

TESTING BRIEF
Spring 2012 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 6, 2011 – March 30, 2012

The Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) is designed to meet the mandates of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* of 2001 and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* of 2004. Both ESEA and IDEA require that all students, including students with significant cognitive disabilities, have access to a general curriculum that encompasses challenging academic standards. These laws require states to ensure that *all* students are assessed for their progress toward meeting academic standards.

Students with significant cognitive disabilities may be assessed via alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards. An alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards allows for the unique learning characteristics of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Alternate assessments may cover a narrower range of content and reflect a different set of expectations than regular assessments. Alternate achievement standards must be clearly linked to the content standards for the grade in which the student is enrolled, although the grade-level content may be reduced in complexity or reflect pre-requisite skills.

The GAA serves as Georgia’s alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. The GAA is a portfolio of student work that allows participants to showcase the achievement and progress they have made in knowledge and skills aligned to the state’s curriculum. Each teacher determines the alternate achievement standard (i.e., expectation) for each student, based on the learning characteristics and needs of the student. The teacher designs the instructional task that provides the student access to the selected state-mandated curriculum standard based on an achievement expectation that is appropriately challenging and purposeful for the student. Portfolios are scored by trained raters.

For any grade, kindergarten through 12, where all students are assessed on a state-mandated assessment, students with disabilities must participate in the regular assessment or an alternate assessment. For the 2011-12 school year, Georgia’s mandated assessments were administered in kindergarten, grades 3–8, and high school. For these grades, the GAA is the state-provided alternate assessment. Due to budgetary constraints, grades 1 and 2 were not administered during the 2011-2012 school year. High school students are assessed on the GAA for the first time in grade 11.

Students eligible to participate in the GAA in kindergarten must be assessed in English/language arts and mathematics. Students eligible to participate in the GAA in grades 3–8 and high school must be assessed in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

A Stage of Progress (performance level) is assigned by trained raters to each content area. The Stages of Progress—Extending Progress, Established Progress, and Emerging Progress correspond to Advanced/Exceeds, Proficient/Meets, and Basic/Does Not Meet, respectively.

Due to rounding, the numbers on the charts and tables may not always equal 100%.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE K

English/Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety-six percent (96%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Ninety-four percent (94%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Ninety-six percent (96%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

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

- Ninety-one percent (91%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Ninety-five percent (95%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2012. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2012. One hundred percent (100%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2011.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

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

- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Ninety-three percent (93%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.
- Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2012. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2011.
- Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Georgia's fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2012. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2011.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 5

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

- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Ninety-two percent (92%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.
- Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2012. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia's fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2012. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2011.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

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

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Ninety-three percent (93%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2012. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2012. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2011.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 7

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

- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Eighty-two percent (82%) of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Ninety-two percent (92%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2012. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2011.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2012. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2011.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

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

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Ninety-one percent (91%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2012. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2011.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2012. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2011.

KEY FINDINGS – HIGH SCHOOL¹

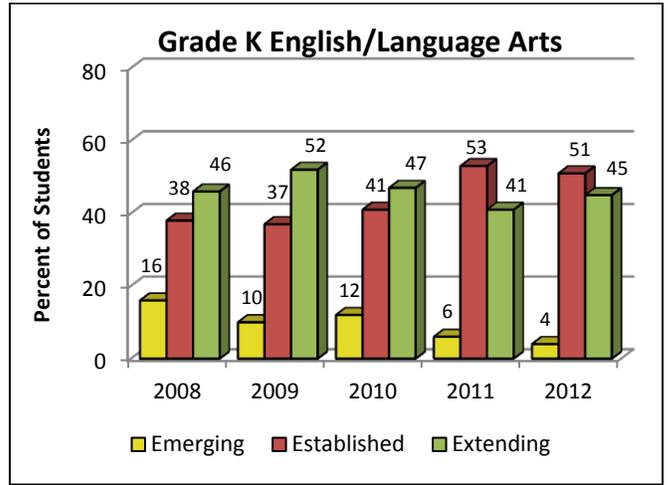
English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2012. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English/Language Arts in 2011.
- Seventy-three percent (73%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2012. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2011.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2012. Eighty-nine percent (89%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2011.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2012. Ninety-two percent (92%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2011.

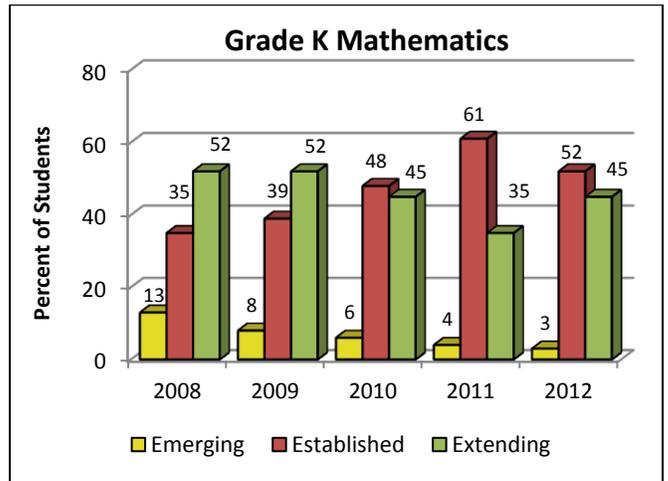
¹High school results reflect first-time test takers; retest students are excluded.

Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade K English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	16	10	12	6	4
Established	38	37	41	53	51
Extending	46	52	47	41	45

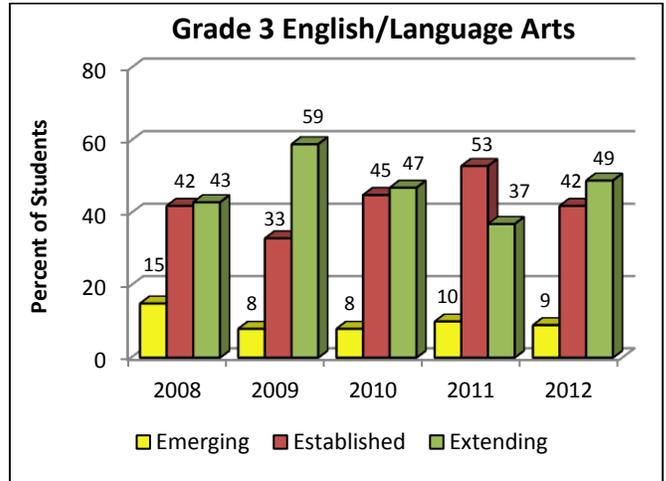


Grade K Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	13	8	6	4	3
Established	35	39	48	61	52
Extending	52	52	45	35	45

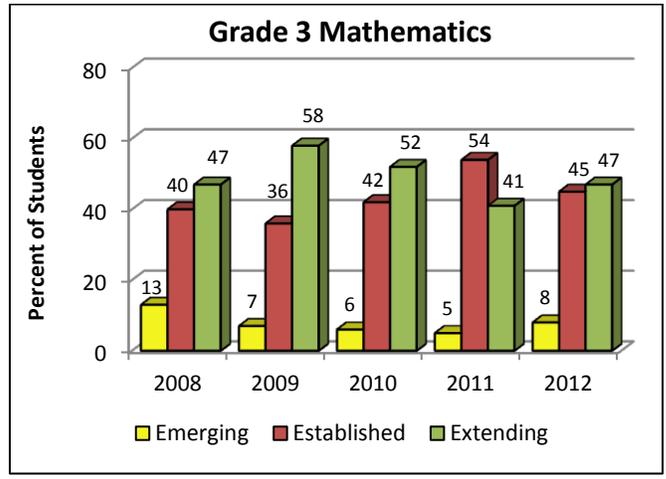


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

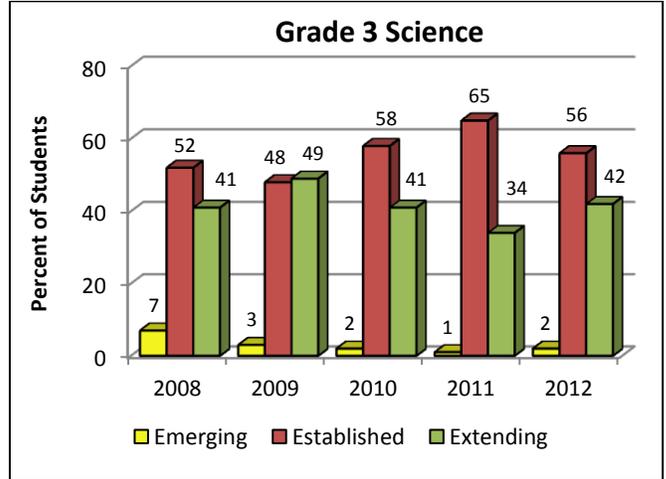
Grade 3 English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	15	8	8	10	9
Established	42	33	45	53	42
Extending	43	59	47	37	49



Grade 3 Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	13	7	6	5	8
Established	40	36	42	54	45
Extending	47	58	52	41	47

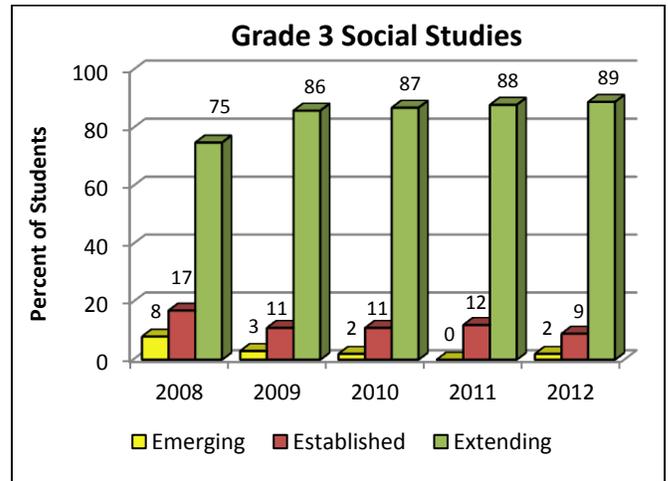


Grade 3 Science					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	7	3	2	1	2
Established	52	48	58	65	56
Extending	41	49	41	34	42



