

TESTING BRIEF
Spring 2014 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 3, 2013 – March 28, 2014

The Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) is designed to meet the mandates of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. 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 rigorous state-mandated content standards. 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 assessment task that provides the student access to the selected state-mandated content 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 2013-2014 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 2013-2014 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

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Eighty-nine percent (89%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Ninety-six percent (96%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Ninety-one percent (91%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Ninety-one percent (91%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2013.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2013.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-two percent (82%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Eighty-five percent (85%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2013.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2013.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 5

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-two percent (82%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Eighty-three percent (83%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Eighty-one percent (81%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2013.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Seventy-eight percent (78%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Seventy-seven percent (77%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Fifty-seven percent (57%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2013.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 7

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Eighty-three percent (83%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Seventy-one percent (71%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Eighty-four percent (84%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2013.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-two percent (82%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Eighty-five percent (85%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Eighty-four percent (84%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Eighty-five percent (85%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2013.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2013.

KEY FINDINGS – HIGH SCHOOL¹

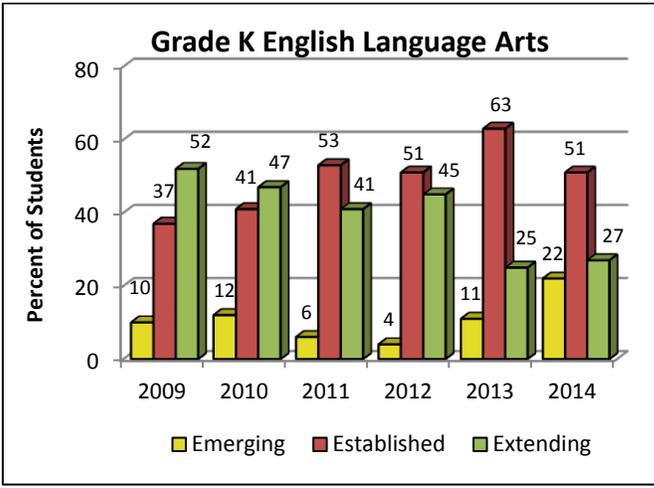
English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Seventy-six percent (76%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014. Seventy-eight percent (78%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2013.
- Seventy-nine percent (79%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014. Seventy-nine percent (79%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2013.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014. Eighty-three percent (83%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2013.
- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2013.

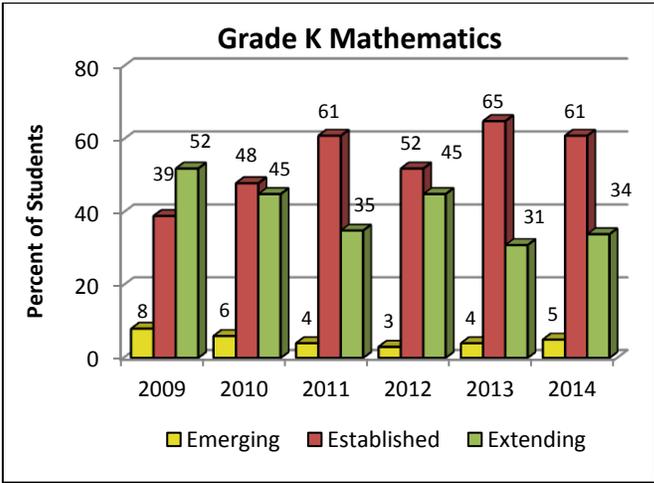
¹High school results reflect first-time test takers; retest students are excluded.

Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade K English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	10	12	6	4	11	22
Established	37	41	53	51	63	51
Extending	52	47	41	45	25	27

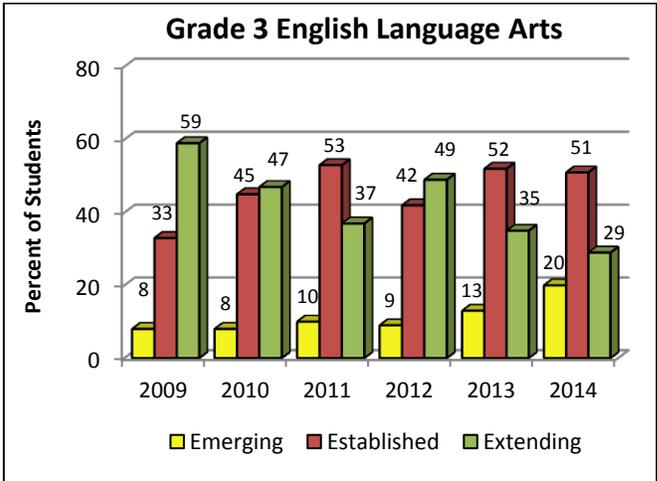


Grade K Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	8	6	4	3	4	5
Established	39	48	61	52	65	61
Extending	52	45	35	45	31	34

