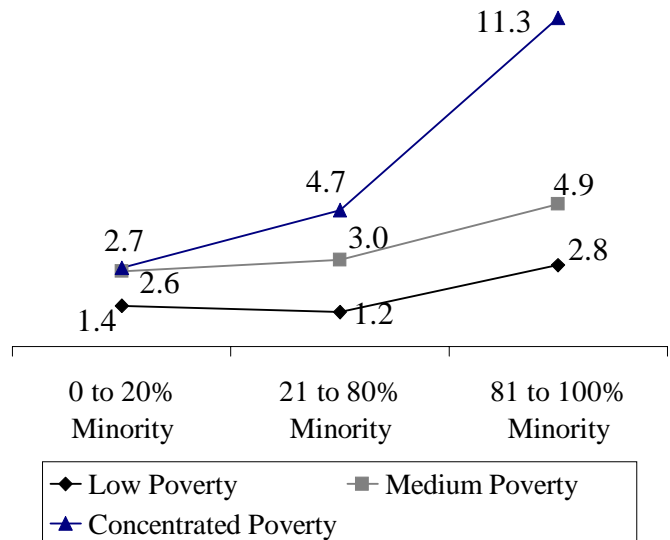


Table 5.11
Distribution of Public School Annual Attendance Rates
by Location and Minority Composition of School
New York State
2003–04

Location/Minority Composition of School	Average Attendance Rate	Percent of Schools Having		
		Low Rate	Medium Rate	High Rate
New York City				
0–20 Percent	93.4%	83%	13%	4%
21–40 Percent	93.2	55	42	3
41–60 Percent	93.0	64	29	7
61–80 Percent	92.1	64	28	8
81–100 Percent	89.1	91	8	1
Total	90.0%	84%	13%	3%
Large City Districts				
0–20 Percent	94.2%	—	100%	—
21–40 Percent	93.4	50%	33	17%
41–60 Percent	92.1	80	20	—
61–80 Percent	92.3	73	23	4
81–100 Percent	90.5	90	8	2
Total	91.3%	83%	15%	27%
Districts Excluding the Big 5				
0–20 Percent	95.6%	11%	43%	46%
21–40 Percent	95.2	16	48	36
41–60 Percent	94.5	28	46	26
61–80 Percent	93.9	43	39	18
81–100 Percent	93.4	44	36	20
Total	95.3%	15%	43%	42%
Total Public				
0–20 Percent	95.6%	12%	42%	46%
21–40 Percent	95.0	20	47	33
41–60 Percent	93.7	46	38	16
61–80 Percent	92.7	59	30	11
81–100 Percent	89.8	84	12	4
Total	93.6%	39%	33%	28%

Note: Attendance Rate is Average Daily Attendance divided by Average Possible Attendance. Low Rate equals less than 0.940, Medium Rate equals 0.940–0.959, and High Rate equals 0.960 and higher. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5.12
Public School Racial/Ethnic Group Suspension Rates by Location
New York State
2003–04

Location	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian and Pacific Islander	White	Total
New York City	5.5%	3.0%	4.8%	1.0%	2.0%	3.5%
Large City Districts	17.5	11.6	12.1	4.4	7.7	13.6
Districts Excluding the Big 5	13.3	6.9	5.6	1.6	4.0	5.0
Total Public	8.9%	4.3%	5.8%	1.2%	3.9%	4.8%

Table 5.13
Public High School Annual Dropout Rates
by Race/Ethnicity and Location
New York State
2004–05

Location	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian and Pacific Islander	White	Total
New York City	8.8%	9.9%	9.0%	5.6%	4.9%	8.2%
Large City Districts	8.3	7.9	9.3	3.7	6.9	7.7
Districts Excluding the Big 5	4.1	4.5	4.3	1.1	1.7	2.1
Total Public	7.5%	8.6%	6.0%	4.3%	2.1%	4.5%

Table 5.14
Public High School Annual Dropout Rates
by Race/Ethnicity and Minority Composition Category
New York State
2004–05

Minority Composition Category	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian and Pacific Islander	White	Total
0–20 Percent	3.4%	2.8%	3.8%	1.0%	1.7%	1.8%
21–40 Percent	3.2	3.3	6.2	0.9	1.4	1.8
41–60 Percent	4.3	3.9	3.3	2.1	2.4	3.1
61–80 Percent	4.0	4.5	9.8	1.7	2.6	3.3
81–100 Percent	5.8	7.0	5.2	5.0	6.2	6.2
Total Public	5.2%	6.0%	5.1%	2.9%	1.9%	3.3%

Table 5.15
Public High School Dropout Rates by Poverty Status
and Minority Composition of School
New York State
2004–05

Minority Composition and Poverty Status of School	Number of Dropouts	Average Annual Dropout Rate
Low Poverty (0–20%)		
Low Minority (0–20%)	3,967	1.4%
Medium Minority (21–80%)	1,143	1.2
High Minority (81–100%)	301	2.8
Total	5,411	1.4%
Medium Poverty (21–40%)		
Low Minority (0–20%)	2,044	2.6%
Medium Minority (21–80%)	2,439	3.0
High Minority (81–100%)	2,668	4.9
Total	7,151	3.3%
Concentrated Poverty (41–100%)		
Low Minority (0–20%)	360	2.7%
Medium Minority (21–80%)	1,895	4.7
High Minority (81–100%)	24,309	11.3
Total	26,564	9.9%

? Policy Questions

- ? What can the State do to close the resource gap between low- and high-minority schools?
- ? How can qualified minorities be attracted to teaching and other education professions?
- ? What can the State do to close the performance gap between low- and high-minority schools?
- ? What kinds of programs are most successful in overcoming the deficiencies of insufficiently prepared students so they can succeed in Regents-level courses?
- ? What new policies and programs are needed to improve attendance in low-performing schools?
- ? How are minority students achieving in low-minority schools? What school and program factors are associated with minority students' successes?
- ? What new policies are needed to ensure that school discipline measures, such as student suspensions, are applied without racial or cultural bias?
- ? What programs are needed to keep larger percentages of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaskan Native students in school?

Part VI:

Gender Issues

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☆ Highlights

- ☆ *Despite gains by women, in 2004–05, men held significantly greater percentages of leadership positions — superintendents and principals (except in elementary schools).*
- ☆ *Examination of differences in performance between males and females on the elementary- and middle-level English language arts (ELA) assessments shows substantial differences in favor of females.*
- ☆ *When comparing the percentage of tested students scoring 55 or higher and 65 or higher, the performance of males and females was similar on all Regents examinations.*
- ☆ *Female graduates were more likely than males to earn Regents-endorsed diplomas, but males earned higher average SAT scores.*

1 Introduction

In the 1993 policy statement, “Equity of Women in the 1990’s,” the Board of Regents reaffirmed the following principles:

- ✦ The Regents are committed to gender equity. We must change the way we think and act in order to achieve an educational system where leadership is gender-balanced and where schools are beacons of gender equity for a diverse society.
- ✦ Individuals will be valued and rewarded because of their competence, expertise, knowledge, motivation, and personal qualities and not because of their gender.
- ✦ In education and employment opportunities, there should be no difference between the sexes, and all practices which interfere with equal opportunities for men and women must be eliminated.
- ✦ There should be statewide compliance with State and Federal Civil Rights and Equal Employment Laws and the affirmative action policies of the Federal Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.
- ✦ Based on the premise that there are as many qualified women as men, the goal is to achieve more evenly balanced representation of women and men at all levels of administration in all educational and cultural institutions and the career work sites of our State.

2 Gender Composition of School Professional Staff

Providing both male and female role models is an important objective in ensuring that young adults are aware of all available career opportunities. Table 6.1 shows the percentages of women administrators in selected district administrative fields, beginning in 1970–71. While women have made gains in the past 35 years, they continue to be underrepresented in the highest levels of administration. Between 1970–71 and 2004–05, the percentage of female school superintendents in independent districts increased from 0.4 to 24.9 percent and in dependent districts from 1.8 to 25.0 percent. The percentage of female deputy, associate, and assistant superintendents and the percentage of female school business managers have more than quadrupled in this time period.

The percentages of female principals, assistant principals, and classroom teachers have also increased in the past 25 years (Figure 6.1). The increase in female principals and assistant principals has been particularly significant. In 2004–05, however, women continued to be better represented among principals and assistant principals of elementary than secondary schools. Even so, in elementary schools the percentage of women in leadership positions was significantly smaller than their representation among classroom teachers. To have equivalent representation of women in teaching and leadership positions, elementary schools must considerably increase, and secondary schools must more than double, the number of female principals. Conversely, another goal is to increase the number of male teachers in elementary schools. The percentage of male teachers in elementary schools has declined since 1980–81. Male role models are important to all children, but particularly those from female-headed, single-parent families.

TABLE 6.1
PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN ADMINISTRATORS IN SELECTED PROFESSIONAL FIELDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Figure 6.1
Percentage of Women Principals, Assistant Principals, and Classroom Teachers in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools 1980–81 to 2004–05

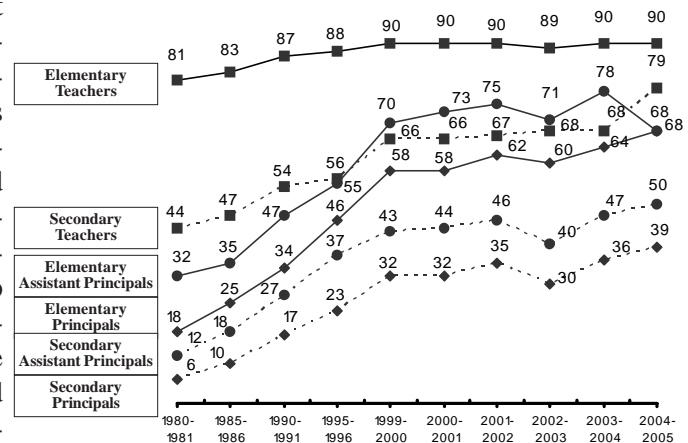


Table 6.1
Percentage of Women Administrators in
Selected Professional Fields in Public Schools
New York State
1970–71 to 2004–05

Professional Field	1970–1971	1975–1976	1980–1981	1985–1986	1990–1991	1995–1996	2000–2001	2001–2002	2002–2003*	2003–2004	2004–2005
Superintendent Independent	0.4%	1.8%	1.8%	4.8%	6.2%	12.8%	20.3%	21.8%	19.2%	25.1%	24.9%
Superintendent Dependent	1.8	0.6	3.4	4.9	8.9	14.4	19.9	19.7	22.7	23.4	25.0
Deputy/Associate/ Assistant Superintendent	11.9	9.1	10.3	14.6	23.9	32.2	45.4	47.6	46.5	47.5	49.5
Business Manager	10.3	10.6	14.1	19.6	24.8	29.3	31.9	39.0	41.2	44.7	47.7
Director/Coordinator	31.6	28.5	35.2	39.0	46.1	51.7	56.5	56.4	55.0	57.4	59.9
Assistant Director/ Coordinator	50.7	37.6	43.9	44.4	58.0	60.4	69.7	64.7	74.4	75.4	72.9
Supervisor	52.0	42.1	40.2	45.7	52.3	58.4	65.1	64.5	61.0	62.8	65.1

*Data for 2002–03 do not include New York City.

3 Performance Trends

This section examines differences in performance between males and females on the English language arts tests in the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP) and on Regents examinations. Information about these assessment programs can be found in *Part I: Overview*.

New York State Testing Program

Examination of differences in performance between males and females on the elementary- and middle-level English language arts (ELA) assessments shows substantial differences in favor of females (Table 6.2). Statewide, considering the percentages of students scoring at or above Level 2 (partial proficiency in the standards), the difference at the elementary level was 3.2 percentage points; the difference at the middle level was 3.4 percentage points. Considering the percentages of students scoring at Level 3 or above (proficiency in the standards), the differences between males and females were greater: 7.8 percentage points on the elementary-level assessment and 9.0 percentage points on the middle-level assessment.

Smaller differences in performance in favor of females can be seen on the elementary- and middle-level mathematics assessments. Statewide, the difference at the elementary level between female and male students scoring at or above Level 2 was 1.3 percentage points; the difference at the middle level was 2.5 percentage points. At or above Level 3, the differences were about the same: 1.1 percentage points at the elementary level and 1.8 percentage points at the middle level.

Regents Examinations

Figure 6.2 presents statistics for males and females on selected Regents examinations administered in 2004–05. For each examination, the following data are presented in stacked bar charts: the percentage of tested students scoring 85 to 100; the percentage of tested students scoring 65 to 84; the percentage of tested students scoring 55 to 64; and the percentage of tested students scoring below 55. (See the description of high school graduation requirements in *Part I: Overview*.)

Statewide, tested females were more likely than males (89 percent compared with 86 percent) to score 55 or higher on the Regents English examination. The percentage of tested females passing the Regents English examination with an 85 or better exceeded the male percentage by 9 points (Figure 6.2).