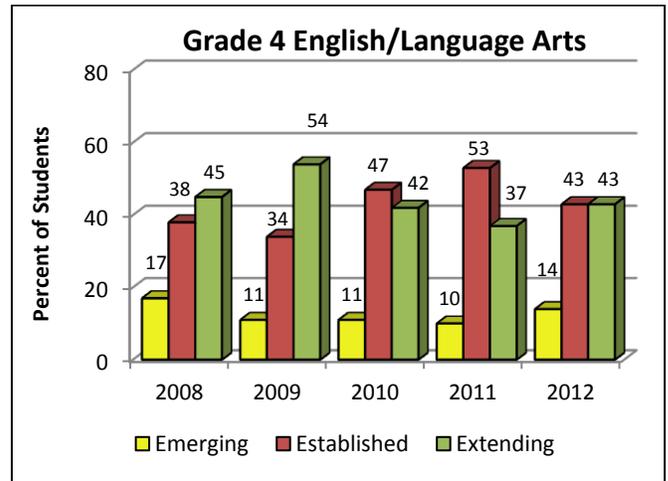
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 3 Social Studies					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	8	3	2	0	2
Established	17	11	11	12	9
Extending	75	86	87	88	89

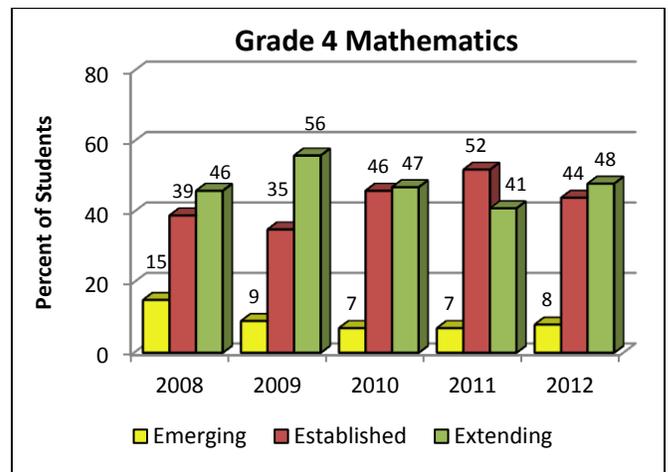


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

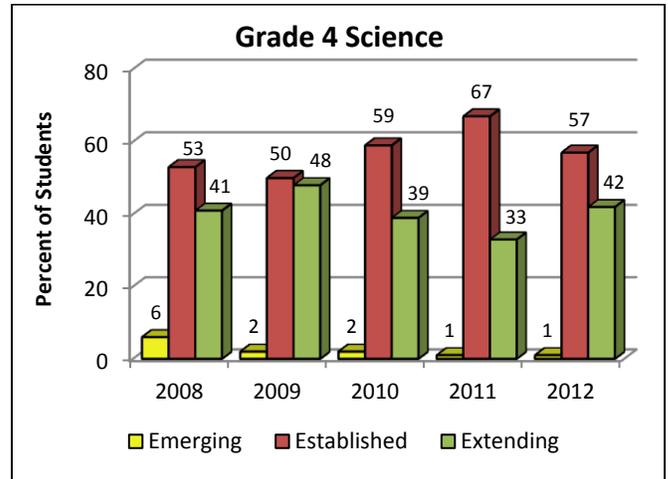
Grade 4 English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	17	11	11	10	14
Established	38	34	47	53	43
Extending	45	54	42	37	43



Grade 4 Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	15	9	7	7	8
Established	39	35	46	52	44
Extending	46	56	47	41	48

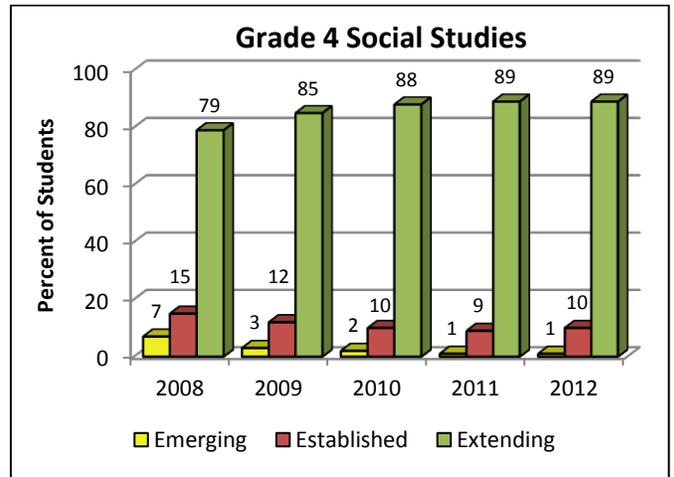


Grade 4 Science					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	6	2	2	1	1
Established	53	50	59	67	57
Extending	41	48	39	33	42