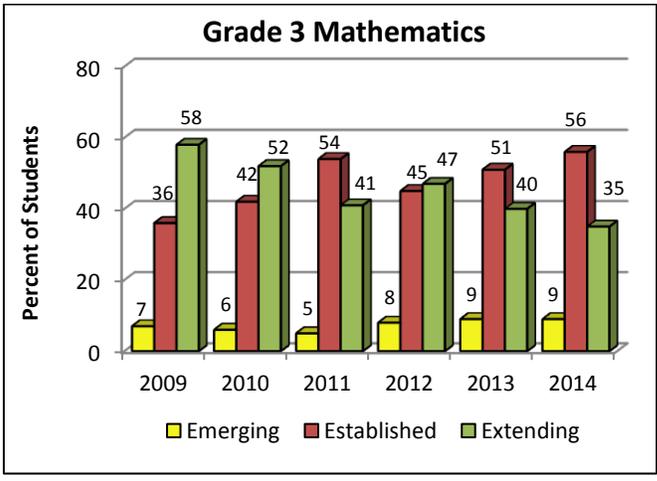


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

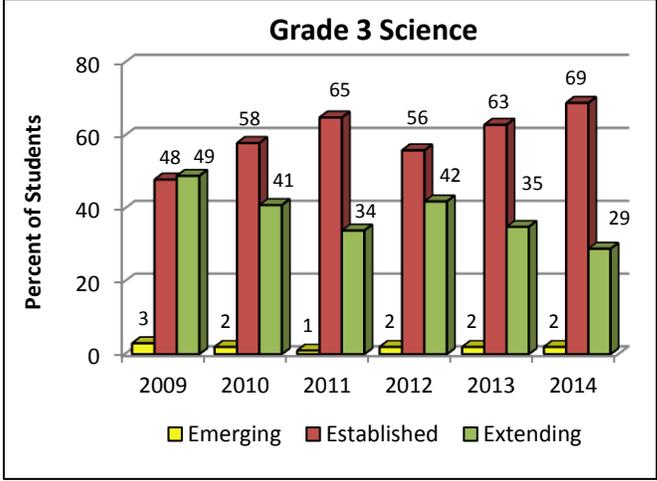
Grade 3 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	8	8	10	9	13	20
Established	33	45	53	42	52	51
Extending	59	47	37	49	35	29



Grade 3 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	7	6	5	8	9	9
Established	36	42	54	45	51	56
Extending	58	52	41	47	40	35

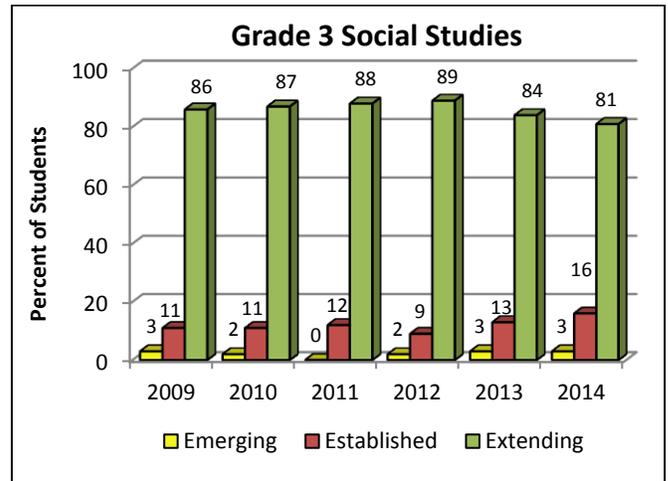


Grade 3 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	2	1	2	2	2
Established	48	58	65	56	63	69
Extending	49	41	34	42	35	29



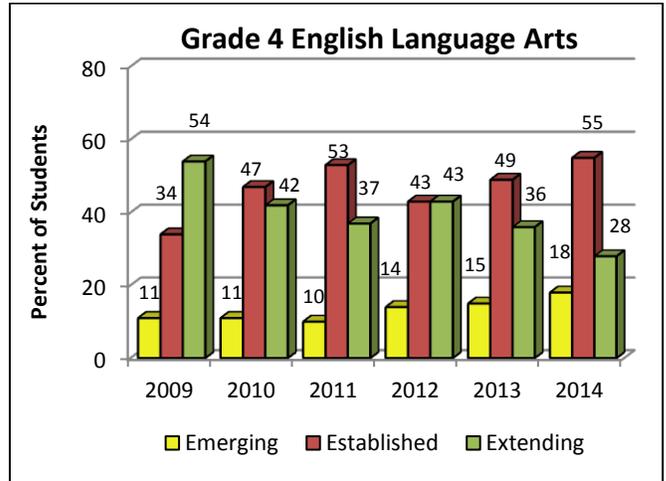
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 3 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	2	0	2	3	3
Established	11	11	12	9	13	16
Extending	86	87	88	89	84	81

