

TESTING BRIEF
2016 Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA)
September 1, 2015 – March 25, 2016

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 2015-2016 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. High school students are assessed 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-nine percent (89%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Seventy-one percent (71%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Eighty-nine percent (89%) of Georgia’s kindergarten students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Ninety-one percent (91%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 3

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Ninety percent (90%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Eighty-five percent (85%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Ninety-two percent (92%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015.
- Ninety-six percent (96%) of Georgia’s third grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 4

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Eighty-five percent (85%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Eighty-three percent (83%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fourth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016. Ninety-six percent (96%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 5

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Eighty-three percent (83%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015.
- Ninety-six percent (96%) of Georgia’s fifth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 6

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Ninety percent (90%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Eighty-four percent (84%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Eighty-six percent (86%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Eighty percent (80%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s sixth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 7

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Ninety percent (90%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Eighty-two percent (82%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016. Ninety-nine percent (99%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s seventh grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015.

KEY FINDINGS – GRADE 8

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Eighty-six percent (86%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.
- Ninety-eight percent (98%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016. Ninety-eight percent (98%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015.
- Ninety-seven percent (97%) of Georgia’s eighth grade students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016. Ninety-seven percent (97%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015.

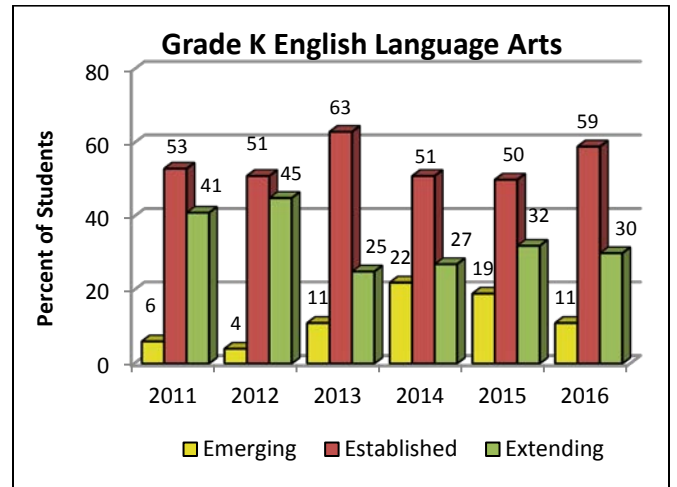
KEY FINDINGS – HIGH SCHOOL

English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

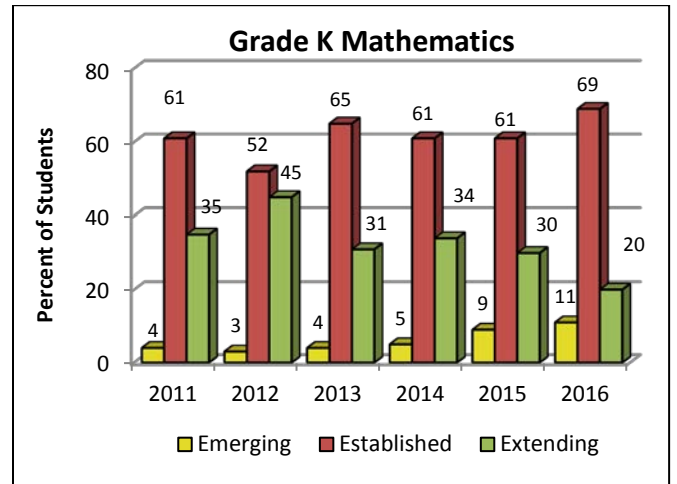
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2016. Eighty-four percent (84%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in English Language Arts in 2015.
- Eight-one percent (81%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2016. Seventy percent (70%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Mathematics in 2015.
- Eighty-one percent (81%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2016. Seventy-seven percent (77%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Science in 2015.
- Ninety-one percent (91%) of Georgia’s high school students achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2016. Eighty-seven percent (87%) achieved Established Progress or Extending Progress in Social Studies in 2015.

Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade K English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	6	4	11	22	19	11
Established	53	51	63	51	50	59
Extending	41	45	25	27	32	30