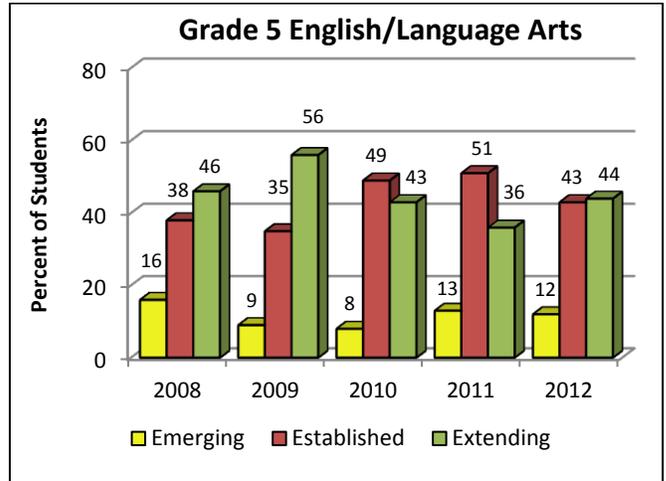
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 4 Social Studies					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	7	3	2	1	1
Established	15	12	10	9	10
Extending	79	85	88	89	89

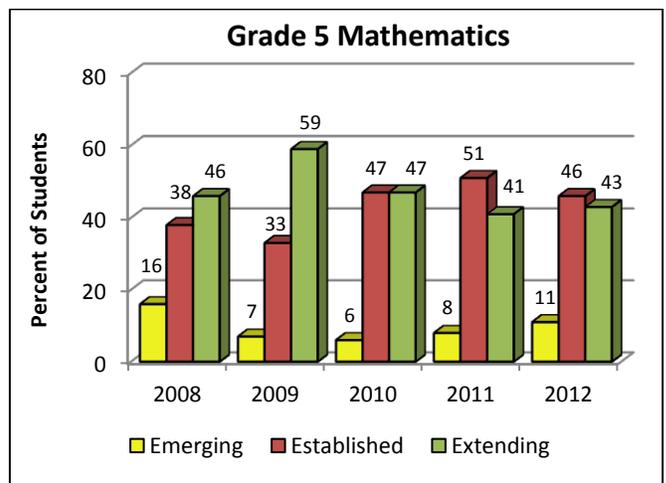


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

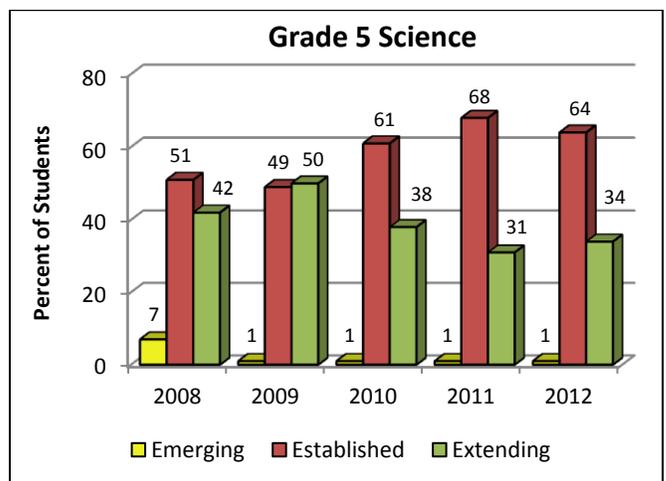
Grade 5 English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	16	9	8	13	12
Established	38	35	49	51	43
Extending	46	56	43	36	44



Grade 5 Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	16	7	6	8	11
Established	38	33	47	51	46
Extending	46	59	47	41	43

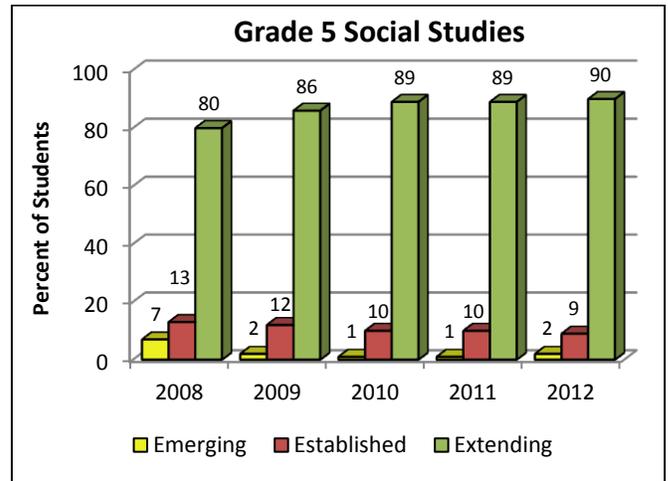


Grade 5 Science					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	7	1	1	1	1
Established	51	49	61	68	64
Extending	42	50	38	31	34



