

TESTING BRIEF
2018 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 5, 2017 – March 23, 2018

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 2017-2018 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 2018. Ninety-three percent (93%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Ninety-four percent (94%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Ninety-three percent (93%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2018. Eighty-nine percent (89%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Ninety-six percent (96%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Ninety-two percent (92%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2018. Eighty-nine percent (89%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.

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 2018. Ninety-one percent (91%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Ninety-four percent (94%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2018. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2017.
- Ninety-six percent (96%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2018. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2017.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2018. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Seventy-nine percent (79%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 7

English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2018. Ninety-one percent (91%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Eighty percent (80%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Ninety-three percent (93%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2018. Ninety-two percent (92%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Eighty-eight percent (88%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2018. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2017.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2018. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2017.

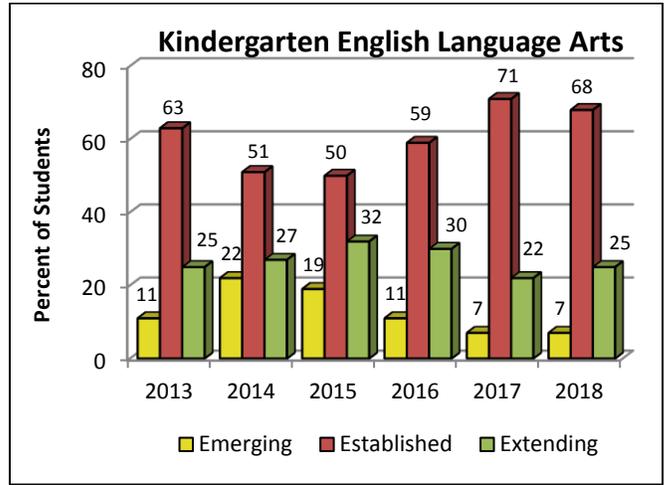
KEY FINDINGS – HIGH SCHOOL

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

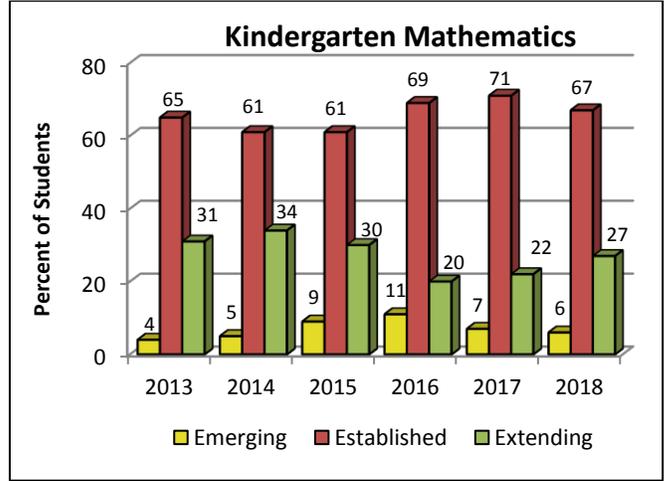
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2018. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2017.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2018. Eighty percent (80%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2017.
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2018. Eighty-four percent (84%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2017.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2018. Ninety percent (90%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2017.

Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Kindergarten English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	11	22	19	11	7	7
Established	63	51	50	59	71	68
Extending	25	27	32	30	22	25

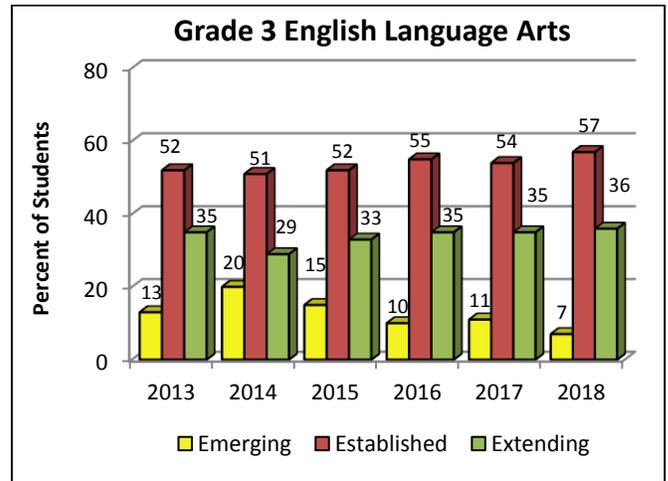


Kindergarten Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	4	5	9	11	7	6
Established	65	61	61	69	71	67
Extending	31	34	30	20	22	27

