

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment

The PSSA is based on the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in Mathematics, Reading, Writing, Science, Speaking, and Listening, with the focus on determining the degree to which the students and schools in the State of Pennsylvania are proficient in achieving the content contained in these Standards.

Additionally, the PSSA provides information to teachers and schools to guide the redesign of curricula and instructional strategies to enable students to achieve the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. This is part of the federally mandated No Child Left Behind legislation.

2008 PSSA Recommendations

MAJOR STEPS TAKEN

- **Shared PSSA results with Curriculum Senate, Elementary Facilitators, and EST/SST within the realm of each curriculum review.**
- **Apprised staff of updates to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content as part of the Curriculum Review Process and in-service meetings.**
- **Shared and presented student achievement data at EST/SST meetings and utilized for the Data Retreat in October.**
- **Conducted preliminary analysis of PSSA scores, including the special education subgroup. Reviewed data and provided input to the building principals to develop Building Based Action Plans. Particular focus was paid to the 11th grade special education subgroup.**

2008 PSSA Recommendations

MAJOR STEPS TAKEN

- **Focused EST/SST meetings on student achievement. Teachers were given resources such as 4Sight Benchmark Assessments, Study Island, and the PSSA preparation - Measuring Up Books.**
- **Encouraged principals to attend webinars on the presentation of student achievement data through PVAAS and eMetrics in preparation for the Data Retreat in October. This data helps ensure a connection for students to the Individual Learning Plan process.**
- **Developed Action Plans focusing on improving student achievement in Math, Reading, Writing, and Science with a focus on content, process, and motivation.**

2008 PSSA Recommendations

MAJOR STEPS TAKEN

- **Reviewed PSSA testing formats prior to the Data Retreat with EST/SST for distribution and review with teachers.**
- **Enrolled students who are non-proficient on the PSSA in grades 9 through 12 in the PSSA Remediation classes.**
- **Continued monitoring the implementation of the 4Sight Benchmark Assessments and created Individual Learning Plans.**
- **Continued to place an emphasis on the use of 4Sight Benchmark Assessments, Study Island, and the PSSA Preparation materials.**
- **Continued to inform the community of the success of North Allegheny students through the sharing of student achievement data.**

2008 PSSA Recommendations

MAJOR STEPS TAKEN

- **Continued to inform parents of their child's academic performance by providing PSSA Parent Letters and PSSA Individual Student Reports.**
- **Discussed the impact of the new testing window and will examine after the first administration of the PSSA within the new window.**
- **Continued to train building administrators through EST/SST meetings on administration protocol and test security.**
- **Provided gender analysis summary for Math, Reading, Writing, and Science.**

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 3 – Mathematics

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	95.0%	93.4%	98.1%	96.1%	96.8%	+1.8	+0.7
Advanced	67.0%	67.7%	68.9%	68.1%	69.3%	+2.3	+1.2
Proficient	28.0%	25.7%	29.2%	28.0%	27.5%	-0.5	-0.5
Basic	3.0%	5.0%	1.5%	3.5%	2.7%	-0.3	-0.8
Below Basic	2.0%	1.7%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	-1.5	+0.1

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 3 - Reading

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	93.0%	85.2%	93.8%	94.1%	93.2%	+0.2	-0.9
Advanced	63.0%	48.7%	44.3%	36.6%	45.1%	-17.9	+8.5
Proficient	30.0%	36.5%	49.5%	57.5%	48.1%	+18.1	-9.4
Basic	4.0%	10.2%	4.3%	4.2%	3.4%	-0.6	-0.8
Below Basic	3.0%	4.7%	1.9%	1.6%	3.4%	+0.4	+1.8

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 4 - Mathematics

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	93.0%	95.0%	96.3%	94.9%	+1.9	-1.4
Advanced	62.5%	70.1%	76.4%	69.9%	+7.4	-6.5
Proficient	30.4%	24.9%	19.9%	25.0%	-5.4	+5.1
Basic	4.3%	3.1%	2.0%	2.9%	-1.4	+0.9
Below Basic	2.7%	1.9%	1.7%	2.2%	-0.5	+0.5

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 4 - Reading

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	90.4%	89.6%	93.7%	92.1%	+1.7	-1.6
Advanced	56.8%	54.9%	67.3%	62.6%	+5.8	-4.7
Proficient	33.6%	34.7%	26.4%	29.5%	-4.1	+3.1
Basic	6.1%	7.0%	4.2%	5.8%	-0.3	+1.6
Below Basic	3.6%	3.4%	2.0%	2.0%	-1.6	+0.0