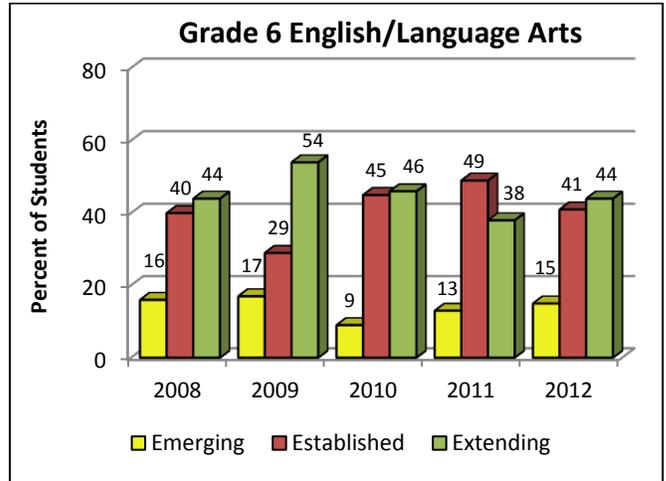
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 5 Social Studies					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	7	2	1	1	2
Established	13	12	10	10	9
Extending	80	86	89	89	90

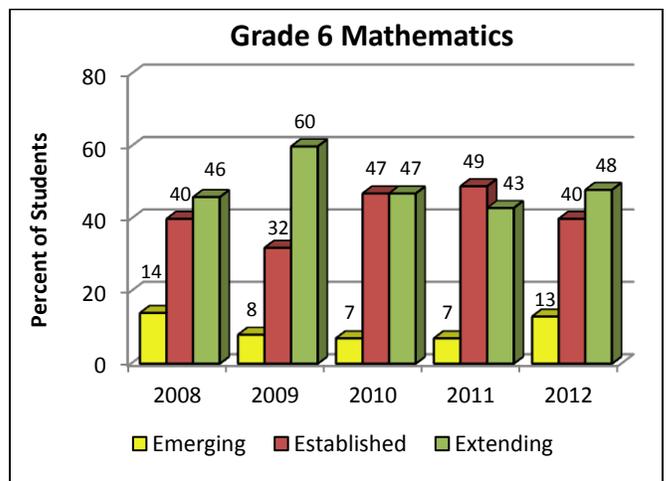


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

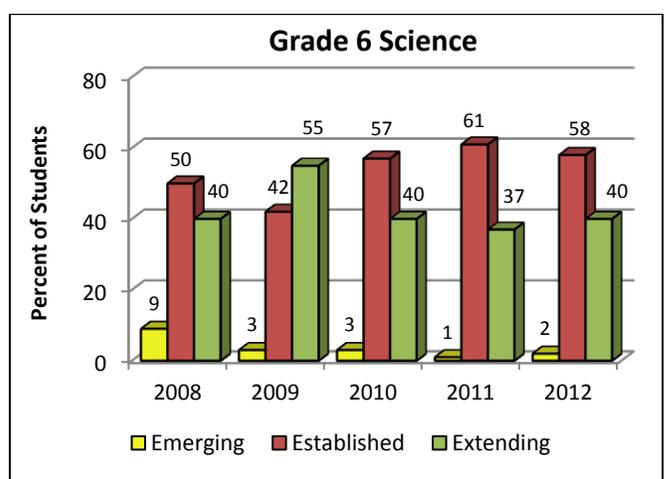
Grade 6 English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	16	17	9	13	15
Established	40	29	45	49	41
Extending	44	54	46	38	44



Grade 6 Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	14	8	7	7	13
Established	40	32	47	49	40
Extending	46	60	47	43	48

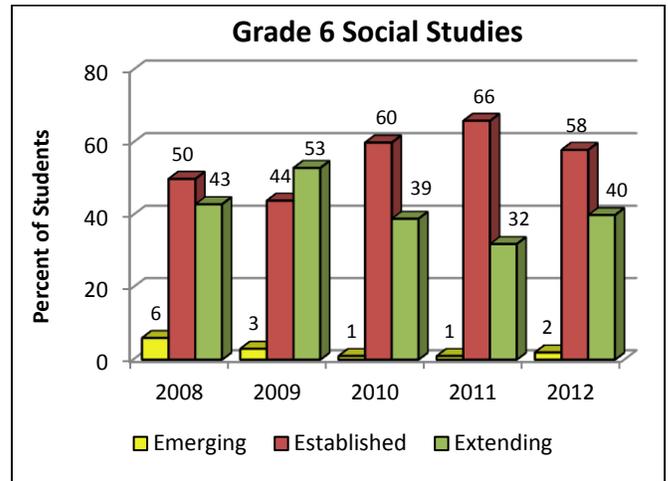


Grade 6 Science					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	9	3	3	1	2
Established	50	42	57	61	58
Extending	40	55	40	37	40



