



DISTRICT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT PROFILE

FALL 2013



Think. Learn. **Grow.**

www.dmschools.org

Des Moines Public Schools

District Academic Achievement Profile – Fall 2013



\$474 million

Annual Budget



2,294

Number of Teachers



32,062

Number of Students



71%

Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price School Lunch



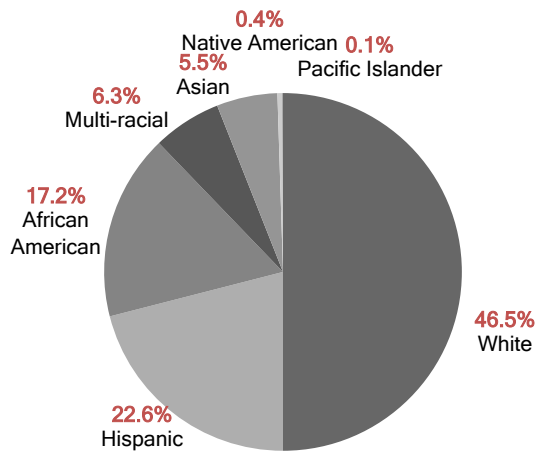
16%

Students Designated as English Language Learners



64

Number of Schools



Student Demographics



The Des Moines Public Schools exist so that graduates possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful at the next stage of their lives.

Des Moines Public Schools

District Academic Achievement Profile – Fall 2013

All data for this report is based on the 2012-13 school year. Assessment data includes all students tested who were enrolled in the district at the time of testing. This report includes the following assessments:

- **Iowa Assessments.** These mathematics and reading assessments are administered to grade 3 through 11 in the spring of every school year. The Iowa Assessments are the district's primary measure of student proficiency and year-to-year academic growth.
- **Basic Reading Inventory (BRI).** The BRI is administered to grade 1 students in the fall and spring of every school year. This assessment measures the reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension of students, providing an evaluation of reading skills acquired by the end of first grade.
- **Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI).** The SRI is administered to grade 3 through 8 students in the fall, midyear, and spring of every school year. The 2012-13 school year was the first year that Des Moines Public Schools administered the SRI. This assessment is used monitor student growth in reading skills throughout the school year.
- **Scholastic Math Inventory (SMI).** The SMI is administered to grade 3 through 8 students in the fall, midyear, and spring of every school year. The 2012-13 school year was the first year that Des Moines Public Schools administered the SMI. This assessment is used monitor student growth in pre-algebra skills throughout the school year.
- **Explore.** The Explore is administered to 8th grade students in the fall. The 2012-13 school year was the first year in recent history that Des Moines Public Schools administered the Explore. The Explore assessment measures college-readiness in English, mathematics, reading, and science. In addition, Explore includes a career exploration component that stimulates students' thinking about future plans and relates personal characteristics to career options.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) exams.** AP exams are administered at the end of each AP course. These exams are optional, but highly encouraged at Des Moines Public Schools. AP exams measure mastery of content covered in the corresponding AP course. Des Moines Public Schools offers several AP courses in humanities, mathematics, and the language arts.
- **ACT.** The ACT is administered to all 11th graders in the spring of every school year. The ACT serves as a college entrance exam for post-secondary institutions, measuring college-readiness in English, mathematics, reading, and science.