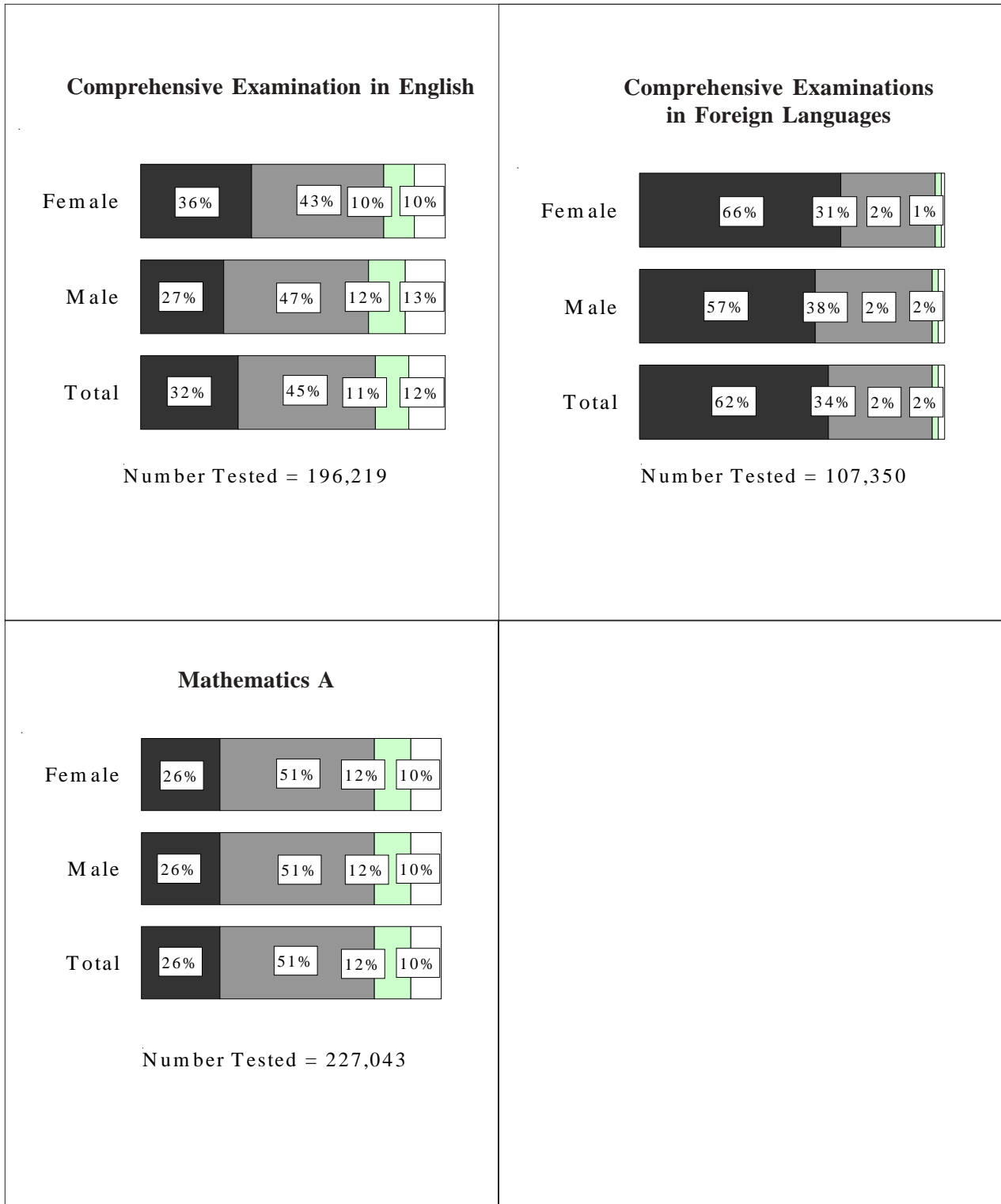
When comparing the percentage of tested students scoring 55 or higher and 65 or higher, the performance of males and females was similar on the Regents examinations in foreign languages; mathematics A; global history and geography; U.S. history and government, living environment, and physical setting/physics.

TABLE 6.2

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TESTED AND PERCENT SCORING AT OR ABOVE LEVEL 2 AND AT OR ABOVE LEVEL 3 ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) AND MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENTS BY GENDER: NEW YORK STATE TESTING PROGRAM

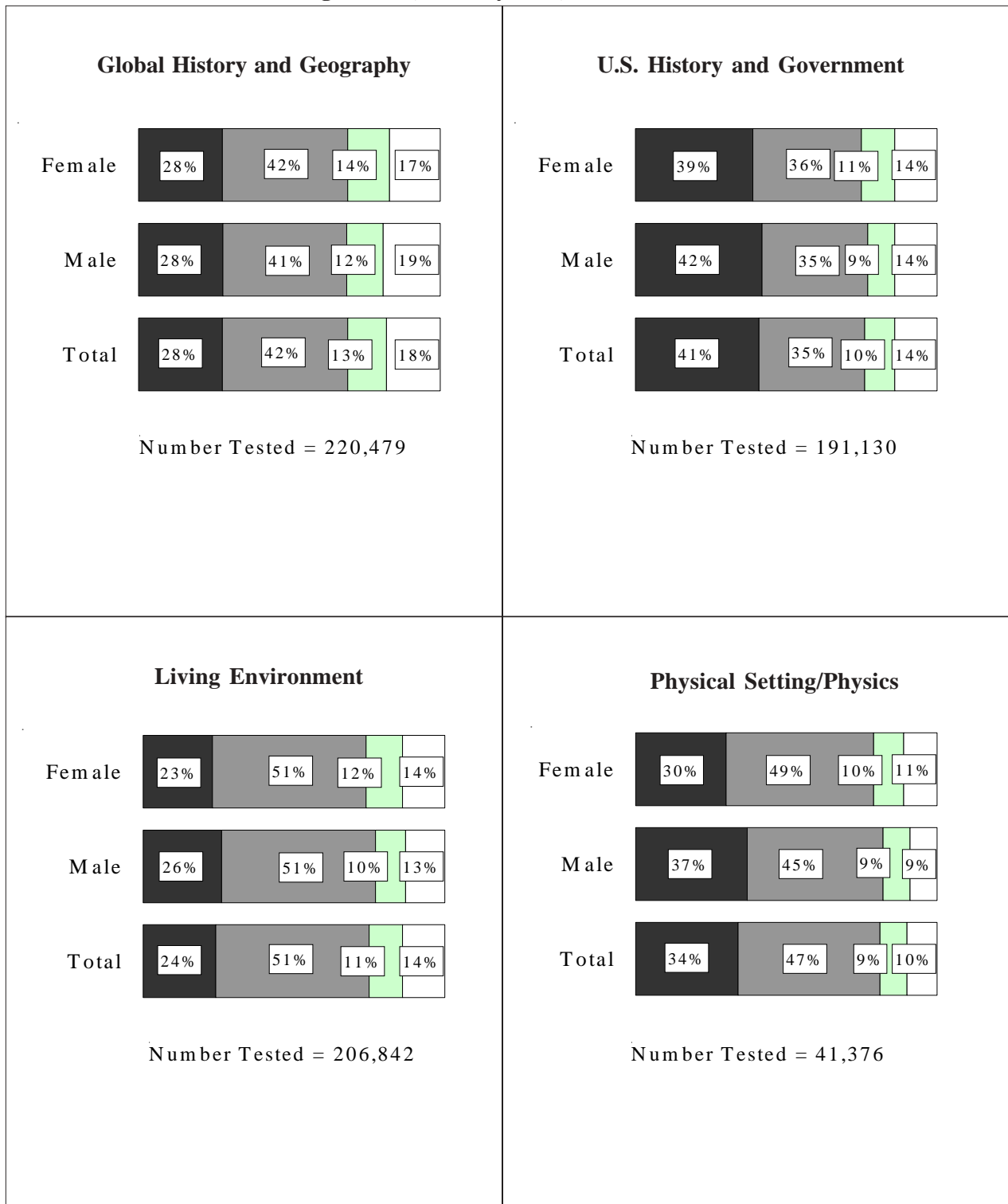
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Figure 6.2
Public School Performance as a Percentage of Students Tested by Gender
Regents Examinations
August 2004, January 2005, and June 2005



■ Percent Scoring 85-100	■ Percent Scoring 65-84
■ Percent Scoring 55-64	□ Percent Scoring Below 55

Figure 6.2 (continued)
Public School Performance as a Percentage of Students Tested by Gender
Regents Examinations
August 2004, January 2005, and June 2005



Percent Scoring 85-100
 Percent Scoring 65-84
 Percent Scoring 55-64
 Percent Scoring Below 55

These results were significantly affected by the number of male and female students taking these examinations. More females than males took each of the examinations (Table 6.3). Generally, the smaller the percentage of a student group tested, the more likely that students tested will represent the highest performing students. For example, 74 percent of tested public school females statewide, compared with 77 percent of males, scored 65–100 on the Regents living environment examination. To put these percentages in perspective, consider that 105,908 females, compared with 100,934 males, were tested. Therefore, about 653 more female than male students met this standard despite the smaller percentage of female students scoring 65–100 (Table 6.3).

TABLE 6.3

**NUMBERS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
TOTAL STATE STUDENTS TESTED ON
SELECTED REGENTS EXAMINATIONS
BY GENDER**

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Table 6.2
Number of Public School Students Tested and Percent Scoring at or above Level 2
and at or above Level 3 on the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Assessments by Gender
New York State Testing Program
2005

Sector/Location and Gender	Elementary-Level ELA		Middle-Level ELA		Elementary-Level Math		Middle-Level Math		
	Number Tested	Percent at or above Level 2	Percent at or above Level 3	Number Tested	Percent at or above Level 2	Percent at or above Level 3	Number Tested	Percent at or above Level 2	Percent at or above Level 3
Public NYC									
Female	33,200	94.9%	64.4%	35,692	92.4%	37.3%	36,703	96.0%	78.9%
Male	34,149	89.6	54.7	37,200	86.9	28.5	38,059	93.3	76.1
Large City Districts									
Female	3,673	91.8	59.1	4,441	88.5	25.8	4,029	95.4	74.3
Male	3,765	86.2	49.5	4,758	81.1	21.4	4,175	93.8	72.0
Districts Excluding the Big 5									
Female	58,749	97.5	81.2	64,922	97.2	63.2	60,240	98.7	90.3
Male	61,107	95.3	74.5	68,296	95.1	53.8	62,653	98.1	90.2
Total Public*									
Female	96,610	96.3	74.3	105,499	95.2	52.7	101,948	97.6	85.4
Male	99,871	92.9	66.6	110,650	91.7	43.8	105,729	96.2	84.3
Total State*									
Female	109,231	96.5	74.8	117,540	95.5	53.7	114,949	97.7	85.6
Male	111,372	93.3	67.0	120,963	92.1	44.7	117,411	96.4	84.5

*Total Public and Total State include data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

Table 6.3
Numbers of Public Schools and Total State Students
Tested on Selected Regents Examinations by Gender
2004–05

Subject	Public School		Total State	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Comprehensive Examination in English	96,903	99,316	106,255	110,225
Comprehensive Examination in Foreign Languages	46,808	60,542	54,809	71,396
Mathematics A	111,203	115,840	122,585	128,182
Living Environment	100,934	105,908	111,644	117,629
Global History and Geography	108,063	112,416	118,638	124,139
U.S. History and Government	92,593	98,537	101,876	109,413

4 Other Performance Measures

Diplomas Awarded

Fifty-two percent of public high school completers in 2004–05 were female (Table 6.4). Most of the gender disparity was accounted for by the Big 5 cities, where approximately 54 percent of completers were female; outside the Big 5, slightly more than 50 percent of completers were female.

TABLE 6.4

**CREDENTIALS EARNED
BY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
COMPLETERS BY GENDER**

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More females earned Regents diplomas. In public schools statewide, 68.3 percent of females and 66.6 percent of male graduates earned Regents diplomas (with or without honors or advanced designation). A larger percentage of females than males earned honors or advanced designation recognition. Higher percentages of males than females were awarded IEP diplomas.

Scholastic Assessment Test I

In the class of 2005, more females than males took the SAT I: 54 percent of those tested were female. Males scored 42 points higher on the combined tests than females (Figures 6.3 and 6.4). Approximately 76 percent of the difference in the combined scores (32 points) was accounted for by the difference in scores for the mathematics component. The pattern of gender differences in the class of 2005 SAT scores is consistent with the patterns seen in prior years; males scored slightly higher on the verbal test and substantially higher on the mathematics test.

Between 1995 and 2005, the mean verbal score of males increased from 497 to 502, while the mean score of females decreased by one point, from 493 to 492. Both males and females improved their performance on the mathematics test by 13 points.

The lower SAT performance of females may be partially accounted for by differences between the male and female populations of test-takers. Women from families of lower socioeconomic status as indicated by income and parental education are more likely than men from similar families to take the SAT. In New York State's 2005 senior class, 67 percent of test-takers reporting that their families were in the lowest income bracket (under \$10,000) were female. In contrast, only 46 percent of test-takers reporting the highest family income bracket (\$100,000 or more) were female. In addition, of those test-takers who reported that their parents had not earned a high school diploma, 60 percent were female. Since SAT performance correlates highly with parental income and education, the fact that more female test-takers reported coming from families with low incomes and less education may explain some of the gap in mean performance between males and females. The greater number of female test-takers from lower-income, less-educated families does not explain, however, the small number of female test-takers (3,348) relative to male test-takers (5,836) who earned scores above 700 on the mathematics section.