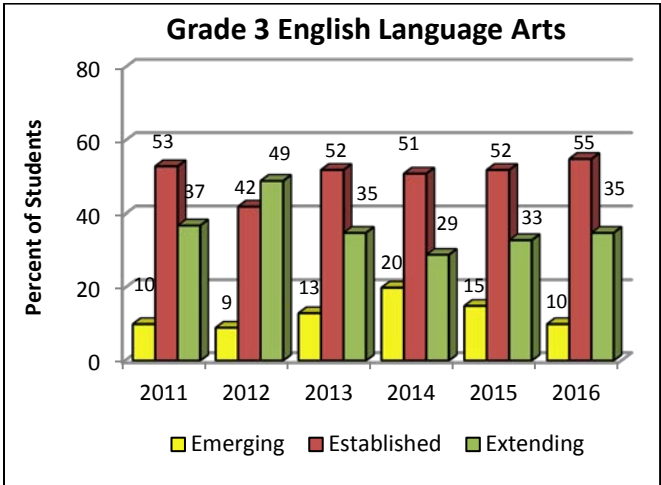


Grade K Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	4	3	4	5	9	11
Established	61	52	65	61	61	69
Extending	35	45	31	34	30	20

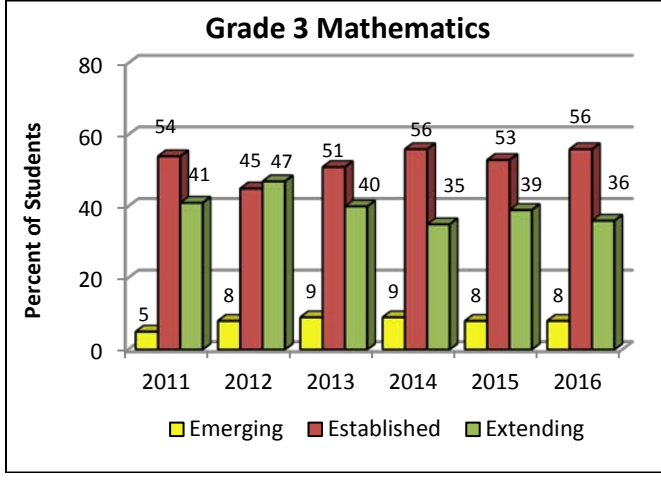


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

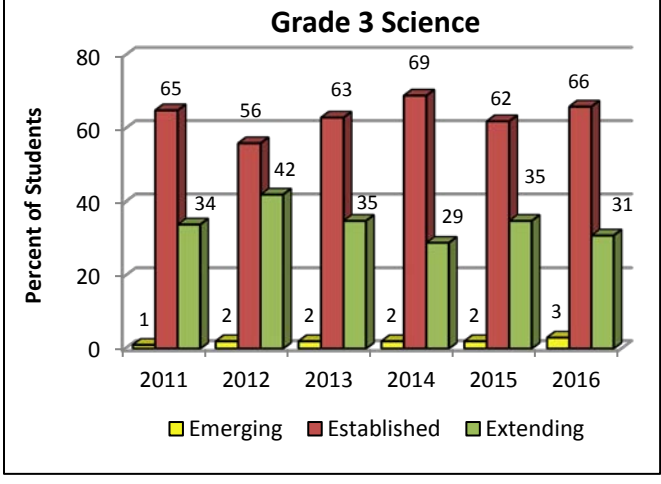
Grade 3 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	10	9	13	20	15	10
Established	53	42	52	51	52	55
Extending	37	49	35	29	33	35



Grade 3 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	5	8	9	9	8	8
Established	54	45	51	56	53	56
Extending	41	47	40	35	39	36

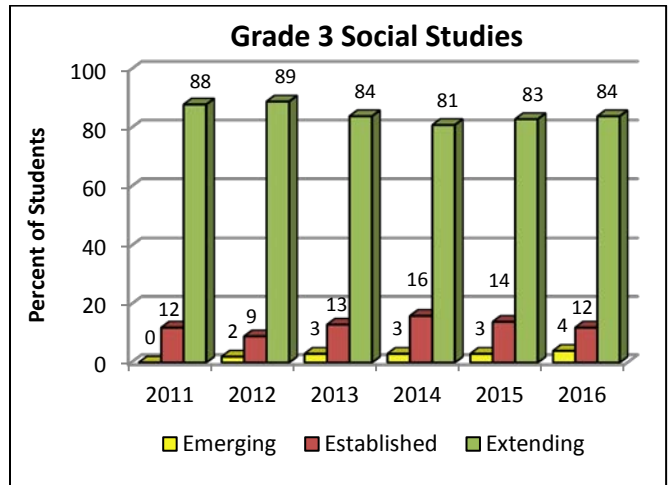


Grade 3 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	1	2	2	2	2	3
Established	65	56	63	69	62	66
Extending	34	42	35	29	35	31



