

TESTING BRIEF
2017 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 6, 2016 – March 24, 2017

The Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA) is designed to meet the requirements of federal and state law. States are required to assess all students, including students with significant cognitive disabilities, and provide access to a general curriculum that encompasses challenging academic standards. States are required 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 the 2016-2017 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. Assessment results in the “High School” category include Grade 11 and Grade 12 students who were first-time test takers.

Students in Kindergarten, and grades 3, 4, 6 & 7 are assessed in English/language arts (ELA) and mathematics; students in grades 5 and 8 and high school, are assessed in ELA, 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 – KINDERGARTEN

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Eighty-nine percent (89%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Eighty-nine percent (89%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Ninety-two percent (92%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 5

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Ninety-one percent (91%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2017. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2017. Ninety-six percent (96%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety percent (90%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Seventy-nine percent (79%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 7

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety-one percent (91%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Eighty-one percent (81%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2017. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2017. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016.

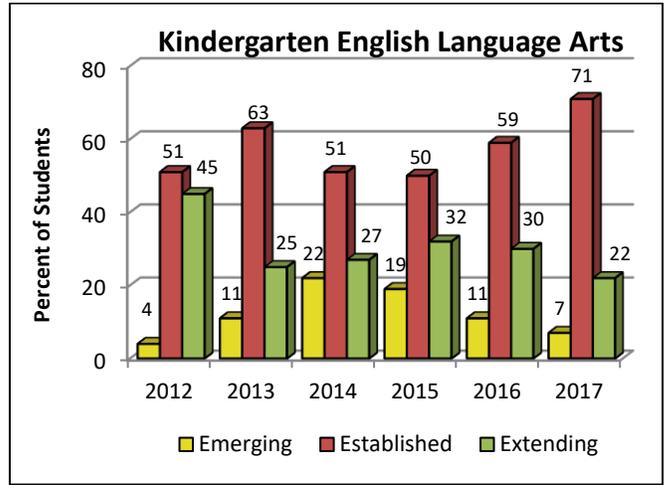
KEY FINDINGS – HIGH SCHOOL

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

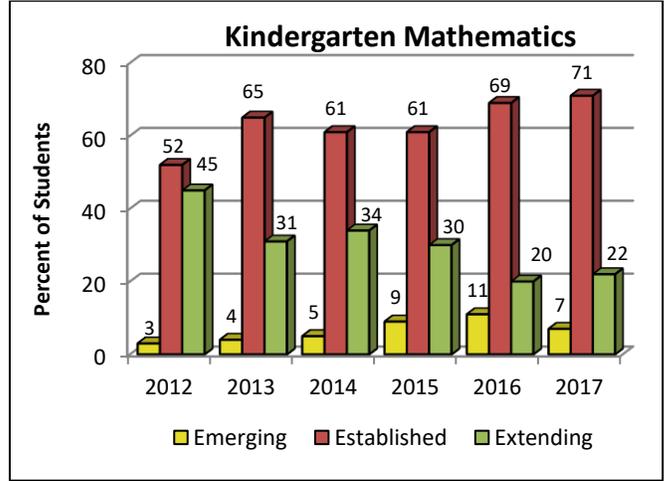
- Ninety percent (90%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016.
- Eighty percent (80%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017. Eighty-one percent (81%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016.
- Eighty-four percent (84%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2017. Eighty-one percent (81%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016.
- Ninety percent (90%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2017. Ninety-one percent (91%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016.

Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Kindergarten English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	4	11	22	19	11	7
Established	51	63	51	50	59	71
Extending	45	25	27	32	30	22

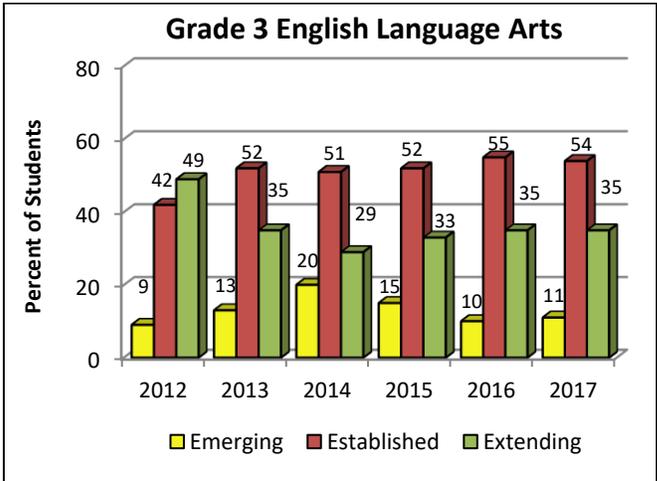


Kindergarten Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	3	4	5	9	11	7
Established	52	65	61	61	69	71
Extending	45	31	34	30	20	22