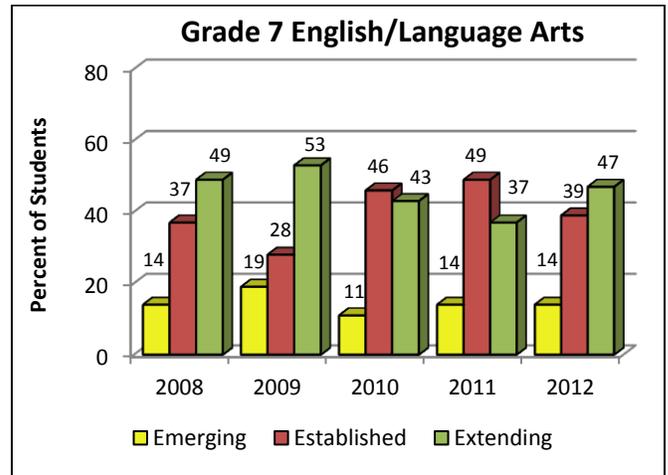
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 6 Social Studies					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	6	3	1	1	2
Established	50	44	60	66	58
Extending	43	53	39	32	40

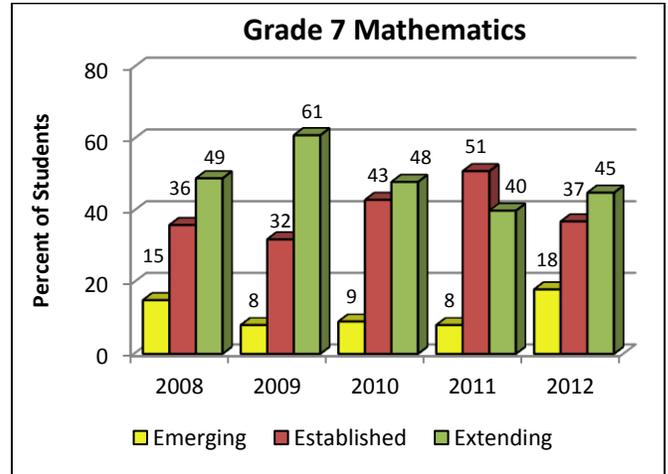


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

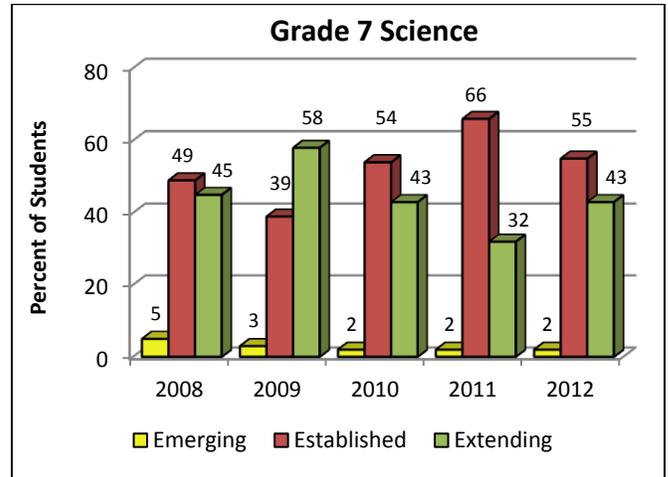
Grade 7 English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	14	19	11	14	14
Established	37	28	46	49	39
Extending	49	53	43	37	47



Grade 7 Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	15	8	9	8	18
Established	36	32	43	51	37
Extending	49	61	48	40	45

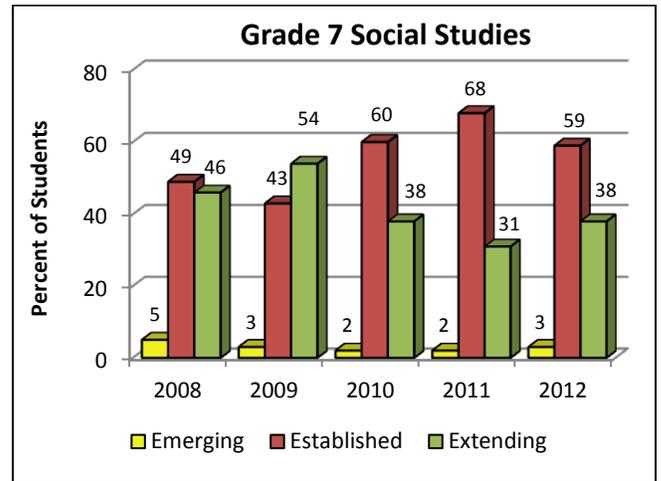


Grade 7 Science					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	5	3	2	2	2
Established	49	39	54	66	55
Extending	45	58	43	32	43