Elementary Schools



38

Number of Elementary Schools



15,503

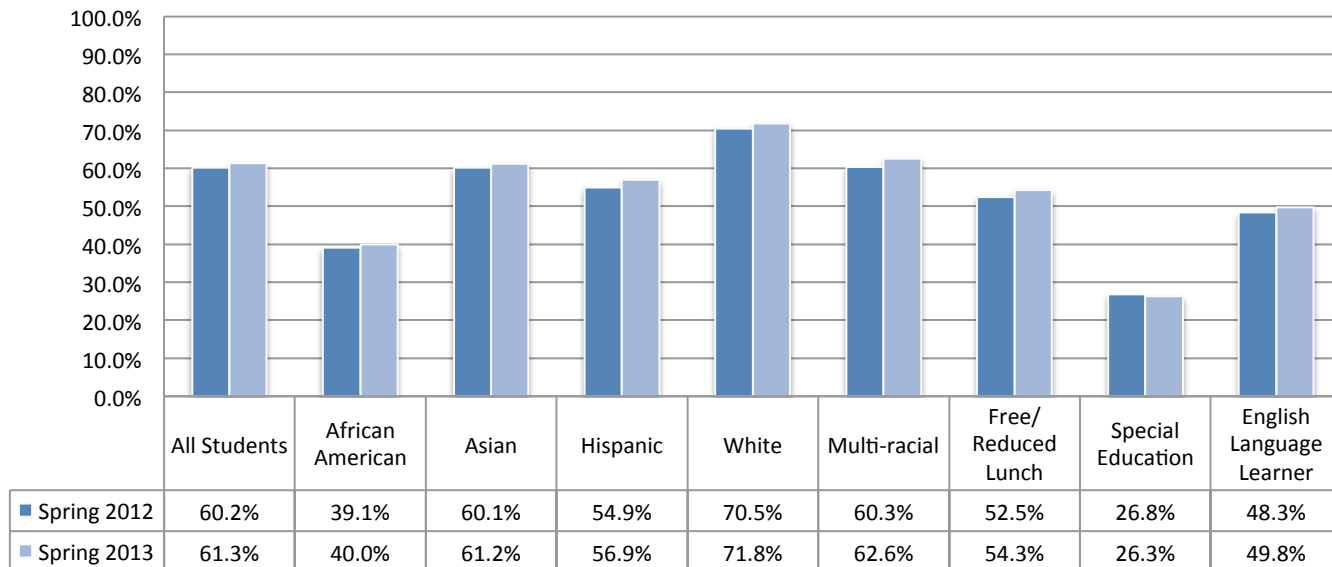
Number of Elementary Students



24%

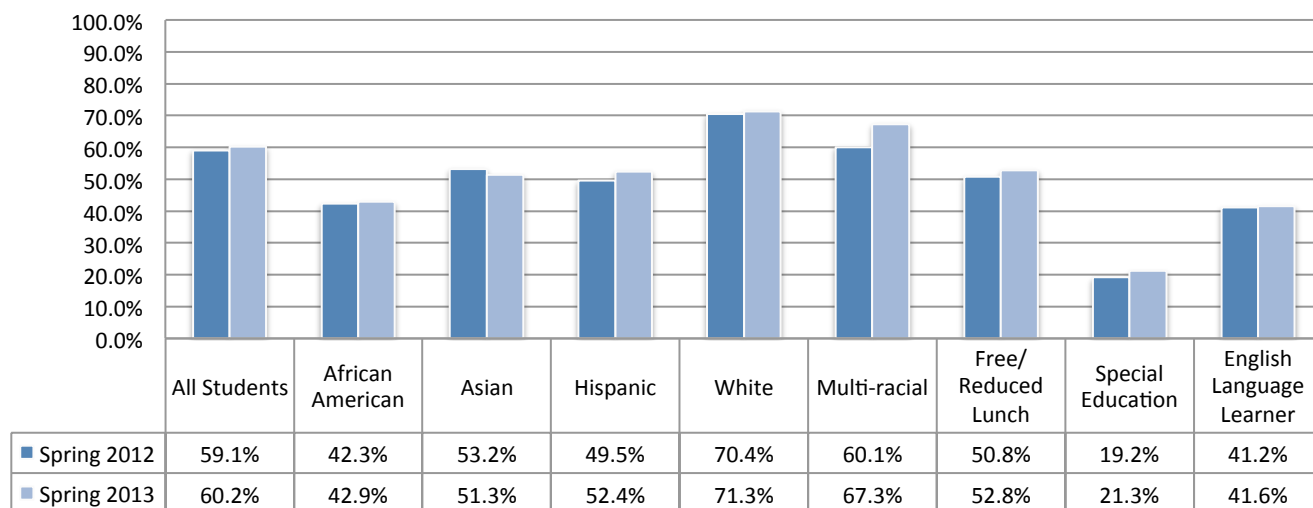
Elementary Students Designated as English Language Learners

Mathematics: Percent Proficient on the Iowa Assessments, Grades 3-5



Elementary grade levels experienced an overall 1.1 percent increase in mathematics proficiency rate from spring 2012 to spring 2013. All subgroups, with the exception of special education students, increased in elementary mathematics proficiency. Multi-racial students demonstrated the largest increase, increasing by 2.3 percent.

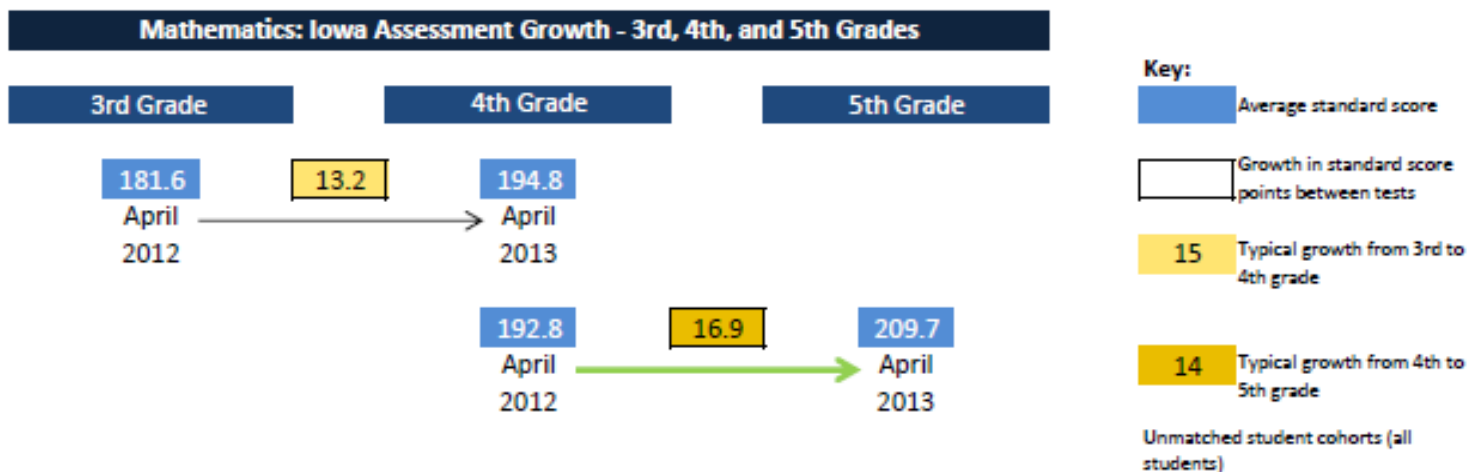
Reading: Percent Proficient on the Iowa Assessments, Grades 3-5



Elementary grade levels experienced an overall 1.1 percent increase in reading proficiency rate from spring 2012 to spring 2013. All subgroups, with the exception of Asian students, increased in elementary reading proficiency. Multi-racial students demonstrated the largest increase, increasing by 7.2 percent.

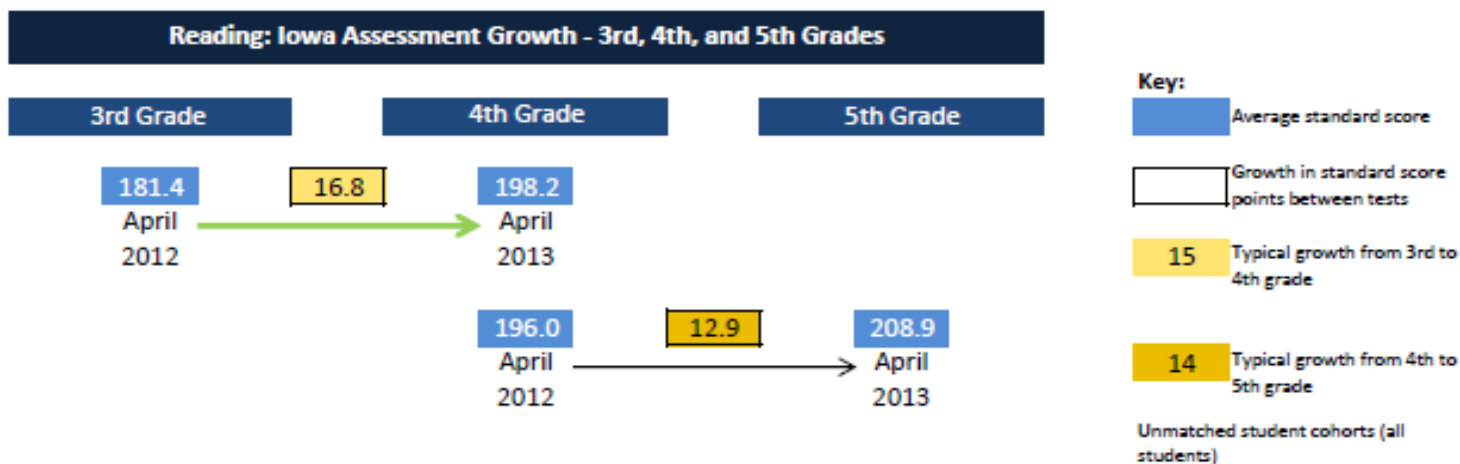
Measuring Growth in Addition to Proficiency

Iowa Assessments allow growth to be measured by using vertically scaled (or articulated) scores, called standard scores. These scores plot out all students, regardless of grade level, on a continuum of student achievement. Standard scores describe a student's location on an achievement continuum. Using standard scores, we can understand the progress students make from year to year.