Figure 6.3
Mean Verbal SAT I Scores by Gender
New York State
Senior Classes of 1995 to 2005

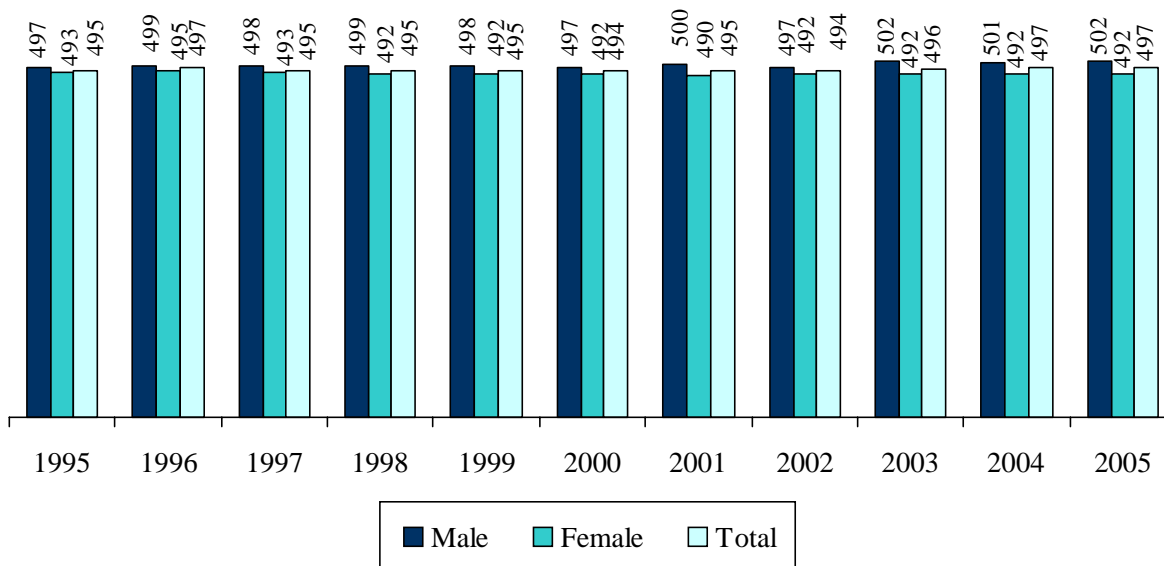


Figure 6.4
Mean Mathematics SAT I Scores by Gender
New York State
Senior Classes of 1995 to 2005

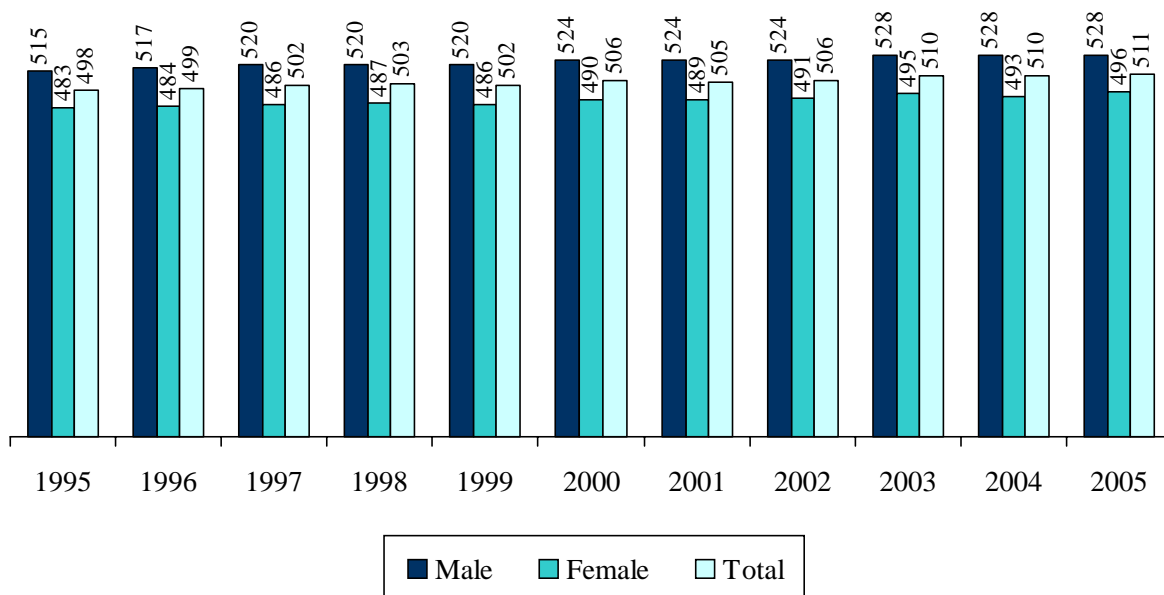


Table 6.4
Credentials Earned by Public High School Completers by Gender
New York State
2004–05

Sector/Location and Diplomas/Certificates	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
New York City			
Number of Completers	20,144	23,358	43,502
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	61.6%	61.3%	61.4%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	28.6%	30.8%	29.8%
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	3.6%	4.0%	3.8%
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	6.3%	3.9%	5.0%
Large City Districts			
Number of Completers	2,342	2,708	5,050
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	41.6%	41.9%	41.7%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	35.8%	40.6%	38.4%
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	11.8%	12.1%	12.0%
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	10.8%	5.4%	7.9%
Districts Excluding the Big 5			
Number of Completers	54,493	55,834	110,327
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	16.4%	14.6%	15.5%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	38.6%	36.3%	37.4%
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	41.5%	47.0%	44.3%
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	3.4%	2.2%	2.8%
Total Public*			
Number of Completers	76,979	81,900	158,879
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	29.0%	28.8%	28.9%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	35.9%	34.8%	35.4%
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	30.7%	33.5%	32.2%
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	4.4%	2.8%	3.6%

*Total public includes data for charter schools, which are not included in the other categories.

? Policy Questions

- ? What steps are necessary to enable more women to assume leadership positions districtwide and in elementary, middle, and secondary schools?
- ? What steps are necessary to encourage more men to aspire to elementary school teaching positions?
- ? What changes can be made in educational programs, particularly those in the Big 5 city districts, to better enable male students to meet the higher performance standards?
- ? What kinds of training would assist female students in achieving higher scores on the SAT?

Part VII:

Nonpublic Schools

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☆ Highlights

Enrollment Trends

- ☆ *Nearly 500,000 students were enrolled in nonpublic schools in New York State in Fall 2004, constituting 14.2 percent of the total State enrollment.*
- ☆ *Minorities (Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander students) constituted 31.6 percent of the nonpublic school enrollment in 2004–05.*
- ☆ *The student-teacher ratio in nonpublic schools in 2004–05 was 11.2.*

Performance Trends

- ☆ *On the New York State Testing Program in English language arts, 74.7 percent of elementary-level students and 58.2 percent of middle-level students in nonpublic schools met the standards in 2005.*
- ☆ *On the New York State Testing Program in mathematics in 2005, 86.7 percent of elementary-level students in nonpublic schools met the standards, but only 61.0 percent of middle-level students did so.*
- ☆ *Eighty-nine percent of students in nonpublic schools scored 65 or higher on the Regents English examination in 2004–05, compared with 79 percent statewide.*
- ☆ *Eighty-five percent of nonpublic school students scored 65 or higher on the Regents global history and geography examination in 2005, compared with 71 percent statewide.*

Other Performance Measures

- ☆ *In 2004–05, the largest percentage of nonpublic school graduates (65 percent) earned Regents endorsements since the Regents Action Plan was enacted.*
- ☆ *Nearly 95 percent of nonpublic school students graduating in 2005 planned to pursue some form of postsecondary education.*

Dropout Rates

- ☆ *A very small percentage (0.2 percent) of nonpublic school students dropped out in 2004–05.*

1 Enrollment Trends

Nonpublic School Enrollment

Nearly 500,000 students were enrolled in nonpublic schools in New York State in Fall 2004 (Table 7.1). Nonpublic school students accounted for 14.2 percent of the total State enrollment. The racial/ethnic composition of nonpublic schools was somewhat different from that of public schools. Nonpublic schools enrolled a greater percentage of White students (68.4) in Fall 2004 than the total State enrolled (55.5). Compared with the total State, nonpublic schools had a smaller percentage of Black (15.0 compared with 19.2) and Hispanic (12.0 compared with 18.6) students enrolled.

<p>TABLE 7.1</p> <p>RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP ENROLLMENT PERCENTAGES BY SECTOR/LOCATION IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS</p> <p>PAGE 207</p>

Nonpublic School Student-Teacher Ratio

Compared with public schools, nonpublic schools had, on average, 1.5 fewer students per teacher statewide in 2004–05 (Figures 3.7 and 7.1). However, New York City nonpublic schools had more students per teacher (11.9) than other nonpublic schools in the State (10.5).

Figure 7.1
Student-Teacher Ratio
Nonpublic Schools
2004–05

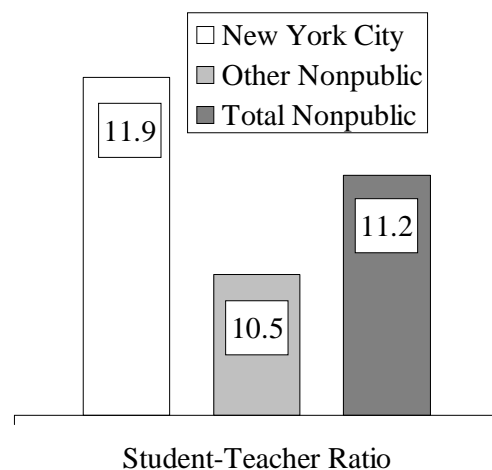


Table 7.1
Racial/Ethnic Group Enrollment Percentages by Sector/Location in Nonpublic Schools
New York State
Fall 2004

Sector/Location	Total Enrollment	Percent Black	Percent Hispanic	Percent American Indian/Alaskan Native	Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	Percent White
Nonpublic						
New York City	265,562	18.6%	17.0%	0.2%	5.4%	58.7%
Other Nonpublic	202,955	10.2	5.4	0.2	3.2	81.0
Total Nonpublic	468,517	15.0	12.0	0.2	4.4	68.4
Total State	3,289,627	19.2%	18.6%	0.4%	6.4%	55.5%

2 Performance Trends

This section discusses performance trends of nonpublic school students on the elementary- and middle-level examinations and Regents examinations. A description of these testing programs can be found in *Part I: Overview*. Because nonpublic schools are not required to administer these examinations, results can vary from year to year as the population tested changes.

New York State Testing Program (NYSTP)

Elementary-Level English Language Arts (ELA)

Fourth-graders in nonpublic schools performed substantially better on the ELA examination in 2005 than in 1999. In 2005, 74.7 percent of nonpublic school fourth-graders (compared with 53.0 percent in 1999) demonstrated achievement of the skills and knowledge in English language arts expected of elementary-school students by scoring at or above Level 3 (Figure 7.2). The percentage of students scoring at or above Level 3 increased in both New York City and Rest of State nonpublic schools. The performance of 2.7 percent of nonpublic students was severely deficient in 2005, compared with 6.8 percent in 1999 (Figure 7.3).

Middle-Level English Language Arts (ELA)

The performance of nonpublic school students on the middle-level ELA examination was similar in 2004 and 2005, where 58.4 percent and 58.2 percent scored at or above Level 3, respectively (Figure 7.4). However, more nonpublic school eighth graders scored at or above Level 3 in 1999 than in any subsequent year. Only 2.9 percent scored at Level 1 in 2005, compared with 3.9 percent in 1999 (Figure 7.5).

Elementary-Level Mathematics

Performance on the elementary-level mathematics test has improved since 1999. In 1999, 67.4 percent of tested nonpublic school students scored at or above Level 3; 86.7 percent did so in 2005 (Figure 7.6). The performance of Rest of State schools was substantially better than that of New York City schools. In Rest of State nonpublic schools, 91.7 percent of students scored at or above Level 3 in 2005, compared with 82.7 percent in New York City nonpublic schools. Statewide for nonpublic schools, the percentage of students scoring at Level 1 decreased significantly between 1999 and 2005: 6.9 percent in 1999 compared with 1.5 percent in 2005 (Figure 7.7). This decrease was most evident in New York City, where 10.1 percent scored at Level 1 in 1999 but only 2.2 percent did so in 2005.

Middle-Level Mathematics

Though the middle-level mathematics assessment initially proved to be the most challenging of the NYSTP assessments, performance improved between 1999 and 2005 and now exceeds that on the middle-level ELA assessment (Figure 7.8). In 1999, 43.5 percent of eighth-graders in nonpublic schools met the standards in this assessment, compared with 61.0 percent in 2005. The percentage of students scoring at Level 1 dropped from 19.3 percent in 1999 to 8.0 percent in 2005 (Figure 7.9). Performance trends in New York City and Rest of State nonpublic schools were comparable: the percentage of students scoring at Level 1 decreased, while the percentage of students scoring at or above Level 3 increased significantly.

Elementary- and Middle-Level Science and Social Studies Tests

Elementary-Level Science

In 2005, 85.4 percent of tested students in nonpublic schools scored at or above Level 3 on the elementary-level science test based on the new learning standards (Figure 7.10). Though Rest of State nonpublic school students performed better than New York City nonpublic school students (91.8 percent of Rest of State students scored at or above Level 3), New York City nonpublic school students also performed well: 80.0 percent of tested nonpublic students in New York City scored at or above Level 3. Statewide, only 3.6 percent of tested nonpublic school students scored at Level 1 (Figure 7.11).