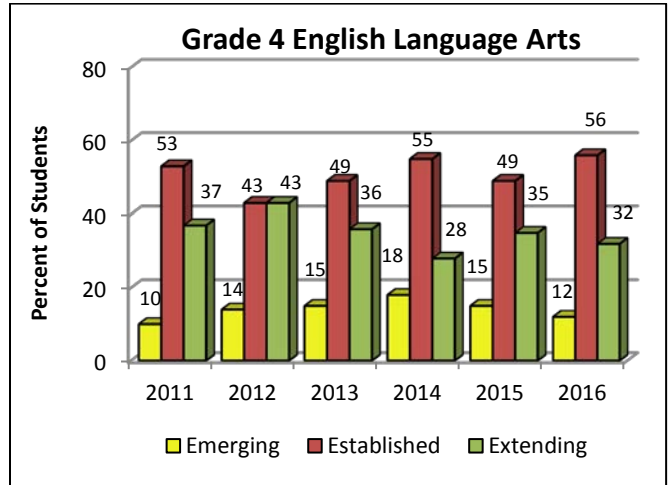
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 3 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	0	2	3	3	3	4
Established	12	9	13	16	14	12
Extending	88	89	84	81	83	84

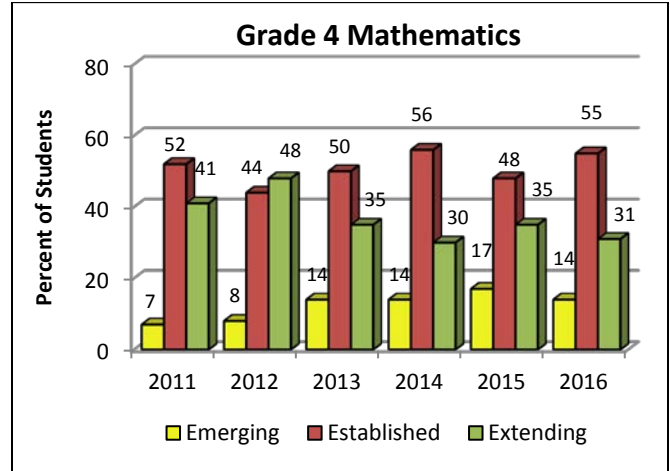


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

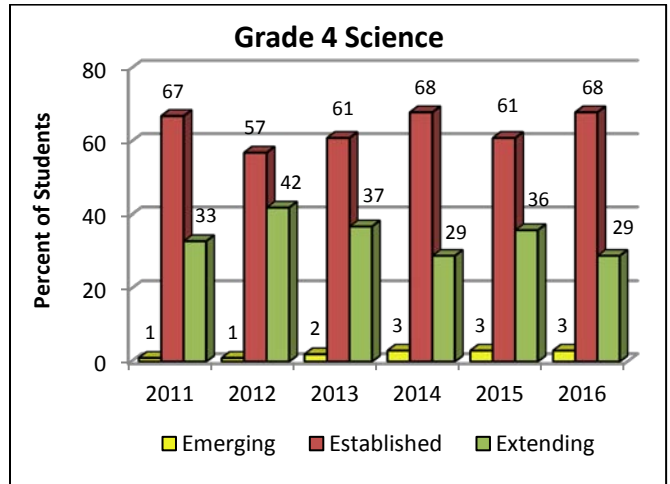
Grade 4 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	10	14	15	18	15	12
Established	53	43	49	55	49	56
Extending	37	43	36	28	35	32



Grade 4 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	7	8	14	14	17	14
Established	52	44	50	56	48	55
Extending	41	48	35	30	35	31

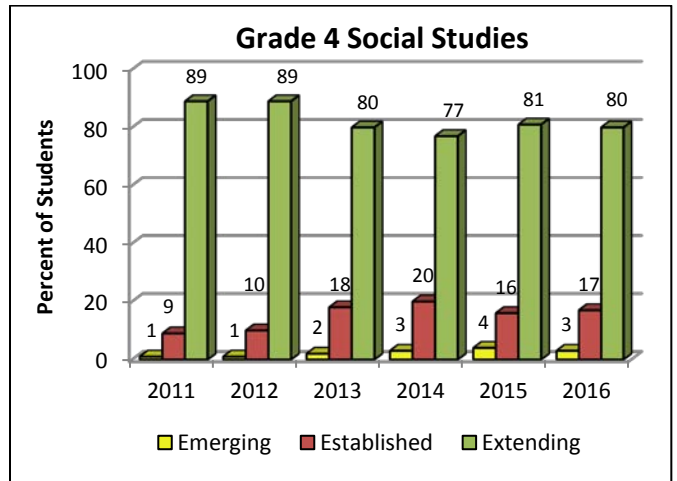


Grade 4 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	1	1	2	3	3	3
Established	67	57	61	68	61	68
Extending	33	42	37	29	36	29