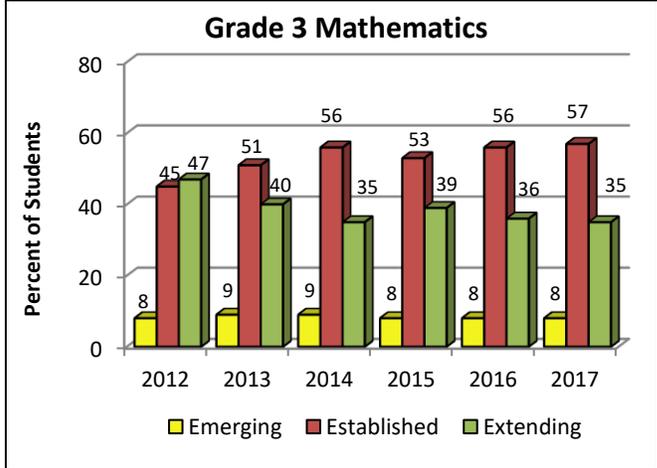


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 3 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	9	13	20	15	10	11
Established	42	52	51	52	55	54
Extending	49	35	29	33	35	35

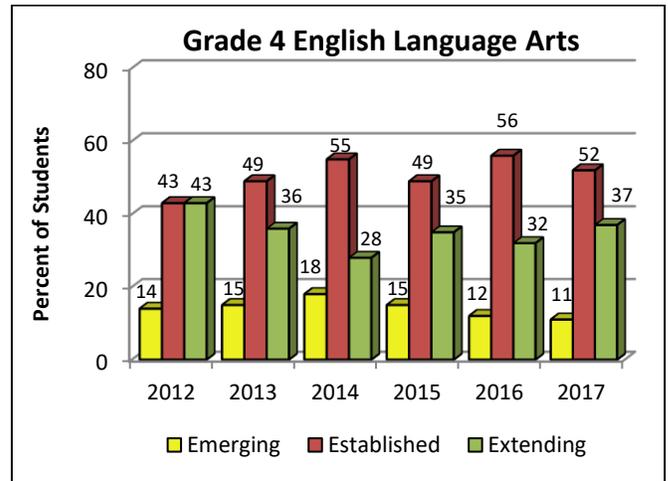


Grade 3 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	8	9	9	8	8	8
Established	45	51	56	53	56	57
Extending	47	40	35	39	36	35

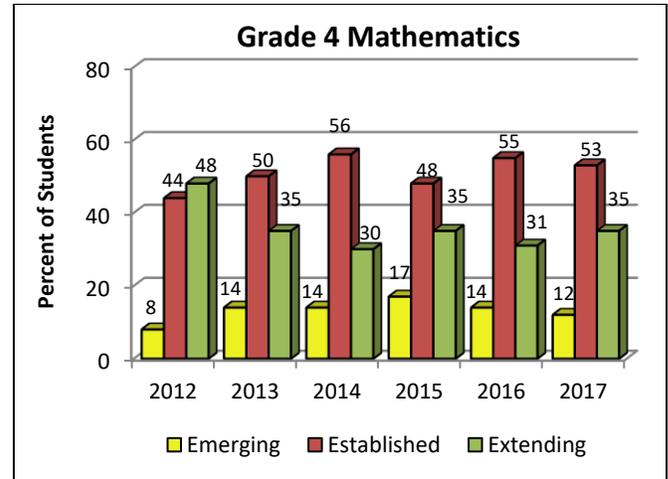


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 4 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	14	15	18	15	12	11
Established	43	49	55	49	56	52
Extending	43	36	28	35	32	37

