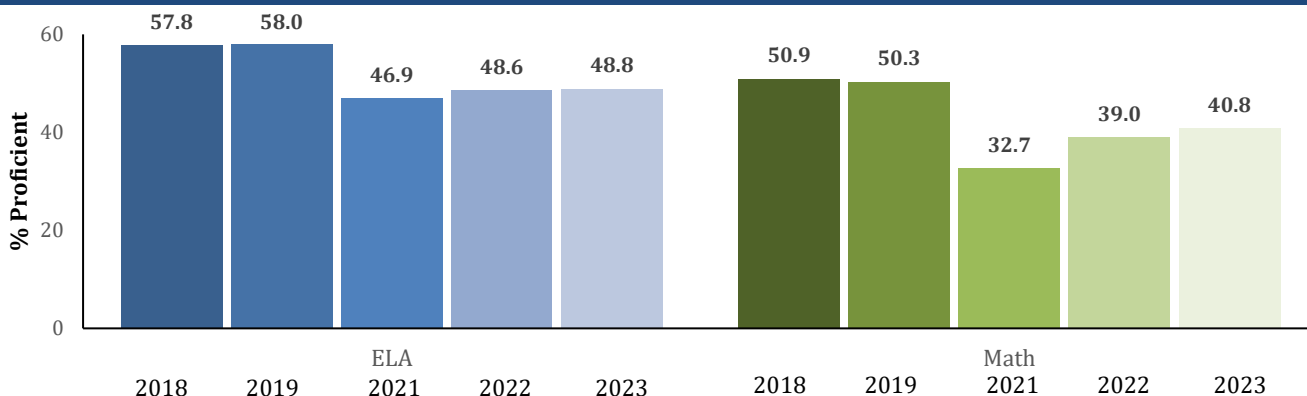# 2023 State Test Score Results:
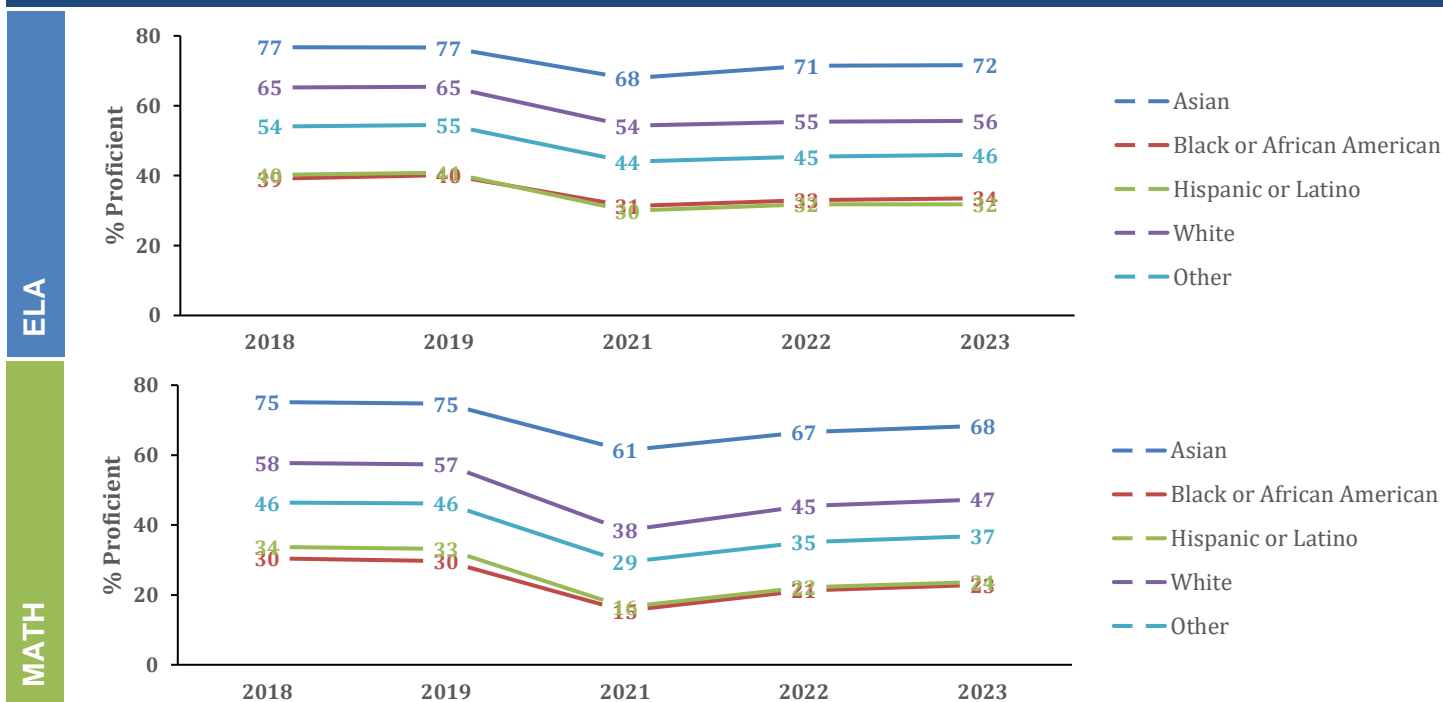
WASHINGTON