Middle-Level Science

In nonpublic schools, performance on the middle-level science test decreased between 1999 and 2004. In 1999, 87.3 percent of tested nonpublic school students scored at or above Level 3, compared with 79.1 percent in 2005 (Figure 7.12). Further, in both New York City and Rest of State nonpublic schools, a substantially larger percentage of students scored at Level 1 in 2005: 5.7 percent in 2005, compared with 3.0 percent in 1999 (Figure 7.13).

Elementary-Level Social Studies

At the elementary level, nonpublic school performance on the social studies test increased between 2003 and 2005 (Figure 7.14). In 2004, 85.0 percent of tested nonpublic school students scored at or above Level 3 compared with 86.6 percent in 2005. The percentage of students scoring at Level 1 decreased from 8.1 percent in 2004 to 6.5 percent in 2005 (Figure 7.15).

Middle-Level Social Studies

At the middle level, nonpublic school performance on the social studies test increased between 2004 and 2005 (Figure 7.16). In 2004, 55.1 percent of tested nonpublic school students scored at or above Level 3 compared with 70.5 percent in 2005. This increase was evident in both New York City and Rest of State schools. Statewide, the percentage scoring at Level 1 decreased from 5.2 percent in 2004 to 3.7 percent in 2005 (Figure 7.17).

Figure 7.2
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level English Language Arts 1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 29,709
 Number Tested in 2000 = 30,906
 Number Tested in 2001 = 29,918
 Number Tested in 2002 = 29,064
 Number Tested in 2003 = 27,529
 Number Tested in 2004 = 25,142
 Number Tested in 2005 = 24,214

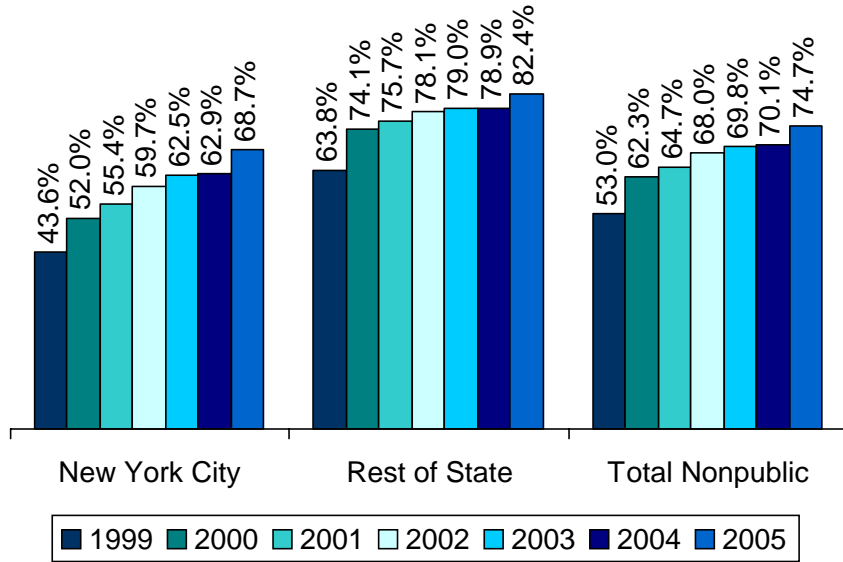


Figure 7.3
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at Level 1 on Elementary-Level English Language Arts 1999 to 2005

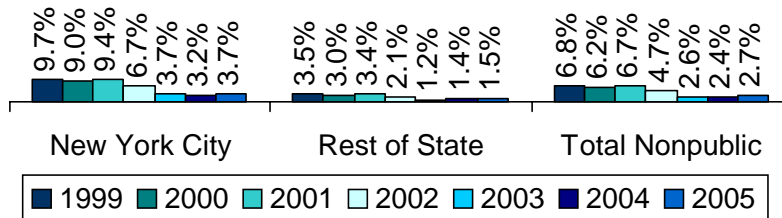


Figure 7.4
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at or above Level 3 on Middle-Level English Language Arts 1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 24,499
 Number Tested in 2000 = 24,012
 Number Tested in 2001 = 21,526
 Number Tested in 2002 = 22,322

Number Tested in 2003 = 22,605
 Number Tested in 2004 = 22,763
 Number Tested in 2005 = 22,482

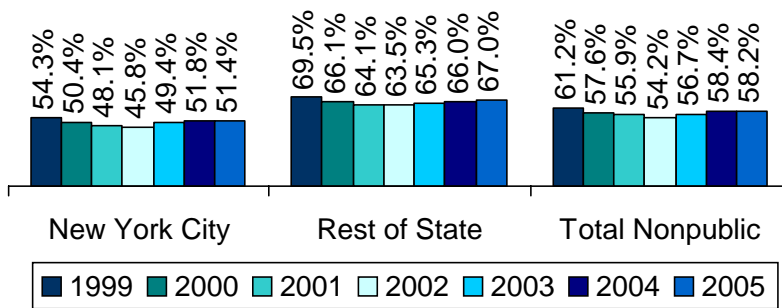


Figure 7.5
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at Level 1 on Middle-Level English Language Arts 1999 to 2005

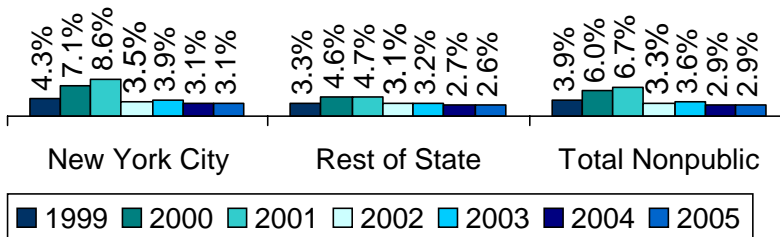


Figure 7.6
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 29,516
 Number Tested in 2000 = 29,767
 Number Tested in 2001 = 29,428
 Number Tested in 2002 = 28,343

Number Tested in 2003 = 27,359
 Number Tested in 2004 = 25,736
 Number Tested in 2005 = 24,833

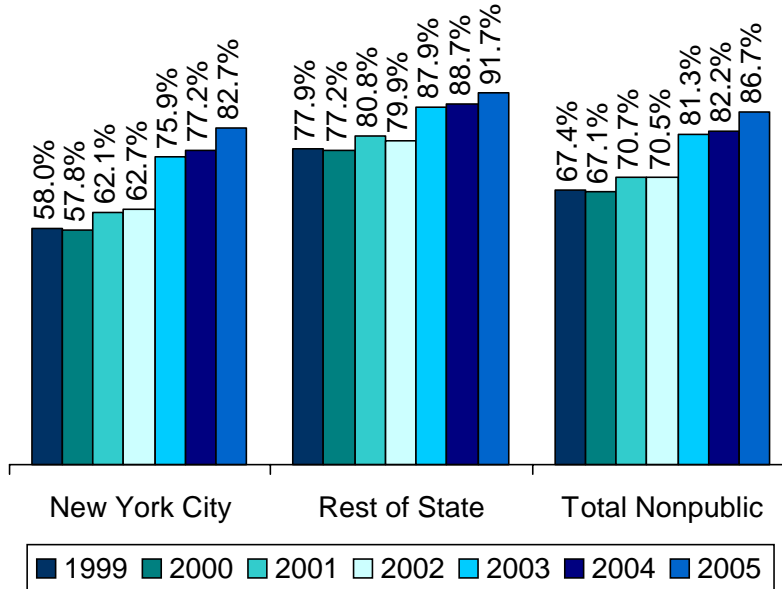


Figure 7.7
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Elementary-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

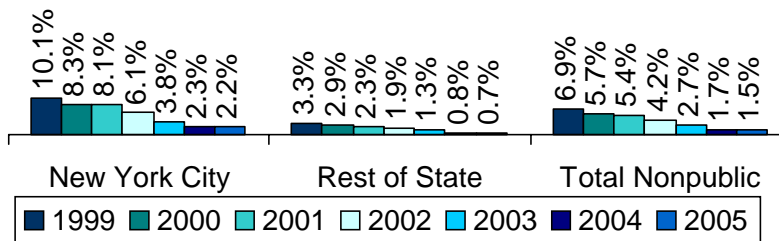


Figure 7.8
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Middle-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

Number Tested in 1999 = 24,154
 Number Tested in 2000 = 23,634
 Number Tested in 2001 = 21,450
 Number Tested in 2002 = 21,603

Number Tested in 2003 = 22,003
 Number Tested in 2004 = 22,536
 Number Tested in 2005 = 22,522

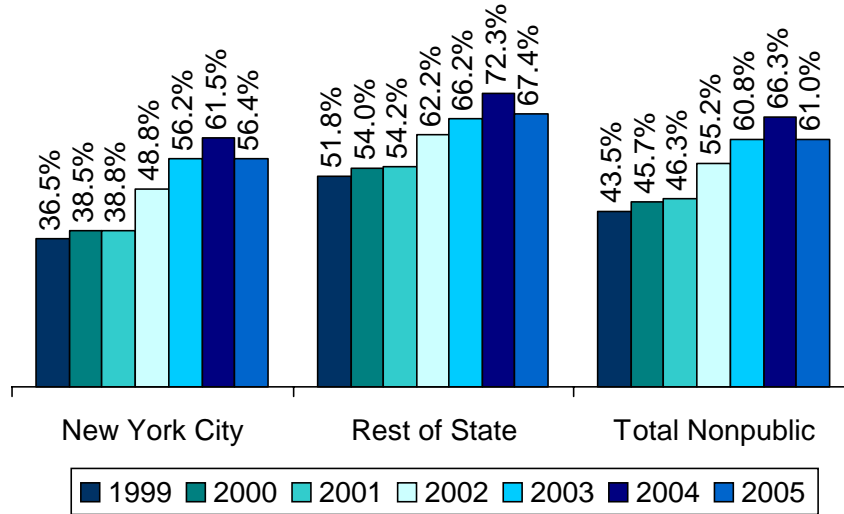


Figure 7.9
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level Mathematics
1999 to 2005

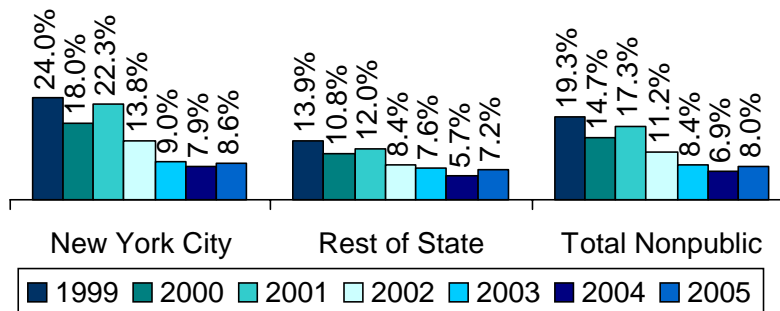


Figure 7.10
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level Science
2004 and 2005

Number Tested in 2004 = 23,194

Number Tested in 2005 = 21,562

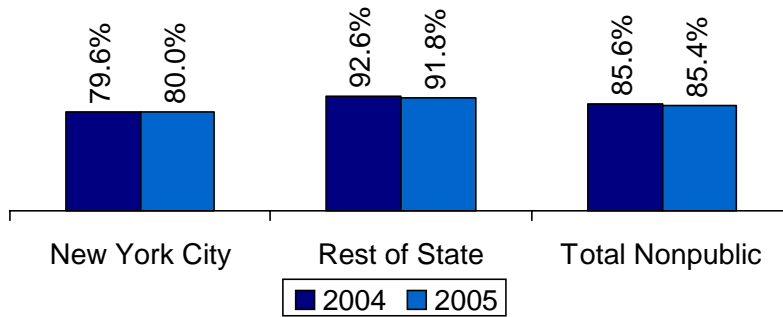


Figure 7.11
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Elementary-Level Science
2004 and 2005

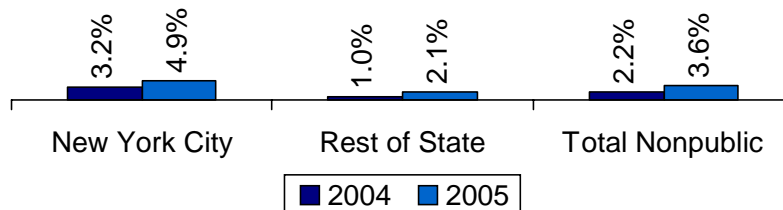


Figure 7.12
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Middle-Level Science
2002 to 2005

Number Tested in 2002 = 16,227
 Number Tested in 2003 = 17,340

Number Tested in 2004 = 18,095
 Number Tested in 2005 = 17,590

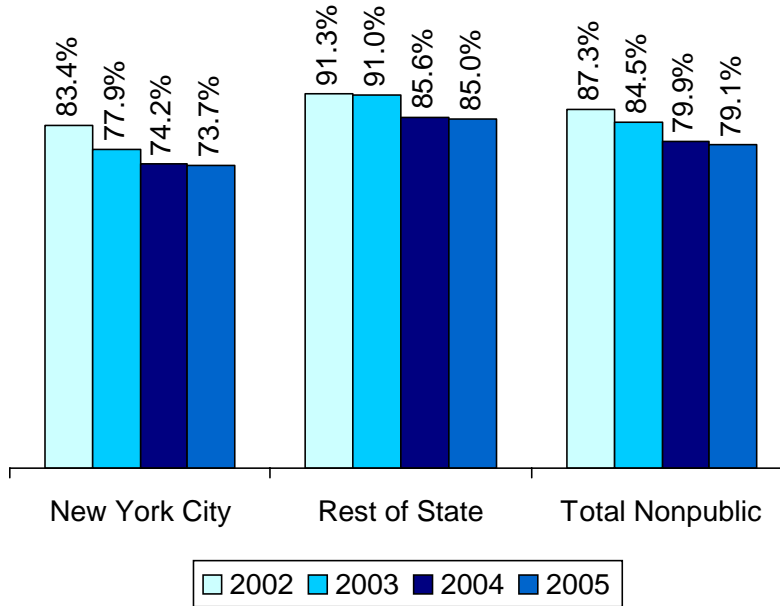


Figure 7.13
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level Science
2002 to 2005

