

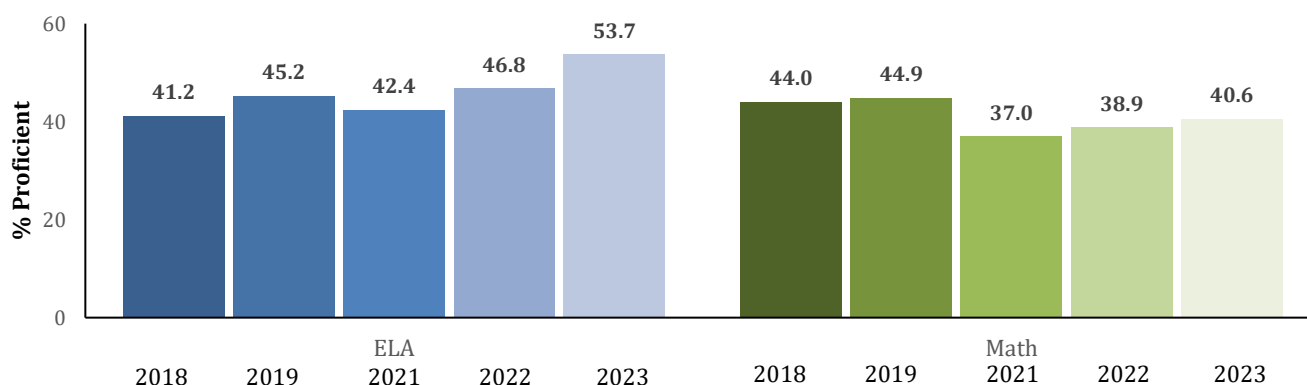


# 2023 State Test Score Results: SOUTH CAROLINA

## STATE HIGHLIGHTS

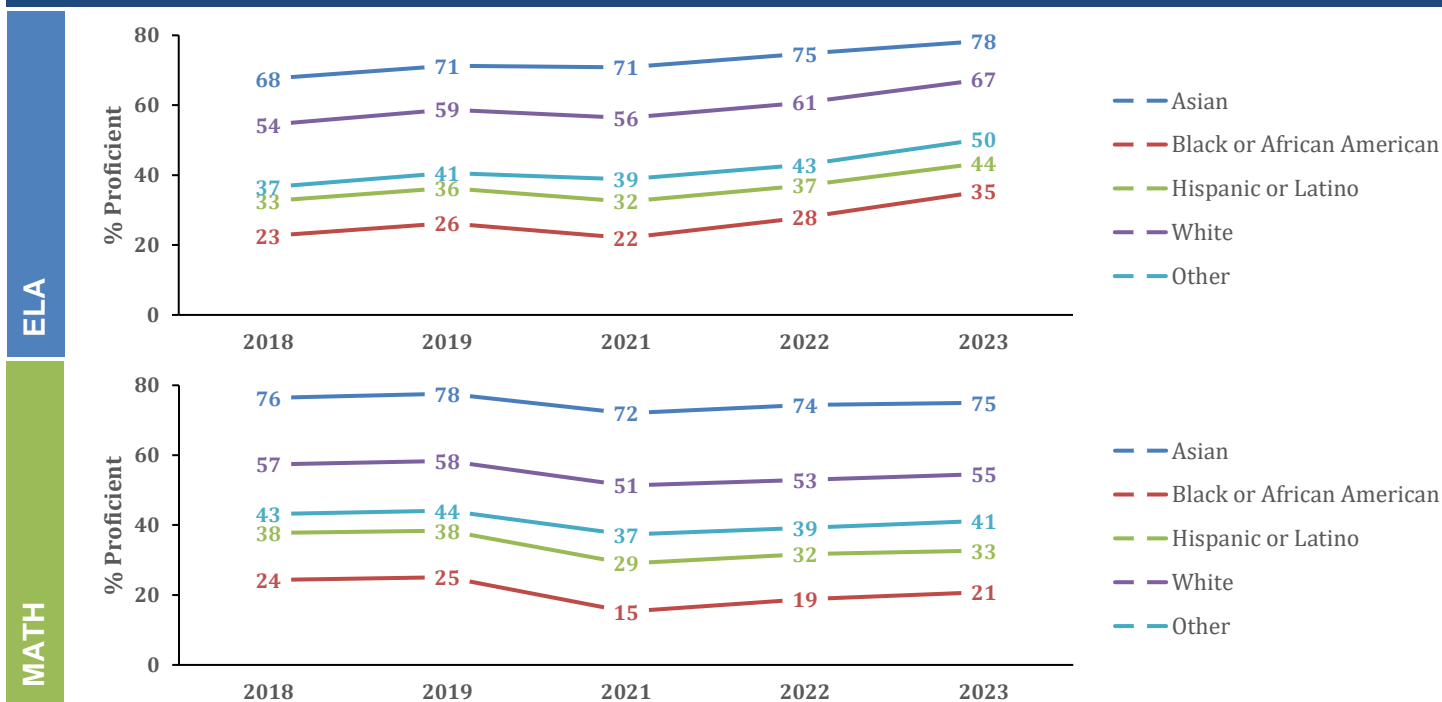
- Overall 2023 Results:** South Carolina students have **made substantial gains in ELA proficiency** following the COVID-19 pandemic, surpassing pre-pandemic levels (53.7% in 2023 vs. 45.2%). In math, proficiency rates have also made gains following the pandemic, though they have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels.
- Results by Race/Ethnicity:** Across all years, South Carolina achievement outcomes reflect variation by race/ethnicity. In 2023, the widest achievement gap appeared for students identifying as Asian and Black or African American, both in ELA (78% vs. 35%) and math (75% vs 21%).
- 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 **remains largely unchanged.**