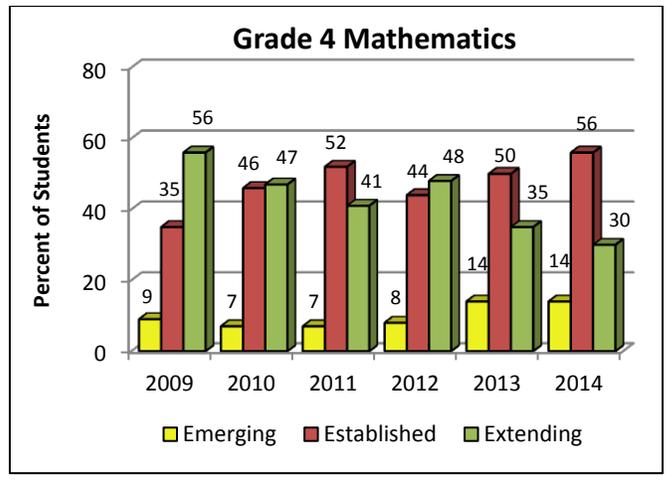


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

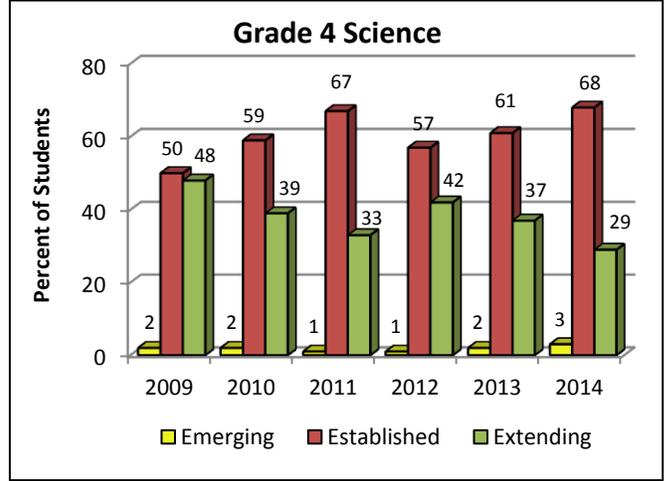
Grade 4 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	11	11	10	14	15	18
Established	34	47	53	43	49	55
Extending	54	42	37	43	36	28



Grade 4 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	9	7	7	8	14	14
Established	35	46	52	44	50	56
Extending	56	47	41	48	35	30

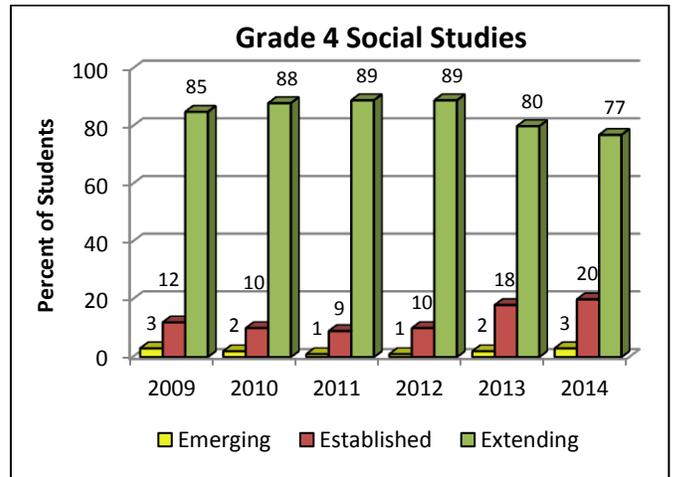


Grade 4 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	2	2	1	1	2	3
Established	50	59	67	57	61	68
Extending	48	39	33	42	37	29



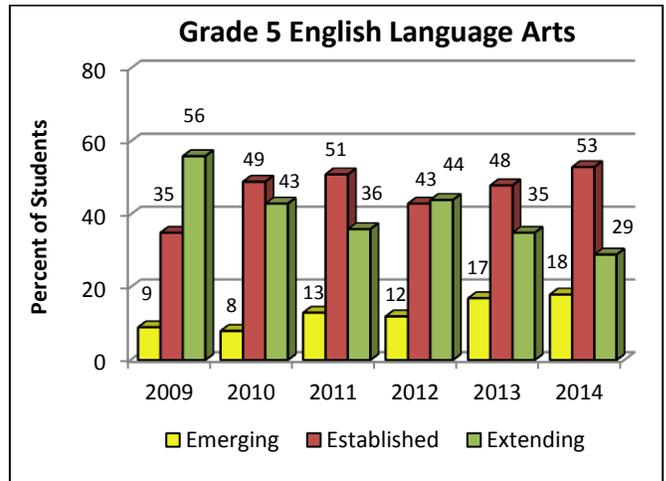
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 4 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	2	1	1	2	3
Established	12	10	9	10	18	20
Extending	85	88	89	89	80	77