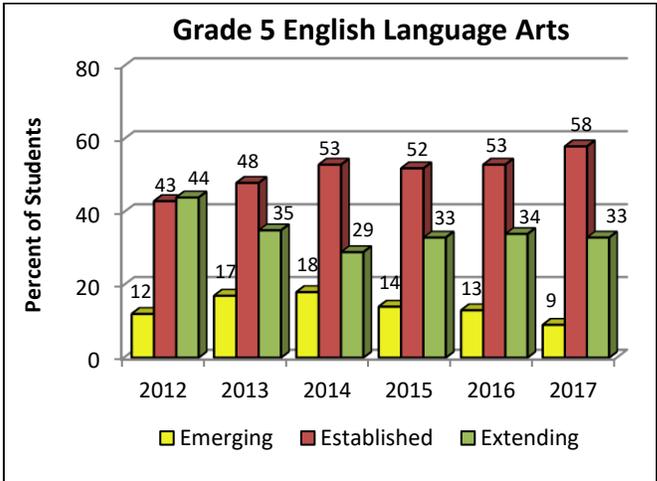


Grade 4 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	8	14	14	17	14	12
Established	44	50	56	48	55	53
Extending	48	35	30	35	31	35

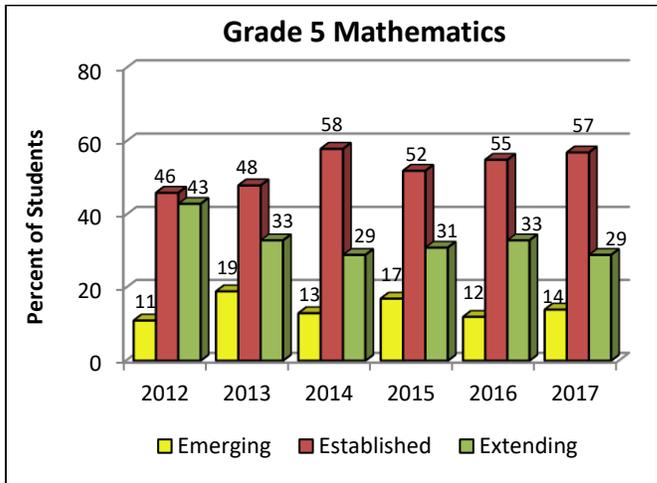


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

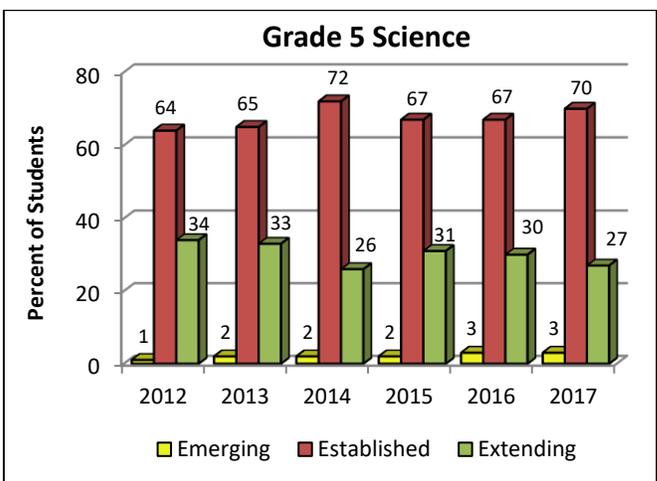
Grade 5 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	12	17	18	14	13	9
Established	43	48	53	52	53	58
Extending	44	35	29	33	34	33



Grade 5 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	11	19	13	17	12	14
Established	46	48	58	52	55	57
Extending	43	33	29	31	33	29

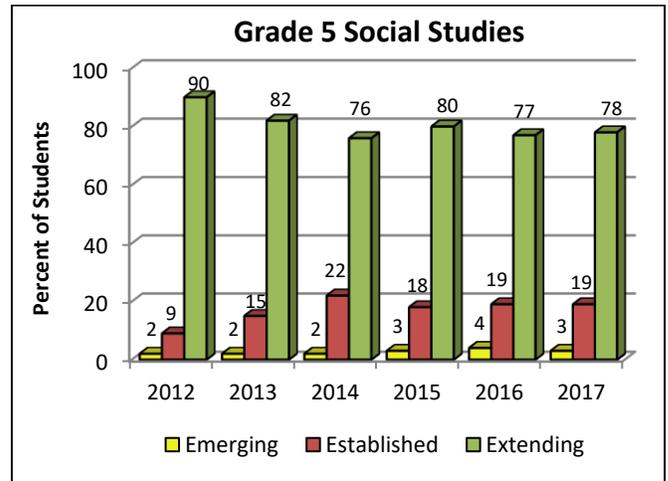


Grade 5 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	1	2	2	2	3	3
Established	64	65	72	67	67	70
Extending	34	33	26	31	30	27



