

**TESTING BRIEF**  
**Grade 5 Writing Assessment**  
**Winter 2014 Administration**  
**March 5-6, 2014**

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Georgia law (O.C.G.A. §20-2-281) states, “writing assessments shall be administered to students in grades three, five, eight, and eleven.” The purpose of the Grade 5 Writing Assessment is to assess student writing skills and improve writing instruction. The Grade 5 Writing Assessment provides students, their parents, and future middle school teachers information about the students’ writing skills as they exit elementary school. The assessment consists of an evaluation of each student response to a randomly assigned prompt. Students are assigned a topic from a prompt bank representing three genres: narrative, informational, and persuasive. Students are allowed approximately 120 minutes to write their essays.

The scale score range for the Grade 5 Writing Assessment is 100 to 350. Writing scores are also reported in the following performance levels: Does Not Meet (100-199), Meets (200-249), and Exceeds (250-350).

**KEY FINDINGS: ALL STUDENTS**

- Eighty (80) percent of all students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard set for writing, a one (1) percentage point increase from seventy-nine (79) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of all students achieving the Meets or Exceeds standard set for writing has increased by three (3) percentage points from seventy-seven (77) percent in 2008 to eighty (80) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for all students was 214, a one (1) scale score point decrease from the mean scale score of 215 in 2013.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 214 for all students shows no change from the 2008 administration.

## KEY FINDINGS: BY RACE/ETHNICITY GROUPS

### Asian Students

- Ninety-two (92) percent of Asian students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard for writing, a one (1) percentage point increase from ninety-one (91) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of Asian students meeting or exceeding the standard has increased by two (2) percentage points from ninety (90) percent in 2008 to ninety-two (92) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for Asian students was 236, a one (1) scale score point increase from the mean scale score of 235 for the 2013 administration.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 236 for Asian students shows an increase of three (3) scale score points over the 2008 administration's mean scale score of 233.

### Black Students

- Seventy-three (73) percent of Black students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard for writing, a one (1) percentage point increase from seventy-two (72) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of Black students meeting or exceeding the standard has increased by two (2) percentage points from seventy-one (71) percent in 2008 to seventy-three (73) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for Black students was 206, a one (1) scale score point decrease from the mean scale score of 207 for the 2013 administration.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 206 for Black students shows a decrease of one (1) scale score point from the 2008 administration's mean scale score of 207.

## **KEY FINDINGS: BY RACE/ETHNICITY GROUPS (CONTINUED)**

### **Hispanic Students**

- Seventy-nine (79) percent of Hispanic students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard for writing, a one (1) percentage point decrease from seventy-eight (78) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of Hispanic students meeting or exceeding the standard has increased by six (6) percentage points from seventy-three (73) percent in 2008 to seventy-nine (79) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for Hispanic students was 211, a one (1) scale score point decrease from the mean scale score of 212 in the 2013 administration.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 211 for Hispanic students shows an increase of two (2) scale score points over the 2008 administration's mean scale score of 209.

### **White Students**

- Eighty-five (85) percent of White students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard for writing, a one (1) percentage point increase from eighty-four (84) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of White students meeting or exceeding the standard has increased by four (4) percentage points from eighty-one (81) percent in 2008 to eighty-five (85) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for White students was 220, representing no change from the 2013 administration.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 220 for White students shows no change from the 2008 administration.

## **KEY FINDINGS: BY PROGRAM**

### **Regular Program Students**

- Eighty-four (84) percent of Regular Program students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard for writing, a one (1) percentage point increase from eighty-three (83) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of regular program students meeting or exceeding the standard has increased by two (2) percentage points from eighty-two (82) percent in 2008 to eighty-four (84) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for Regular Program students was 218, representing no change from the 2013 administration.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 218 for Regular Program students shows no change from the 2008 administration.

### **Special Education Students**

- Forty-seven (47) percent of Special Education students achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard for writing, a two (2) percentage point increase from forty-five (45) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of Special Education students meeting or exceeding the standard has increased by four (4) percentage points from forty-three (43) percent in 2008 to forty-seven (47) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for Special Education students was 185, a one (1) scale score point decrease from the mean scale score of 186 in the 2013 administration.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 185 for Special Education students shows no change from the 2008 administration.