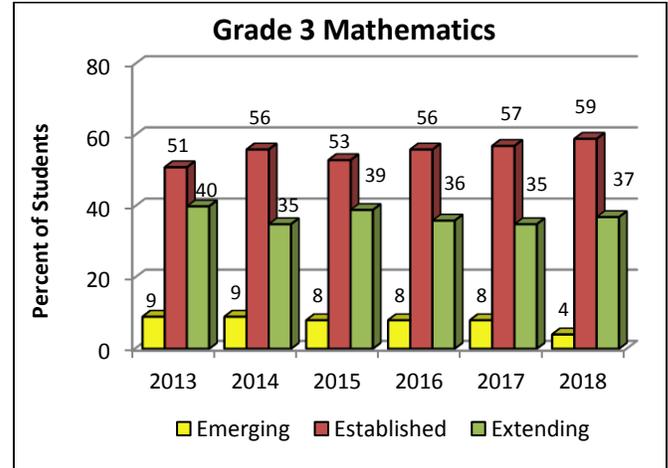


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 3 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	13	20	15	10	11	7
Established	52	51	52	55	54	57
Extending	35	29	33	35	35	36

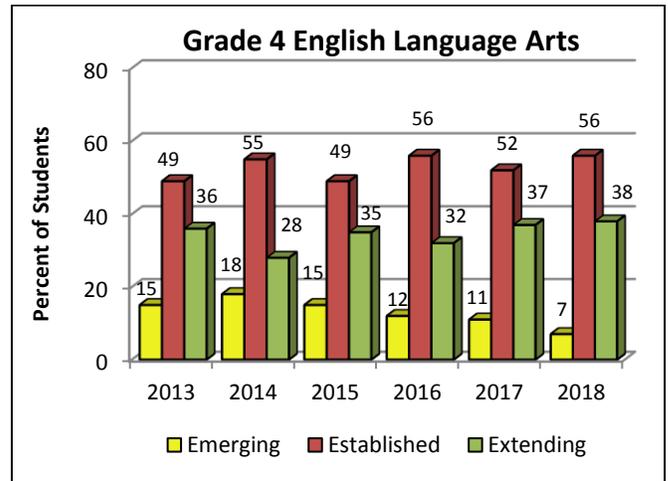


Grade 3 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	9	9	8	8	8	4
Established	51	56	53	56	57	59
Extending	40	35	39	36	35	37

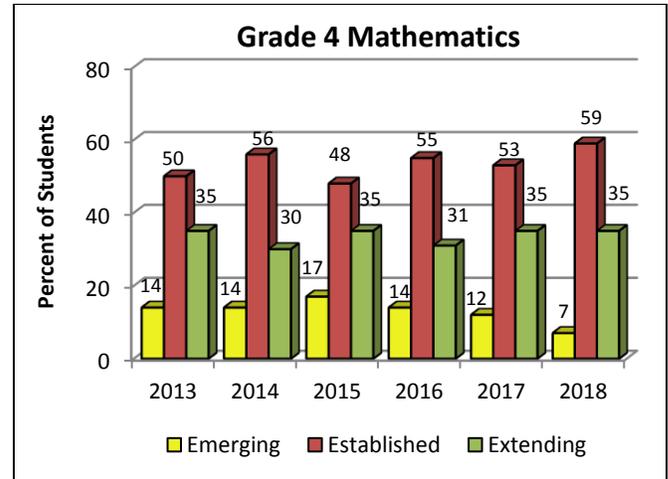


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 4 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	15	18	15	12	11	7
Established	49	55	49	56	52	56
Extending	36	28	35	32	37	38

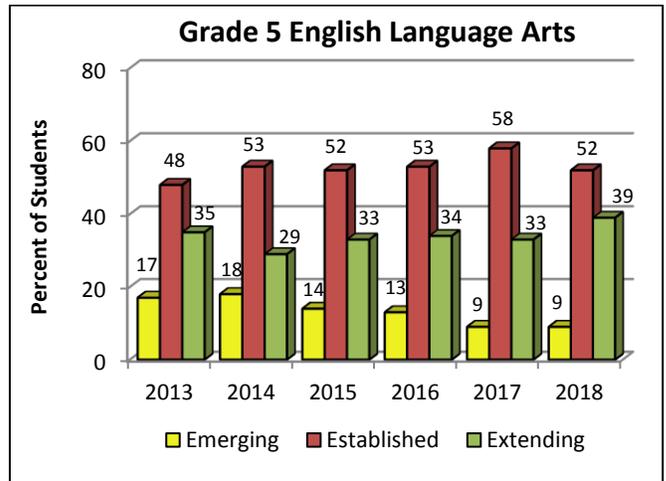


Grade 4 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	14	14	17	14	12	7
Established	50	56	48	55	53	59
Extending	35	30	35	31	35	35

