

TESTING BRIEF
Spring 2015 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 2, 2014 – March 27, 2015

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 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 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 percentages on the charts and tables may not always total 100%.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE K

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Eighty-one percent (81%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015. Seventy-eight percent (78%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Ninety-one percent (91%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Ninety-five percent (95%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015. Eighty percent (80%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Ninety-one percent (91%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-five percent (85%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015. Eighty-two percent (82%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Eighty-three percent (83%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014.
- Ninety-six percent (96%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 5

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015. Eighty-two percent (82%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Eighty-three percent (83%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-four percent (84%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015. Eighty percent (80%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Seventy-seven percent (77%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia's sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014.

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 2015. Eighty percent (80%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Eighty-two percent (82%) of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Seventy-one percent (71%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.
- Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia's seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015. Eighty-two percent (82%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Eighty-four percent (84%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014.

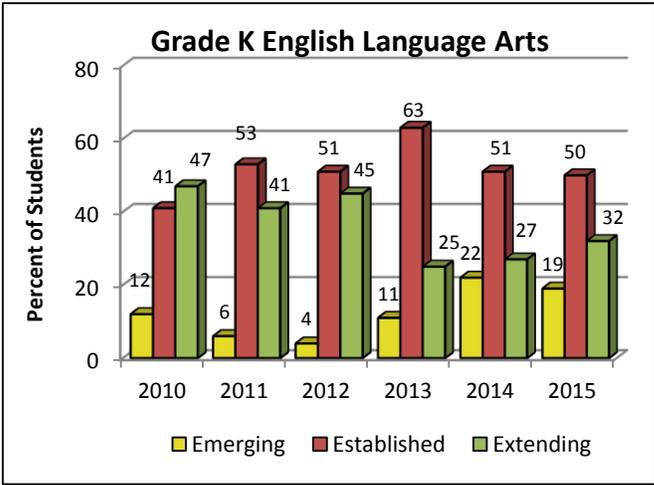
KEY FINDINGS – HIGH SCHOOL¹

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

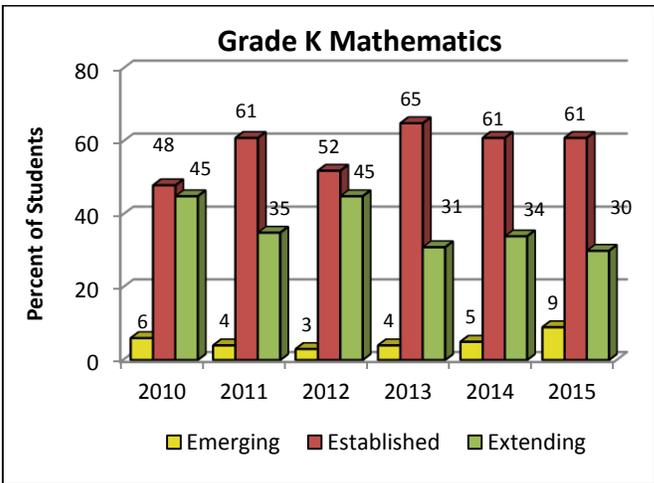
- Eighty-four percent (84%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015. Seventy-six percent (76%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2014.
- Seventy percent (70%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015. Seventy-nine percent (79%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2014.
- Seventy-seven percent (77%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015. Eighty-one percent (81%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2014.
- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015. Eighty percent (80%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2014.

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

Grade K English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	12	6	4	11	22	19
Established	41	53	51	63	51	50
Extending	47	41	45	25	27	32

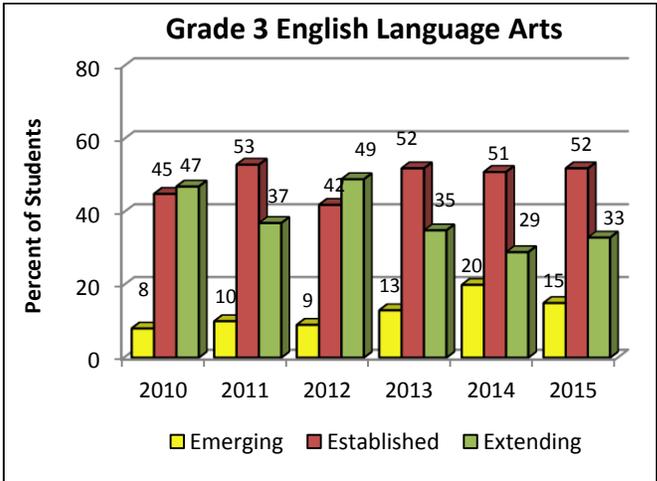


Grade K Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	6	4	3	4	5	9
Established	48	61	52	65	61	61
Extending	45	35	45	31	34	30