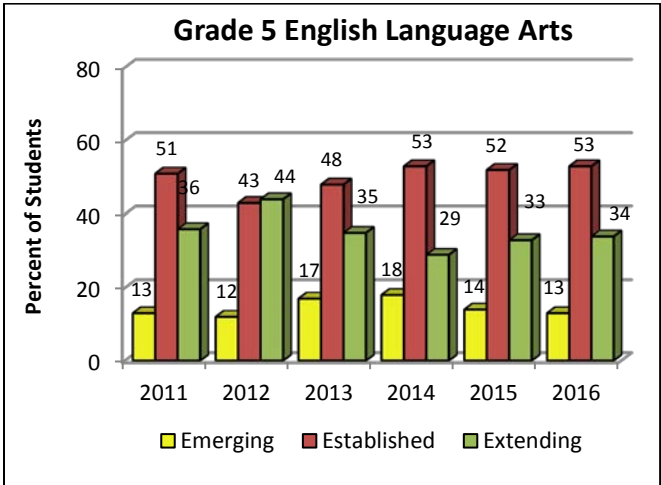
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 4 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	1	1	2	3	4	3
Established	9	10	18	20	16	17
Extending	89	89	80	77	81	80

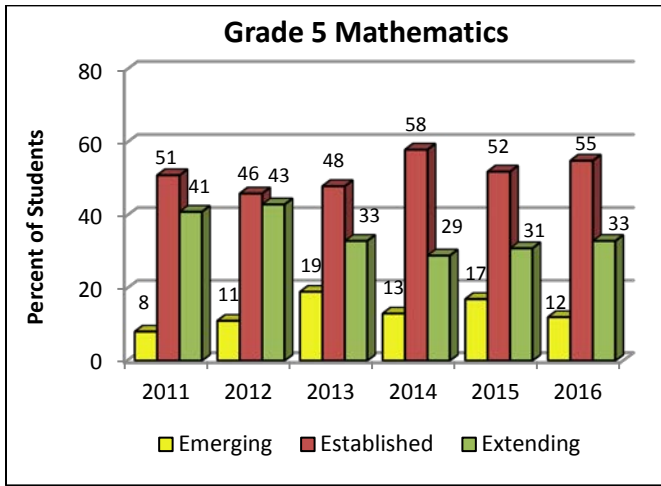


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

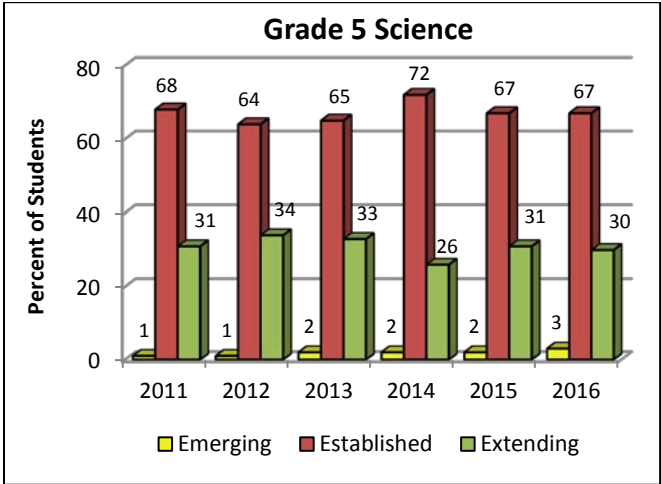
Grade 5 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	13	12	17	18	14	13
Established	51	43	48	53	52	53
Extending	36	44	35	29	33	34



Grade 5 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	8	11	19	13	17	12
Established	51	46	48	58	52	55
Extending	41	43	33	29	31	33

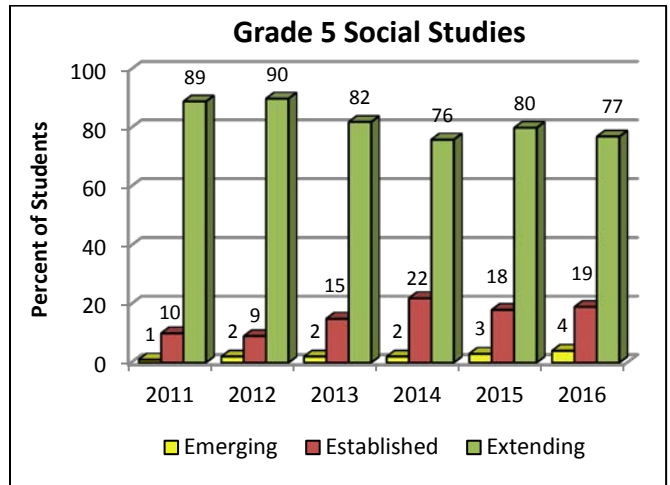


Grade 5 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	1	1	2	2	2	3
Established	68	64	65	72	67	67
Extending	31	34	33	26	31	30