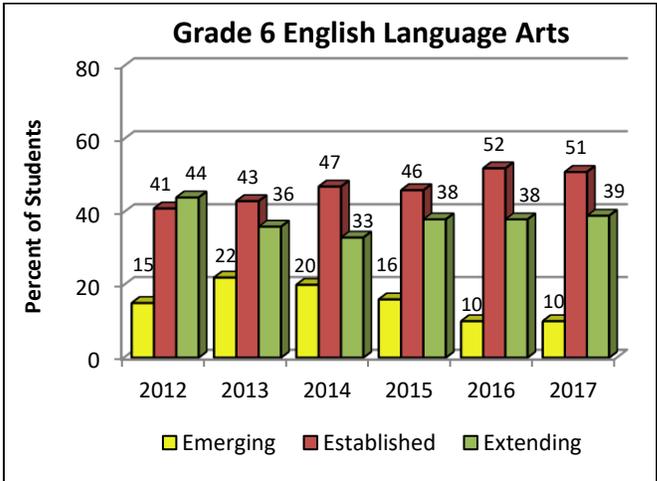
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 5 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	2	2	2	3	4	3
Established	9	15	22	18	19	19
Extending	90	82	76	80	77	78

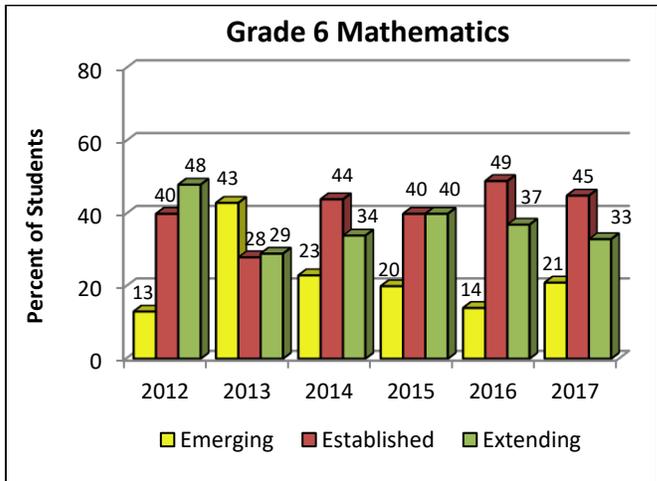


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 6 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	15	22	20	16	10	10
Established	41	43	47	46	52	51
Extending	44	36	33	38	38	39

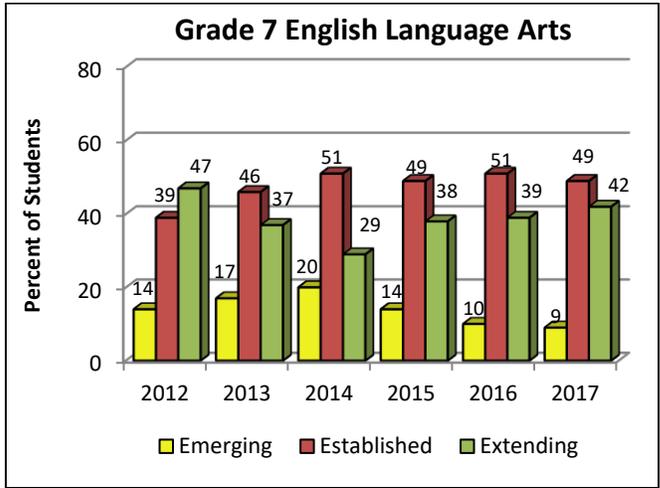


Grade 6 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	13	43	23	20	14	21
Established	40	28	44	40	49	45
Extending	48	29	34	40	37	33

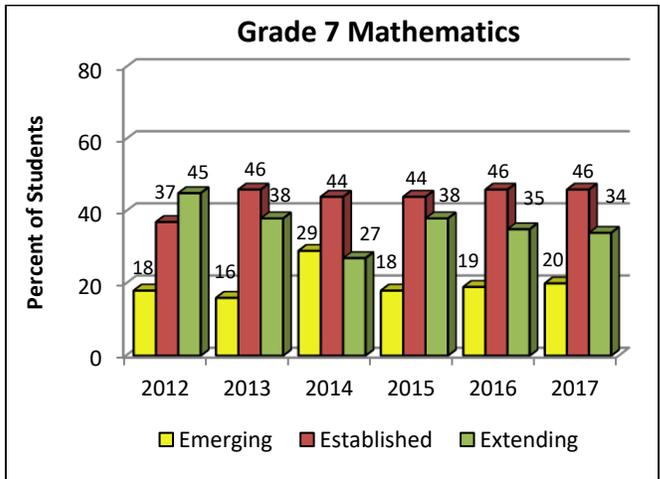


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 7 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	14	17	20	14	10	9
Established	39	46	51	49	51	49
Extending	47	37	29	38	39	42