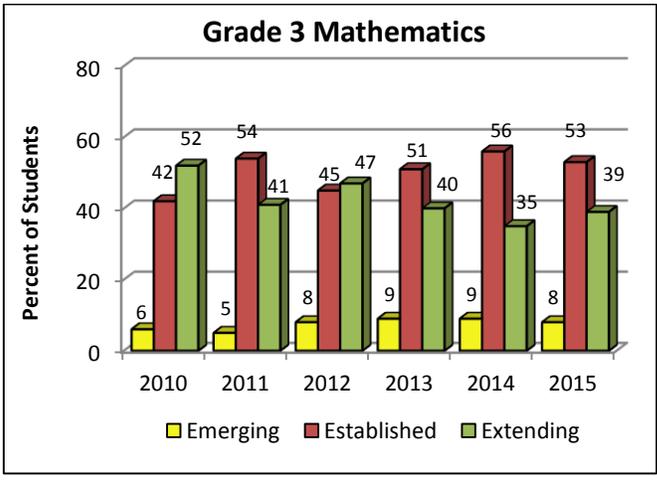


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

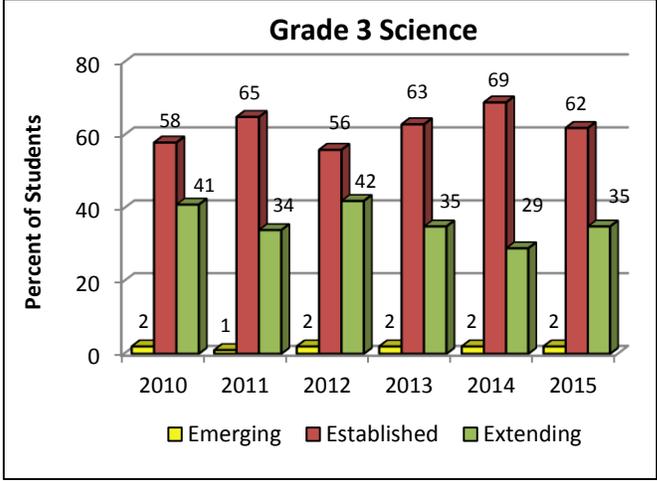
Grade 3 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	8	10	9	13	20	15
Established	45	53	42	52	51	52
Extending	47	37	49	35	29	33



Grade 3 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	6	5	8	9	9	8
Established	42	54	45	51	56	53
Extending	52	41	47	40	35	39

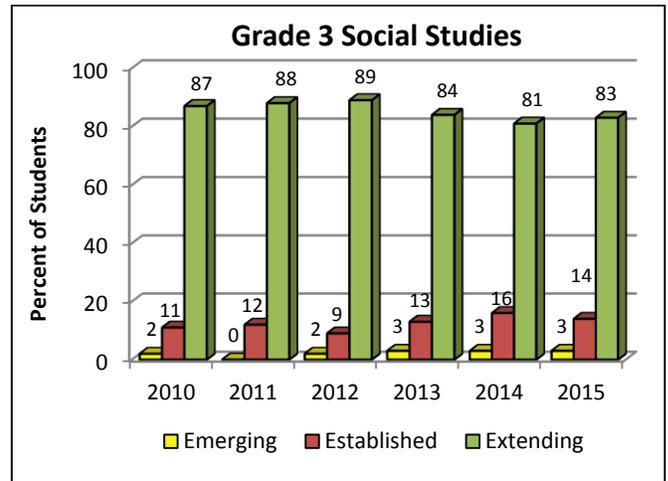


Grade 3 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	2	1	2	2	2	2
Established	58	65	56	63	69	62
Extending	41	34	42	35	29	35



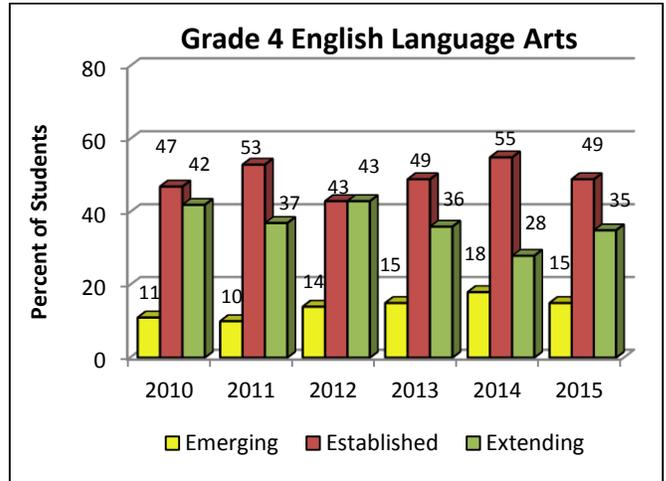
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 3 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	2	0	2	3	3	3
Established	11	12	9	13	16	14
Extending	87	88	89	84	81	83