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 4 - Science

	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	98.0%	98.0%	+0.0	+0.0
Advanced	77.0%	74.9%	-2.1	-2.1
Proficient	21.0%	23.1%	+2.1	+2.1
Basic	1.8%	1.7%	-0.1	-0.1
Below Basic	0.2%	0.3%	+0.1	+0.1

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 5 - Mathematics

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	71.1%	75.1%	76.9%	80.6%	83.4%	86.4%	89.3%	90.6%	91.8%	+20.7	+1.2
Advanced	32.3%	39.1%	40.4%	52.3%	49.7%	58.0%	59.5%	67.3%	69.6%	+37.3	+2.3
Proficient	38.8%	36.0%	36.5%	28.3%	33.7%	28.4%	29.8%	23.3%	22.2%	-16.6	-1.1
Basic	19.7%	18.5%	16.0%	13.1%	12.4%	10.7%	8.5%	7.3%	6.4%	-13.3	-0.9
Below Basic	9.1%	6.4%	7.2%	6.3%	4.2%	2.9%	2.2%	2.1%	1.8%	-7.3	-0.3

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 5 - Reading

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	76.1%	82.8%	78.6%	84.4%	87.3%	85.7%	85.3%	83.8%	89.2%	+13.1	+5.4
Advanced	30.2%	31.1%	40.4%	55.1%	44.2%	41.9%	38.9%	45.4%	42.8%	+12.6	-2.6
Proficient	45.9%	51.7%	38.2%	29.3%	43.1%	43.8%	46.4%	38.4%	46.4%	+0.5	+8.0
Basic	13.3%	13.1%	16.5%	12.0%	7.5%	10.2%	9.2%	11.7%	7.2%	-6.1	-4.5
Below Basic	10.6%	4.2%	4.9%	3.6%	5.2%	4.1%	5.5%	4.4%	3.6%	-7.0	-0.8

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 5 - Writing

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	79.2%	80.6%	91.5%	87.8%	+8.6	-3.7
Advanced	10.4%	1.7%	22.9%	12.4%	+2.0	-10.5
Proficient	68.8%	78.9%	68.6%	75.4%	+6.6	+6.8
Basic	20.6%	19.4%	8.5%	12.2%	-8.4	+3.7
Below Basic	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.2	+0.0

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 6 - Mathematics

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	88.5%	90.8%	92.6%	92.0%	+3.5	-0.6
Advanced	61.0%	66.3%	69.5%	72.9%	+11.9	+3.4
Proficient	27.5%	24.5%	23.1%	19.1%	-8.4	-4.0
Basic	8.4%	6.3%	5.0%	6.5%	-1.9	+1.5
Below Basic	3.1%	2.8%	2.5%	1.5%	-1.6	-1.0

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 6 - Reading

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	87.7%	87.7%	89.0%	87.2%	-0.5	-1.8
Advanced	54.4%	54.8%	57.7%	58.4%	+4.0	+3.6
Proficient	33.3%	32.9%	31.3%	28.8%	-4.5	-4.1
Basic	7.7%	9.0%	7.0%	8.9%	+1.2	-0.1
Below Basic	4.6%	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	-0.7	+0.6

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 7 - Mathematics

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	91.6%	88.7%	91.1%	92.0%	+0.4	+0.9
Advanced	67.8%	66.0%	74.5%	70.9%	+3.1	-3.6
Proficient	23.8%	22.7%	16.6%	21.1%	-2.7	+4.5
Basic	5.4%	6.2%	5.5%	5.8%	+0.4	+0.3
Below Basic	3.0%	5.1%	3.4%	2.2%	-0.8	-1.2

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 7 - Reading

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	91.7%	89.6%	92.8%	92.4%	+0.7	-0.4
Advanced	62.8%	66.0%	65.5%	69.1%	+6.3	+3.6
Proficient	28.9%	23.6%	27.3%	23.3%	-5.6	-4.0
Basic	6.5%	5.3%	4.0%	5.0%	-1.5	+1.0
Below Basic	1.8%	5.1%	3.1%	2.7%	+0.9	-0.4

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 8 - Mathematics

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	77.9%	83.9%	81.4%	86.1%	89.9%	86.3%	93.0%	91.1%	93.1%	+15.2	+2.0
Advanced	41.2%	45.1%	50.1%	54.1%	67.1%	64.1%	69.4%	75.0%	77.2%	+36.0	+2.2
Proficient	36.7%	38.8%	31.3%	32.0%	22.8%	22.2%	23.6%	16.1%	15.9%	-20.8	-0.2
Basic	12.8%	8.7%	11.7%	9.2%	7.3%	10.9%	4.3%	5.3%	4.5%	-8.3	-0.8
Below Basic	9.2%	7.5%	6.9%	4.7%	2.8%	2.8%	2.7%	3.7%	2.4%	-6.8	-1.3

