

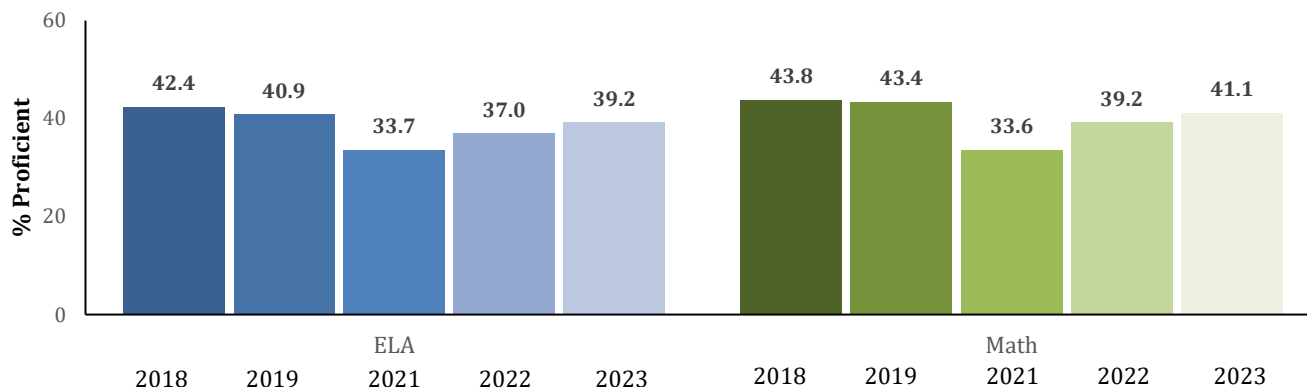


## 2023 State Test Score Results: WISCONSIN

### STATE HIGHLIGHTS

- Overall 2023 Results:** Wisconsin students have **made gains in academic proficiency** following the COVID-19 pandemic, though they have not fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels in either ELA (39.2% in 2023 vs. 40.9% in 2019) or math (41.1% in 2023 vs. 43.4% in 2019).
- Results by Race/Ethnicity:** Across all years, Wisconsin achievement data reflects variation by race/ethnicity. In 2023, the widest achievement gap appeared for students identifying as white and Black or African American, both in ELA (47% vs. 10%), and in math (50% vs 8%).
- 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 **widened in both math** (41 percentage points in 2023 vs. 38pp in 2019) and ELA (34pp in 2023 vs. 32pp in 2019).

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



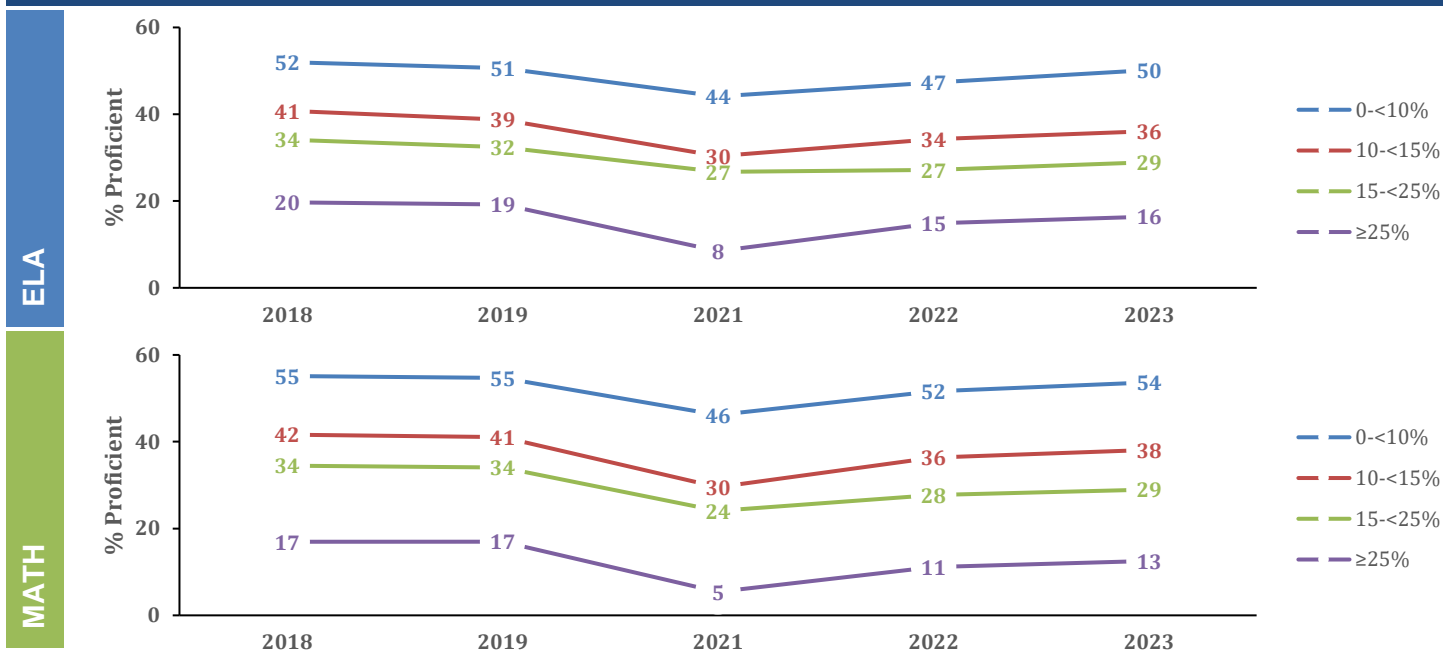
Note. In 2023, 39.2% of students in Gr 3-8 included in the analysis reached proficiency or above in ELA ( $n=135,349/344,953$ ), compared to 41.1% of students who did so in mathematics ( $n=141,779/344,953$ ).

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



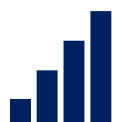
Note. Each student subgroup varies in total students tested each year. In 2023, 38% of students identified as Asian reached ELA proficiency ( $n=5,731$ ), compared to 10% of students who were Black or African American ( $n=3,120$ ), 23% of students who were Hispanic or Latino ( $n=10,888$ ), 47% of students who were white ( $n=108,548$ ), and 32% of additional student subgroups (Other Indigenous Peoples, American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Two or More;  $n=7,062$ ). Data labels with similar values may affect visibility.

## WISCONSIN 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, 50% of students in WI districts in which less than 10% of school-age children lived in poverty achieved ELA proficiency ( $n=78,676$ ), compared to 36% of students in which 10-15% of school-age children lived in poverty ( $n=38,815$ ), 29% of students in which 15-25% of school-age children lived in poverty ( $n=10,259$ ), and 16% of students in which 25% or more of school-age children lived in poverty ( $n=4,650$ ). 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 Forward assessment. The data represent outcomes for students in Grades 3-8 in math and ELA.

#### Measuring Proficiency

The Wisconsin Forward Exam includes four proficiency levels: *Below Basic*, *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*. In this report, “**not proficient**” = *Below Basic* and *Basic*, and “**proficient**” = *Proficient* and *Advanced*. Scores represent percentages of all eligible test takers, and not only students who participated in the assessment.

#### 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 Wisconsin, participation in the Forward Exam ranged from approximately 84% to 87% across grade levels in ELA and math 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 math and ELA.

#### Additional Information

More information about the Wisconsin Forward Exam can be found at <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward>.



### 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).*

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