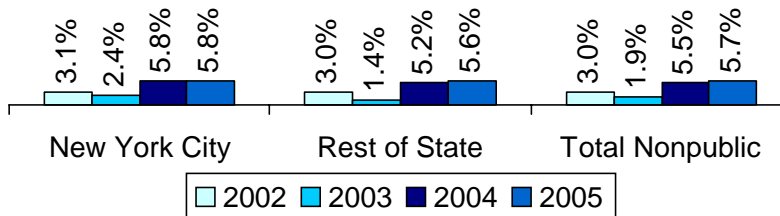


Figure 7.14
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Elementary-Level Social Studies
2002 to 2005

Number Tested in 2002 = 25,988
 Number Tested in 2003 = 24,828

Number Tested in 2004 = 23,716
 Number Tested in 2005 = 22,507

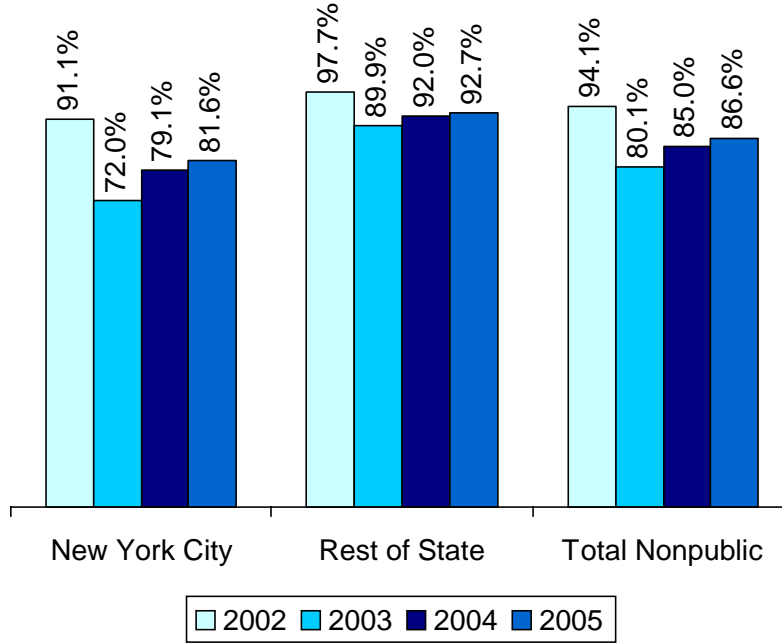


Figure 7.15
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Elementary-Level Social Studies
2002 to 2005

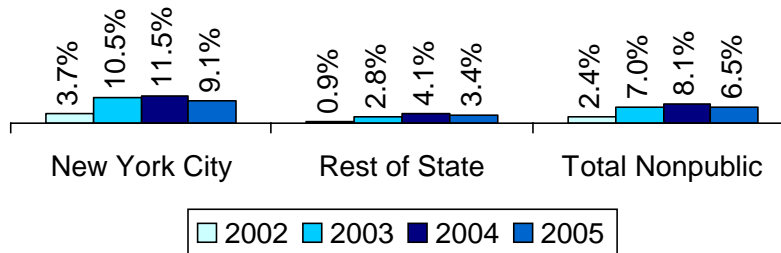


Figure 7.16
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
or above Level 3 on Middle-Level Social Studies
2002 to 2005

Number Tested in 2002 = 18,450
 Number Tested in 2003 = 19,076

Number Tested in 2004 = 19,608
 Number Tested in 2005 = 19,345

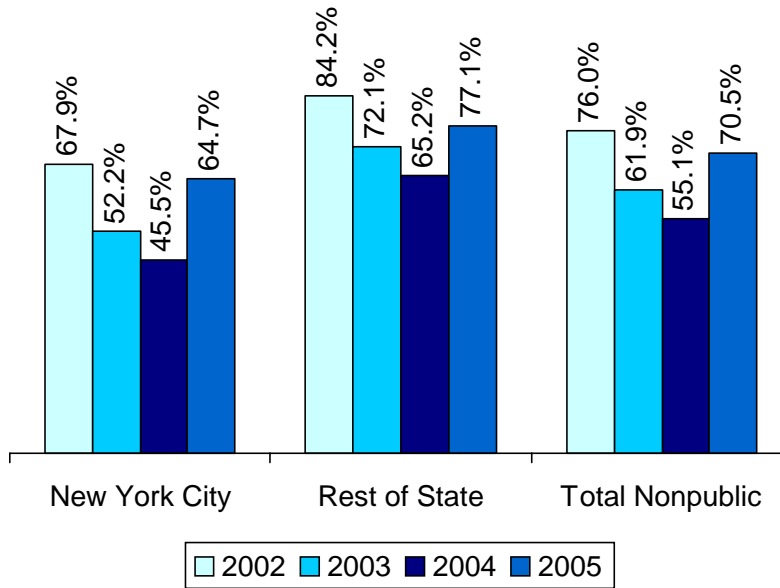
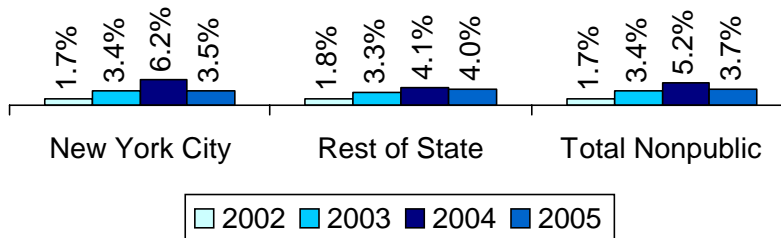


Figure 7.17
Percentage of Tested Nonpublic School Students Scoring at
Level 1 on Middle-Level Social Studies
2002 to 2005



Regents Examination Performance

On Regents examinations in English; mathematics A; global history and geography; U.S. history and government; and living environment, greater percentages of tested total nonpublic school students than students statewide scored 65–100 (Figure 7.18). A greater percentage of nonpublic school females than males (from 2 to 10 percentage points greater) scored 65–100 in all Regents examinations.

Nonpublic school students were least successful on the Regents examination in physical setting/physics than on any of the other examinations for which data are provided in Figure 7.18. While nonpublic school students made up 14.2 percent of total State enrollment, they made up only 9.4 percent of Regents English examination takers. Nonpublic school students may earn a local diploma by demonstrating competency on the RCTs and are not required to pass Regents examinations to earn local diplomas.

Figure 7.18
Performance as a Percentage of Nonpublic School Students Tested by Gender
Regents Examinations
August 2004, January 2005, and June 2005

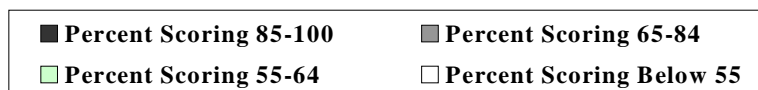
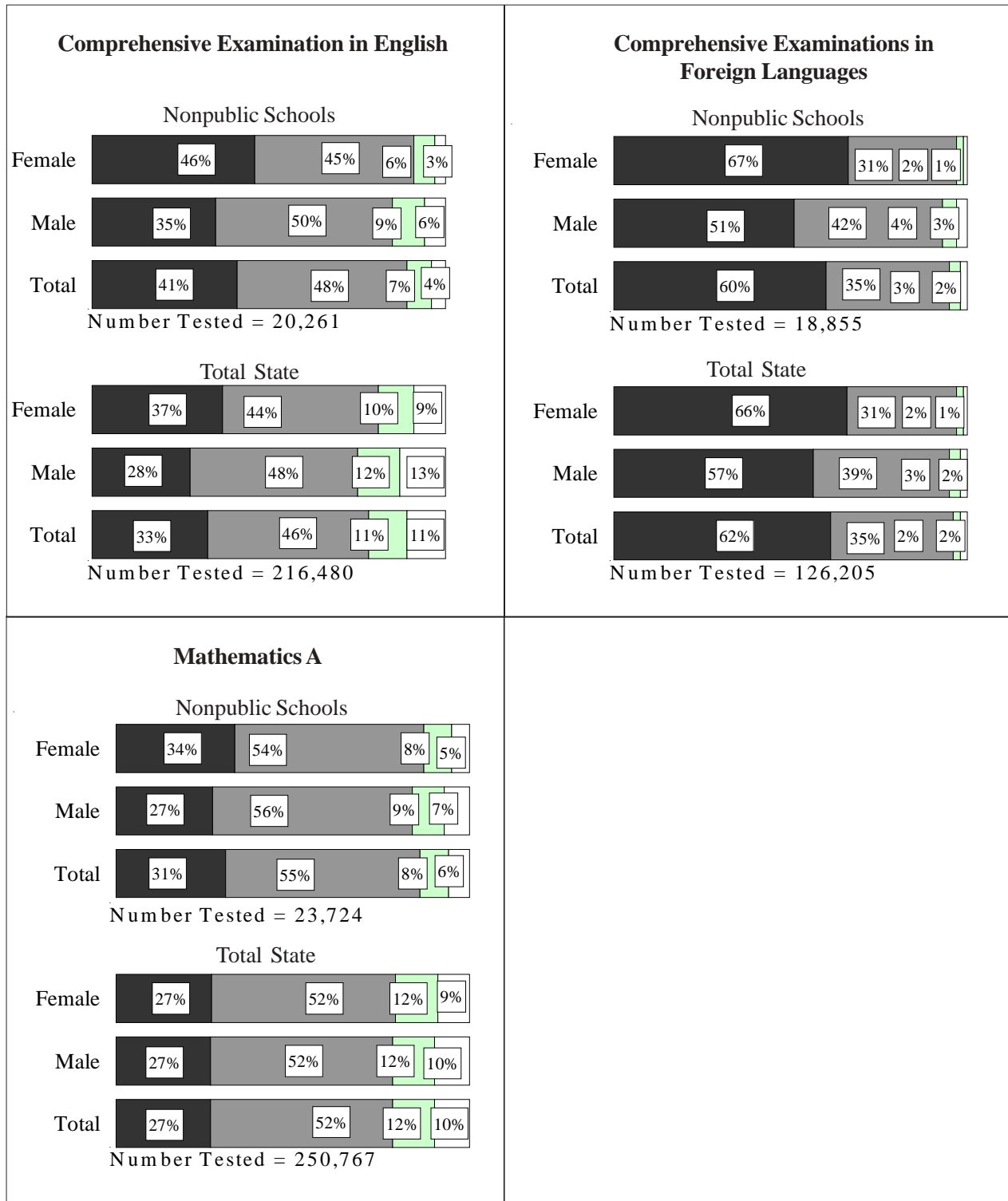
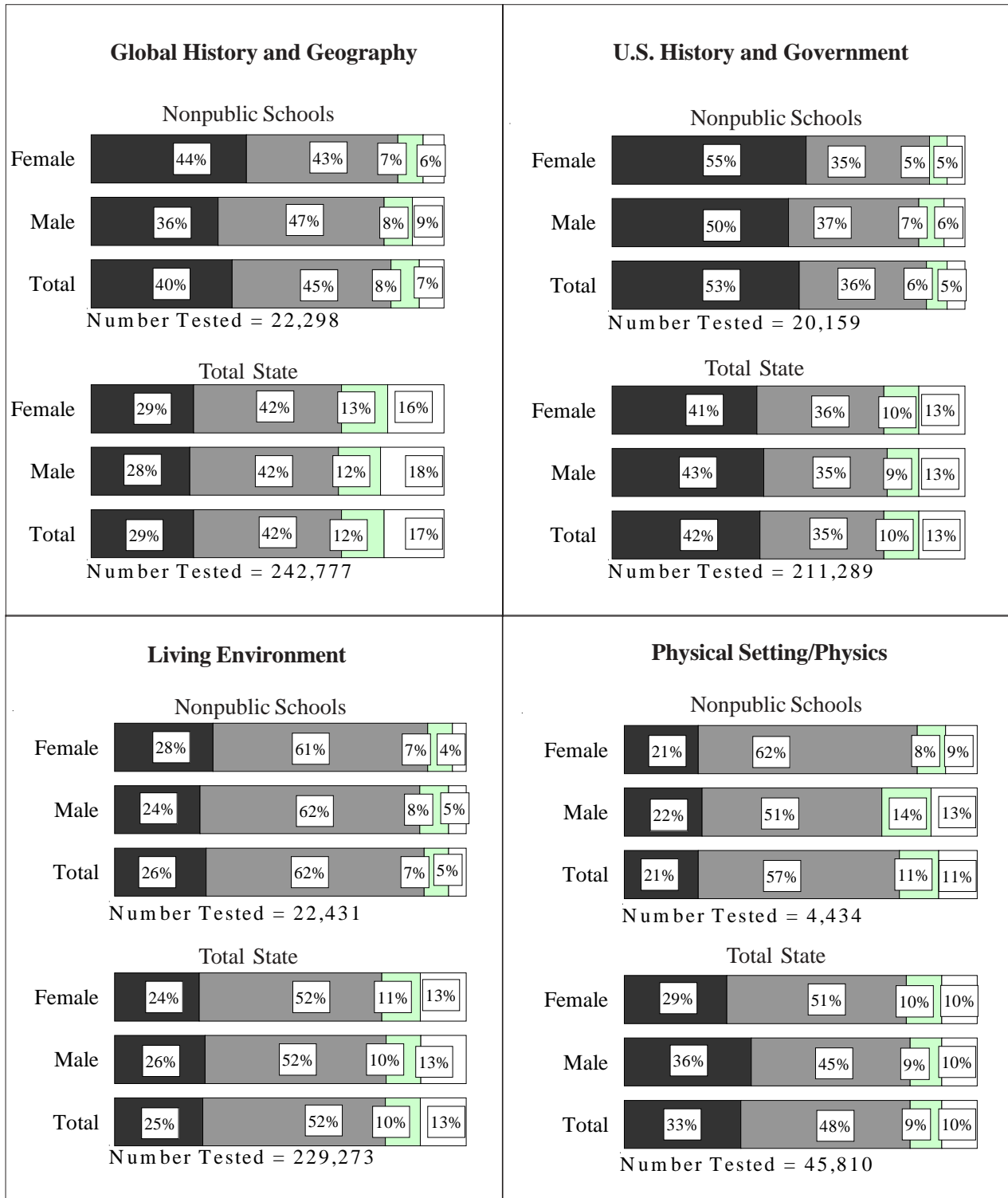


