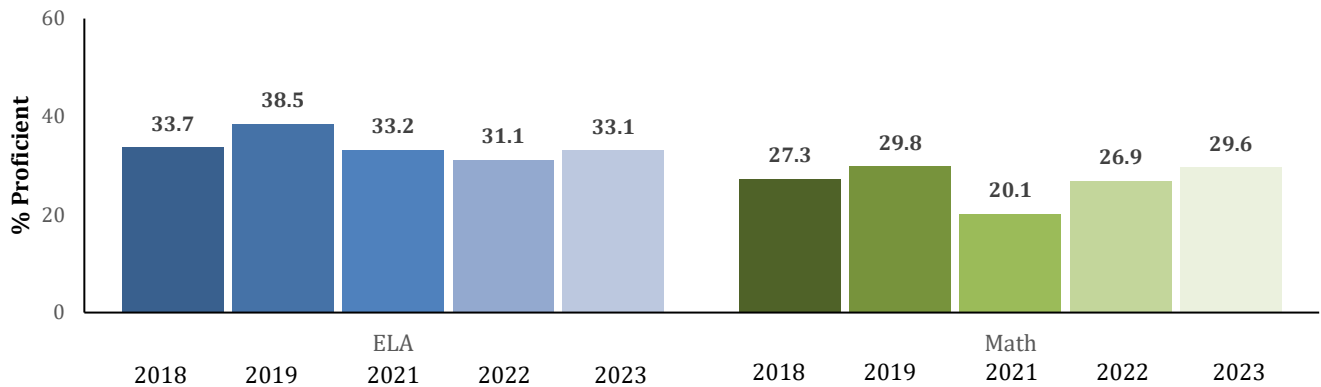# 2023 State Test Score Results:
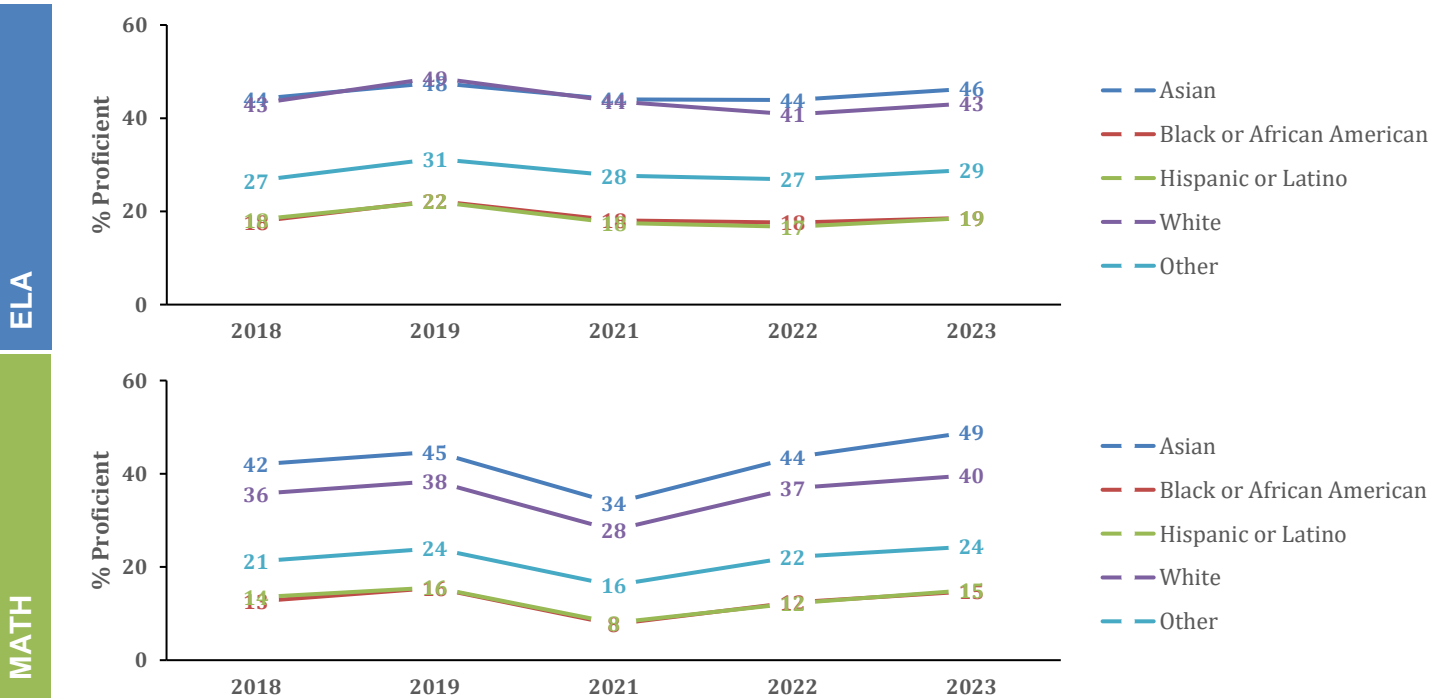
RHODE ISLAND

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Overall 2023 Results:** Rhode Island students have made gains in math proficiency following the COVID-19 pandemic, now reaching pre-pandemic levels (29.6% in 2023 vs. 29.8% in 2019). In ELA, scores rose between 2022 and 2023, though they have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels (33.1% proficient in 2023 vs. 38.5% in 2019).