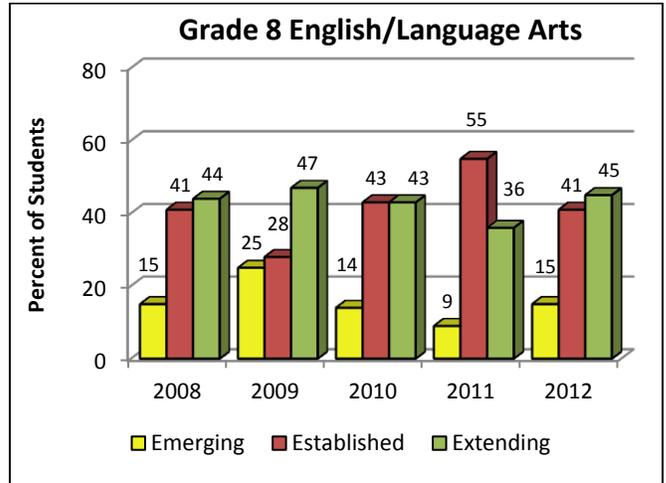
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 7 Social Studies					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	5	3	2	2	3
Established	49	43	60	68	59
Extending	46	54	38	31	38

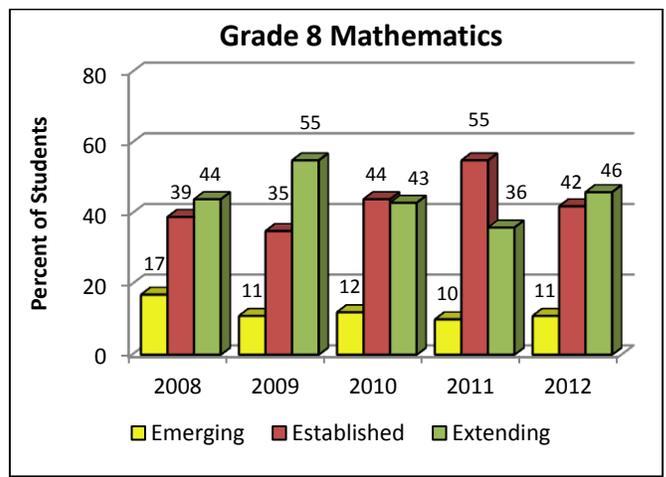


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

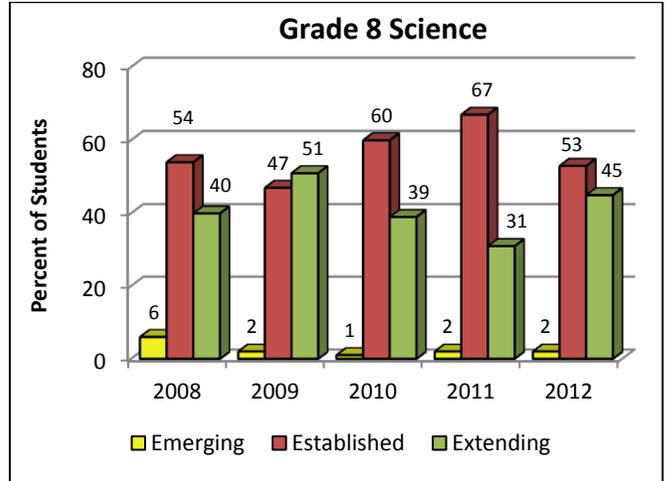
Grade 8 English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	15	25	14	9	15
Established	41	28	43	55	41
Extending	44	47	43	36	45



Grade 8 Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	17	11	12	10	11
Established	39	35	44	55	42
Extending	44	55	43	36	46

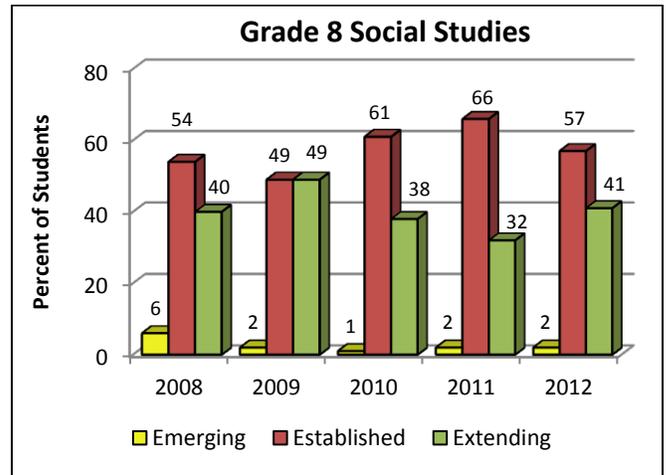


Grade 8 Science					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	6	2	1	2	2
Established	54	47	60	67	53
Extending	40	51	39	31	45