The 2013 cohort of 4th grade students grew 13.2 standard score points on the mathematics Iowa Assessment from 3rd grade, increasing from a class average of 181.6 as 3rd graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 194.8 as 4th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 13.2 standard score points in mathematics from 3rd to 4th grade fell short of typical growth of 15 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments mathematics test by 1.8 points.

The 2013 cohort of 5th grade students grew 16.9 standard score points on the mathematics Iowa Assessment from 4th grade, increasing from a class average of 192.8 as 4th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 209.7 as 5th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 16.9 standard score points in mathematics from 4th to 5th grade exceeded typical growth of 14 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments mathematics test by 2.9 points.



The 2013 cohort of 4th grade students grew 16.8 standard score points on the reading Iowa Assessment from 3rd grade, increasing from a class average of 181.4 as 3rd graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 198.2 as 4th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 16.8 standard score points in reading from 3rd to 4th grade exceeded typical growth of 15 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments reading test by 1.8 points.

The 2013 cohort of 5th grade students grew 12.9 standard score points on the reading Iowa Assessment from 4th grade, increasing from a class average of 196.0 as 4th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 208.9 as 5th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 12.9 standard score points in reading from 4th to 5th grade fell short of typical growth of 14 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments reading test by 1.1 points.

State STEM Summit Features Greenwood

On March 5, 2013, hundreds of attendees at the Iowa STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) Summit were treated to a presentation by Greenwood Elementary Principal Eric Huinker about the impact made by the school's STEM Scale-Up Grant. Huinker's report explained that the grant provided training for seven staff members who have implemented the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) curriculum into five classrooms spanning grades 1-5 and serving 118 of Greenwood's 456 students.

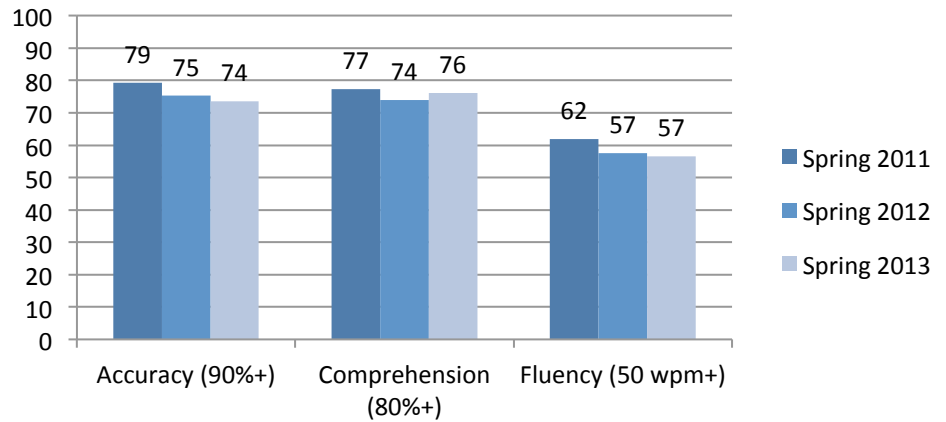


21st Century Community Learning Center Grants Awarded to Six DMPS Elementary Schools

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21CCLC) after-school program has expanded to six elementary schools in 2013, thanks to a grant awarded to Des Moines Public Schools by the Iowa Department of Education. This new three-year grant totals \$2.4 million and will allow the 21CCLC after-school program to be added at Garton, Hillis, Morris, River Woods, Samuelson, and Willard elementary schools serving an additional 900 students in these schools. The grant money will be used to provide after-school and summer programming for students including academic programming in reading, math, and science; and also enrichment programming in the arts, literacy, music and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

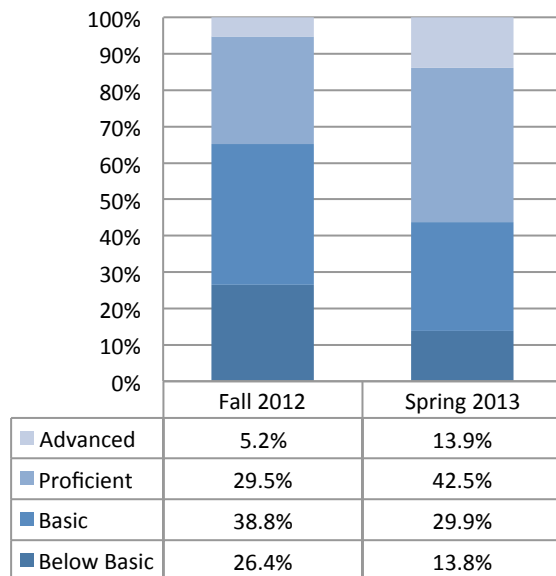


Reading: Percent Proficient on the Basic Reading Inventory (BRI), Grade 1



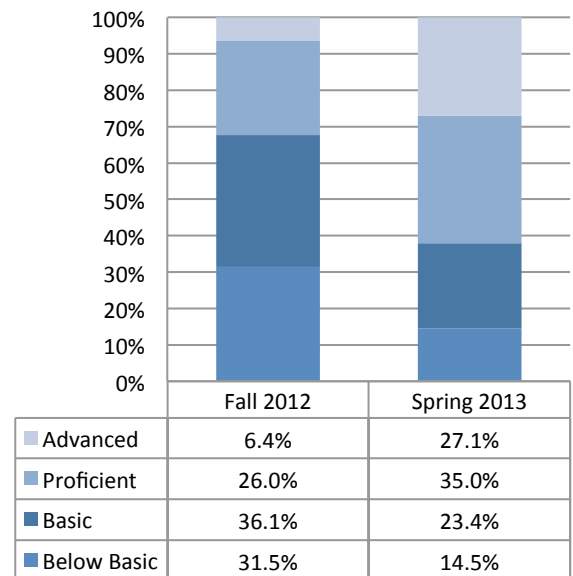
74 percent of 1st graders were proficient in accuracy in 2013 on the BRI. This is down 1 percent from 2012. 76 percent of 1st graders were proficient in comprehension. This is up 2 percent from 2012. Lastly, 57 percent of 1st graders were proficient in fluency in 2013. This is unchanged from 2012.

Reading: Fall 2012 & Spring 2013 Achievement Levels on the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), Grades 3-5



86.2 percent of 3rd – 5th grade students scored at or above the basic achievement level on the SRI in the Spring of 2013. This is up 12.6 percent from 73.6 percent in the Fall of 2012.

Mathematics: Fall 2012 & Spring 2013 Achievement Levels on the Scholastic Math Inventory (SMI), Grades 3-5



85.5 percent of 3rd – 5th grade students scored at or above the basic achievement level on the SMI in the Spring of 2013. This is up 17.0 percent from 68.5 percent in the Fall of 2012.