### **English Learners**

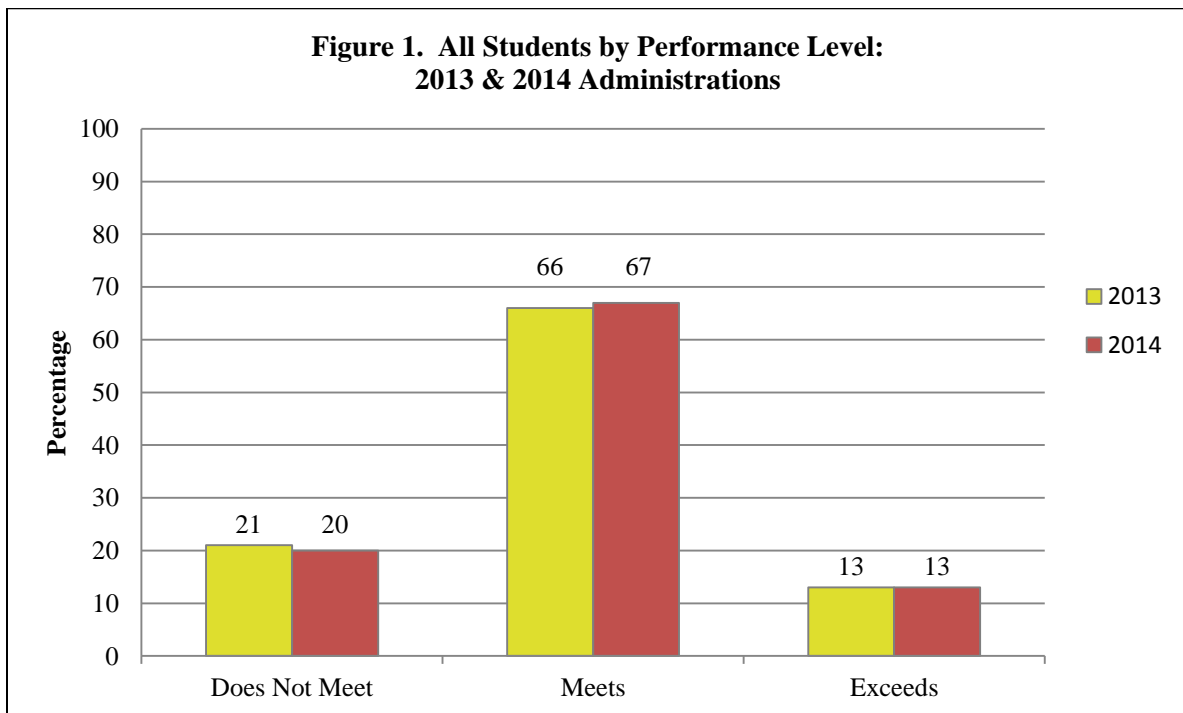
- Fifty-one (51) percent of English Learners achieved the Meets or Exceeds standard for writing, a one (1) percentage point decrease from fifty-two (52) percent in 2013.
- Since 2008, the percent of English Learners meeting or exceeding the standard has decreased by two (2) percentage points from fifty-three (53) percent in 2008 to fifty-one (51) percent in 2014.
- The 2014 mean scale score for English Learners was 191, a two (2) scale score point decrease from the mean scale score of 193 in the 2013 administration.
- The 2014 mean scale score of 191 for English Learners shows a decrease of two (2) scale score points over the 2008 administration's mean scale score of 193.