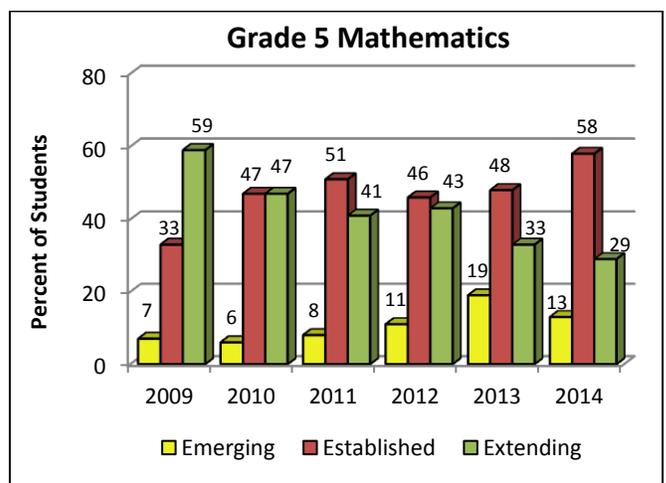


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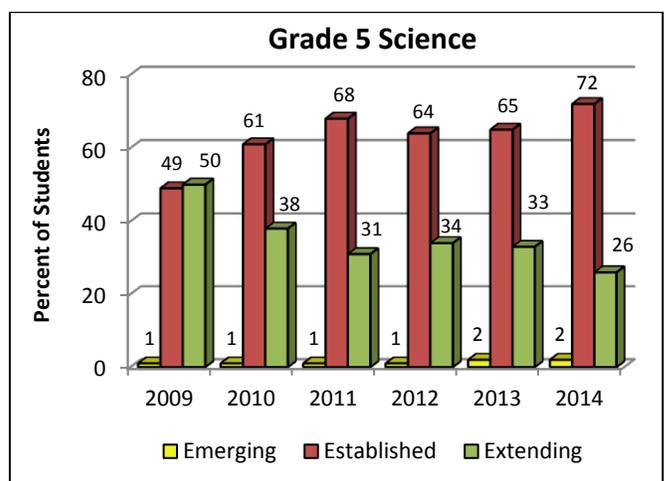
Grade 5 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	9	8	13	12	17	18
Established	35	49	51	43	48	53
Extending	56	43	36	44	35	29



Grade 5 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	7	6	8	11	19	13
Established	33	47	51	46	48	58
Extending	59	47	41	43	33	29

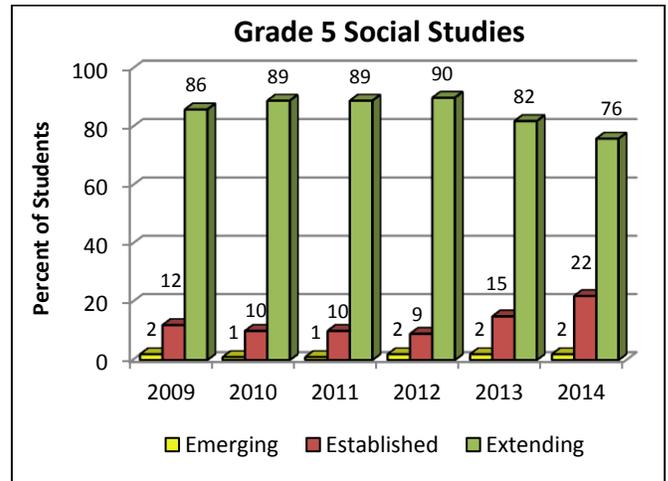


Grade 5 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	1	1	1	1	2	2
Established	49	61	68	64	65	72
Extending	50	38	31	34	33	26