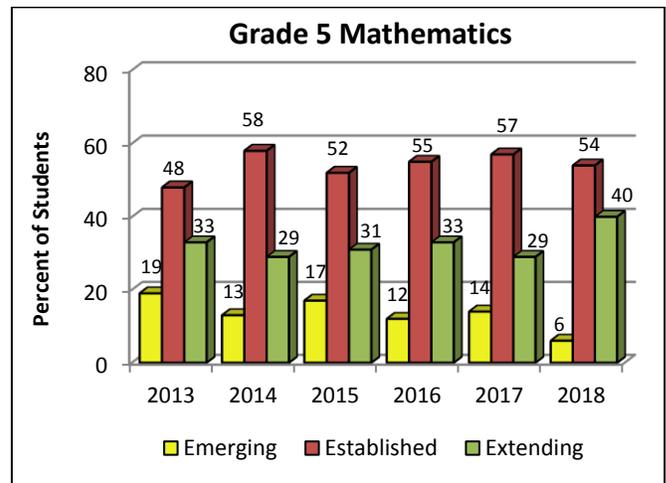


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

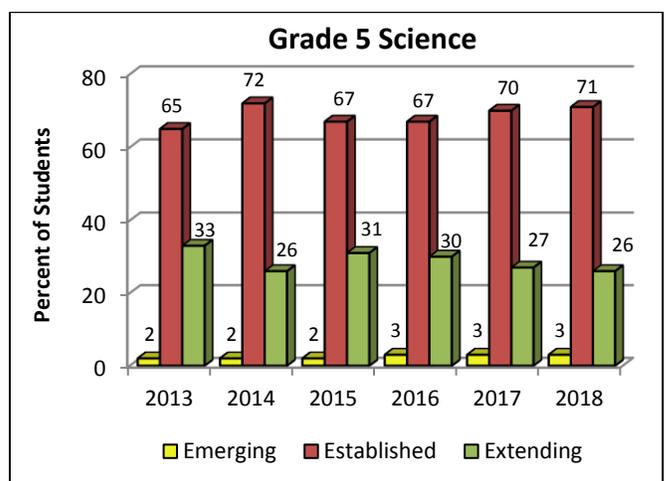
Grade 5 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	17	18	14	13	9	9
Established	48	53	52	53	58	52
Extending	35	29	33	34	33	39



Grade 5 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	19	13	17	12	14	6
Established	48	58	52	55	57	54
Extending	33	29	31	33	29	40

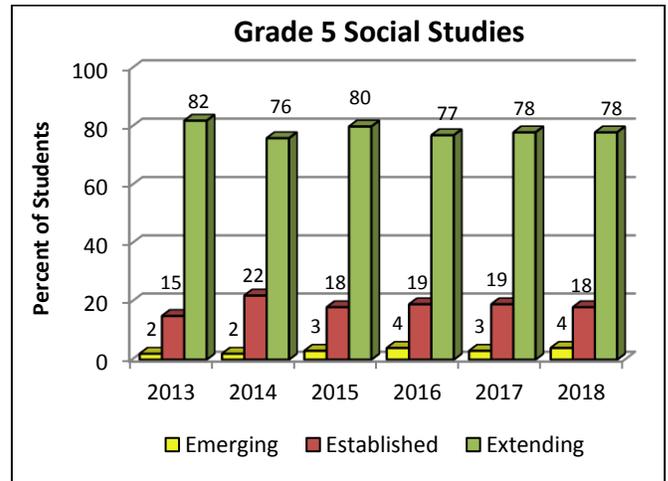


Grade 5 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	2	2	2	3	3	3
Established	65	72	67	67	70	71
Extending	33	26	31	30	27	26