Middle Schools



10
Number of Middle Schools

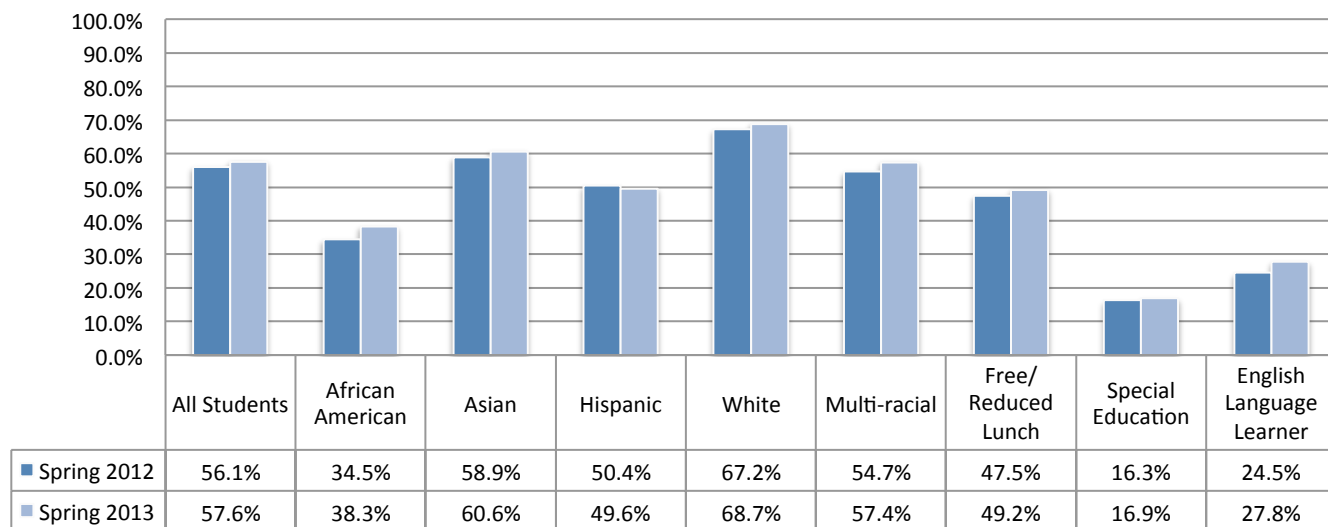


6,838
Number of Middle School Students



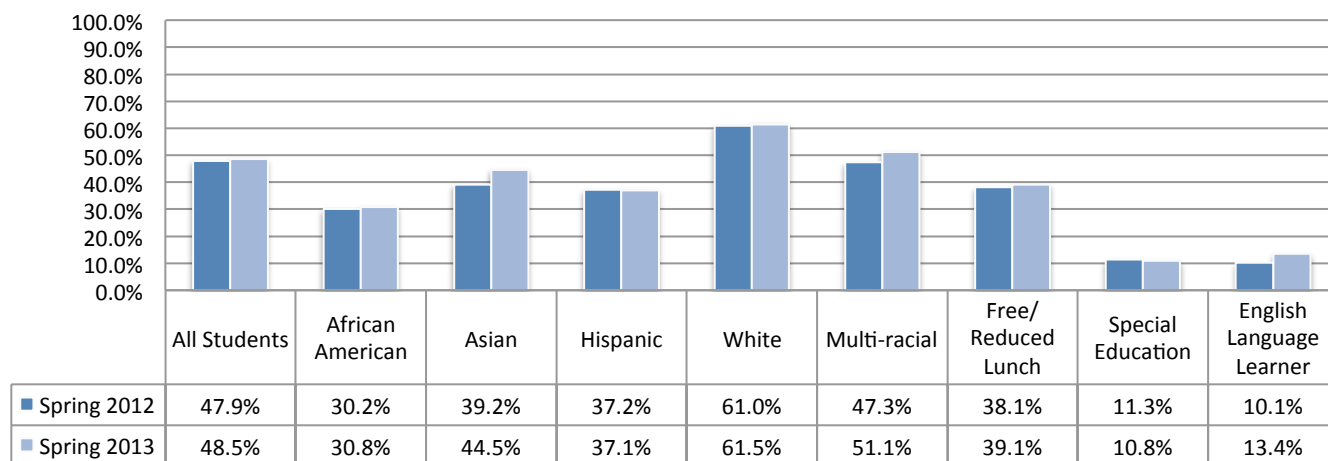
13%
Middle School Students Designated as English Language Learners

Mathematics: Percent Proficient on the Iowa Assessments, Grades 6-8



Middle school grade levels experienced an overall 1.5 percent increase in mathematics proficiency rate from spring 2012 to spring 2013. All subgroups, with the exception of Hispanic students, increased in middle school mathematics proficiency. African American students demonstrated the largest increase, increasing by 3.8 percent.

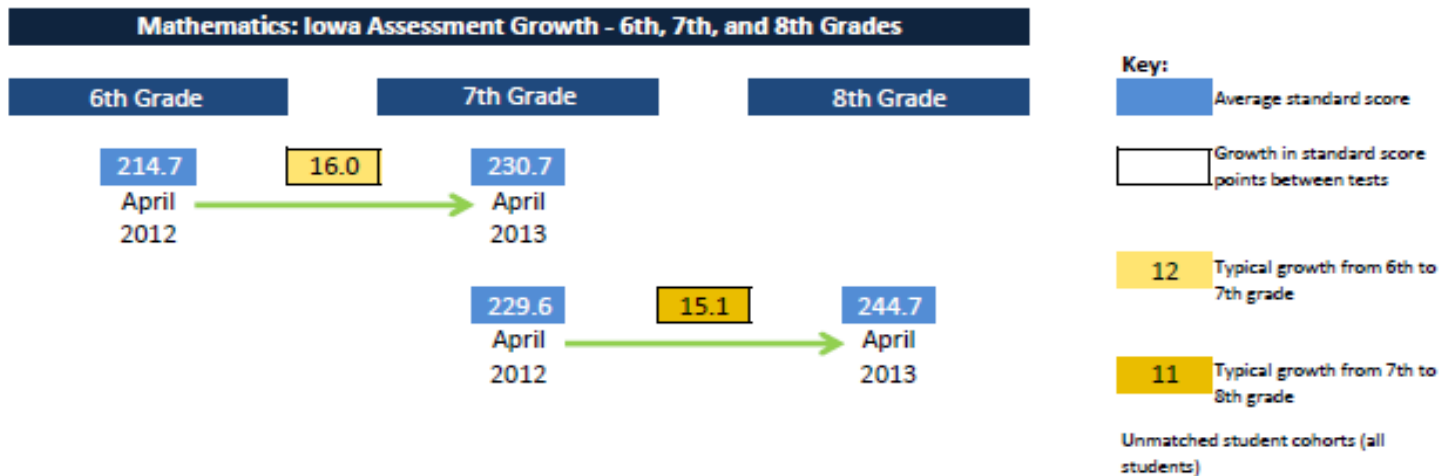
Reading: Percent Proficient on the Iowa Assessments, Grades 6-8



Middle school grade levels experienced an overall 0.6 percent increase in reading proficiency rate from spring 2012 to spring 2013. All subgroups, with the exception of Hispanic and special education students, increased in middle school reading proficiency. Asian students demonstrated the largest increase, increasing by 5.3 percent.