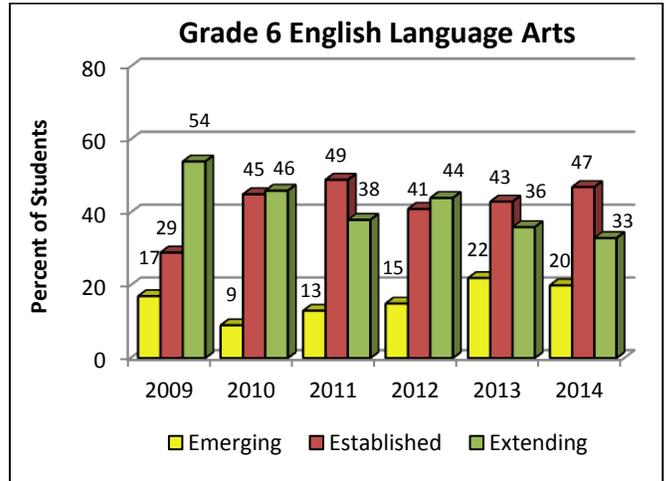
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 5 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	2	1	1	2	2	2
Established	12	10	10	9	15	22
Extending	86	89	89	90	82	76

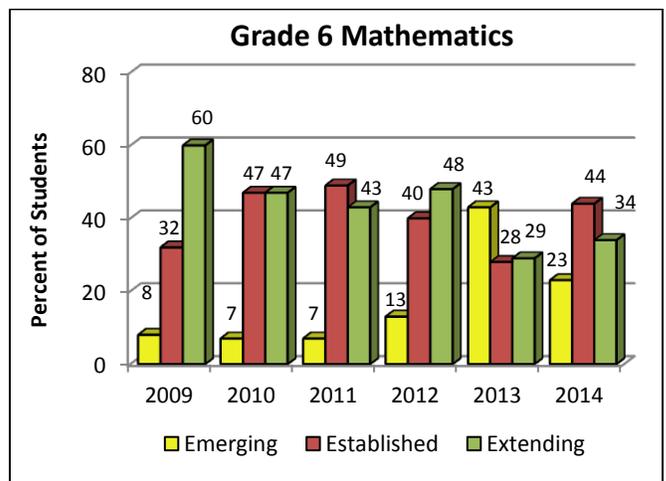


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

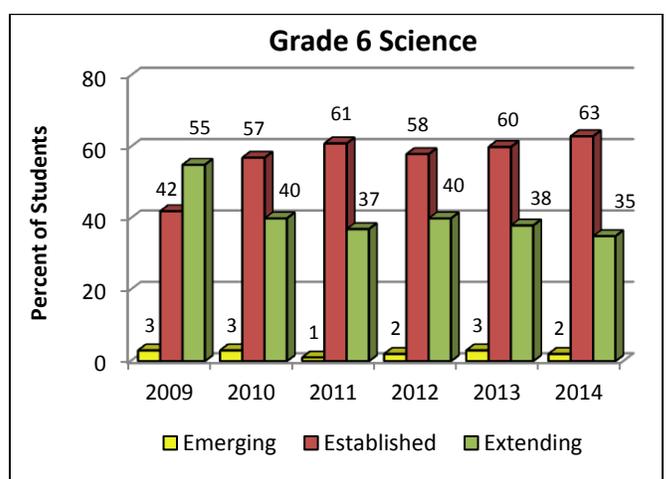
Grade 6 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	17	9	13	15	22	20
Established	29	45	49	41	43	47
Extending	54	46	38	44	36	33



Grade 6 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	8	7	7	13	43	23
Established	32	47	49	40	28	44
Extending	60	47	43	48	29	34

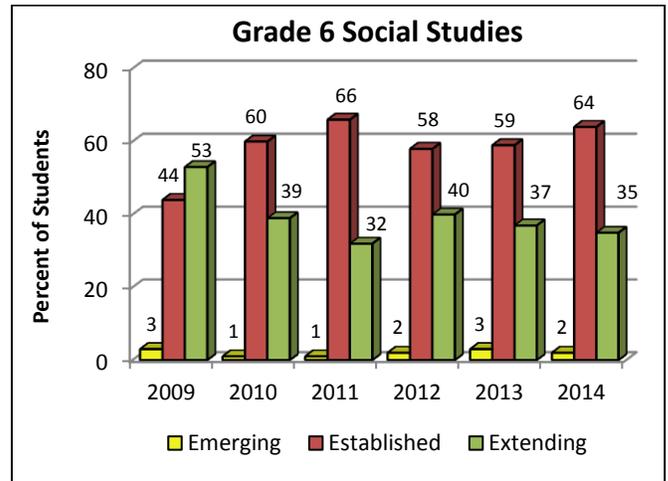


Grade 6 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	3	1	2	3	2
Established	42	57	61	58	60	63
Extending	55	40	37	40	38	35