## KEY FINDINGS: CLOSING THE GAP

- The 2014 Grade 5 Writing results show that growth has occurred in the achievement levels of some student groups. When comparing the 2014 results to 2008, the following groups show a closing of the gap in terms of the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard:
  - The achievement gap between Hispanic and White students has decreased by two (2) percentage points from 8% to 6%, in terms of the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard. This trend can be categorized as Very Positive Narrowing, wherein gains were made by both groups, but gains made by Hispanic students exceeded those made by White students.
  - The achievement gap between Special Education students and All students has decreased by one (1) percentage point from 34% to 33%, in terms of the percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard. This trend can be categorized as Very Positive Narrowing, wherein gains were made by both groups, but the gains made by Special Education students exceeded those made by the All student group.
- A similar comparison can be made between the mean scale scores of the following groups:
  - Hispanic: White Students – The achievement gap between Hispanic and White students has decreased by two (2) scale score points, from a difference of eleven (11) in 2008 to nine (9) in 2014.

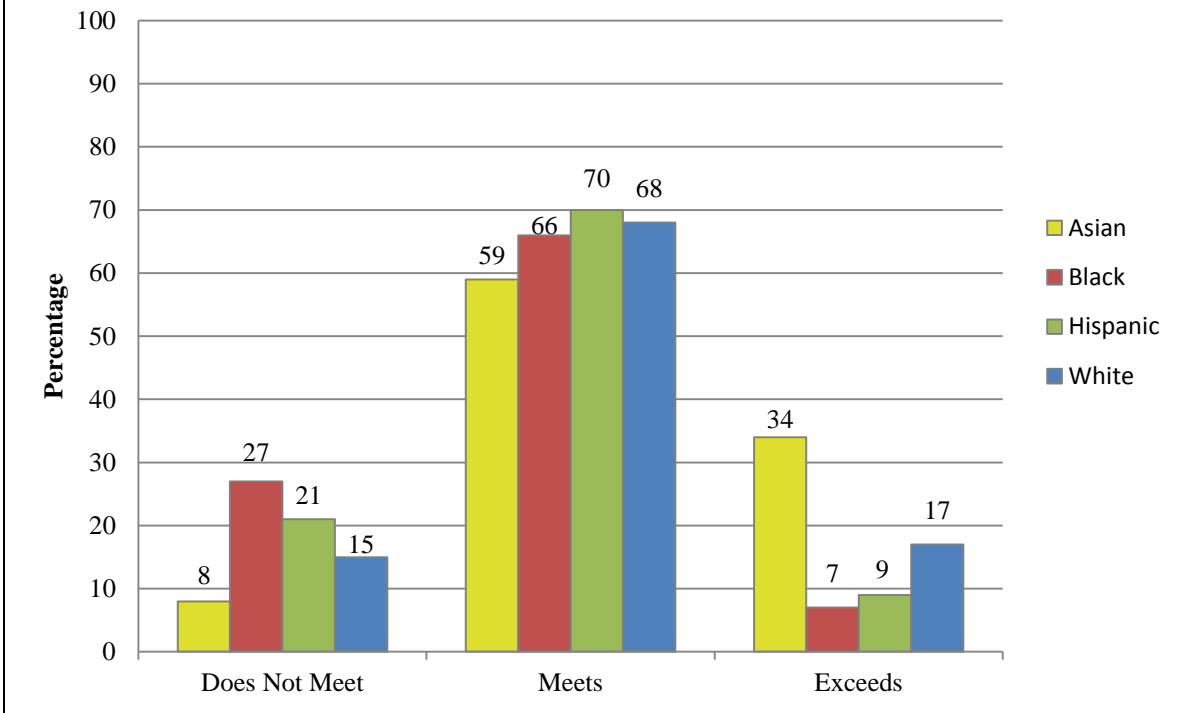
Table 1. Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard: 2008-2014

Student Groups	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change from 2013 to 2014	Change from 2008 to 2014
All Students Tested	77	78	73	79	80	79	80	+1	+3
Regular Program	82	82	77	83	84	83	84	+1	+2
Special Education	43	44	38	45	47	45	47	+2	+4
English Learner	53	55	53	61	60	52	51	-1	-2
Asian/Pacific Islander	90	90	89	92	91	91	92	+1	+2
Black, Non-Hispanic	71	71	65	72	74	72	73	+1	+2
Hispanic	73	76	72	79	80	78	79	+1	+6
American Indian/Alaskan Native	73	80	73	81	82	80	79	-1	+6
White, Non-Hispanic	81	82	78	84	85	84	85	+1	+4
Multiracial	81	81	76	81	83	83	82	-1	+1
Female	84	85	80	85	87	85	86	+1	+2
Male	71	70	66	73	74	73	74	+1	+3