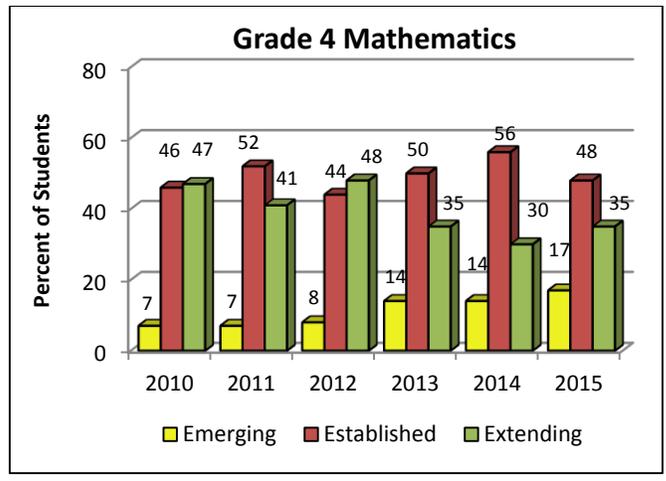


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

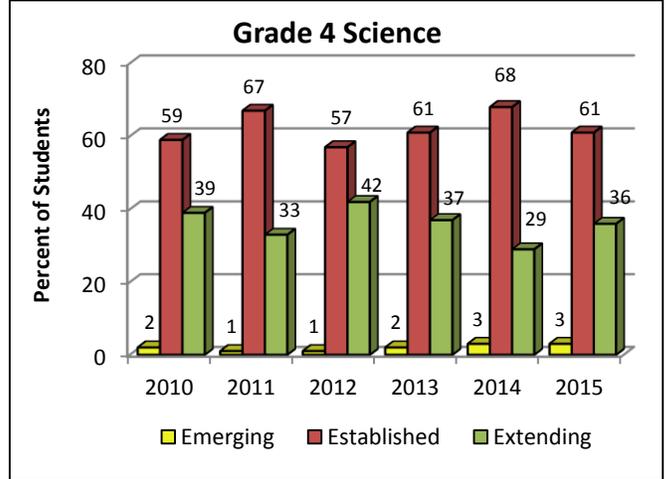
Grade 4 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	11	10	14	15	18	15
Established	47	53	43	49	55	49
Extending	42	37	43	36	28	35



Grade 4 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	7	7	8	14	14	17
Established	46	52	44	50	56	48
Extending	47	41	48	35	30	35

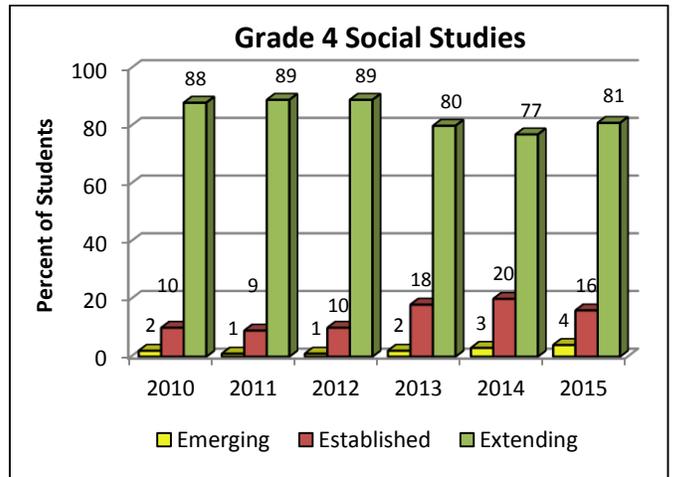


Grade 4 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	2	1	1	2	3	3
Established	59	67	57	61	68	61
Extending	39	33	42	37	29	36



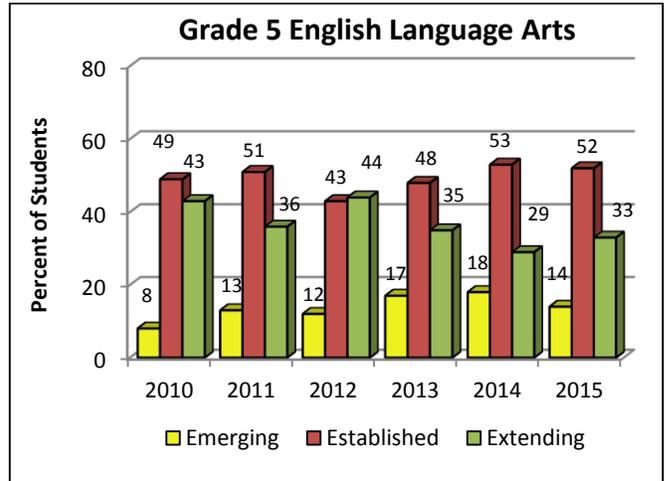
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 4 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	2	1	1	2	3	4
Established	10	9	10	18	20	16
Extending	88	89	89	80	77	81