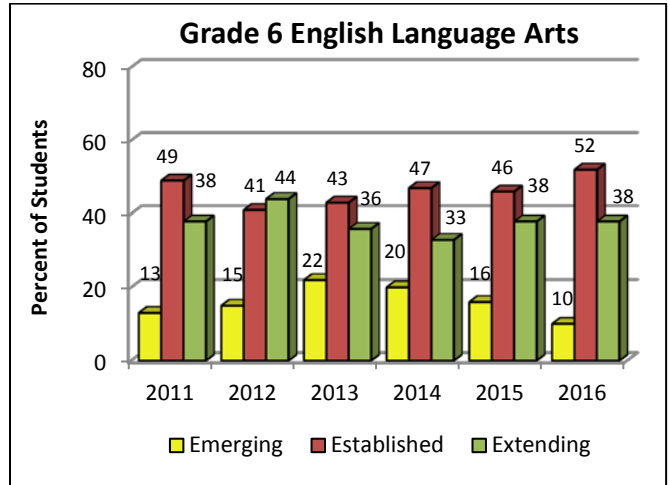
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 5 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	1	2	2	2	3	4
Established	10	9	15	22	18	19
Extending	89	90	82	76	80	77

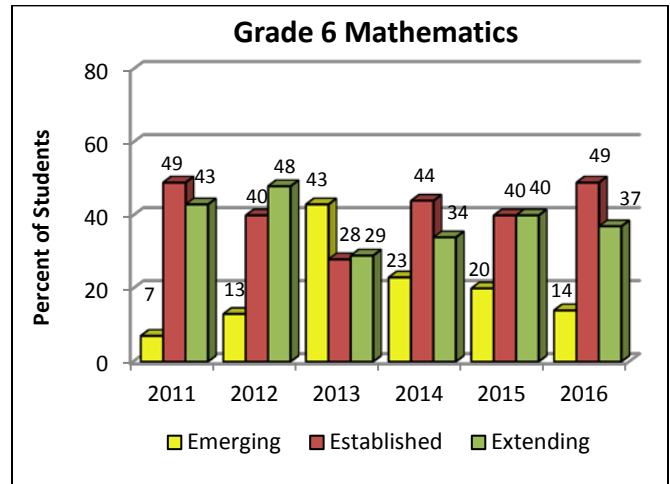


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

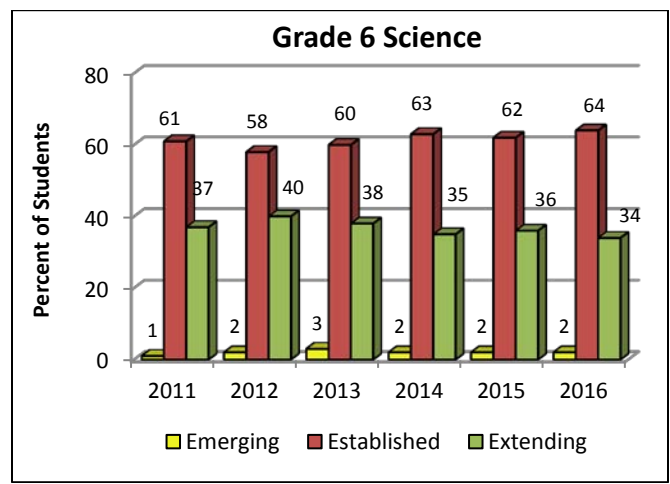
Grade 6 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	13	15	22	20	16	10
Established	49	41	43	47	46	52
Extending	38	44	36	33	38	38



Grade 6 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	7	13	43	23	20	14
Established	49	40	28	44	40	49
Extending	43	48	29	34	40	37

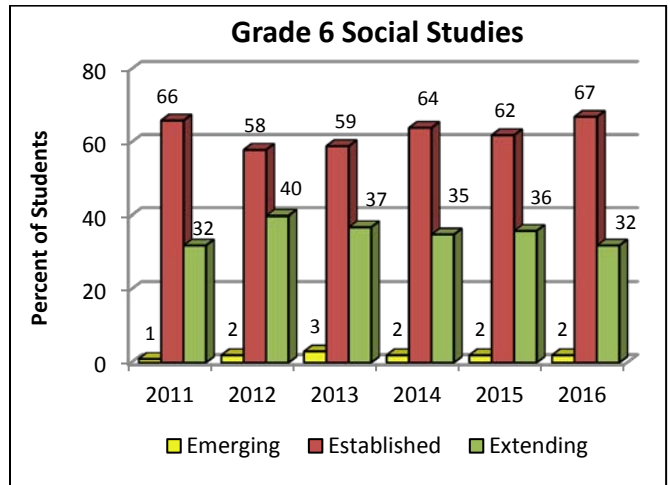


Grade 6 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	1	2	3	2	2	2
Established	61	58	60	63	62	64
Extending	37	40	38	35	36	34