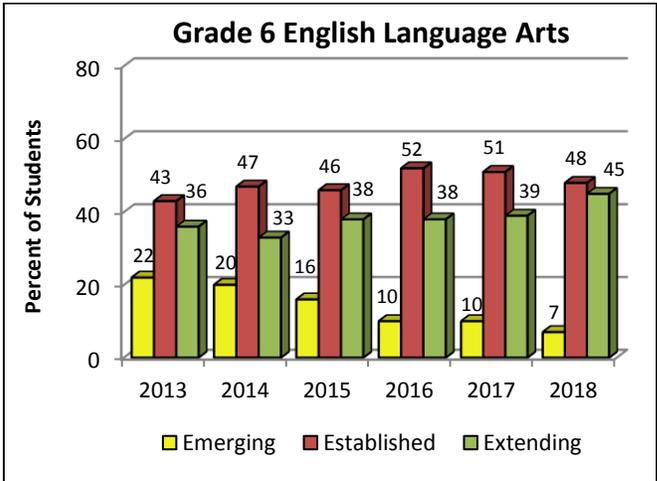
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

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

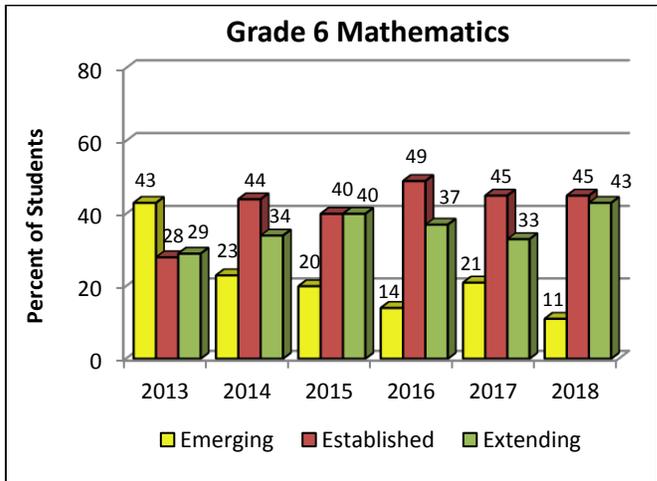


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 6 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	22	20	16	10	10	7
Established	43	47	46	52	51	48
Extending	36	33	38	38	39	45

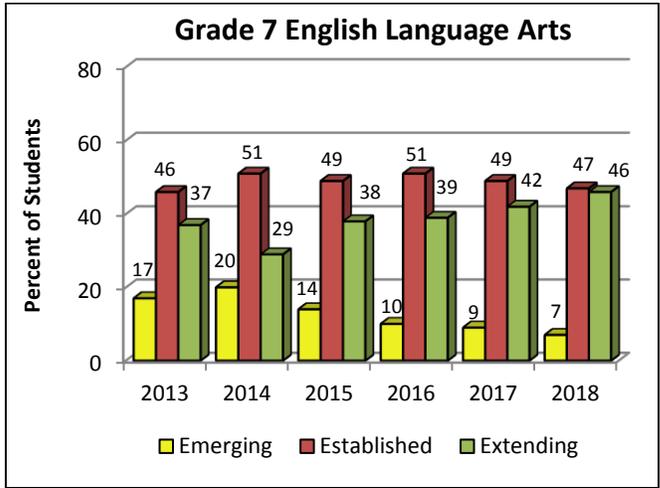


Grade 6 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	43	23	20	14	21	11
Established	28	44	40	49	45	45
Extending	29	34	40	37	33	43

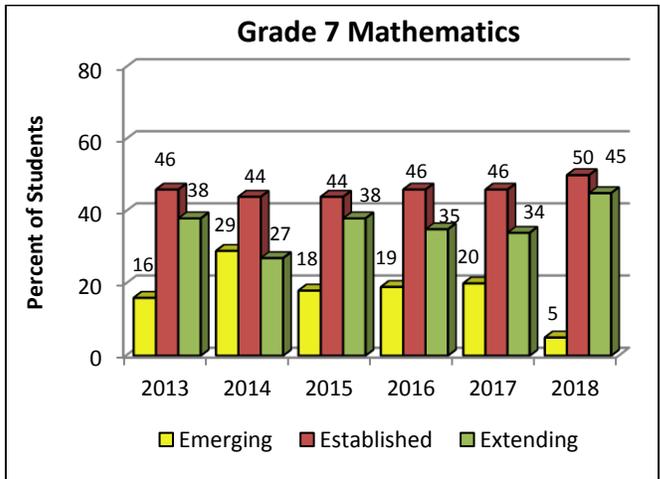


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 7 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	17	20	14	10	9	7
Established	46	51	49	51	49	47
Extending	37	29	38	39	42	46