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Overall 2023 Results:** Washington students made **gains in ELA and math proficiency** following the COVID-19 pandemic, though they have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels in either subject (ELA: 48.8% in 2023 vs. 58.0 in 2019; Math: 40.8% in 2023 vs. 50.3% in 2019).

- **Results by Race/Ethnicity:** Across all years, Washington achievement outcomes reflect variation by race/ethnicity. In 2023, the widest achievement gap appeared for students identifying as Asian and *Black or African American* and *Hispanic or Latino*, both in ELA and math.

- **Results by District Poverty Level:** ELA and math proficiency results vary by district poverty level across all years. Compared to 2019, the achievement gap in 2023 between districts with the highest and lowest levels of poverty for school-age children **has narrowed in both ELA and math.**

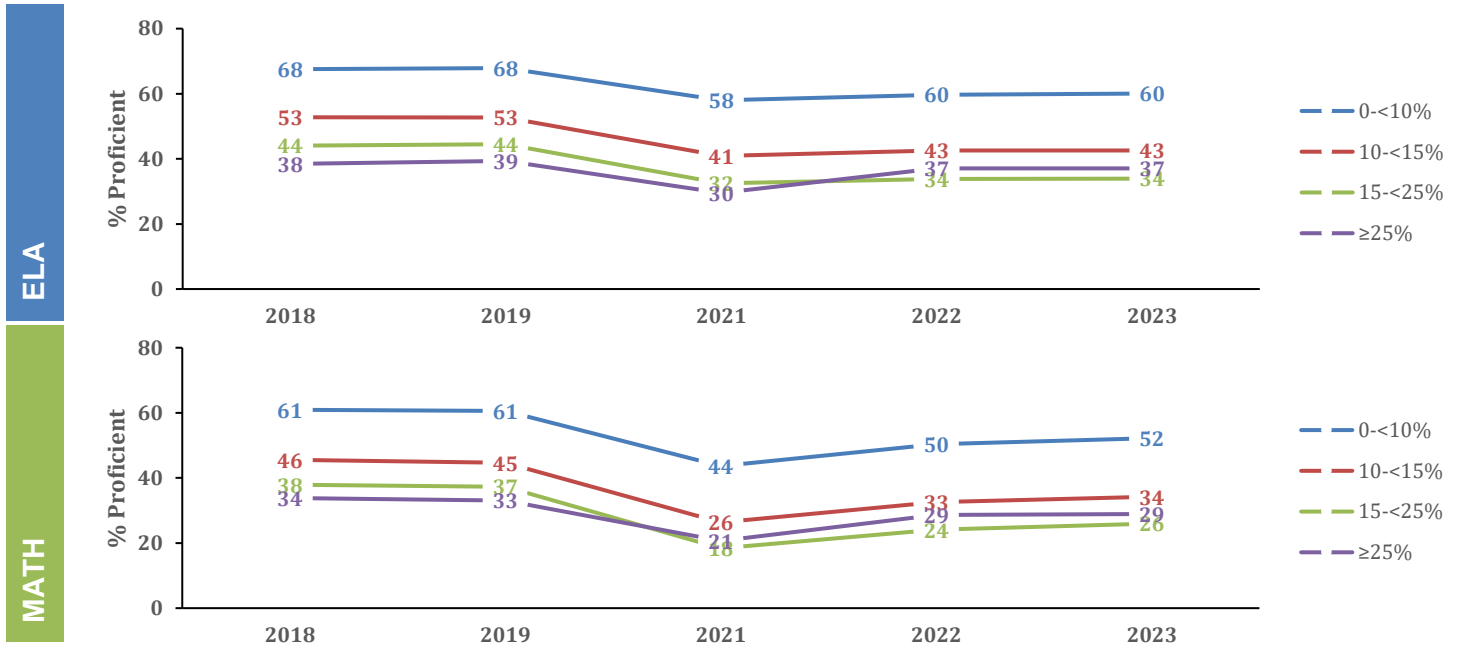## WASHINGTON 2023 ELA & MATH RESULTS, GRADES 3-8