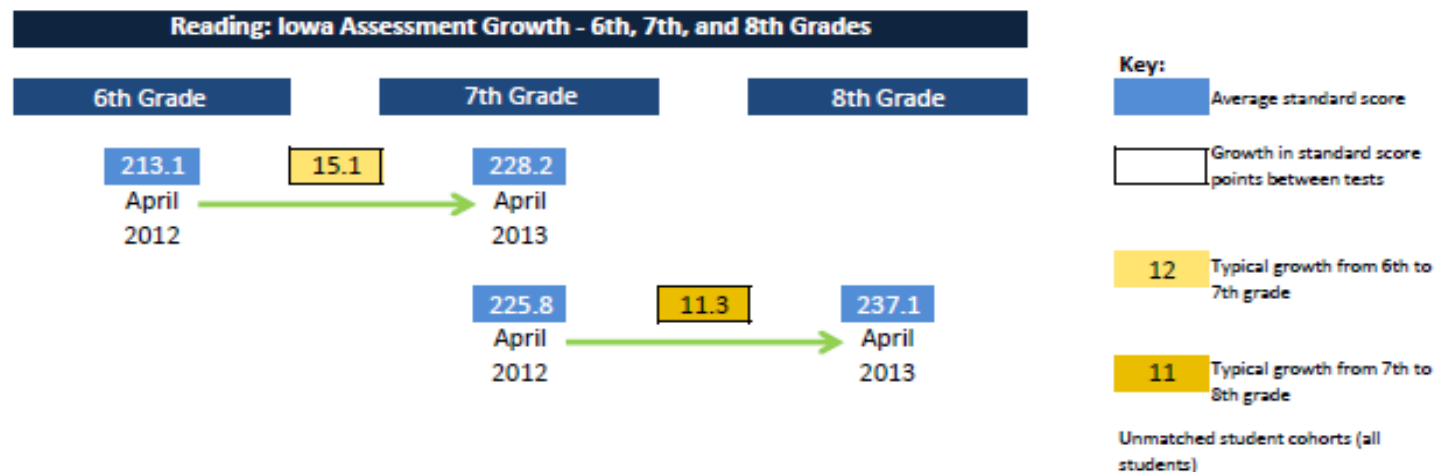
Measuring Growth in Addition to Proficiency

Iowa Assessments allow growth to be measured by using vertically scaled (or articulated) scores, called standard scores. These scores plot out all students, regardless of grade level, on a continuum of student achievement. Standard scores describe a student's location on an achievement continuum. Using standard scores, we can understand the progress students make from year to year.



The 2013 cohort of 7th grade students grew 16.0 standard score points on the mathematics Iowa Assessment from 6th grade, increasing from a class average of 214.7 as 6th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 230.7 as 7th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 16.0 standard score points in mathematics from 6th to 7th grade exceeded typical growth of 12 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments mathematics test by 4.0 points.

The 2013 cohort of 8th grade students grew 15.1 standard score points on the mathematics Iowa Assessment from 7th grade, increasing from a class average of 229.6 as 7th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 244.7 as 8th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 15.1 standard score points in mathematics from 7th to 8th grade exceeded typical growth of 11 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments mathematics test by 4.1 points.

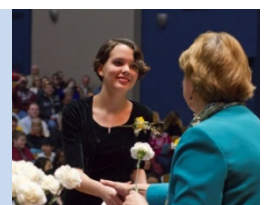


The 2013 cohort of 7th grade students grew 15.1 standard score points on the reading Iowa Assessment from 6th grade, increasing from a class average of 213.1 as 6th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 228.2 as 7th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 15.1 standard score points in mathematics from 6th to 7th grade exceeded typical growth of 12 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments reading test by 3.1 points.

The 2013 cohort of 8th grade students grew 11.3 standard score points on the reading Iowa Assessment from 7th grade, increasing from a class average of 225.8 as 7th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 237.1 as 8th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 11.3 standard score points in mathematics from 7th to 8th grade exceeded typical growth of 11 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments reading test by 0.3 points.

Weeks' Students Inducted into Honor Society

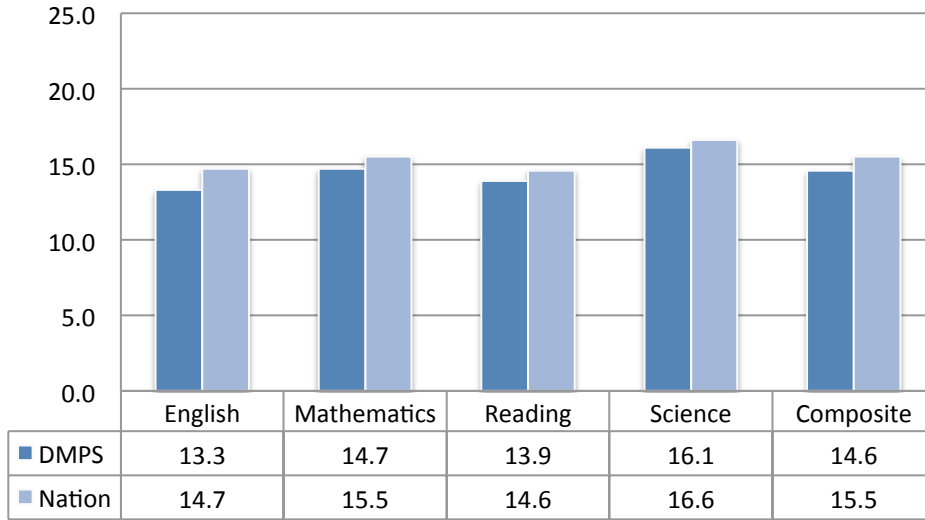
Weeks Middle School hosted its first induction ceremony for the school's newly activated chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) on Saturday, March 9, 2013. Besides achieving at least a 3.5 GPA, each of the inductees had to be nominated by a faculty member based on the rest of the five-point NJHS rubric which consists of character, leadership, service and citizenship, in addition to scholarship.



Seventy-eight percent of Des Moines Public School students find their coursework interesting.