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 8 - Reading

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	81.0%	83.2%	88.4%	88.9%	89.5%	93.2%	97.4%	96.7%	97.3%	+16.3	-0.1
Advanced	32.5%	42.5%	52.9%	58.6%	62.6%	76.4%	80.1%	87.4%	85.4%	+52.9	+5.3
Proficient	48.5%	40.7%	35.5%	30.3%	26.9%	16.8%	17.3%	9.3%	11.9%	-36.6	-5.4
Basic	11.2%	10.0%	6.5%	6.8%	7.3%	3.9%	2.0%	1.3%	1.1%	-10.1	-0.9
Below Basic	7.8%	6.7%	5.1%	4.4%	3.3%	3.0%	0.5%	2.1%	1.6%	-6.2	+1.1

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 8 - Writing

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	89.0%	94.2%	92.3%	94.2%	+5.2	+1.9
Advanced	14.7%	22.4%	5.9%	33.4%	+18.7	+27.5
Proficient	74.3%	71.8%	86.4%	60.8%	-13.5	-25.6
Basic	10.7%	5.8%	7.2%	4.8%	-5.9	-2.4
Below Basic	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	1.0%	+0.7	+0.5

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 8 - Science

	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	84.9%	86.8%	+1.9	+1.9
Advanced	42.7%	50.6%	+7.9	+7.9
Proficient	42.2%	36.2%	-6.0	-6.0
Basic	10.5%	8.4%	-2.1	-2.1
Below Basic	4.6%	4.8%	+0.2	+0.2

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 11 - Mathematics

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	68.5%	74.5%	77.7%	77.9%	83.1%	82.5%	81.0%	89.9%	86.6%	+18.1	-3.3
Advanced	42.1%	44.5%	52.6%	55.6%	57.3%	58.0%	51.3%	61.4%	56.2%	+14.1	-5.2
Proficient	26.4%	30.0%	25.1%	22.3%	25.8%	24.5%	29.7%	28.5%	30.4%	+4.0	+1.9
Basic	16.5%	15.2%	12.1%	14.0%	10.3%	9.0%	11.6%	6.4%	8.9%	-7.6	+2.5
Below Basic	15.1%	10.4%	10.3%	7.8%	6.6%	8.5%	7.4%	3.7%	4.5%	-10.6	+0.8

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 11 - Reading

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	61.8%	76.2%	85.0%	84.5%	90.5%	89.8%	87.1%	94.2%	91.2%	+29.4	-3.0
Advanced	16.4%	24.2%	41.9%	52.7%	63.3%	60.6%	55.6%	70.3%	67.3%	+50.9	-3.0
Proficient	45.4%	52.0%	43.1%	31.8%	27.2%	29.2%	31.5%	23.9%	23.9%	-21.5	+0.0
Basic	13.5%	14.3%	9.7%	11.7%	5.4%	6.1%	6.6%	4.4%	4.0%	-9.5	-0.4
Below Basic	24.7%	9.3%	5.3%	3.8%	4.2%	4.2%	6.3%	1.3%	4.8%	-19.9	+3.5

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 11 - Writing

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	87.0%	90.2%	91.3%	92.9%	95.0%	96.1%	98.8%	95.7%	+8.7	-3.1
Advanced	31.9%	13.2%	17.0%	15.4%	26.7%	17.5%	29.8%	40.7%	+8.8	+10.9
Proficient	55.1%	77.0%	74.3%	77.5%	68.3%	78.6%	69.2%	54.9%	-0.2	-14.3
Basic	5.3%	8.1%	7.4%	3.9%	4.3%	3.6%	0.9%	4.0%	-1.3	+3.1
Below Basic	7.6%	1.7%	1.3%	3.1%	0.8%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	-7.3	+0.2

PSSA Performance Assessment

Grade 11 - Science

	2007-08	2008-09	Total Change	Change from Previous Year
A & P	64.4%	74.6%	+10.2	+10.2
Advanced	24.8%	42.7%	+17.9	+17.9
Proficient	39.7%	31.9%	-7.8	-7.8
Basic	33.1%	21.0%	-12.1	-12.1
Below Basic	2.5%	4.5%	+2.0	+2.0