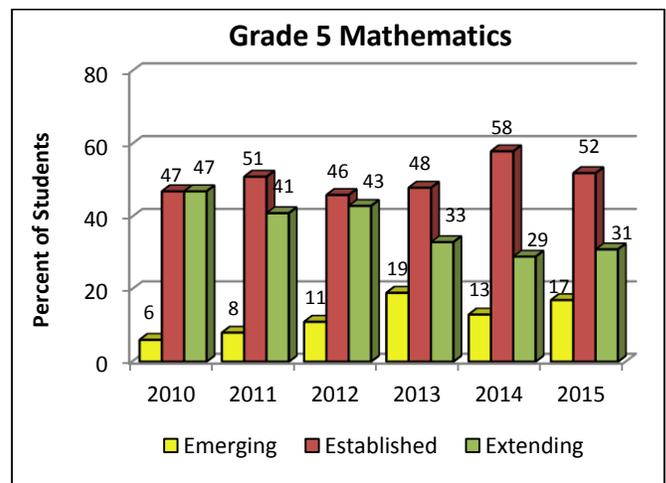


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

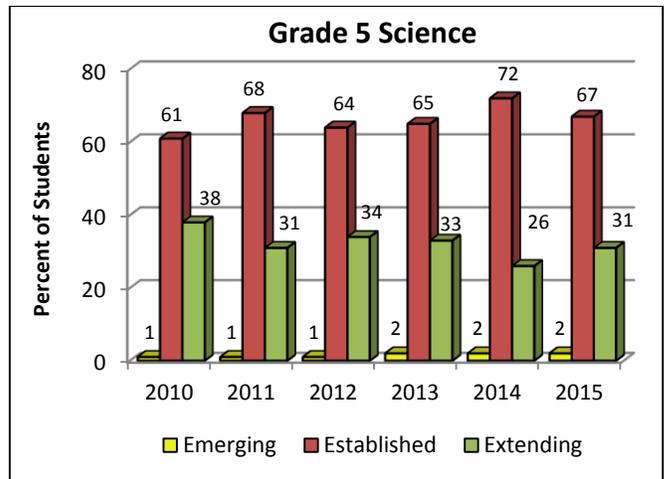
Grade 5 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	8	13	12	17	18	14
Established	49	51	43	48	53	52
Extending	43	36	44	35	29	33



Grade 5 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	6	8	11	19	13	17
Established	47	51	46	48	58	52
Extending	47	41	43	33	29	31

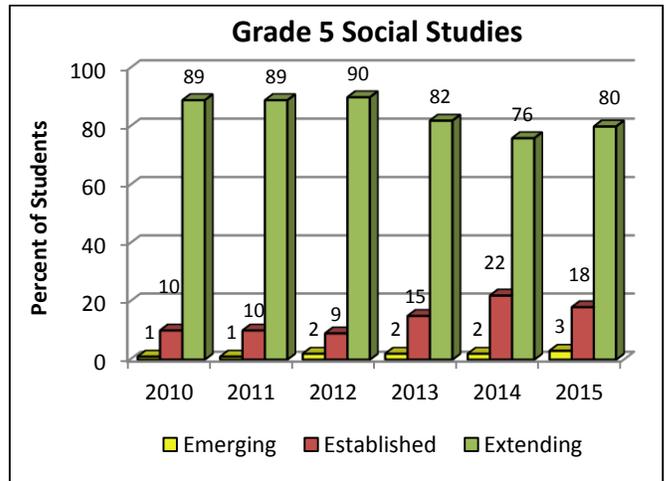


Grade 5 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	1	1	1	2	2	2
Established	61	68	64	65	72	67
Extending	38	31	34	33	26	31