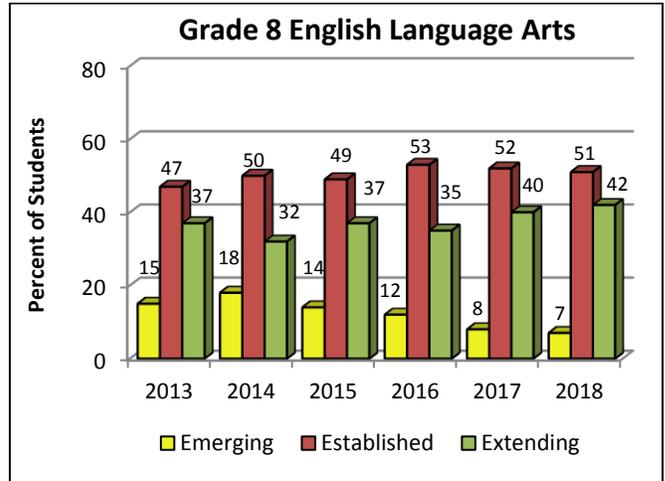


Grade 7 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	16	29	18	19	20	5
Established	46	44	44	46	46	50
Extending	38	27	38	35	34	45

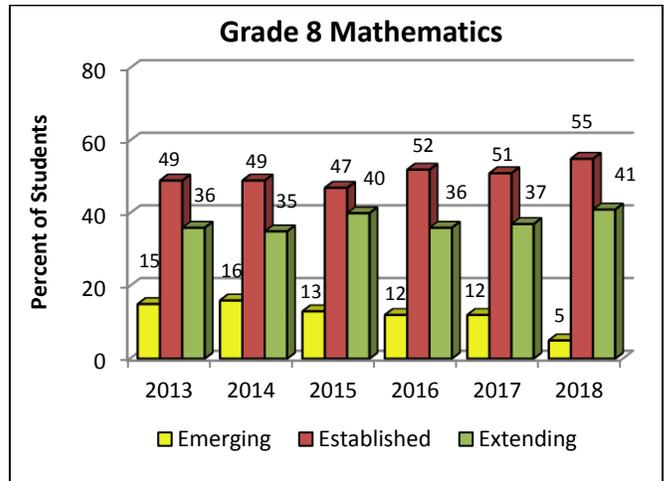


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

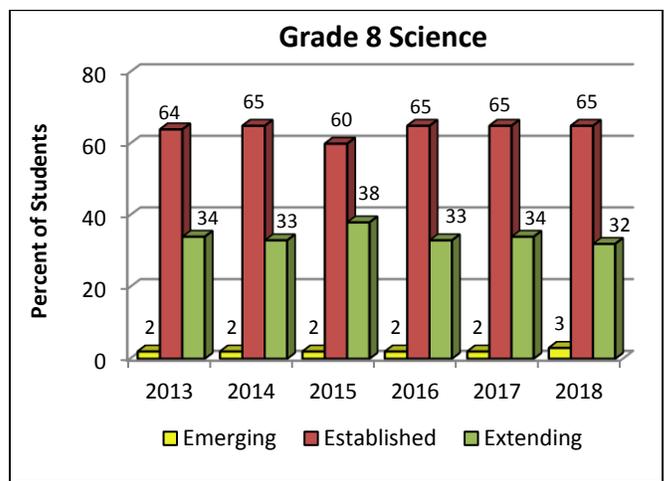
Grade 8 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	15	18	14	12	8	7
Established	47	50	49	53	52	51
Extending	37	32	37	35	40	42



Grade 8 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	15	16	13	12	12	5
Established	49	49	47	52	51	55
Extending	36	35	40	36	37	41

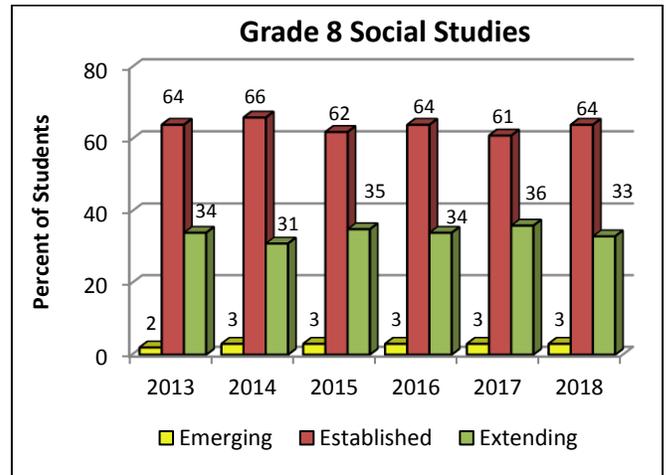


Grade 8 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	2	2	2	2	2	3
Established	64	65	60	65	65	65
Extending	34	33	38	33	34	32