Figure 7.18 (continued)
Performance as a Percentage of Nonpublic School Students Tested by Gender
Regents Examinations
August 2004, January 2005, and June 2005



■ Percent Scoring 85-100	■ Percent Scoring 65-84
■ Percent Scoring 55-64	□ Percent Scoring Below 55

3 Other Performance Measures

Performance measures other than State tests can be used to assess student achievement. These measures include Regents and local diplomas awarded, and college-going rates. Descriptions of current and future graduation requirements can be found in *Part I: Overview*.

State Measures

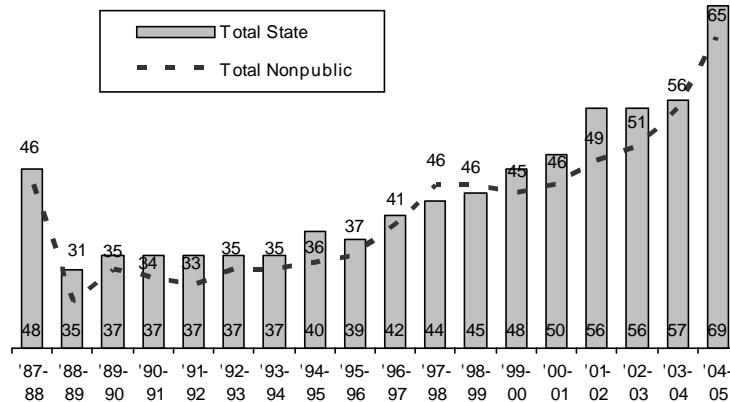
The ultimate goal of elementary, middle, and secondary education is for students to acquire the proficiencies required for employment and postsecondary education. Credentials awarded by secondary schools and college-going rates are two measures of success in accomplishing this goal.

Credentials

In New York State, a Regents-endorsed local diploma (Regents diploma) is generally regarded as an indicator of rigorous effort and excellent accomplishment. The percentage of students receiving Regents diplomas each year is an indicator of attainment for the educational system. It should be noted, however, that some nonpublic schools offer courses of study that exceed the minimum standards established by the State Education Department for awarding Regents diplomas. To earn a Regents diploma, nonpublic school students must meet the same requirements as public school students.

In 2004–05, 65 percent of nonpublic secondary school graduates statewide were awarded Re-

Figure 7.19
Percentage of High School Graduates of Nonpublic Schools Receiving Regents Diplomas
1987–88 to 2004–05



gents diplomas, a record high in 18 years (Figure 7.19). In 1988–89, 31 percent of graduates of nonpublic schools earned Regents diplomas, compared with 46 percent the year before. See the section on *Other Performance Measures* in *Part III: Longitudinal Trends* for more information on changes in Regents diploma requirements in January 2005 that would have affected these rates.

In 2004–05, 22,579 nonpublic school completers earned a credential (Table 7.2). Nearly two-thirds (64.6 percent) received Regents diplomas with or without honors or advanced designation. White students in nonpublic schools were more likely than Black and Hispanic students to earn Regents diplomas: 67.7 percent of White students compared with 55.3 percent of Black students and 61.4 percent of Hispanic students earned Regents diplomas in 2004–05. An even larger disparity exists in public schools: 80.3 percent of White students compared with 40.9 percent of Black students and 42.3 percent of Hispanic students earned Regents diplomas.

<p>TABLE 7.2</p> <p>CREDENTIALS EARNED BY NONPUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETERS BY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP</p> <p>PAGE 223</p>
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College-Going Rate

Table 7.3 shows trends in the college-going rate of New York State nonpublic high school graduates. The rate is based on secondary nonpublic schools' reports of the number of graduates who intend to enroll in four-year and two-year postsecondary institutions as well as other postsecondary education programs. In 1980 a total of 86.5 percent of State seniors graduating from nonpublic schools intended to pursue some form of postsecondary education. By 2005 the percentage had increased to 94.9 percent. The percentage of nonpublic school graduates planning to attend postsecondary school was 12 percentage points greater than the statewide percentage planning to do so. As the percentage planning to attend postsecondary schools increased, so did the percentage of nonpublic high school graduates planning to attend a four-year institution; this group increased from 64.7 percent in 1980 to 77.7 percent in 2005. The percentage of nonpublic school graduates who planned to pursue their education at two-year institutions has declined in recent years, from 16.2 percent in 1980 to 11.0 percent in 2005.

<p>TABLE 7.3</p> <p>TRENDS IN COLLEGE-GOING RATE FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES GRADUATING CLASSES OF 1980, 1990, AND 2001 TO 2005</p> <p>PAGE 224</p>

Table 7.2
Credentials Earned by Nonpublic High School Completers by Racial/Ethnic Group
New York State
2004-05

Sector/Location and Diplomas/Certificates	Racial/Ethnic Group				
	Black	Hispanic	Other Minority*	White	Total
Total Nonpublic					
Number of Completers	2,786	2,959	1,135	15,699	22,579
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	43.5%	38.0%	46.2%	31.8%	34.8%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	49.8	53.9	40.2	50.4	50.3
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	5.5	7.5	13.3	17.3	14.3
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5
Total Public					
Number of Completers	24,379	19,922	11,734	102,844	158,879
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	53.7%	54.3%	47.3%	18.4%	30.4%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	33.6	34.2	26.8	37.0	35.4
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	7.3	8.1	26.9	43.3	32.2
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	7.0	5.8	1.3	2.6	3.6
Total State					
Number of Completers	27,165	22,881	12,869	118,543	181,458
Percent Local Diplomas without Regents Endorsement	52.6%	52.2%	47.2%	20.2%	31.0%
Percent Regents Diplomas without Honors or Advanced Designation	35.2	36.7	27.9	38.8	37.2
Percent Regents Diplomas with Honors or Advanced Designation	7.2	8.1	25.7	39.9	29.9
Percent IEP Diplomas or Local Certificates	6.4	5.2	1.2	2.3	3.2

*Includes American Indian, Alaskan Native, Asian, and Pacific Islander.

Table 7.3
Trends in College-Going Rate for Nonpublic School Graduates
Graduating Classes of 1980, 1990, and 2001 to 2005
New York State

Postsecondary Plans by Category of High School	Percent of High School Graduates Entering Postsecondary Education in the Fall of:						
	1980	1990	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Nonpublic							
4-Year	64.7%	70.9%	76.9%	78.2%	77.6%	78.9%	77.7%
2-Year	16.2	14.3	11.1	10.8	11.2	11.2	11.0
Other Postsecondary	5.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.9	5.3	6.3
Total Postsecondary	86.5%	90.5%	93.3%	94.3%	94.7%	95.4%	94.9%
Total State							
4-Year	41.3%	48.7%	54.2%	56.0%	56.1%	54.4%	55.0%
2-Year	23.6	27.1	24.3	24.6	25.6	26.3	25.9
Other Postsecondary	4.1	2.9	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Total Postsecondary	69.0%	78.7%	80.4%	82.4%	83.6%	82.6%	82.9%

Note: The statewide percentage of students reported entering postsecondary institutions decreased in 1998 due to a change in New York City's reporting methodology. Prior to 1998, New York City apportioned students with no specified plans among all categories. In 1998, New York City placed these students in the "Other" category, reducing the percentage going to postsecondary education.

4 Dropout Rates

Nonpublic School Dropouts and Youth at Risk

The percentage of nonpublic school students in New York City participating in the free- and reduced-price lunch program in 2004–05 was nearly two and a half times that of students in other nonpublic schools (34.1 percent in New York City compared with 14.5 percent in other nonpublic schools) (Table 7.4).

The same percentage (7.2 percent) of nonpublic and public school students were reported as limited English proficient in 2004–05.

The dropout rate for nonpublic school students in 2004–05 was low at 0.2 percent.

TABLE 7.4
DROPOUTS AND YOUTH AT RISK
IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS
PAGE 225

Table 7.4
Dropouts and Youth at Risk in Nonpublic Schools
New York State
2004–05

Nonpublic Location	Dropouts and Youth at Risk		
	Percent Free/Reduced Lunch	LEP Rate	Dropout Rate
New York City	34.1%	7.3%	0.2%
Other Nonpublic	14.5	7.1	0.2
Total Nonpublic	25.6	7.2	0.2

? Policy Questions

- ? How should the standards and graduation requirements apply to students in nonpublic schools?

Part VIII:

Conclusion

Conclusion

Beginning in 1995, the Board of Regents raised curriculum and graduation standards for students in New York State. In 1996, the Regents replaced the minimum competency graduation requirements with the requirement that all students pass five core Regents examinations to demonstrate proficiency in English, mathematics, social studies, and science. In 1996, they adopted standards that define what students at all grade levels should know and be able to do in seven curriculum areas. In 1997, they increased the credit requirements for graduation. While these requirements will not be fully implemented until 2009, the higher standards have already led to improved performance.

A significant effect, directly attributable to the higher standards, is increased participation in Regents examinations. Changes in participation in the Regents examinations required for graduation are striking and illustrate the progress being made toward an all Regents-level curriculum in these subjects. In 2004–05, 196,000 students took the Regents English examination; 173,000 scored 55 or higher. In 1995–96, only 114,000 students took this examination. Regents mathematics examinations have traditionally been taken by more students than any other Regents examination. Between 1995–96 and 2004–05, the number of students taking a first-level Regents mathematics examination increased from 158,000 to 227,000. The percentage of tested students scoring 55 or higher in mathematics A in 2004–05 was 90 percent.

The number of students tested on the Regents global history and geography examination in 2004–05 increased to 220,000 compared with 122,000 in 1995–96; 82 percent of tested students scored 55 or higher in 2004–05. The most dramatic increase in 2004–05 was in the number of students taking the Regents living environment examination, which is one of the tests that satisfies the assessment requirement in science. General-education students who first entered grade 9 in 1999 were the first who must meet this requirement. The number of students tested increased from 129,000 in 1999–2000 to 207,000 in 2004–05; 86 percent of tested students scored 55 or higher in 2004–05.

The State administered assessments measuring elementary- and middle-level learning standards in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics for the seventh year in 2005. The percentage of fourth-graders demonstrating proficiency in the ELA standards by scoring at or above Level 3 in 2005 was 70.4 percent, compared with 48.9 percent in 1999. Among the four assessments, the highest levels of proficiency were demonstrated by fourth-graders on the mathematics assessment for elementary-level students. The percentage of fourth-graders demonstrating proficiency in elementary-level mathematics in 2005 was 84.8 percent, compared with 66.9 percent in 1999. The percentage of eighth-graders demonstrating proficiency in middle-level mathematics in 2005 was 55.5 percent, compared with 38.0 percent in 1999. Though the percentage of eighth-graders scoring at Level 1 in mathematics has decreased by 16.1 percentage points since 1999, 13.0 percent of students still scored at Level 1 in 2005, compared with only 3.1 percent of students at the elementary level. The assessments revealed that the greatest need for improved instruction in 2005 is in middle-level ELA. Clearly, schools must review their curriculum and instruction to ensure that they are successful in enabling all students to reach the standards.

The statistics cited above include both general-education students and students with disabilities. Participation by students with disabilities in the Regents examinations has increased. More students with disabilities took Regents examinations in English, mathematics A, global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and living environment in 2004–05 than in 2002–03. A greater percentage of tested students with disabilities scored at or above 55 in Regents English, mathematics A, and global history and geography in 2004–05 than in 2002–03. A majority of students with disabilities who first entered grade 9 in 2001 scored 55–100 in three of the five required Regents examination subjects (global history and geography, U.S. history and government, and science) after four years; 48 percent did so in English and 45 percent in mathematics. Students with disabilities' performance on fourth-grade mathematics assessments improved between 2004 and 2005.

For the sixth year, New York State placed a larger percentage of students with disabilities in general-education classes than the national average. Minority students, however, continued to be disproportionately placed in special education.