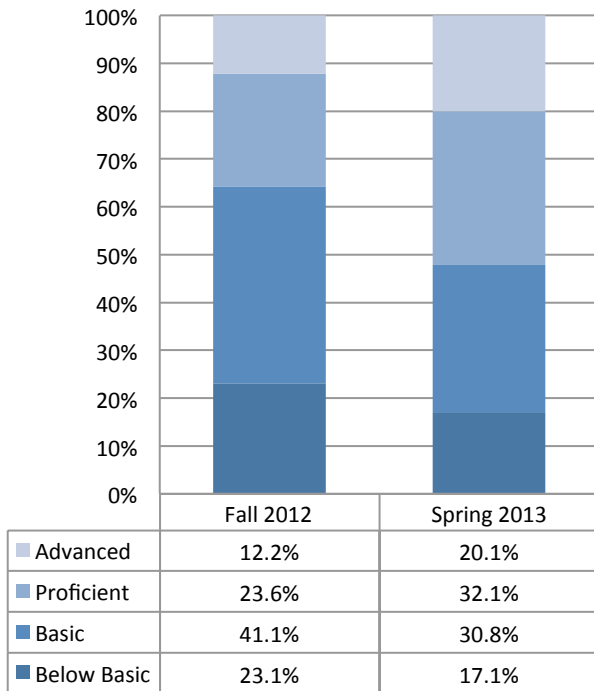
78%

EXPLORE: Fall 2012 Grade 8 Average Scores



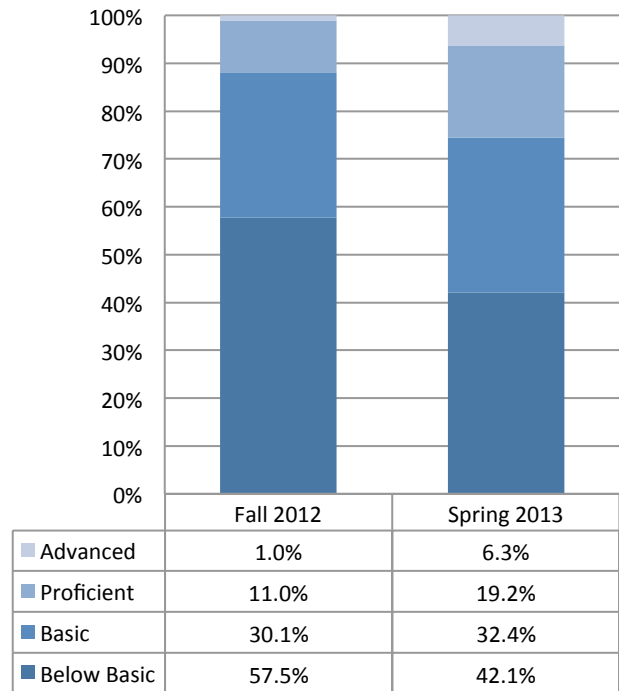
In the fall of 2012, DMPS gave the EXPLORE assessment to 8th grade students for the first time in recent years. EXPLORE measures the skills and knowledge needed for college success and also includes a career exploration component that stimulates students' thinking about future plans and relates personal characteristics to career options. Results were used to not only gauge college readiness, but also assisted in planning high school coursework.

Reading: Fall 2012 & Spring 2013 Achievement Levels on the Scholastic Reading Inventory, Grades 6-8



82.9 percent of 6th-8th grade students scored at or above the basic achievement level on the SRI in the Spring of 2013. This is up 6.0 percent from 76.9 percent in the Fall of 2012.

Mathematics: Fall 2012 & Spring 2013 Achievement Levels on the Scholastic Math Inventory, Grades 6-8



57.9 percent of 6th-8th grade students scored at or above the basic achievement level on the SMI in the Spring of 2013. This is up 15.4 percent from 42.5 percent in the Fall of 2012.