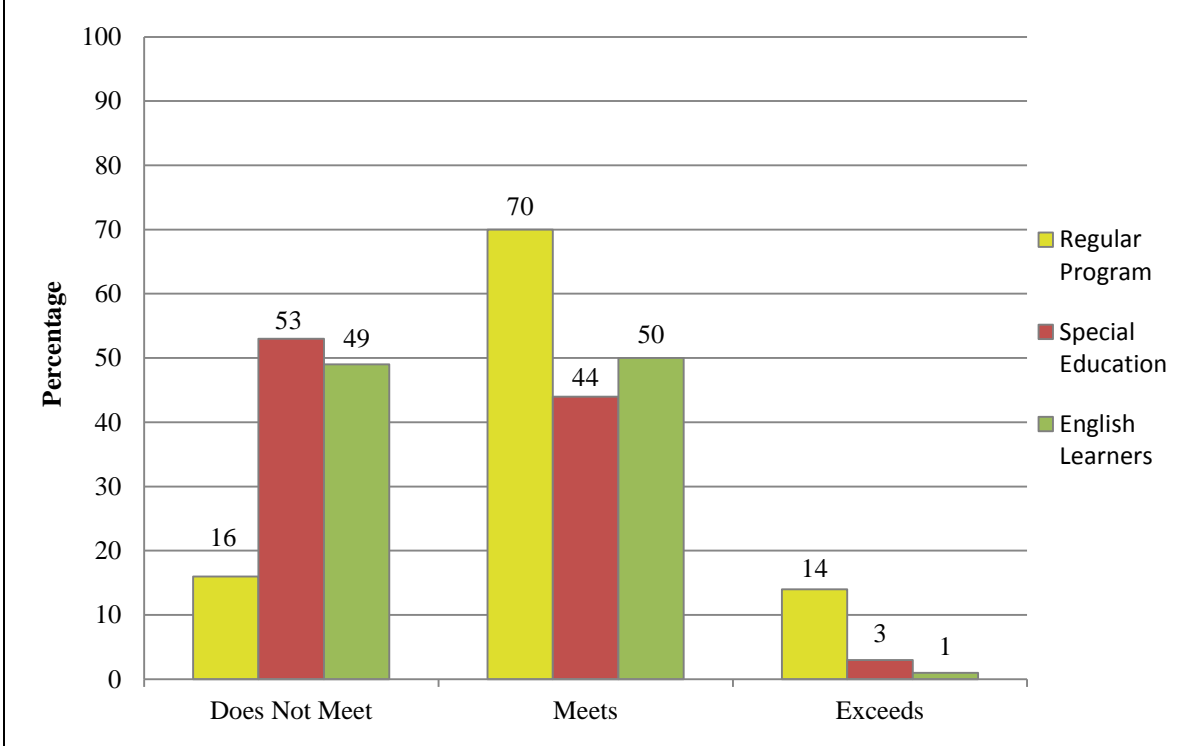
Note: Due to rounding, performance levels may not sum to 100%.