- **Results by Race/Ethnicity:** Across all years, Rhode Island achievement data reflects variation by race/ethnicity. In 2023, the widest achievement gap appeared between white students and the students identifying as *Black or African American* and *Hispanic or Latino*, both in ELA (46% vs. 19%), and in math (49% vs 15%).

- **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 ELA but widened in math**.

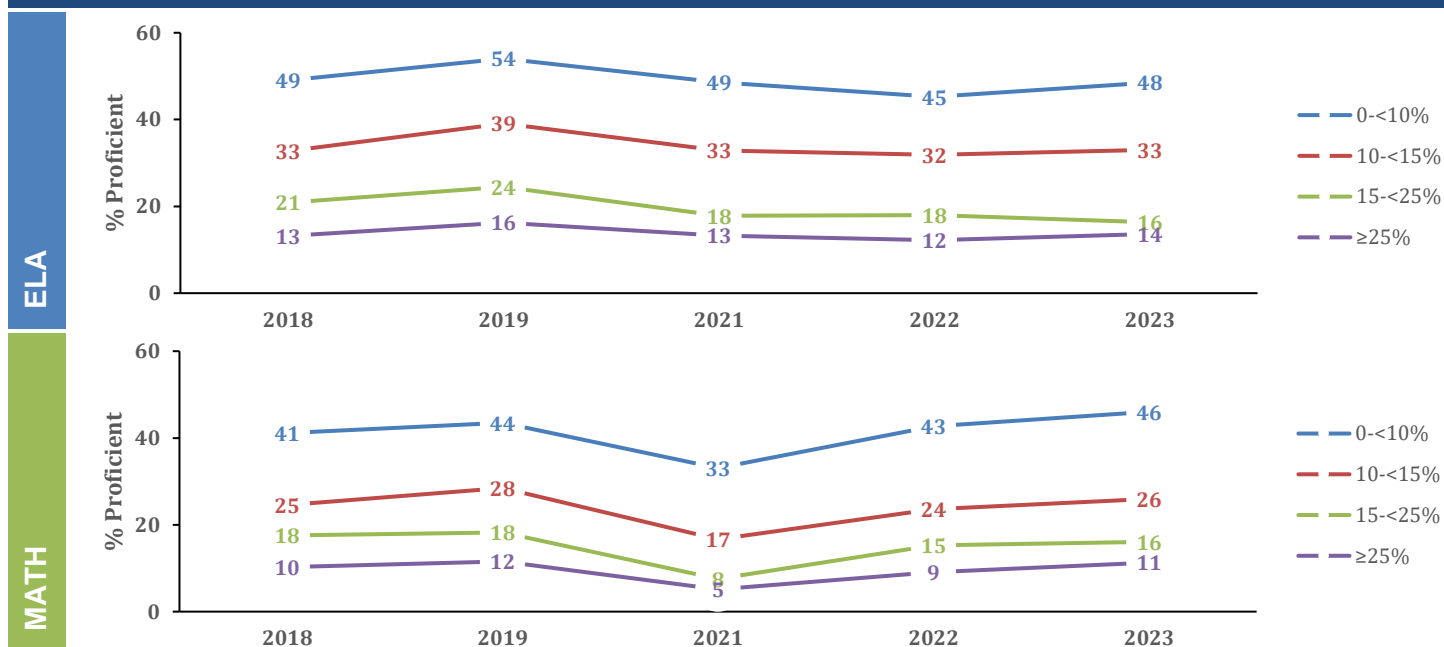## RHODE ISLAND 2023 ELA & MATH RESULTS, GRADES 3-8

Note. In 2023, 33.1% of students in Gr 3-8 included in the analysis reached proficiency or above in ELA (*n*=19,405/58,624), compared to 29.6% of students who did so in mathematics (*n*=17,545/59,272).

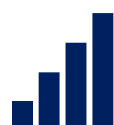## RHODE ISLAND 2023 PROFICIENCY BY RACE/ETHNICITY, GRADES 3-8

Note. Each student subgroup varies in total students tested each year. In 2023, 46% of students identified as Asian reached ELA proficiency (*n*=899), compared to 19% of students who were Black or African American (*n*=963), 19% of students who were Hispanic or Latino (*n*=3,187), 43% of students who were white (*n*=13,272), and 29% of additional student subgroups (Alaska Native or American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Two or More; *n*=1,056). 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, 48% of students in districts in which less than 10% of school-age children lived in poverty achieved ELA proficiency (*n*=10,781), compared to 33% of students in which 10-15% of school-age children lived in poverty (*n*=4,832), 16% of students in which 15-25% of school-age children lived in poverty (*n*=720), and 14% of students in which 25% or more of school-age children lived in poverty (*n*=1,644). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

STATE ASSESSMENT DATA

The student outcome data used in this Data Brief come from the Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS) assessments. The data represent outcomes for students in Grades 3–8 in math and ELA.

Measuring Proficiency

The RICAS assessments includes four proficiency levels: *Not Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, Meeting Expectations,* and *Exceeding Expectations.* In this report, "**not proficient**" = *Not Meeting/Partially Meeting Expectations,* and "**proficient**" = *Meeting/Exceeding 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 Rhode Island, approximately 89% of students participated in the ELA portion of the state assessment in 2021, compared to 88% in math. 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 RICAS assessments can be found at https://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/Assessment/RICASAssessments.aspx.

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.