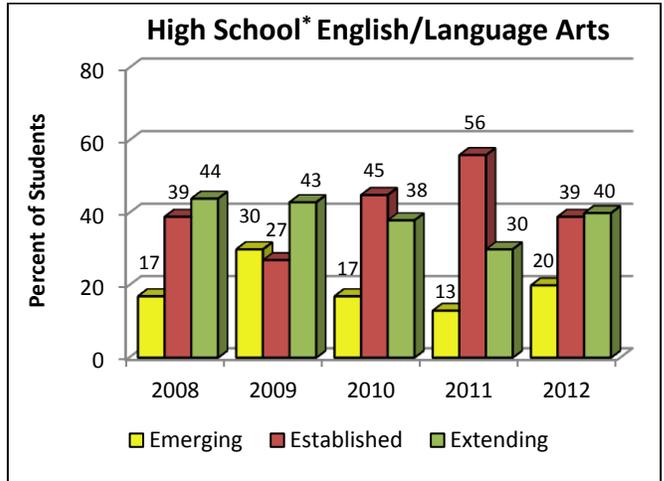
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 8 Social Studies					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	6	2	1	2	2
Established	54	49	61	66	57
Extending	40	49	38	32	41

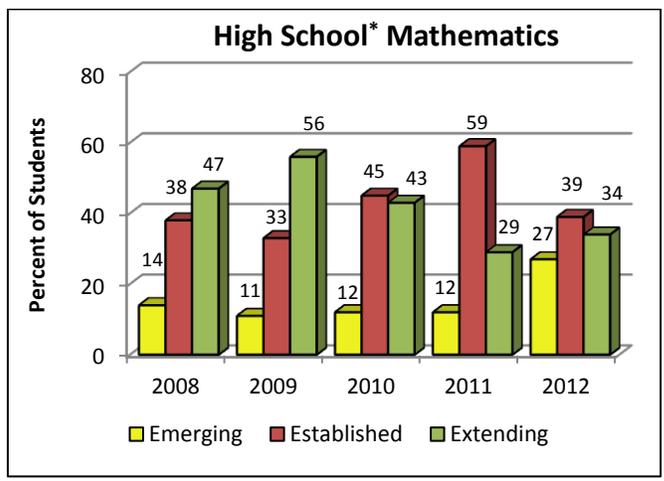


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

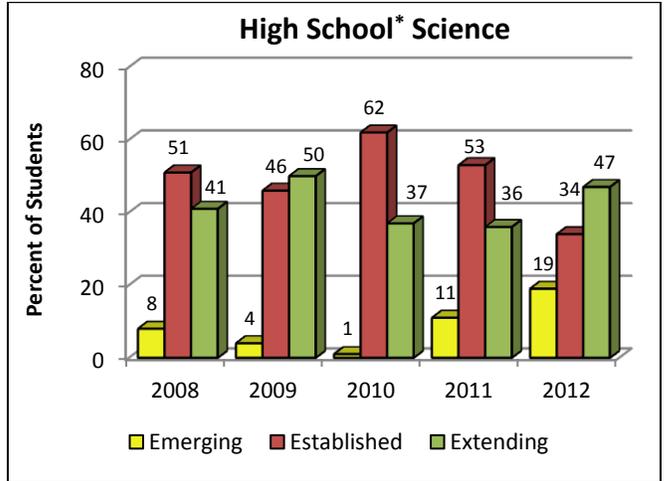
High School* English/Language Arts					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	17	30	17	13	20
Established	39	27	45	56	39
Extending	44	43	38	30	40



High School* Mathematics					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	14	11	12	12	27
Established	38	33	45	59	39
Extending	47	56	43	29	34



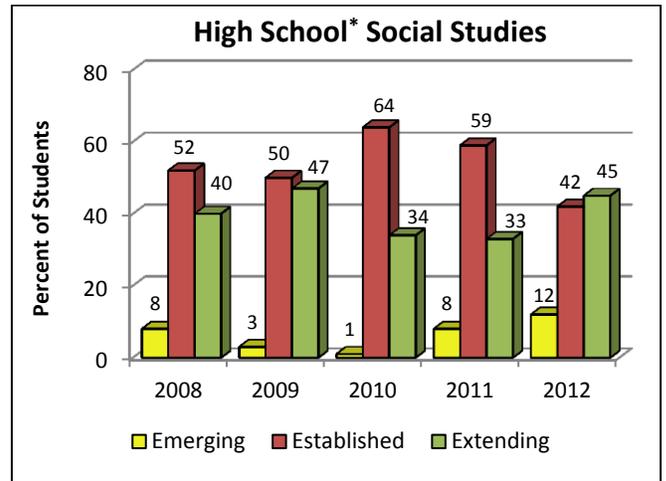
High School* Science					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	8	4	1	11	19
Established	51	46	62	53	34
Extending	41	50	37	36	47



*High school results reflect first-time test takers; retest students are excluded.

Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

High School* Social Studies					
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students				
	08	09	10	11	12
Emerging	8	3	1	8	12
Established	52	50	64	59	42
Extending	40	47	34	33	45



*High school results reflect first-time test takers; retest students are excluded.