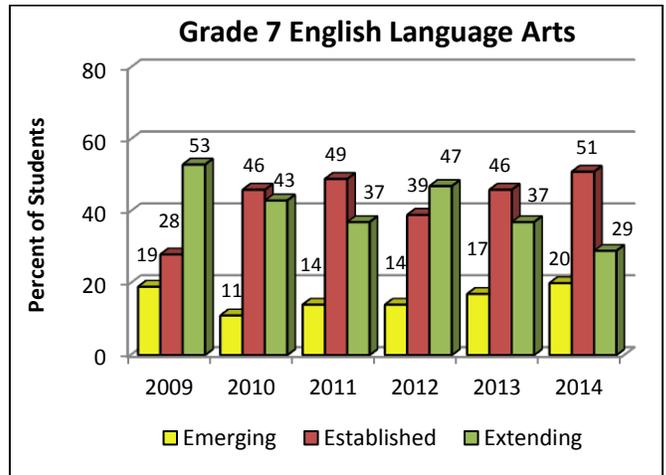
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 6 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	1	1	2	3	2
Established	44	60	66	58	59	64
Extending	53	39	32	40	37	35

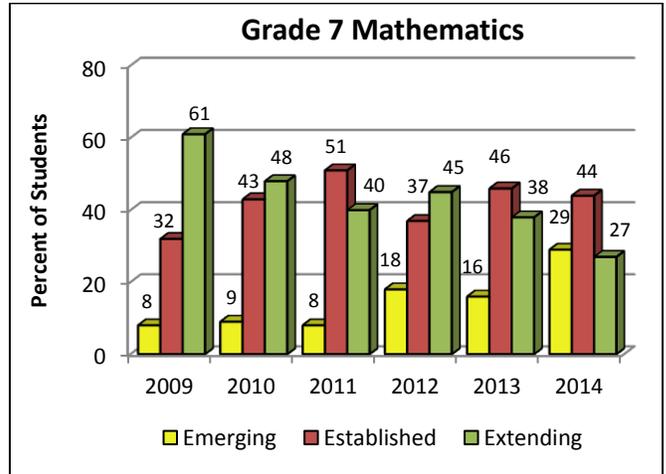


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

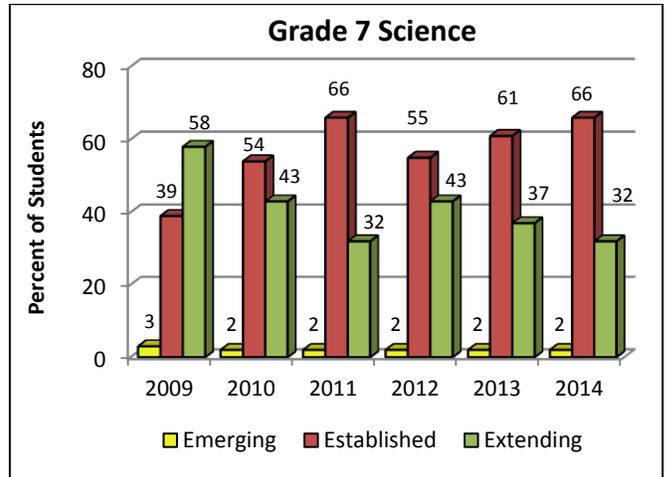
Grade 7 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	19	11	14	14	17	20
Established	28	46	49	39	46	51
Extending	53	43	37	47	37	29



Grade 7 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	8	9	8	18	16	29
Established	32	43	51	37	46	44
Extending	61	48	40	45	38	27

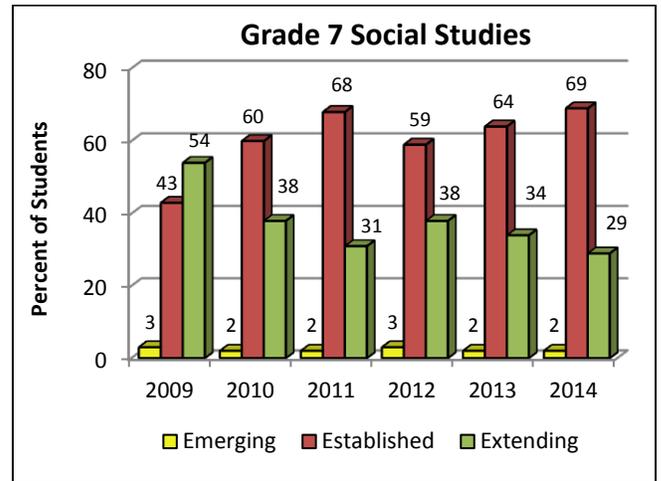


Grade 7 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	2	2	2	2	2
Established	39	54	66	55	61	66
Extending	58	43	32	43	37	32