**Figure 2. Percentage of Students in Each Performance Level by Race/Ethnicity: 2014 Administration**



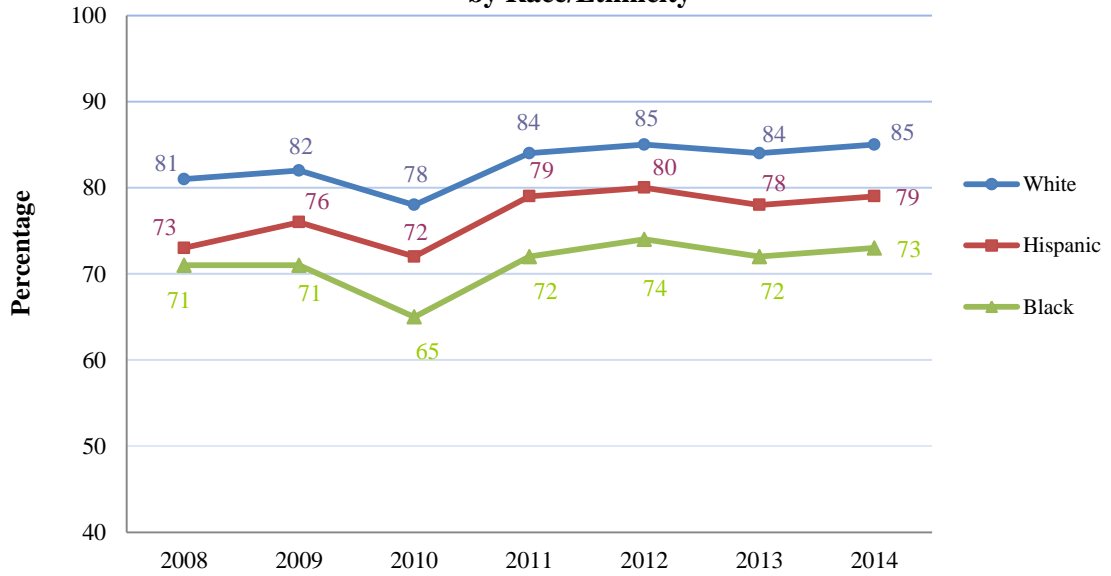
Note: Due to rounding, performance levels may not sum to 100%.

**Figure 3. Percentage of Students in Each Performance Level by Student Group: 2014 Administration**



Note: Due to rounding, performance levels may not sum to 100%.

**Figure 4. Closing the Gap:  
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard  
by Race/Ethnicity**



**Figure 5. Closing the Gap:  
Percentage of Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard  
by Student Group**