High Schools



5
Number of High Schools

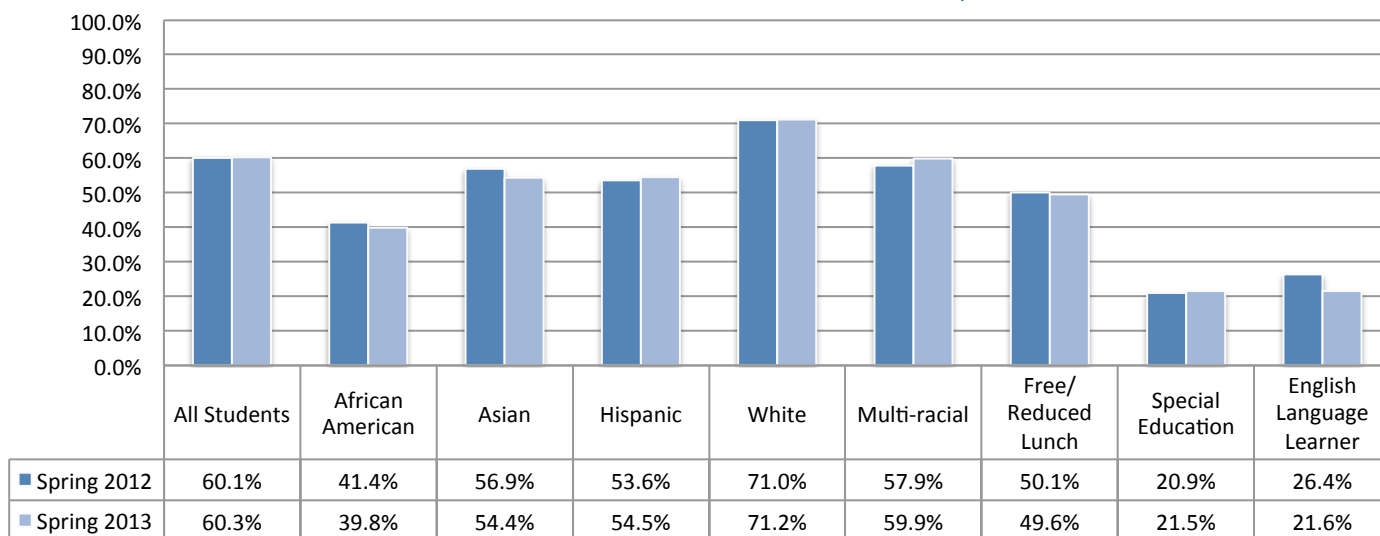


8,923
Number of High School Students



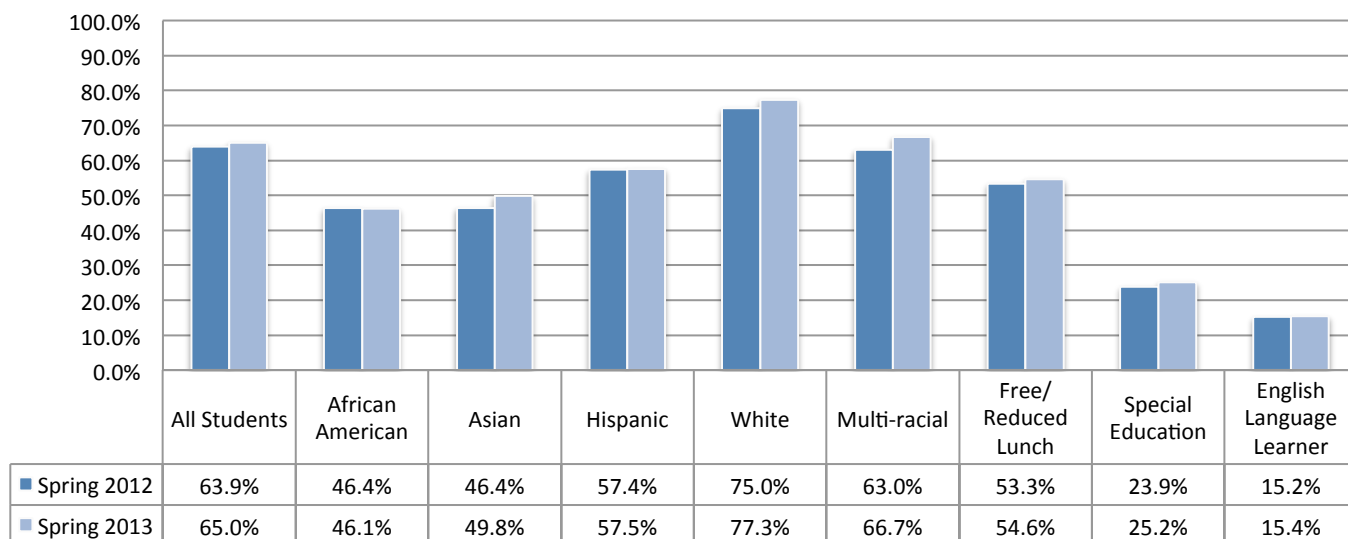
9%
High School Students Designated as English Language Learners

Mathematics: Percent Proficient on the Iowa Assessments, Grades 9-11



High school grade levels experienced an overall 0.2 percent increase in mathematics proficiency rate from spring 2012 to spring 2013. All subgroups, with the exception of African American, Asian, free/reduced lunch, and English language learners, increased in high school mathematics proficiency. Multi-racial students demonstrated the largest increase, increasing by 2.0 percent.

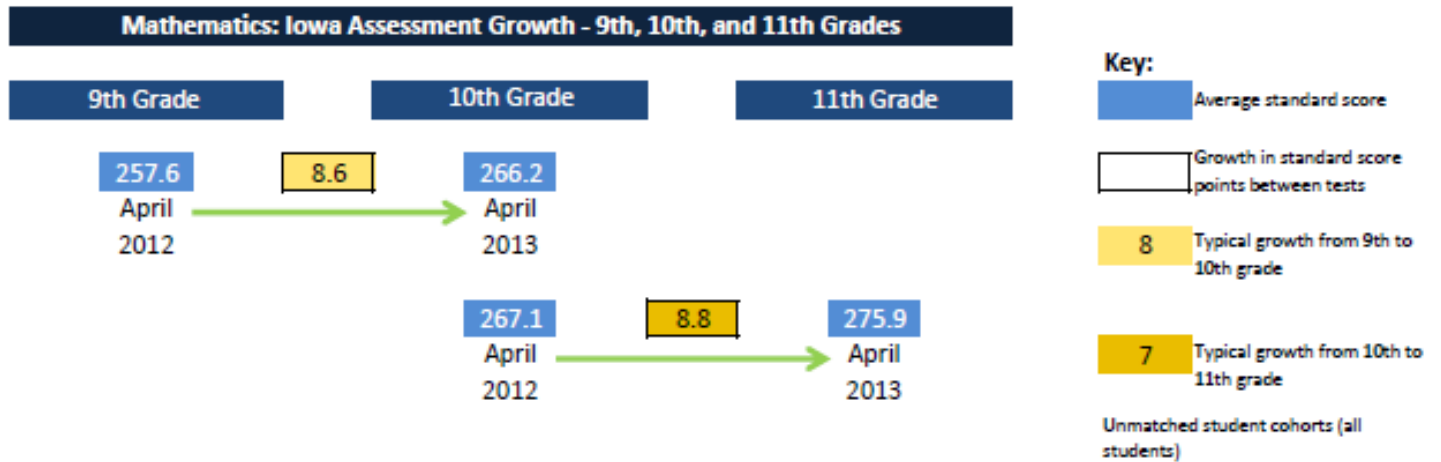
Reading: Percent Proficient on the Iowa Assessments, Grades 9-11



High school grade levels experienced an overall 1.1 percent increase in reading proficiency rate from spring 2012 to spring 2013. All subgroups, with the exception of African American students, increased in high school reading proficiency. Multi-racial students demonstrated the largest increase, increasing by 3.7 percent.

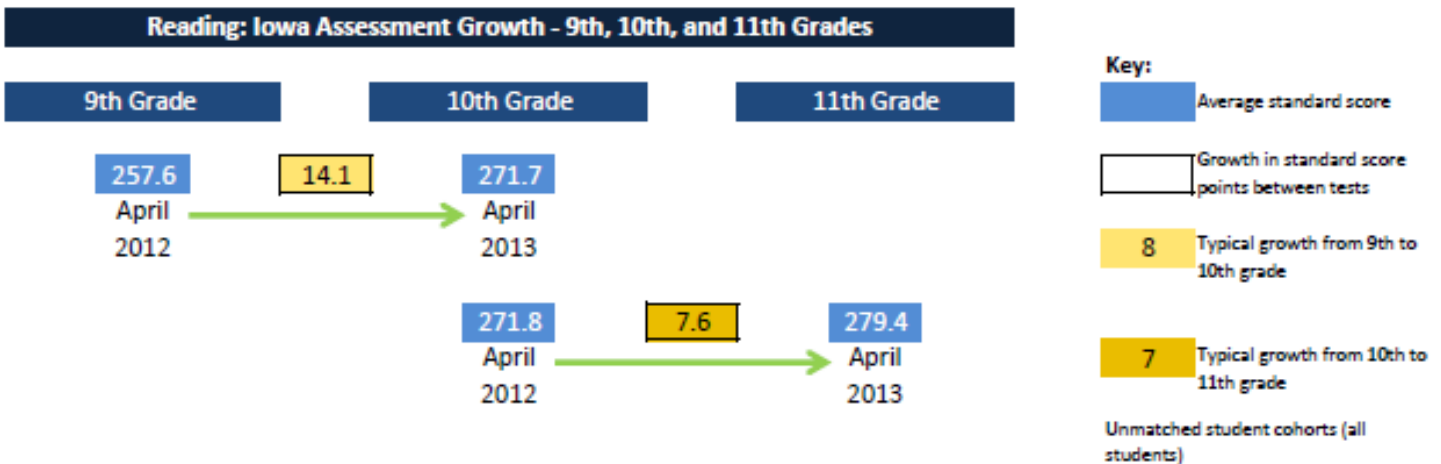
Measuring Growth in Addition to Proficiency

Iowa Assessments allow growth to be measured by using vertically scaled (or articulated) scores, called standard scores. These scores plot out all students, regardless of grade level, on a continuum of student achievement. Standard scores describe a student's location on an achievement continuum. Using standard scores, we can understand the progress students make from year to year.