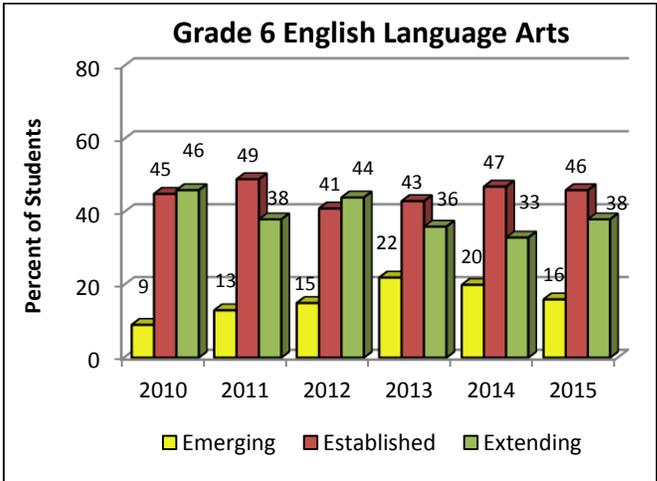
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 5 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	1	1	2	2	2	3
Established	10	10	9	15	22	18
Extending	89	89	90	82	76	80

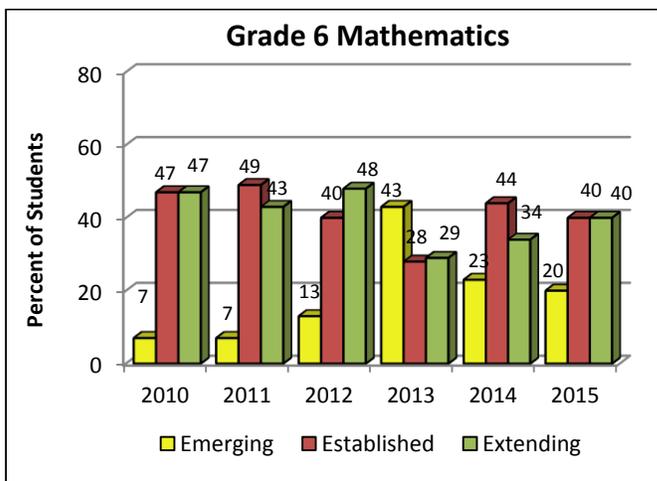


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

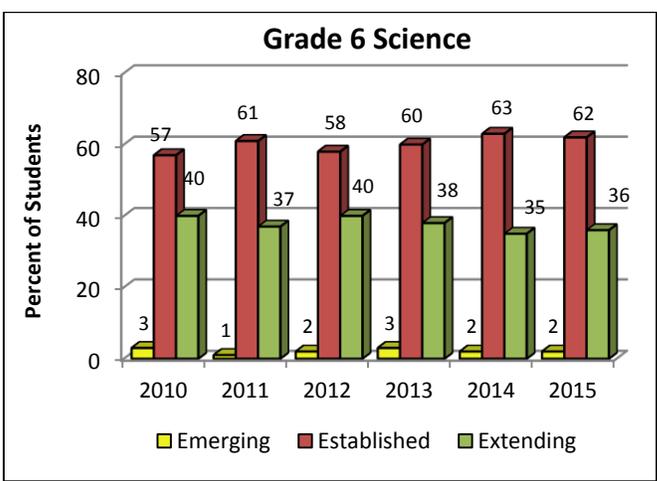
Grade 6 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	9	13	15	22	20	16
Established	45	49	41	43	47	46
Extending	46	38	44	36	33	38



Grade 6 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	7	7	13	43	23	20
Established	47	49	40	28	44	40
Extending	47	43	48	29	34	40

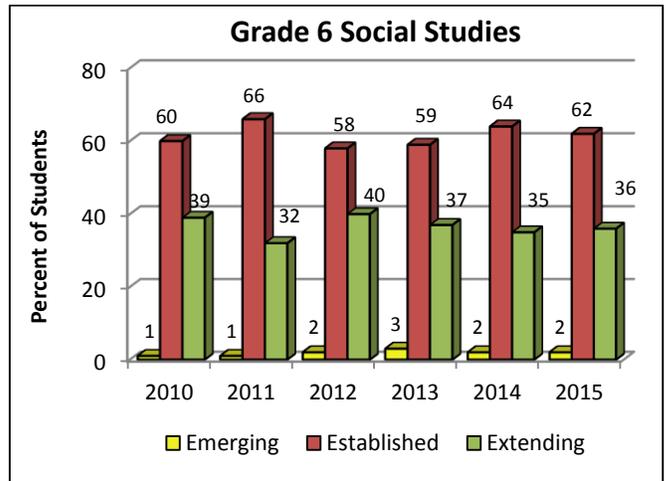


Grade 6 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	3	1	2	3	2	2
Established	57	61	58	60	63	62
Extending	40	37	40	38	35	36