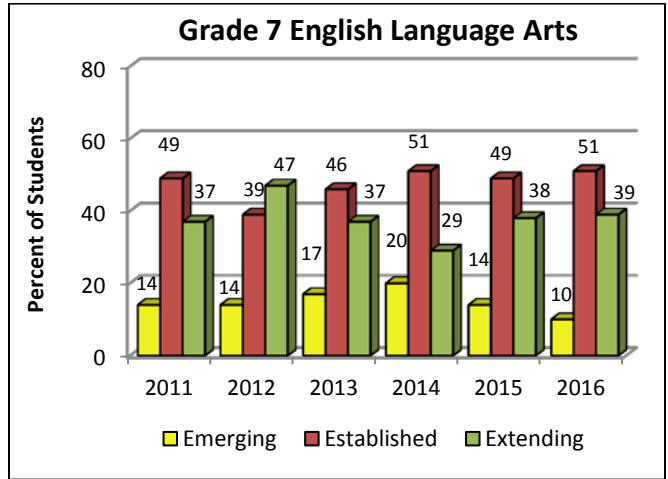
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 6 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	1	2	3	2	2	2
Established	66	58	59	64	62	67
Extending	32	40	37	35	36	32

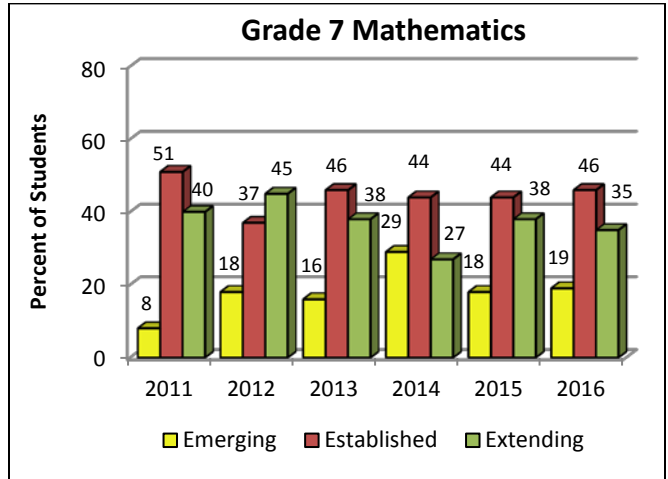


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

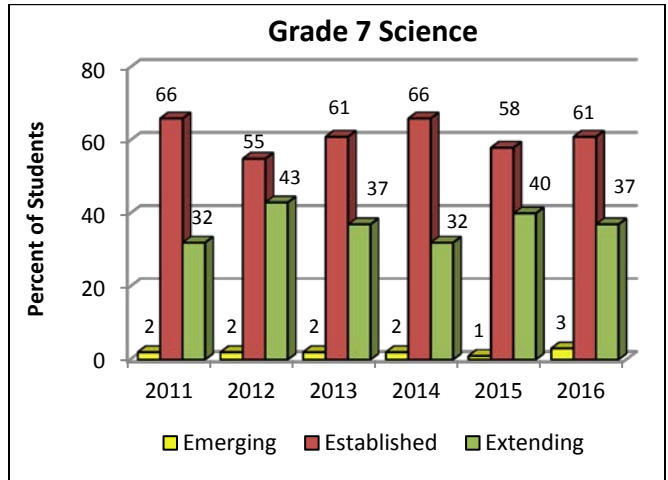
Grade 7 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	14	14	17	20	14	10
Established	49	39	46	51	49	51
Extending	37	47	37	29	38	39



Grade 7 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	8	18	16	29	18	19
Established	51	37	46	44	44	46
Extending	40	45	38	27	38	35

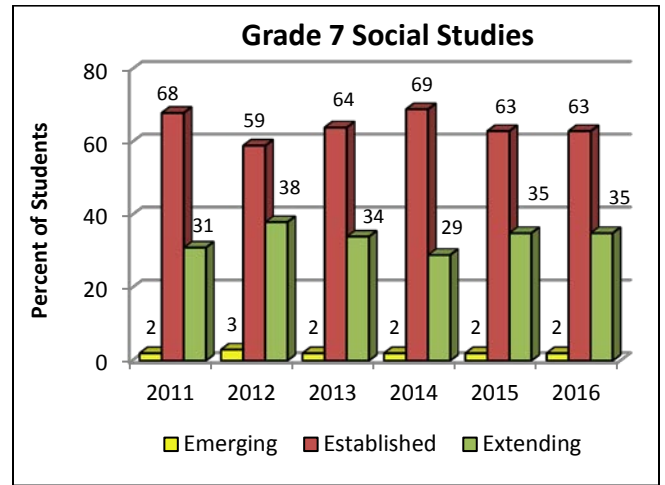


Grade 7 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	2	2	2	2	1	3
Established	66	55	61	66	58	61
Extending	32	43	37	32	40	37



