

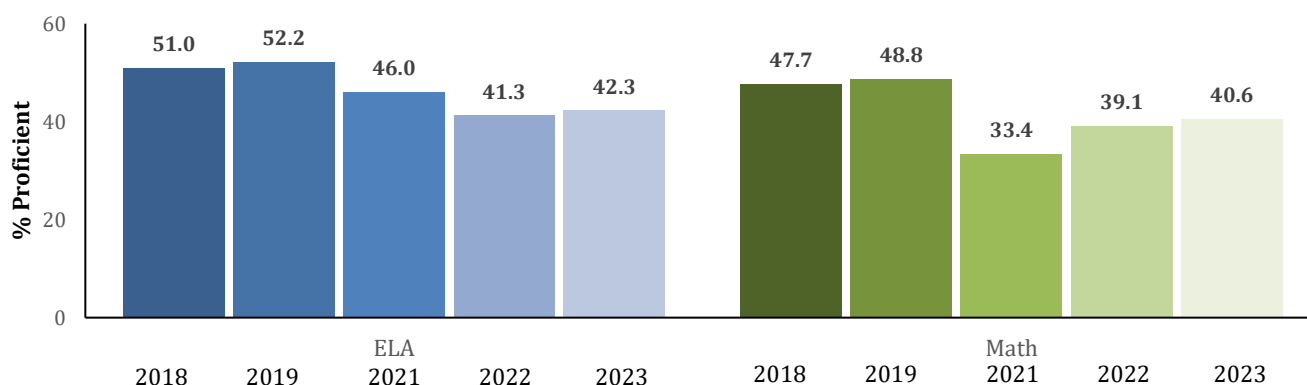


2023 State Test Score Results: MASSACHUSETTS

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

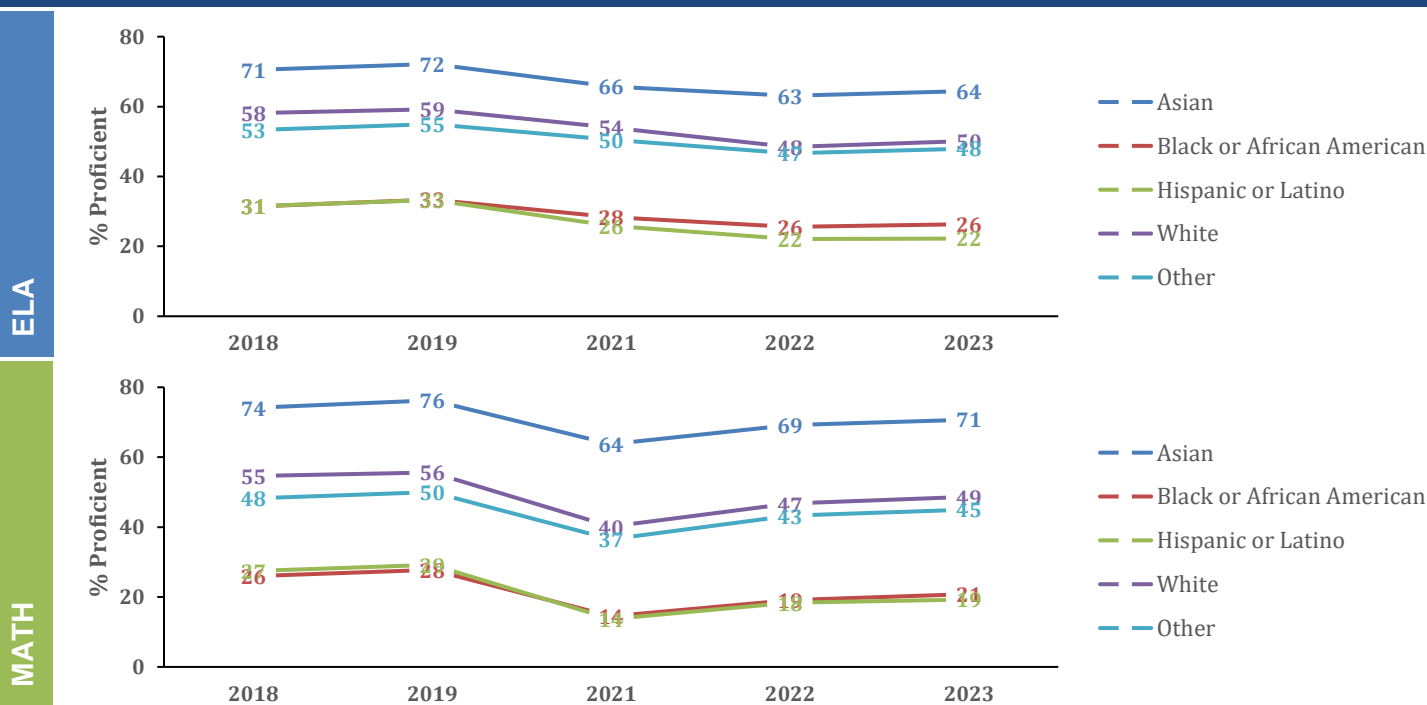
- Overall 2023 Results:** Massachusetts students **continue to remain below 2019 and 2021 proficiency levels in ELA**, though they have made small gains since 2022. In math, students made **gains in math proficiency** following the pandemic, though they have not yet reached pre-pandemic proficiency levels (40.6% in 2023 vs. 48.8% in 2019).
- Results by Race/Ethnicity:** Across all years, Massachusetts achievement outcomes reflect variation by race/ethnicity. In 2023, the widest achievement gap appeared for students identifying as Asian and Hispanic or Latino, both in ELA (64% vs. 22%) and math (71% vs. 19%).
- 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 widened in math (47 percentage points in 2023 vs. 41pp in 2019)**, and remained similar in ELA.