## SOUTH CAROLINA 2023 ELA & MATH RESULTS, GRADES 3-8



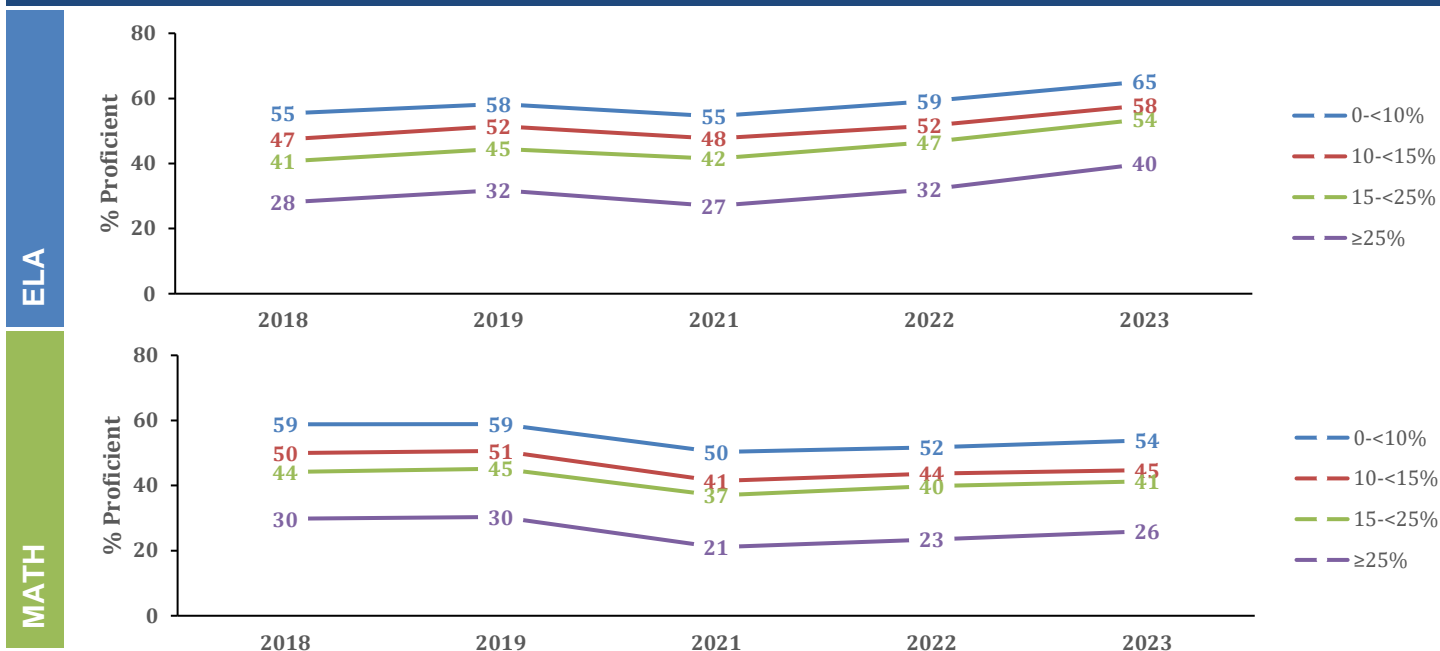
Note. In 2023, 53.7% of students in Gr 3-8 included in the analysis reached proficiency or above in ELA ( $n=186,786/347,998$ ), compared to 40.6% of students who did so in mathematics ( $n=141,260/348,058$ ).

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



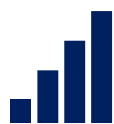
Note. Each student subgroup varies in total students tested each year. In 2023, 78% of students identified as Asian reached ELA proficiency ( $n=4,918$ ), compared to 35% of students who were Black or African American ( $n=38,411$ ), 44% of students who were Hispanic or Latino ( $n=19,350$ ), 67% of students who were white ( $n=112,049$ ), and 50% of additional student subgroups (American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Two or More;  $n=100,067$ ). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

## SOUTH CAROLINA 2023 PROFICIENCY BY DISTRICT POVERTY LEVEL, GRADES 3-8



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, 65% of students in SC districts in which less than 10% of school-age children lived in poverty achieved ELA proficiency (n=21,725), compared to 58% of students in which 10-15% of school-age children lived in poverty (n=49,709), 54% of students in which 15-25% of school-age children lived in poverty (n=84,988), and 40% of students in which 25% or more of school-age children lived in poverty (n=17,633). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

### STATE ASSESSMENT DATA



The student outcome data used in this Data Brief come from the SC READY assessment. The data represent outcomes for students in Grades 3–8 in math and ELA.

#### Measuring Proficiency

The SC READY assessment includes four proficiency levels: *Does Not Meet Expectations*, *Approaches Expectations*, *Meets Expectations*, *Exceeds Expectations*. In this report, “**not proficient**” = *Does Not Meet/Approaches Expectations*, and “**proficient**” = *Meets/Exceeds Expectations*.

#### 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. In South Carolina, approximately 87.9% of students participated in all state assessments in 2021. 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 ELA and math.

#### Additional Information

More information about the SC READY can be found at <https://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/>.



### 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 [statetestscorerresults@gmail.com](mailto:statetestscorerresults@gmail.com).*

**Suggested Citation:** COVID-19 School Data Hub. (2023). *2023 state test score results: South Carolina*. State Brief 2023-12-SC-01. Providence, RI: COVID-19 School Data Hub.

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