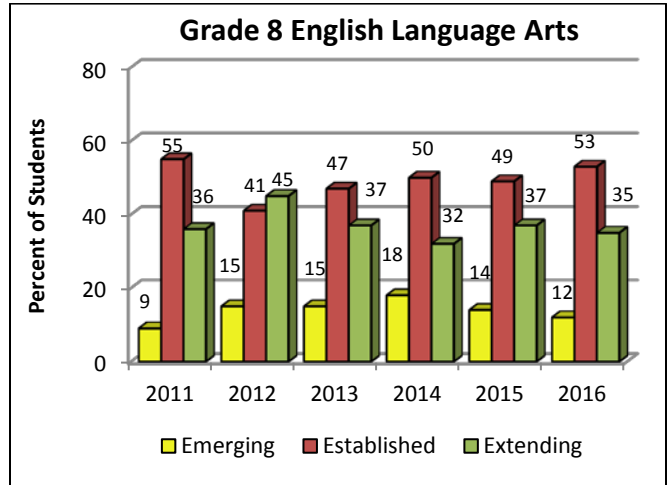
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 7 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	2	3	2	2	2	2
Established	68	59	64	69	63	63
Extending	31	38	34	29	35	35

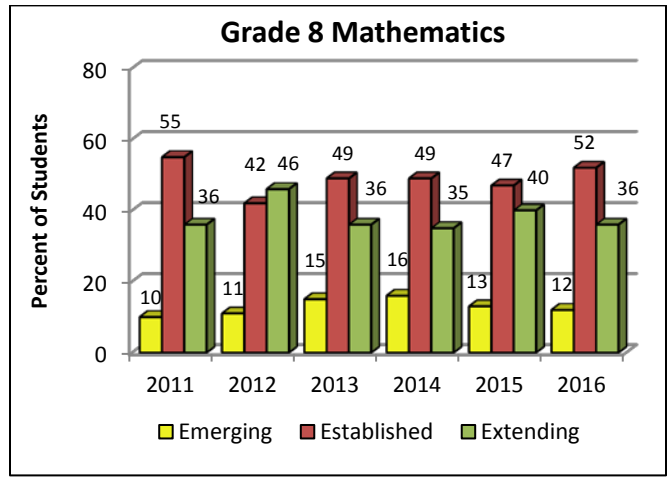


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

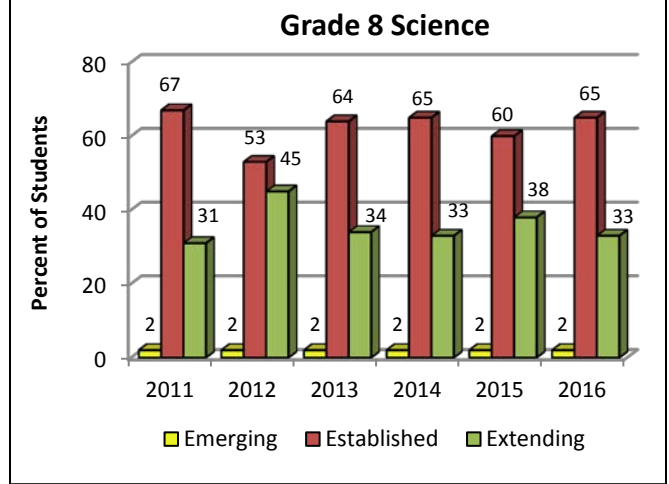
Grade 8 English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	9	15	15	18	14	12
Established	55	41	47	50	49	53
Extending	36	45	37	32	37	35



Grade 8 Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	10	11	15	16	13	12
Established	55	42	49	49	47	52
Extending	36	46	36	35	40	36

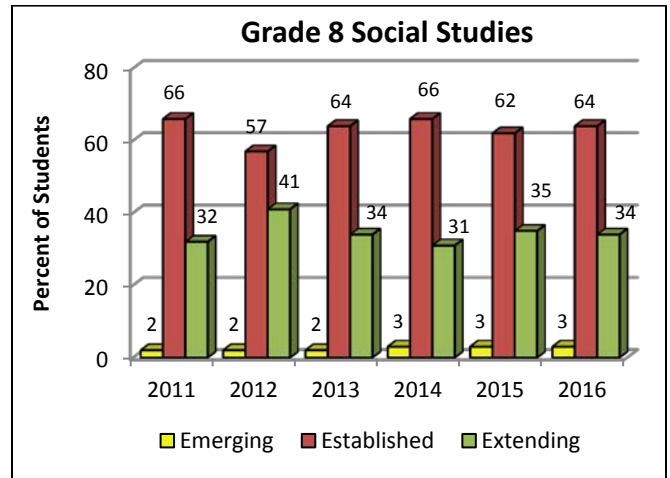


Grade 8 Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	2	2	2	2	2	2
Established	67	53	64	65	60	65
Extending	31	45	34	33	38	33