MASSACHUSETTS 2023 ELA & MATH RESULTS, GRADES 3-8



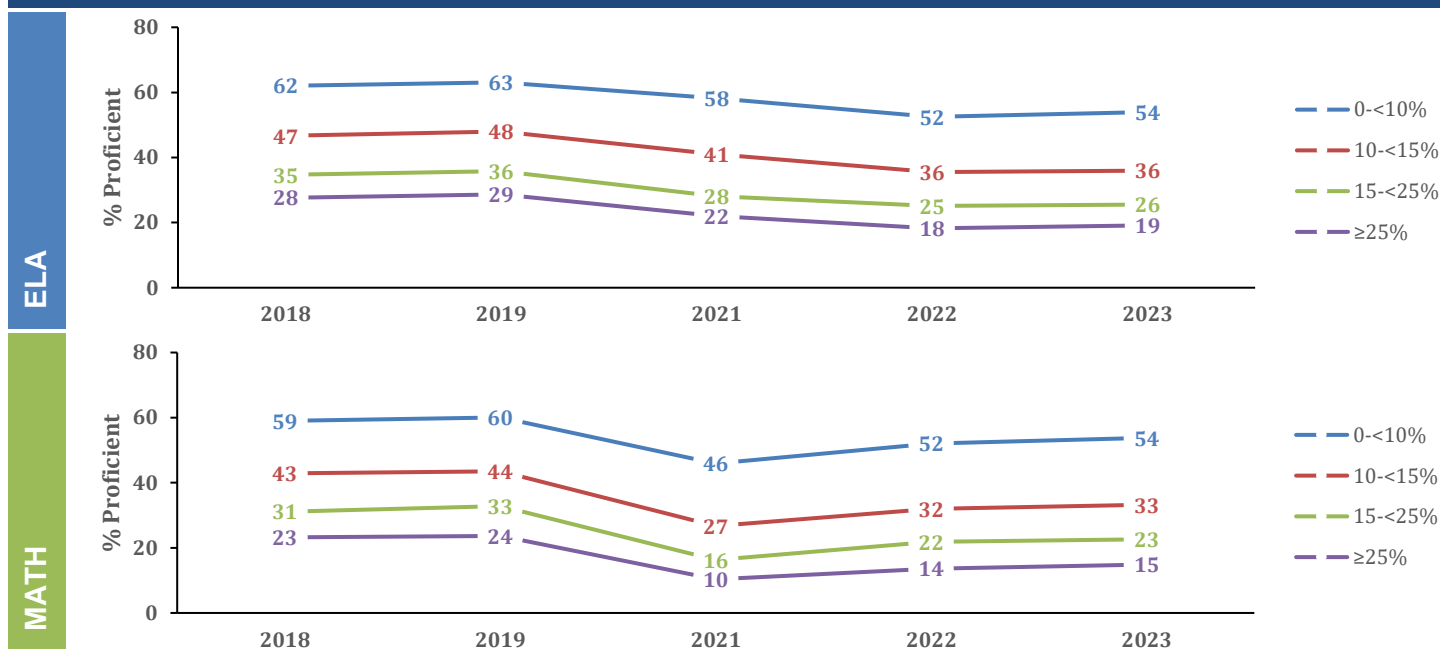
Note. In 2023, 42.3% of students in Gr 3-8 included in the analysis reached proficiency or above in ELA ($n=167,837/396,861$), compared to 40.6% of students who did so in mathematics ($n=161,150/396,955$).

MASSACHUSETTS 2023 PROFICIENCY BY RACE/ETHNICITY, GRADES 3-8



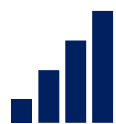
Note. Each student subgroup varies in total students tested each year. In 2023, 64% of students identified as Asian reached ELA proficiency ($n=18,966$), compared to 26% of students who were Black or African American ($n=9,718$), 22% of students who were Hispanic or Latino ($n=20,917$), 50% of students who were white ($n=108,921$), and 48% of additional student subgroups (American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Two or More; $n=9,275$). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

MASSACHUSETTS 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, 54% of students in MA districts in which less than 10% of school-age children lived in poverty achieved ELA proficiency ($n=110,704$), compared to 36% of students in which 10-15% of school-age children lived in poverty ($n=21,592$), 26% of students in which 15-25% of school-age children lived in poverty ($n=23,512$), and 19% of students in which 25% or more of school-age children lived in poverty ($n=2,735$). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

STATE ASSESSMENT DATA



The student outcome data used in this Data Brief come from the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) Next-Generation assessment. The data represent outcomes for students in Grades 3–8 in math and ELA.

Measuring Proficiency

The MCAS assessment includes four proficiency levels: *Not Meeting Expectations*, *Partially Meeting Expectations*, *Meeting Expectations*, and *Exceeding Expectations*. In this report, “**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 Massachusetts, approximately 95% of students participated in the state assessment 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

In 2021, testing time for MA students in Grades 3–8 was reduced to accommodate schools’ new learning schedules. To reduce testing time, students only took half of a regular assessment in each subject area (either Session 1 or Session 2). Students learning remotely had the option to test remotely as well. More information about the MCAS can be found at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/default.html>.



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.

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