As participation in Regents courses and examinations has increased, so has the performance of New York State students on national programs of student achievement. The average composite SAT I score for the graduating class of 2005 (1008) was 20 points higher than the average for the class of 1993 (988).

The results of New York State's students on the Advanced Placement (AP) examinations deserve special mention. Comparing 2005 with 1990, the number of candidates participating has more than doubled. There were more than twice as many Black, Asian, and Hispanic candidates in 2005 as in 1992. Sixty-three percent of tests written by State students received a score of three or more, qualifying for college credit.

Not all students shared in these successes. Underachievement is still a concern in many schools — both those with high poverty and those with greater wealth. Even in many high-performing schools, there is room for improvement. While 81 percent of high school completers in public schools planned to enroll in postsecondary education, only 67.6 percent earned Regents diplomas. Statewide, 90 percent of general-education students in the 2001 school accountability cohort scored 55 or higher on the Regents comprehensive English examination by the end of their fourth year in high school. In the Big 5 districts, the percentages reaching this milestone were much smaller: 80 percent in New York City and 82 percent in the Large City Districts. Many students who had not achieved this milestone had been held back in ninth or tenth grade and had not completed the curriculum necessary to take the examination. We know from the example set by certain schools — including some with diverse student enrollments — that more students, with proper preparation and instruction, could pass this Regents examination.

Similarly, smaller percentages of students in the Big 5 districts than in other districts met or exceeded the standards for elementary- and middle-level ELA and mathematics. For example, only 59.5 percent of New York City fourth-graders — and 54.2 percent of fourth-graders in the Large City Districts — succeeded in meeting or exceeding the elementary-level ELA standards in 2005 by scoring at or above Level 3.

In too many schools with large numbers of minority students and concentrated poverty, many students left school without diplomas, and many who graduated were not prepared for a complex and changing society. Too many fourth- and eighth-graders had not acquired the skills and knowledge in English language arts and mathematics required to succeed in higher grades and thus, without dramatic changes in the educational system, are destined to future lives of poverty.

Why are many of our students not performing at the level needed to succeed in life? Large numbers of children placed at risk by poverty, the inability to speak English well, and recent immigration increasingly challenge public schools. In 1988–89, 19 percent of students attended schools with concentrated poverty; by 2004–05 this percentage had grown to 32.1. In 2004–05, the number of limited English proficient students was 36.0 percent higher than in 1990–91. These students present challenges that are beyond the training and experience of many educators, and meeting the needs of these students requires greater resources than the schools they attend have available.

State revenues to schools have increased substantially in recent years. Between 1999–2000 and 2003–2004, State aid increased by \$3.8 billion, a 16.4 percent increase after inflation. Over the same five-year period, expenditures per pupil increased by 13.9 percent after inflation. In 2003–2004, the State share of district revenues was 43.8 percent, compared with 44.0 percent in 1999–2000. Because local ability to raise funds is such an important factor in determining the financial resources available to school districts, State aid cannot equalize resources among districts: statewide expenditures per pupil range from under \$10,000 to over \$25,000, even excluding districts at the extremes.

Moreover, as data in this report demonstrate, resources are not aligned with need. Those schools with the greatest need frequently have the fewest fiscal resources and teachers with the weakest credentials. The situation in New York City public schools illustrates this point.

On average, New York City served much larger percentages of students placed at risk by poverty, limited English skills, and recent immigration than districts outside the Big 5. Nevertheless, the City had more students per teacher, higher rates of teacher turnover, and less experienced teachers. To a lesser extent, the Large City Districts — Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers — struggled with these same challenges.

This pattern of high student needs, limited resources, and poor performance is not limited to the Big 5. It is observed in districts outside the Big 5 with high rates of student poverty and low income and property wealth — Urban-Suburban and Rural High Need/Resource Capacity (N/RC) Districts. Compared with other districts outside the Big 5, on average urban and suburban High N/RC Districts had the largest percentages of students in poverty, roughly comparable resources per pupil, the highest dropout and suspension rates, the highest rates of transfer to high school equivalency programs, the largest percentage of students retained in grade 9, and the lowest attendance rates.

Rural High N/RC Districts, on average, had the lowest-salaried teachers and the fewest teachers with substantial credentials beyond the master's degree of any school category. They also had the lowest average expenditure per pupil. In contrast, districts that had low rates of poverty relative to their wealth (Low N/RC Districts) had the greatest resources on almost every measure.

We know that children from even the worst circumstances, if given appropriate instruction and support, can succeed in school. We have daily evidence that this is so, demonstrated by caring, effective teachers and children in pockets of excellence obscured by the statewide averages. Clearly, there is a compelling need to raise standards for all students: to ensure that all students meet the standards, that all students enter high school with the

skills to participate successfully in Regents courses, and that all students graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge to find employment or pursue higher education. The State has a three-part strategy for school reform: raise academic standards, increase the capacity of schools to achieve excellence, and measure results and make schools accountable.

Raise Academic Standards

Through a public process, we have set higher learning standards to make all our students competitive in the global marketplace. In July 1996, after extensive review by State and national experts and necessary revisions, the Board of Regents approved standards in seven disciplines: mathematics, science, and technology; English language arts; the arts; languages other than English; career development and occupational studies; health, physical education, and family and consumer sciences; and social studies. New mathematics standards were approved in 2005. New assessments have been developed and administered in elementary- and middle-level English language arts and mathematics, grade 4 science, grade 5 social studies, grade 8 science and social studies, and intermediate-level technology. New Regents examinations have been developed in English, mathematics, global history and geography, U.S. history and government, chemistry, physics, biology (living environment), and Earth science. The last examination based on a pre-1996 syllabus (with the exception of foreign language examinations) was administered in January 2004.

Until 2010, certain students with disabilities may use the Regents competency tests (RCTs) to demonstrate competency for graduation. The Board of Regents will then review this policy to determine if this safety net will be extended beyond 2010. All general-education students who entered ninth grade in Fall 1996 were required to score 65 or higher (55 at local board option) on the Regents examination in English to earn a local diploma. The graduation requirements were increased incrementally. Beginning with students who first entered grade 9 in 2005, the 55 option is being phased out. (See *Part I: Overview* for a description of graduation requirements.)

The Department has approved a career and technical education path to the standards. Students who complete this program will have achieved the same academic standards as all other students. In addition, they will have met industry-approved standards in their career field. Key elements of the program include criteria for certifying and recertifying career and technical education programs; flexibility in core academic courses; technical assessments based on industry standards; a technical endorsement on a Regents diploma; and a work skills certification and employability profile for students successfully completing a technical assessment. As of June 2006, 27 local education agencies and all 37 BOCES have submitted certification forms to the Department requesting approval for career and technical education programs. Nine hundred and ten program proposals have been received and over 816 approved in the areas of arts/humanities, business/information systems, health services, engineering/technologies, human and public services, and natural and agricultural sciences.

Increase the Capacity of Schools to Achieve Excellence

We cannot expect all students to meet higher standards unless we improve the educational system. Students need safe learning environments, qualified teachers employing a range of instructional techniques suited to diverse learning styles, contemporary technology and other instructional materials, and social, psychological, and health support systems.

Under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, all school districts, BOCES, charter schools, the State schools at Batavia and Rome, and Special Act School Districts defined in Section 4001 of the Education Law must ensure that all teachers in core academic subjects meet the federal definition of highly qualified by the end of the 2005–06 school year or by a later deadline established by the U.S. Secretary of Education for rural areas. NCLB core academic subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. To be “highly qualified,” a teacher must

have a bachelor’s degree and be fully certified by the State of New York. The teacher must also pass State tests or meet comparable requirements to demonstrate competency for the grades and the subjects they are teaching. Under NCLB, schools that receive Title I federal funds may only hire new teachers who are highly qualified. All teachers of core subjects, even experienced teachers, must participate in professional development to meet the highly qualified standard set by NCLB. School districts must offer professional development to enable teachers to become highly qualified and effective teachers by the 2005–06 school year.

To increase the capacity of schools to achieve excellence, we have advanced State aid proposals to ensure that all students receive the help they need to meet the standards, ensure adequate and cost-effective funding for special education, increase aid for career and technical education programs, and consolidate existing State aid formulas into a flexible Consolidated Operating Aid formula. Further, these proposals direct an increasing percentage of aid to support schools that serve high-need student populations.

Four principles underlie the Regents proposal and its overarching goal:

- **Adequacy** — Effective distribution across all districts will ensure adequate resources for acceptable student achievement.
- **Equity** — School funding will equalize differences in school districts’ fiscal capacity, pupil need, and regional costs to maintain comparable levels of local effort in school districts across the State.
- **Accountability** — The education system will measure outcomes and use those measures to ensure that financial resources are used effectively.
- **Balance** — The State will balance stability in funding and targeting aid to close student achievement gaps, drive aid based on current needs, and use hold-harmless provisions to provide stability.

In Spring 1996, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents charged the Regents Task Force on Teaching with determining how the Department can assure that all teachers are prepared to assist all students in meeting the new academic standards and achieving learning outcomes. Since July 1998, when the Regents adopted “*Teaching to Higher Standards: New York’s Commitment*,” a great deal has been accomplished to implement and sustain this policy:

- The requirements for professional development plans were implemented in Fall 2000. Districts have formed professional development teams and statewide training was completed.
- The annual professional performance review requirements were established and implemented in the school districts in the fall of 2000. They continue to be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure that they are effective.
- In 1999, the Regents adopted new, more rigorous standards for teacher education programs to ensure the preparation of teachers who would be effective in assisting all their students in meeting the State learning standards. The first graduates of these more rigorous programs began their teaching careers in September 2004. Also in September 2004, colleges began offering revised educational leadership programs to prepare school and district leaders to assist students and teachers in meeting higher standards.
- The State Education Department continues to measure the success rate of students in teacher education programs on the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations and report the results to the institutions. Technical assistance is being provided to institutions that do not have the required 80 percent passing rate on each examination. Beginning in 2006, pass rates on Content Specialty Tests, in addition to the Liberal Arts and Sciences Test and the Assessment of Teaching Skills–Written, are being used as an accountability measure.
- The 1999 Regents standards for teacher education programs included the requirement that

all teacher education programs become accredited through a professional education accrediting association or through a Regents accreditation process. Since 2000, programs at 69 of New York State’s 114 institutions of higher education offering teacher education have been accredited through the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), or the Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education (RATE).

- The Office of Higher Education continues to respond to the shortage of teachers in specific subject and geographic areas. During 2004–05, 18 institutions of higher education were partnering with local school districts to offer alternative teacher preparation (ATP) programs in subjects such as special education, mathematics, and the sciences in New York’s urban and rural areas. Since the authorization of these programs in 2000, over 8,000 teachers have been prepared through ATP programs. In addition, in May 2006 the Office of Higher Education began reporting the results of its analysis of teacher supply and demand to the Board of Regents and the education community to support local and regional planning.
- The Department has been implementing federal teacher quality requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in ways that are consistent with Regents policies.

The greatest challenge to meeting the Regents standards is in five large city school districts that educate 40 percent of New York State’s children. Recently, the Department built on years of joint work with the superintendents of the Big 5 City school districts to implement an Urban Initiative to support these large city districts. The strategy includes:

- In New York City, District Comprehensive Education Plans (DCEPs), a performance-based planning process designed to assist superintendents in identifying areas of educational or organizational need within their district and to pro-

mote performance-based planning and accountability;

- In the Big 4 Districts, Partnership Agreements with the New York State Education Department (NYSED), which are based on the priority areas contained in each district's strategic plan and which indicate expected outcomes, performance indicators, district responsibilities, and services and support to be provided by the Department and its networks;
- In the Big 4 Districts, special network and urban district tactical planning sessions to develop action steps and priority interventions in order to realize the goals in the Partnership Agreements;
- In the Big 4 Districts, the development of formal protocols by the Regional School Support Centers, other networks, the NYSED, and the Big 4 Districts to formalize and standardize optimal ways to engage, intervene, and evaluate work done to improve student achievement in low-performing schools;
- In the Big 4 Districts, monthly meetings, involving EMSC, VESID, and Regional School Support Center staff, conducted with the superintendents and key central office staff to present needs and issues and to discuss strategies to resolve problems affecting student achievement; and
- Urban Forums that examine data and best practices in instructional leadership, high school reform, curriculum and instruction, attendance and improvement and dropout prevention, human resources management and professional development, secondary literacy, and other strategic topics.

To help school districts provide students with access to the instructional support necessary to meet the higher standards, the Department continues to focus statewide professional development efforts on the new standards and assessments. To ensure quality programs and collaboration among the network of providers, the Department has created a Regional Network Strategy that is strategically aligned, tactically focused, and competitively funded on a multi-year basis. This Regional Network Strategy focuses on local, regional, and statewide ac-

tivities to close the gap in achievement among subgroups of students. This is accomplished by providing accountability for program performance and collaborating to support program reviews and the modifications needed to address effectively the wide range of student needs.

The New York State Education Department has also developed the New York State Virtual Learning System (VLS), a web-based source of information for administrators, teachers, teacher candidates, parents, students, and the public. VLS is designed to encourage the use of the Internet as a tool for teaching and learning and to help classroom teachers in locating and using Internet resources for instruction. The vision is to create a comprehensive education portal that integrates a range of standards-based resources keyed to the New York State Learning Standards and includes electronic tools to help all learners reach high levels of achievement.