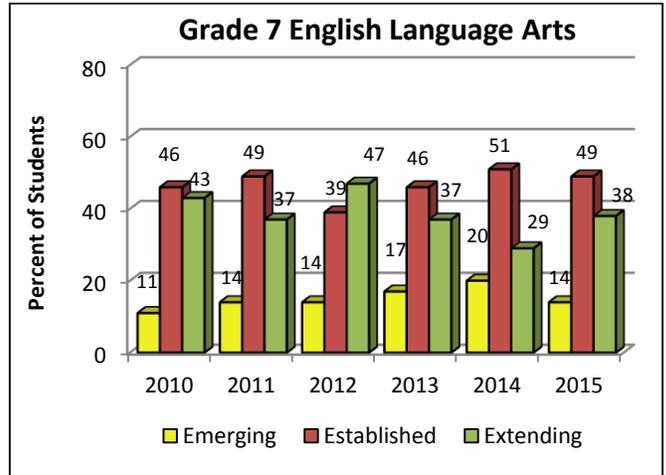
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 6 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	1	1	2	3	2	2
Established	60	66	58	59	64	62
Extending	39	32	40	37	35	36

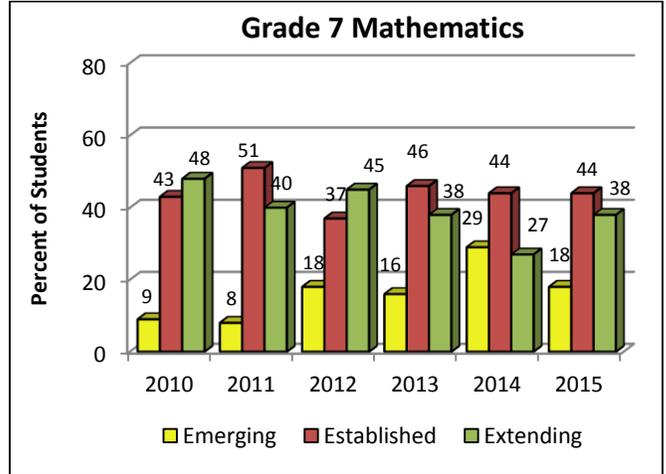


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

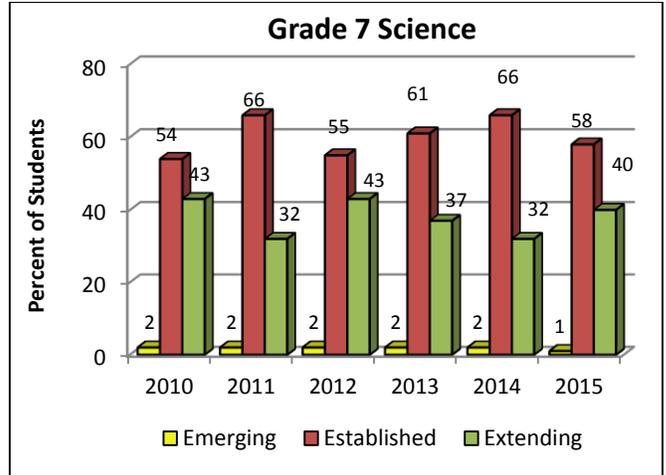
Grade 7 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	11	14	14	17	20	14
Established	46	49	39	46	51	49
Extending	43	37	47	37	29	38



Grade 7 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	9	8	18	16	29	18
Established	43	51	37	46	44	44
Extending	48	40	45	38	27	38

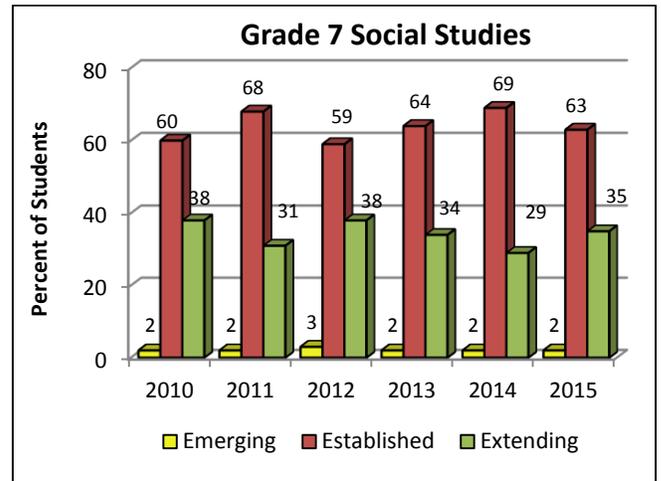


Grade 7 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	2	2	2	2	2	1
Established	54	66	55	61	66	58
Extending	43	32	43	37	32	40