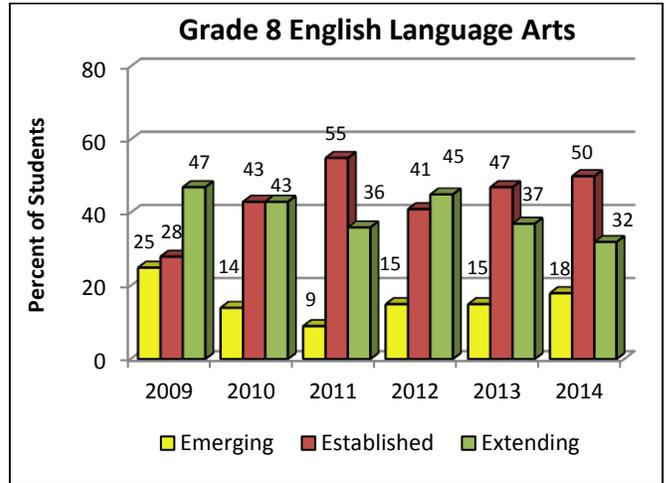
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 7 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	2	2	3	2	2
Established	43	60	68	59	64	69
Extending	54	38	31	38	34	29

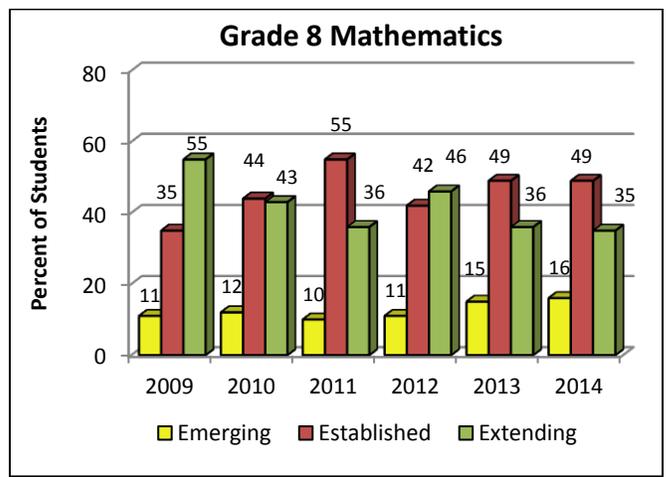


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

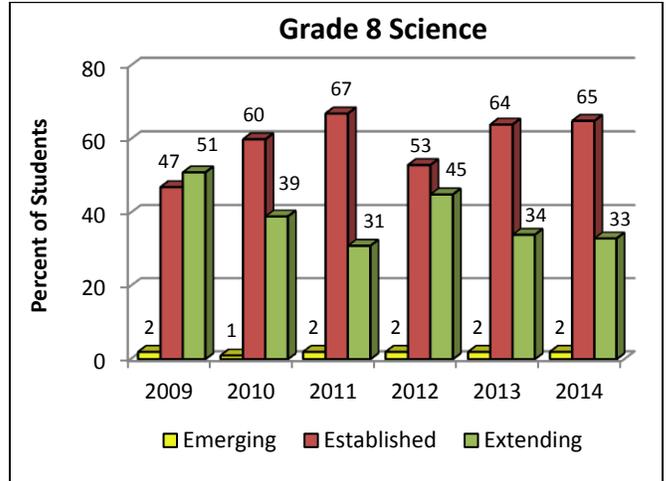
Grade 8 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	25	14	9	15	15	18
Established	28	43	55	41	47	50
Extending	47	43	36	45	37	32



Grade 8 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	11	12	10	11	15	16
Established	35	44	55	42	49	49
Extending	55	43	36	46	36	35

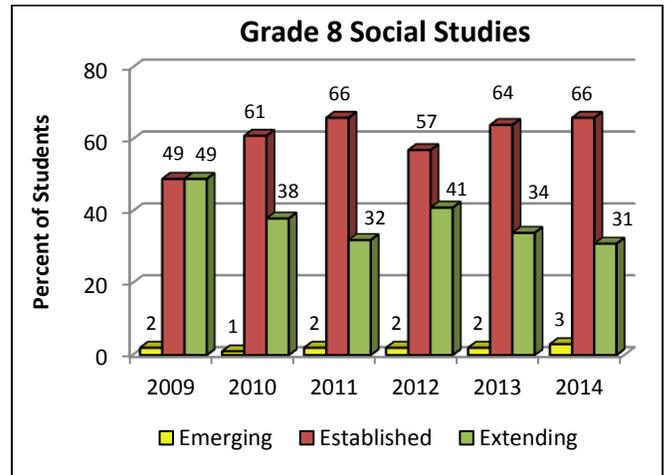


Grade 8 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	2	1	2	2	2	2
Established	47	60	67	53	64	65
Extending	51	39	31	45	34	33