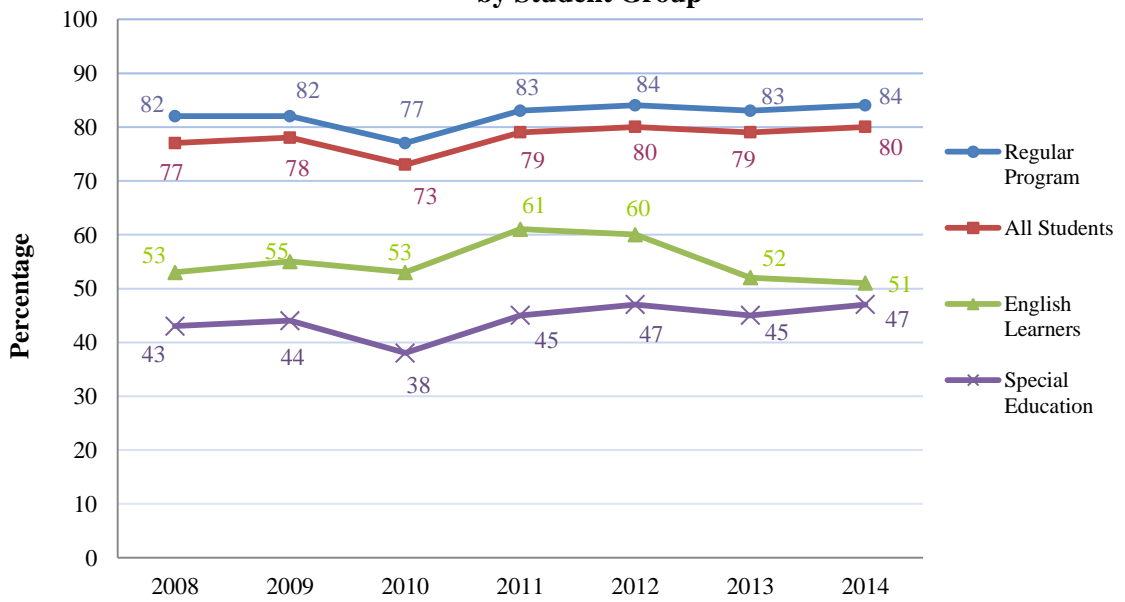
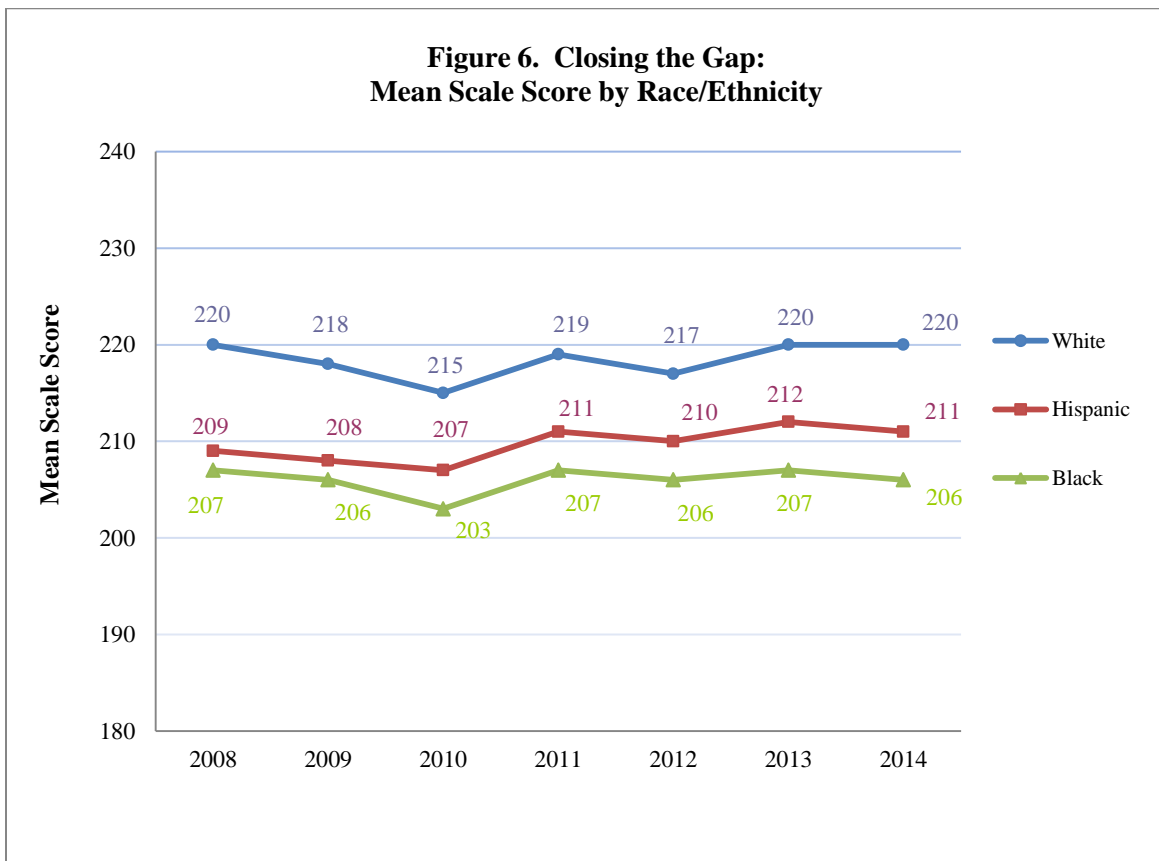