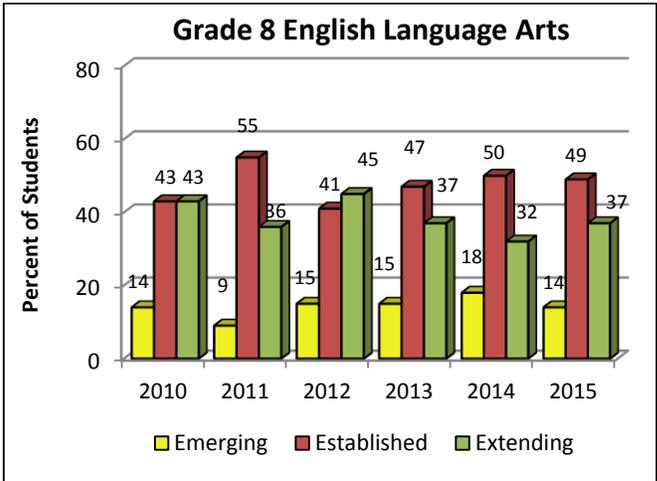
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 7 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	2	2	3	2	2	2
Established	60	68	59	64	69	63
Extending	38	31	38	34	29	35

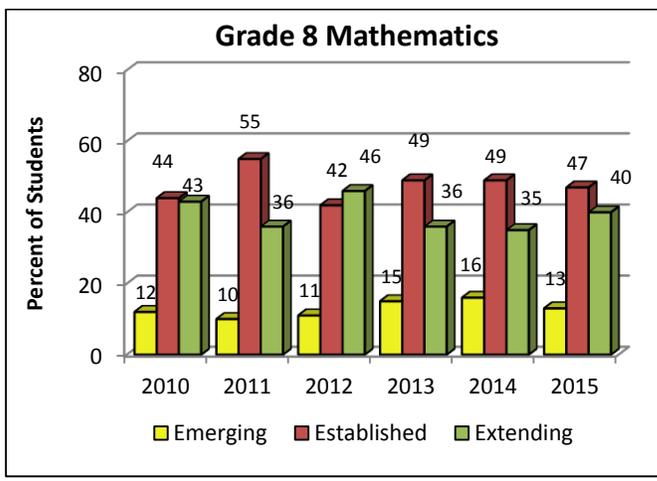


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

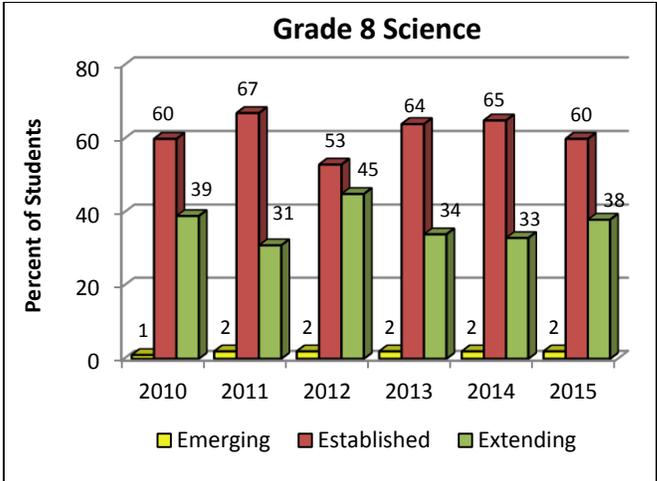
Grade 8 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	14	9	15	15	18	14
Established	43	55	41	47	50	49
Extending	43	36	45	37	32	37



Grade 8 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	12	10	11	15	16	13
Established	44	55	42	49	49	47
Extending	43	36	46	36	35	40

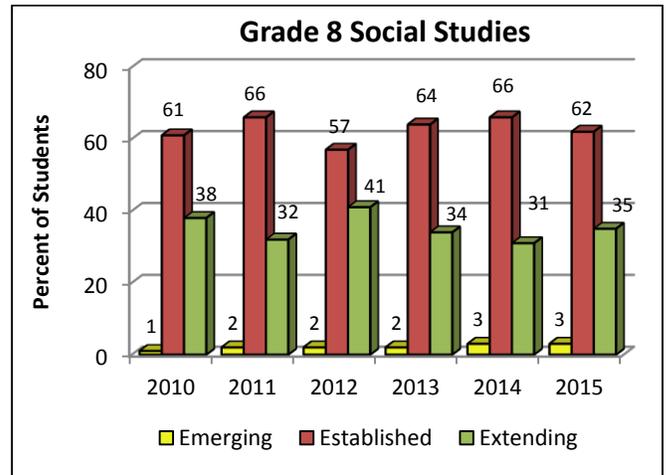


Grade 8 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	1	2	2	2	2	2
Established	60	67	53	64	65	60
Extending	39	31	45	34	33	38