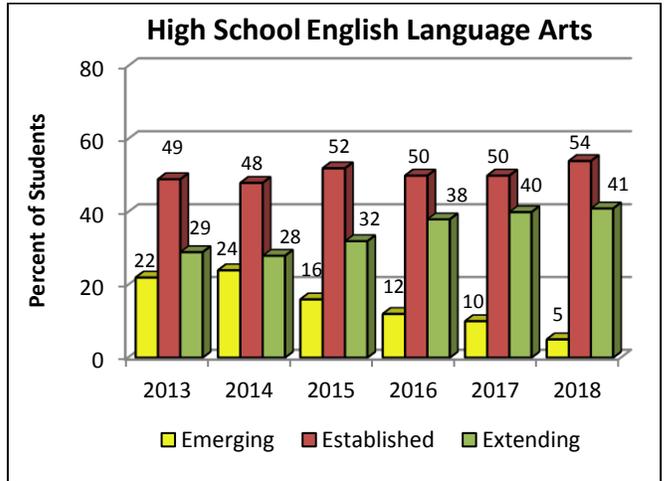
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 8 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	2	3	3	3	3	3
Established	64	66	62	64	61	64
Extending	34	31	35	34	36	33

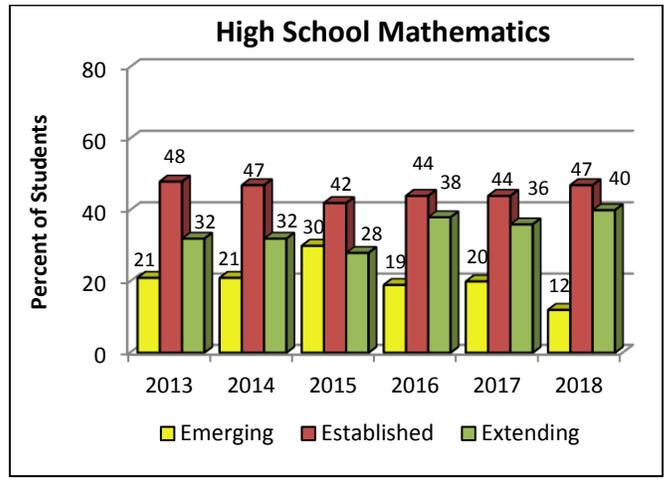


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

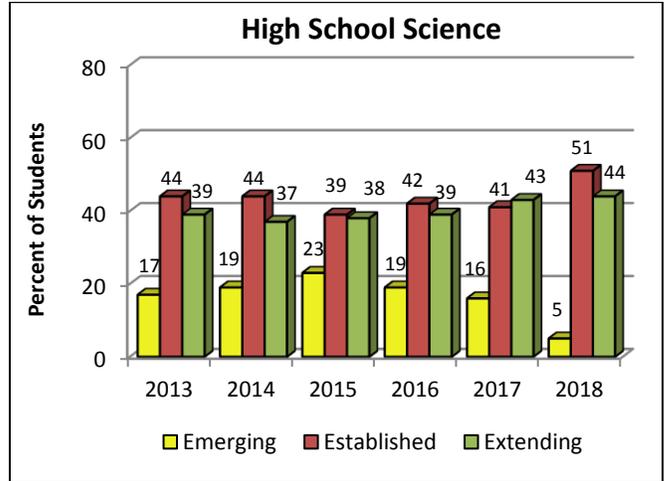
High School English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	22	24	16	12	10	5
Established	49	48	52	50	50	54
Extending	29	28	32	38	40	41



High School Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	21	21	30	19	20	12
Established	48	47	42	44	44	47
Extending	32	32	28	38	36	40



High School Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	17	19	23	19	16	5
Established	44	44	39	42	41	51
Extending	39	37	38	39	43	44



Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

High School Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	13	14	15	16	17	18
Emerging	14	20	13	9	10	3
Established	53	48	54	51	49	56
Extending	33	32	34	40	41	41