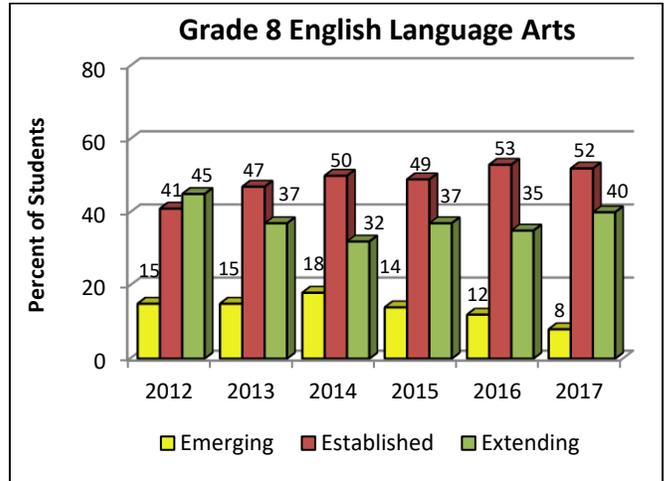


Grade 7 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	18	16	29	18	19	20
Established	37	46	44	44	46	46
Extending	45	38	27	38	35	34

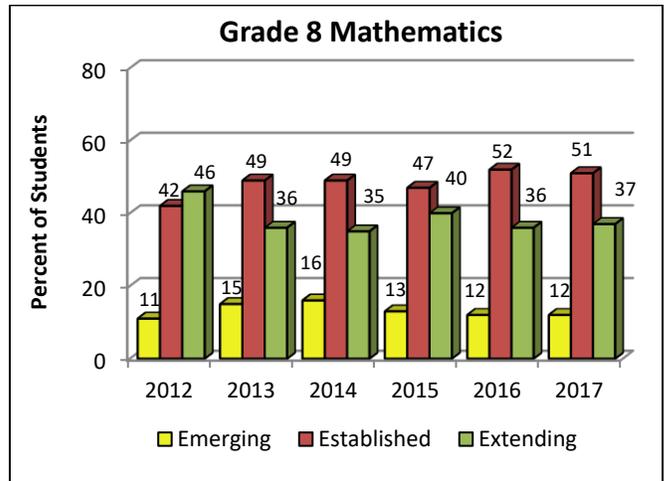


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

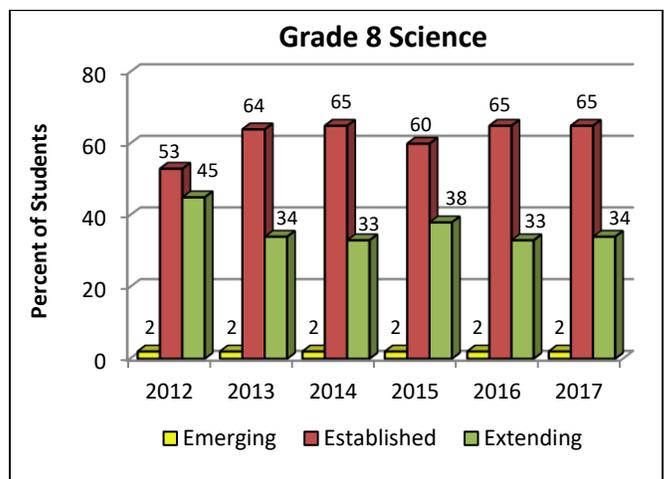
Grade 8 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	15	15	18	14	12	8
Established	41	47	50	49	53	52
Extending	45	37	32	37	35	40



Grade 8 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	11	15	16	13	12	12
Established	42	49	49	47	52	51
Extending	46	36	35	40	36	37

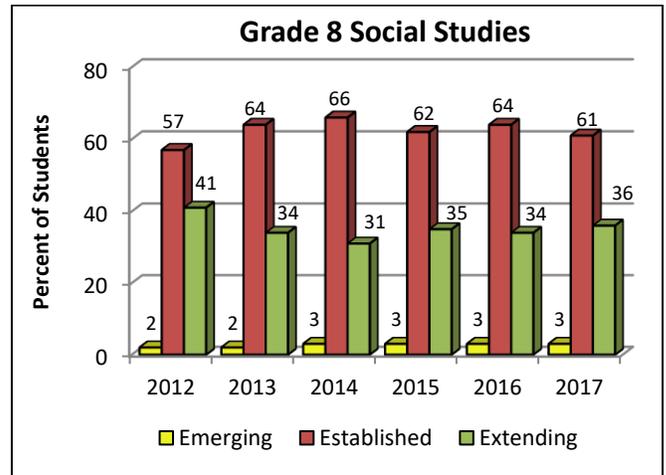


Grade 8 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	2	2	2	2	2	2
Established	53	64	65	60	65	65
Extending	45	34	33	38	33	34