Note. In 2023, 48.8% of students in Gr 3-8 included in the analysis reached proficiency or above in ELA (*n*=235,696/482,838), compared to 40.8% of students who did so in mathematics (*n*=197,148/483,527).

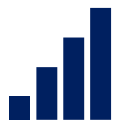## WASHINGTON 2023 PROFICIENCY BY RACE/ETHNICITY, GRADES 3-8

Note. Each student subgroup varies in total students tested each year. In 2023, 72% of students identified as Asian reached ELA proficiency (*n*=30,230), compared to 34% of students who were Black or African American (*n*=7,554), 32% of students who were Hispanic or Latino (*n*=39,099), 56% of students who were white (*n*=132,584), and 46% of additional student subgroups (American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Two or More; *n*=26,173). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

ELA

MATH

Note. School district poverty data are drawn from the 2021 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates program (SAIPE) of the U.S. Census Bureau. Categorizations are based on overall U.S. quartiles. In 2023, 60% of students in WA districts in which less than 10% of school-age children lived in poverty achieved ELA proficiency (*n*=128,897), compared to 43% of students in which 10-15% of school-age children lived in poverty (*n*=76,586), 34% of students in which 15-25% of school-age children lived in poverty (*n*=22,873), and 37% of students in which 25% or more of school-age children lived in poverty (*n*=336). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

STATE ASSESSMENT DATA

The student outcome data used in this Data Brief come from the state's Smarter Balanced assessment. The data represent outcomes for students in Grades 3–8 in math and ELA.

Measuring Proficiency
The Washington Smarter Balanced assessment includes four proficiency levels: *Levels 1–4.* In this report, "**proficient**" = the percent of students that at least "met the standard," (Levels 3–4) among all tested students.

Years Included in Analysis
This report reflects school years (SY) 2017-18 through 2022-23. Data for SY 2019-20 are not available, as the assessment was not administered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participation Rate Data
In Spring 2021, the U.S. Department of Education waived the requirement that 95% of all students complete the state's annual academic assessment, leading to varied participation rates by state. Washington administered the Smarter Balanced assessment in Fall 2021 instead of Spring 2021, and approximately 91% of students participated who were eligible (the Fall 2021 assessment was administered to Grades 4–9. Students in Grade 4 completed the Grade 3 assessment, etc.). In Spring 2022, districts were again required to measure the achievement of not less than 95% of all students and students in each subgroup on its annual statewide assessments in math and ELA.

Additional Information
More information about the Washington Smarter Balanced assessment can be found at https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/testing/state-testing/washington-state-smarter-balanced-assessment-consortium.

ABOUT THE DATA SERIES

The **State Test Score Results Data Series** *explores state-level trends in ELA and math proficiency outcomes on state standardized assessments, both before and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the Data Series presents math and ELA proficiency trends on state assessments between Spring 2018-Spring 2023, as available. Results are presented for the state overall, by race/ethnicity, and by district poverty levels for school-age children.*

Data presented in this State Brief are specific to this state's assessment and are not comparable to other states.

For any questions, please email statetestscoreresults@gmail.com.