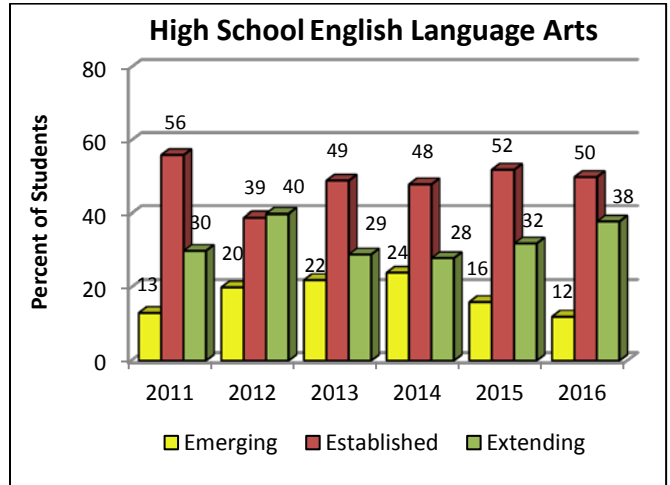
Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

Grade 8 Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	2	2	2	3	3	3
Established	66	57	64	66	62	64
Extending	32	41	34	31	35	34

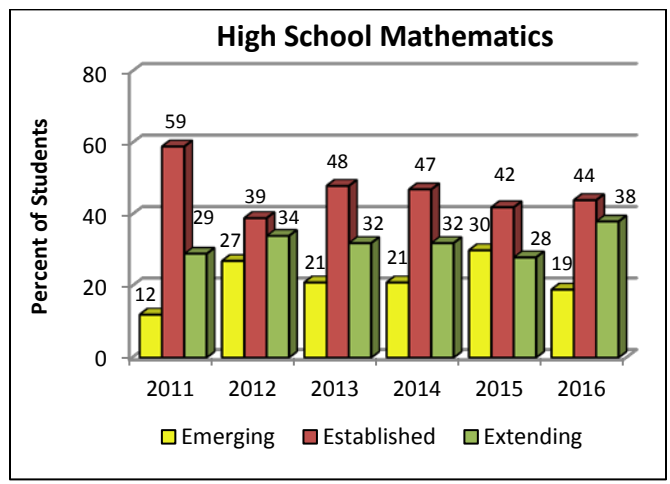


Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

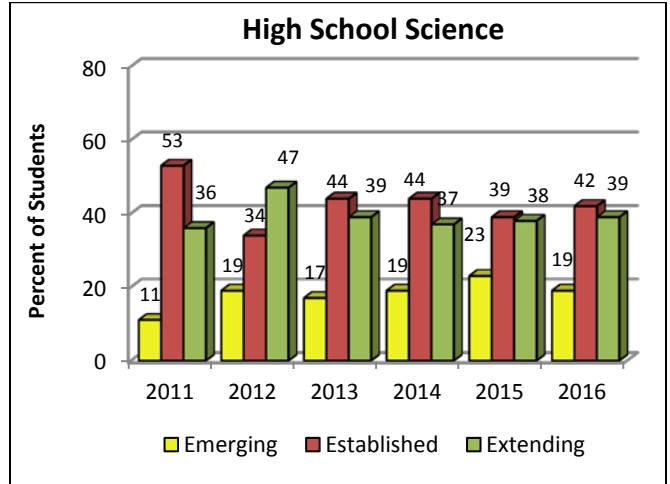
High School English Language Arts						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	13	20	22	24	16	12
Established	56	39	49	48	52	50
Extending	30	40	29	28	32	38



High School Mathematics						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	12	27	21	21	30	19
Established	59	39	48	47	42	44
Extending	29	34	32	32	28	38



High School Science						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	11	19	17	19	23	19
Established	53	34	44	44	39	42
Extending	36	47	39	37	38	39



Historical Performance of Georgia Students on the GAA

High School Social Studies						
Student Stage of Progress	Percent of Students					
	11	12	13	14	15	16
Emerging	8	12	14	20	13	9
Established	59	42	53	48	54	51
Extending	33	45	33	32	34	40