The VLS presents the New York State Learning Standards, including the full text of the 28 standards and their respective key ideas and performance indicators, as well as the alternate performance indicators for students with severe disabilities. It offers thousands of resources that classroom teachers can use to support preK-12 standards-based instruction, including sample tasks, learning experiences, and lesson plans.

The Department recognizes that teachers can search the Internet for many educational lessons and classroom resources. The value added through VLS is that it provides resources that are keyed to student performance levels of the New York State Learning Standards. Other instructional resources available on VLS include those from the New York State Library, public broadcasting services, and archives.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has submitted its Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B State Performance Plan (SPP) to the United States Department of Education (USDOE), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). A copy of the SPP is available at <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/spp/home.html>. Information contained in this report will guide the Department's work on behalf of students with disabilities for the next six years.

The SPP establishes the State's six-year plan to improve results for students with disabilities in three monitoring priority areas and 20 related indicators as follows:

- Free Appropriate Public Education – This area includes indicators related to graduation, drop outs, State assessment results, suspensions, least restrictive environments for preschool and school age students with disabilities, preschool outcomes and parent involvement.
- Disproportionality – This area includes indicators related to disproportionality, based on race/ethnicity, that is the result of inappropriate policies, procedures and practices in classification of students for special education, identification of students by specific disabilities and placement of students with disabilities in particular settings.
- General Supervision – This area includes indicators related to child find, effective transitions, post-school outcomes, due process, compliance with federal and State special education requirements and data collection and reporting.

Within the SPP, the State has established annual State targets to improve results in the 20 indicator areas and has identified some strategies to effect change. The State will develop a public reporting format to report State-level and district level results against the State's targets on fourteen indicators and State-level results on six indicators.

The Regents recognize that unsafe and unhealthy schools do not support higher education standards. Through the efforts of the Regents in working with the Governor and Legislature in 1997, the following school facility improvement initiatives were funded: an increase in building aid equal to 10 percent of the approved project cost; and regional cost factors applied to the State building aid formula to assist school districts in regions with high labor costs. Changes were made in 2001 to spread building aid over the probable useful life of a capital improvement. State building aid reached \$1.357 billion for the 2004–05 school year. Changes were made in 2005 to recognize extraordinary site and

construction costs in New York City. Recently, the Governor and Legislature created the EXCEL program to provide \$2.6 billion for school facility improvements. The Regents recommend that the Governor and Legislature enact changes to make sure that school facilities are maintained as adequate places for learning and that resources are targeted to fix those buildings most in need of repair first.

In 1992, the Board of Regents adopted a comprehensive document on the early care and education service delivery systems. In December 2003, the Board approved the development of a plan for engaging the public around specific issues related to revising the existing early childhood policy to respond to demographic shifts within the State that have dramatically affected the lives of young children and their families since 1992. Public discussion meetings held in 2004 concluded that future policy directions should focus on, among other things:

- Creating a statewide effort focused on children from birth to age three;
- Making pre-kindergarten an entitlement;
- Changing compulsory school age from six to five;
- Providing funding to support full-day kindergarten in all school districts and requiring attendance;
- Replacing kindergarten screening with a statewide early assessment system that is more uniform, comprehensive, and focused on progress monitoring and outcomes;
- Establishing more consistency in the implementation of standards-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment in the early grades;
- Expanding the availability and appropriate use of technology in pre-kindergarten through grade 3; and
- Strengthening preparation of teachers and administrators so that both are more focused on the needs of young children and their families.

The Regents adopted a revised policy for early childhood entitled Early Education for Student Achievement in a Global Community. In March 2006, the Regents approved the implementation plan to guide and assess implementation of the policy's 11 critical components during the three-year phase-in period for the implementation plan, beginning in 2006–07. The Regents State Aid proposal will include a recommendation to make funding available to allow school districts to adopt programs to make prekindergarten programs universally available.

Reading First, a program designed to ensure that every child can read at grade level by the end of grade 3, was initiated in New York State in the 2003–04 school year under Title I, Part B, Subpart 1 of ESEA under No Child Left Behind. Reading First serves all children in grades K-3 in Reading First schools and includes children at risk of reading difficulties, limited English proficient students, and students with disabilities.

New York State was awarded approximately 72.5 million dollars per year for six years (2003 to 2009) for the Reading First program. Approximately 56 million dollars were allocated to schools to implement scientifically based reading instruction and approximately 16 million dollars to provide professional development through online coursework for teachers and technical assistance by Regional School Support Centers. Reading First schools use grant resources to implement:

- reading instructional programs, materials, and strategies that address phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills in a systematic and explicit approach that is founded on scientifically-based reading research;
- intensive intervention for struggling readers to accelerate learning;
- professional development for teachers and instructional leaders; and
- focused technical assistance by Regional School Support Centers.

In 2004–05, there were 175 schools participating in the Reading First Program, 129 in public schools (74 percent), 39 in nonpublic schools (22 percent), and seven in charter schools (4 percent). Of the participating schools, 84 were in New York City, eight in Buffalo, four in Rochester, and nine in Syracuse.

In 2004–05, approximately 50,300 students were served in Reading First schools: 54.0 percent were economically disadvantaged, 14.1 percent were limited English proficient, and 9.7 percent were students with disabilities. In 2005–06, an additional 28 schools will participate in Reading First.

In July 2003, after several years of study and deliberation, the Board of Regents adopted the Regents Policy Statement on Middle-Level Education as part of an effort to strengthen and improve education in the middle grades. The statement focuses on ensuring that all middle-level students are provided with an educational setting that is safe and supportive and that values continuous improvement and ongoing professional learning; a challenging, standards-based course of study; an organized and structured school; an educational system that promotes academic achievement and personal development; and skilled, caring, knowledgeable, and effective teachers and leaders. The Department's *Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs* document is fully aligned to the Policy Statement.

In July 2005, the Board of Regents revised Commissioner's Regulations to reflect a three-model strategy to implement the Regents Policy Statement on Middle-Level Education. The new regulations mandate that schools with middle-level grades must provide each student with a comprehensive education that includes instruction in all of the State's 28 learning standards. However, the Regents, aware that each district has unique needs and conditions, also included several flexibility provisions in the Commissioner's Regulations that allow local districts to tailor their educational programs to reflect local circumstances.

In December 2004, an analysis of the Regents examination performance and educational outcomes of students who first entered grade 9 in the 2000–01 school year was performed. The data showed that the vast majority of general-education students

who take all five required Regents examinations pass at 55. However, the data also showed that a great number of students entered high school unprepared to do high school level work, did not pass their courses, and did not earn the 22 local high school credits required for graduation in four years. These students did not even take the Regents examinations.

Further analysis showed that these unprepared students were concentrated in 127 high schools in 12 school districts. The Department is currently working with these schools and districts to devise and implement strategies to help students in academic difficulty, to help educators in schools with low graduation rates who work with these students, and to provide reasonable opportunities for a small number of students who may be close to passing the Regents examinations and who pass their courses but may not do as well on the particular test.

To meet the needs and goals of adult learners and to enable them to achieve economic self-sufficiency, the Department supports a number of adult education programs, including adult basic literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). These programs served 157,486 adults in 2004–05. Of these adult learners, 5,767 obtained a high school credential; 3,245 entered other academic or vocational training; 6,712 gained employment or are being retained or advanced in their employment; and 2,215 either left public assistance or had their grants adjusted due to employment earnings.

To raise standards and build capacity, parents, other community members, and teachers must be actively involved in children’s education. Commissioner’s Regulations require that school districts involve teachers and parents in school planning and decisionmaking. In many schools, teachers and parents are already participating fully in such matters as scheduling, staffing, goal-setting, and allocating available resources. To support this involvement, we will provide information about the new standards to educators, parents, and other community members through teleconferences, the Internet, and materials designed for parents.

In 1991, the Board of Regents adopted a Regents policy statement entitled, “Parent Partnerships:

Linking Families, Communities, and Schools,” which mandated that “each school board develop and implement a comprehensive parent partnerships policy that ensures that every school develop and implement a plan for effective parent participation.” Because society and the challenges facing students have changed over the past 15 years, the Department has concluded that it needs to revise the policy and the practices of the policy.

In May 2005, the Board of Regents endorsed a plan to seek public comment on implementing and revising the 1991 Regents policy on Parent Partnerships. More than 500 persons attended seven public meetings and two focus groups to comment on the existing policy and offer recommendations for revision. Based on recommendations received in the round of public sessions held in the Fall of 2005, staff presented a proposed new parent and family partnership statement to the Board Regents in June 2006. The Regents then directed staff to convene regional forums to solicit public comment on the proposed new parent and family partnership policy. An internal work group recommended that the Board of Regents direct Department staff to solicit public comment on the proposed new parent and family partnership policy and to submit a proposed final draft for discussion and action by the Board of Regents in early 2007. In May 2007, staff will also provide the Board of Regents with an Action Plan.

In 2005, representatives from all sectors of education, community organizations, the professions, government, and business assembled in a Summit on New York Education. Their mission was to confront two critical problems:

- the achievement gap among students based on income, race/ethnicity, English proficiency, and disability status; and
- the growing demand for more knowledge and skills in the face of increasing competition in a changing global economy.

At the Summit, 650 leaders of education, business, and community groups agreed that:

- every child must get a good start;

- every child must read by the second grade;
- every student must complete middle-level education in preparation for high school;
- every student must graduate from high school prepared for work, higher education, and citizenship;
- students who begin higher education must complete their programs; and
- people of all ages who seek more knowledge and skills must have the fullest opportunity to continue their education.

To fulfill these goals, the Summit agreed that the State must focus in part on expanding pre-kindergarten programs, reconsidering traditional high school models, and focusing on higher education affordability and alignment of the high school graduation standards with college entrance expectations. This requires an intensive, long-term commitment to greater and more equitable funding, professional development, and smarter applications of technology.

In addition to working towards the goals established by the Summit, the State is linking educational institutions — schools, colleges, libraries, and museums — through telecommunication networks. For every student, working with the resources of these institutions will become a daily part of the curriculum, transcending the boundaries of the classroom.

Measure Results and Make Schools Accountable

The new standards form the basis of New York's assessment system. We have strengthened our Regents examinations, the foundation of the assessment system, to reflect higher academic standards and to give more emphasis to students' ability to express their knowledge in writing, to conduct empirical research, and to apply mathematical skills to real-life situations. We have implemented examinations at the elementary and middle levels assessing the standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

New York State's plan for meeting the accountability requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in January 2003. President George W. Bush recognized New York State in a White House ceremony on January 8, 2003 among only five states that had approved school accountability plans consistent with NCLB. In September 2006, the Board of Regents amended Commissioner's Regulations to align them with NCLB. The accountability program supports the efforts of the Regents to both improve student results and close the gap in student performance. New York State's accountability requirements are summarized in *Part II: Accountability System*.

Statewide, 551 schools were designated as in need of improvement under Title I for the 2005–06 school year. A total of 200 schools that did not receive Title I funds were listed under State rules as requiring academic progress. Schools identified as needing improvement, among other requirements, may have had to develop a school improvement plan, provide public school choice, provide Supplemental Education Services (SES), or take actions that may include replacing school staff, instituting a new curriculum, or restructuring the internal organization of the school.

The Department has taken steps to force failing schools to reform, reorganize, or close. Regulations that govern registration review were amended to improve our capacity to identify and remedy low performance in schools. Through the 2004–05 school year, 267 schools had been identified for registration review. Two hundred thirty-three of these schools, including 22 during the 2004–05 school year, have been removed from registration review. Nineteen of these 22 were removed because they achieved the student performance standards established by the Commissioner and the other three ceased operation in June 2005 pursuant to closure plans developed by their district and approved by the Commissioner. Eleven schools were identified for registration review in the 2004–05 school year, including three schools that had previously been removed from registration review.

The community has a vital role in building successful schools. The citizens elect school board

members and legislators and, outside the Big 5, vote on school budgets. Reporting results in ways that the public can understand is a critical part of the school reform strategy. In December 1996, a revised system of school reports designed to inform the public about student performance, student demographics, and other conditions of the school was implemented. In April 2006, New York State issued the tenth annual school report cards. As planned, the report cards have engaged the wider school community in a conversation about public school performance to build a climate that supports high performance and continuous improvement.

Since 2002, the School Report Card has included student performance data aggregated by gender, racial/ethnic group, English proficiency status, migrant status, disability status, and income level for examinations in English language arts and mathematics. The significant gaps in performance among ethnic groups statewide documented in this report are shown at the school level on report cards. The public reporting of these data will motivate changes in curriculum and instruction that will close these gaps.

In December 1997, the Board of Regents expanded the public reporting of the performance of the educational system by adopting regulations requiring the preparation and distribution of a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) report card. The BOCES are a vital part of the edu-

cational system in New York State and must be included in the reporting system. The eighth report was issued in April 2005. The State envisions that the BOCES report card will be used as a tool to continuously improve the BOCES programs and services and provide information to parents, teachers, administrators, and communities.

After several years of strong economic growth, New York State is in an economic decline with a significant reduction in revenues. Nonetheless, we must continue our efforts to improve the educational system for all students and to move the education reform agenda forward. We have an opportunity to move New York State toward a system that links investment in education to demonstrable results. We have an obligation to examine every expenditure to maximize the benefit it yields, to re-examine and revise fundamentally the ways in which schools are organized and operated in New York State, and to devise new modes that will produce more satisfactory results. The data make a compelling case for change.