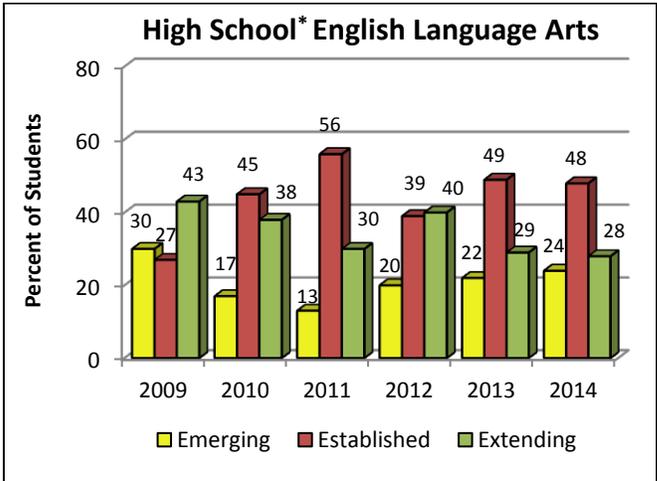
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 8 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	2	1	2	2	2	3
Established	49	61	66	57	64	66
Extending	49	38	32	41	34	31

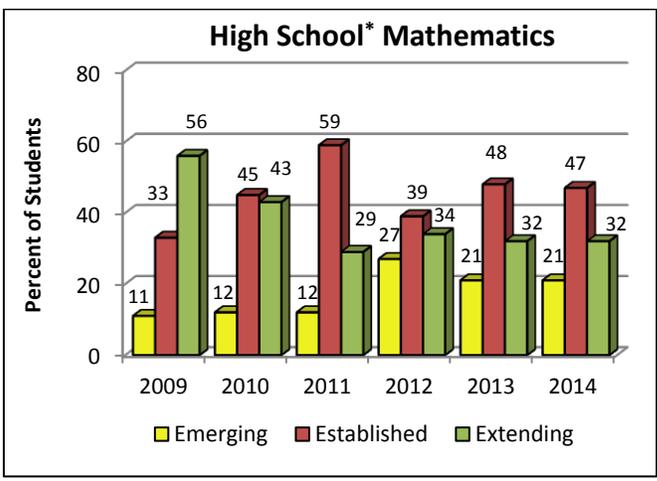


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

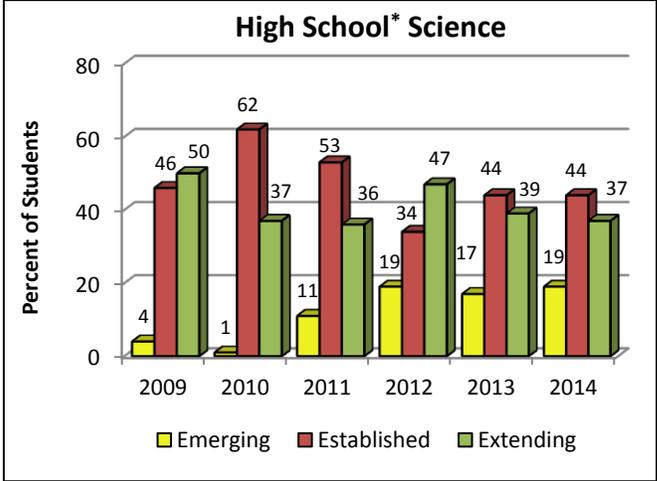
High School* English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	30	17	13	20	22	24
Established	27	45	56	39	49	48
Extending	43	38	30	40	29	28



High School* Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	11	12	12	27	21	21
Established	33	45	59	39	48	47
Extending	56	43	29	34	32	32



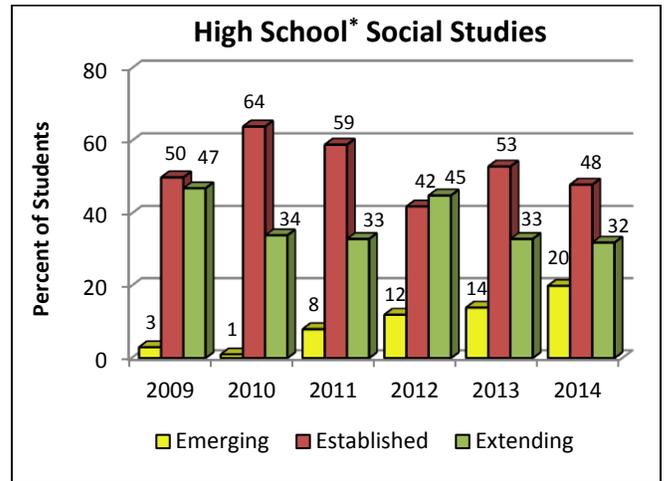
High School* Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	4	1	11	19	17	19
Established	46	62	53	34	44	44
Extending	50	37	36	47	39	37



*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					
	09	10	11	12	13	14
Emerging	3	1	8	12	14	20
Established	50	64	59	42	53	48
Extending	47	34	33	45	33	32



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