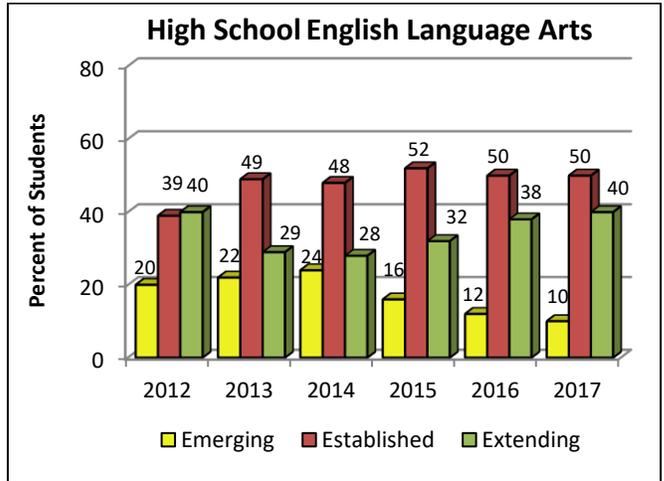
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 8 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	2	2	3	3	3	3
Established	57	64	66	62	64	61
Extending	41	34	31	35	34	36

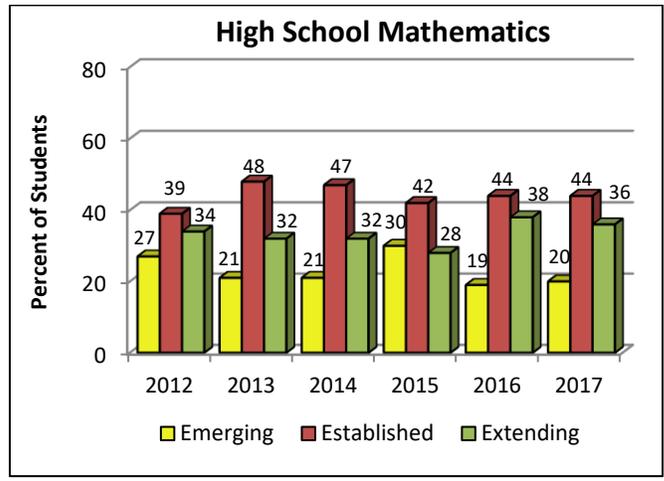


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

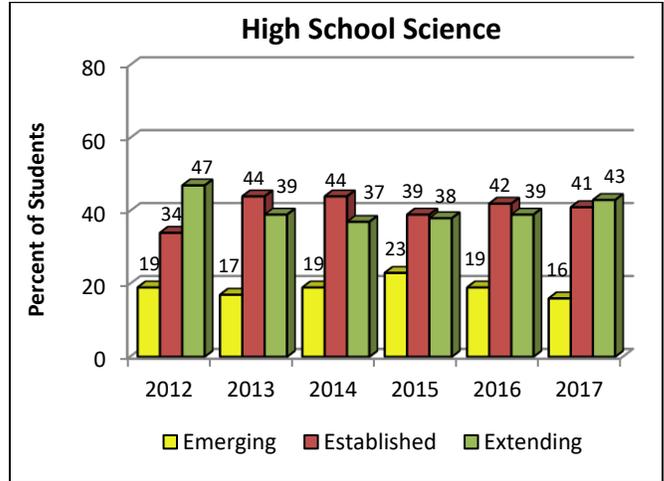
High School English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	20	22	24	16	12	10
Established	39	49	48	52	50	50
Extending	40	29	28	32	38	40



High School Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	27	21	21	30	19	20
Established	39	48	47	42	44	44
Extending	34	32	32	28	38	36



High School Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	19	17	19	23	19	16
Established	34	44	44	39	42	41
Extending	47	39	37	38	39	43



Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

High School Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	12	13	14	15	16	17
Emerging	12	14	20	13	9	10
Established	42	53	48	54	51	49
Extending	45	33	32	34	40	41