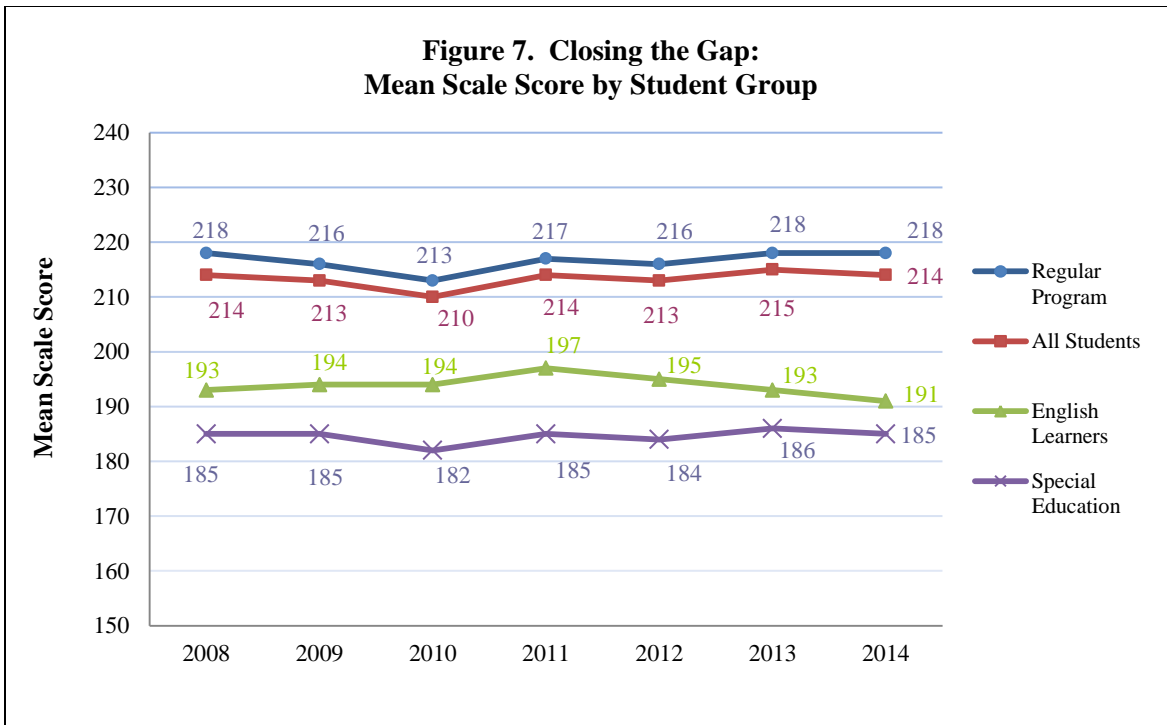


Table 2. Mean Scale Scores: 2008-2014

Student Groups	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change from 2013 to 2014	Change from 2008 to 2014
All Students Tested	214	213	210	214	213	215	214	-1	0
Regular Program	218	216	213	217	216	218	218	0	0
Special Education	185	185	182	185	184	186	185	-1	0
English Learner	193	194	194	197	195	193	191	-2	-2
Asian/Pacific Islander	233	232	228	233	231	235	236	+1	+3
Black, Non-Hispanic	207	206	203	207	206	207	206	-1	-1
Hispanic	209	208	207	211	210	212	211	-1	+2
American Indian/Alaskan Native	214	212	211	216	212	217	215	-2	+1
White, Non-Hispanic	220	218	215	219	217	220	220	0	0
Multiracial	218	216	213	217	216	218	217	-1	-1
Female	220	219	216	220	218	221	220	-1	0
Male	209	207	204	208	207	209	208	-1	-1



**Figure 7. Closing the Gap:  
Mean Scale Score by Student Group**



**Table 3. Number of Students Tested by Program: 2008-2014**

Year	All Students	Regular Program	Special Education	English Learners
2008	119,140	104,981	14,159	3,799
2009	122,977	109,154	13,823	3,491
2010	123,929	111,069	12,860	3,578
2011	127,463	114,408	13,055	4,655
2012	127,339	114,138	13,201	4,697
2013	124,968	111,320	13,648	4,243
2014	124,889	111,170	13,719	3,827

**Table 4: Number of Students Tested by Race/Ethnicity: 2008-2014**

Year	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black, Non- Hispanic	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	White, Non- Hispanic	Multiracial
2008	3,708	44,410	11,689	175	55,139	3,744
2009	3,854	45,980	12,318	199	56,177	4,150
2010	3,921	45,873	14,185	290	56,138	3,335
2011	4,256	47,491	15,307	285	56,136	3,797
2012	4,509	47,085	16,264	223	55,216	3,877
2013	4,587	45,314	16,811	253	53,913	3,939
2014	4,889	44,949	17,228	248	53,357	4,089