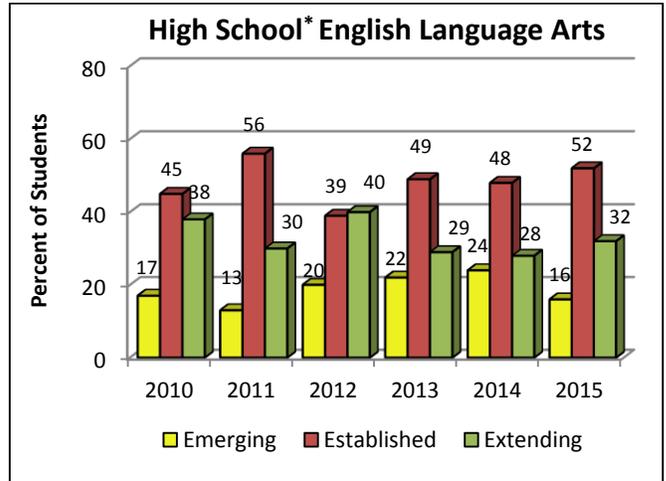
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 8 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	1	2	2	2	3	3
Established	61	66	57	64	66	62
Extending	38	32	41	34	31	35

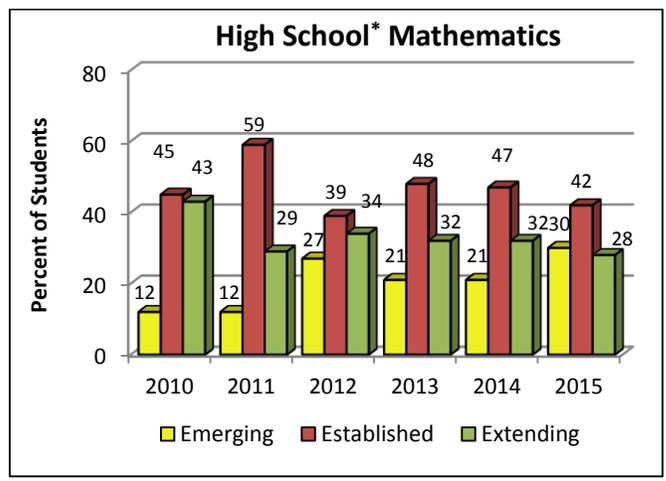


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

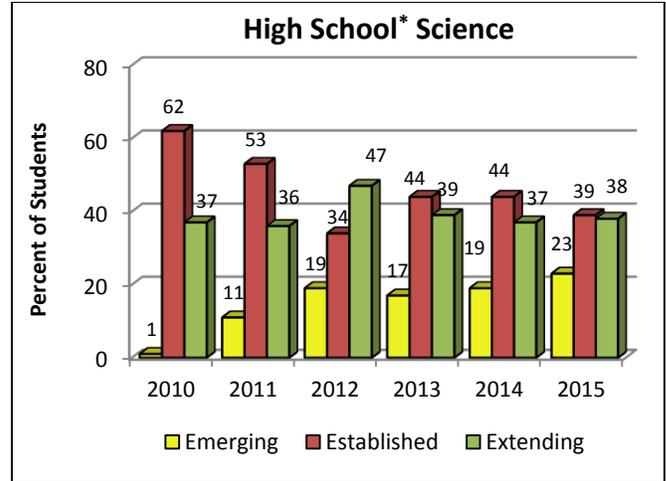
High School* English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	17	13	20	22	24	16
Established	45	56	39	49	48	52
Extending	38	30	40	29	28	32



High School* Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	12	12	27	21	21	30
Established	45	59	39	48	47	42
Extending	43	29	34	32	32	28



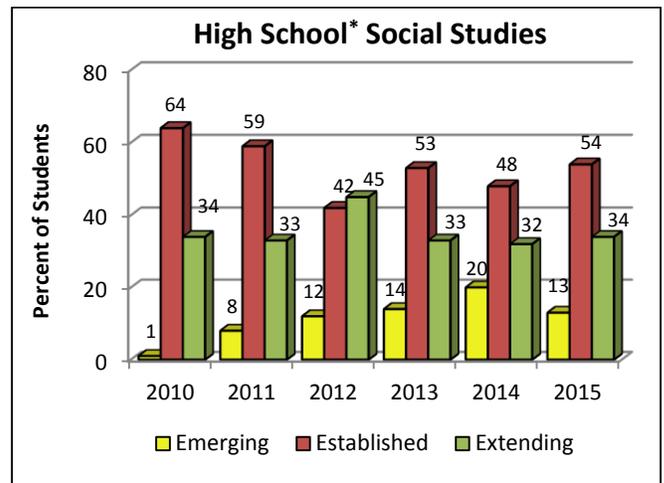
High School* Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	1	11	19	17	19	23
Established	62	53	34	44	44	39
Extending	37	36	47	39	37	38



*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					
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Emerging	1	8	12	14	20	13
Established	64	59	42	53	48	54
Extending	34	33	45	33	32	34



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