The 2013 cohort of 10th grade students grew 8.6 standard score points on the mathematics Iowa Assessment from 9th grade, increasing from a class average of 257.6 as 9th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 266.2 as 10th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 8.6 standard score points in mathematics from 9th to 10th grade exceeded typical growth of 8 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments mathematics test by 0.6 points.

The 2013 cohort of 11th grade students grew 8.8 standard score points on the mathematics Iowa Assessment from 10th grade, increasing from a class average of 267.1 as 10th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 275.9 as 11th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 8.8 standard score points in mathematics from 10th to 11th grade exceeded typical growth of 7 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments mathematics test by 1.8 points.



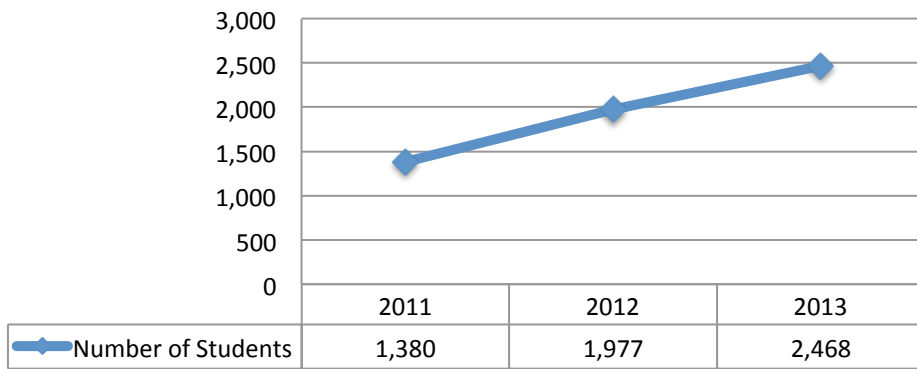
The 2013 cohort of 10th grade students grew 14.1 standard score points on the reading Iowa Assessment from 9th grade, increasing from a class average of 257.6 as 9th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 271.7 as 10th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 14.1 standard score points in mathematics from 9th to 10th grade exceeded typical growth of 8 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments reading test by 6.1 points.

The 2013 cohort of 11th grade students grew 7.6 standard score points on the reading Iowa Assessment from 10th grade, increasing from a class average of 271.8 as 10th graders in the spring of 2012 to a class average of 279.4 as 11th graders in the spring of 2013. This gain of 7.6 standard score points in mathematics from 10th to 11th grade exceeded typical growth of 7 standard score points on the Iowa Assessments reading test by 0.6 points.

Eleven DMPS Students Named National Merit Semi-Finalists

Eleven high school seniors in Des Moines have been chosen as 2014 Semi-Finalists for the National Merit Scholarship, placing them among the top young scholars in the state and nation. The Des Moines students were selected based on their strong performance on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test taken in the 2012-13 year. Over the past 40 years, more than 450 National Merit Semi-Finalists have attended Des Moines Public Schools.





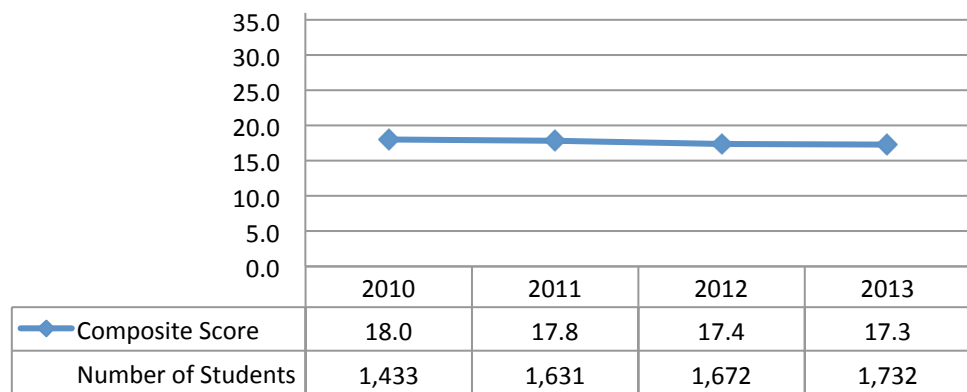
DMPS Average AP Exam Score: 2.49

National Average AP Exam Score: 2.87

2012-13

Enrollment in advanced placement (AP) courses increased by 491 students from 2012 to 2013. The average AP exam score for Des Moines students of 2.49 fell short of the national average AP exam score of 2.87 by 0.38 in the 2012-13 school year.

ACT: Grade II Average Composite Score 2010 to 2013



The number of students taking the ACT test increased by 60 students from 2012 to 2013. The average composite score fell by 0.1 from 2012 to 2013. Since the spring of 2010, DMPS has increased ACT test participation by almost 300 students.

Record Number of DMPS Juniors Took ACT Exams; Two Members of Class of 2013 Earned a Perfect Score

A record number of juniors at Des Moines Public Schools took the ACT college entrance exam this past spring, and two members of the Class of 2013 scored perfect scores, according to information recently provided by American College Testing.

Des Moines Public Schools continues to give more and more students an opportunity to take the ACT assessment. The spring 2013 exam administration had the highest number of juniors tested to date, with a total of 1,732 students. This equals approximately 88 percent of DMPS juniors who took the ACT in the spring of 2013, an increase of 3 percent of students from the spring of 2012.

In 2009, Des Moines Public Schools became the first school district in Iowa to make the ACT exam available, free of charge, to all high school juniors.

Two members of the Class of 2013 – Nathan Leys and Luke Sheeley – received perfect composite scores of 36 on the ACT. Both students graduated from Roosevelt High School and took courses at Central Academy. Leys is now attending George Mason University and Sheeley is attending Cornell University.

“Administering the ACT is one step we take to help determine if graduates are college and career ready,” said Mary Grinstead, assessment supervisor for Des Moines Public Schools. “No matter what students’ dream of doing with their lives, being prepared for education after high school is the best plan. Providing a college entrance exam with critical feedback on student skills is essential to preparing students for life after high school.”

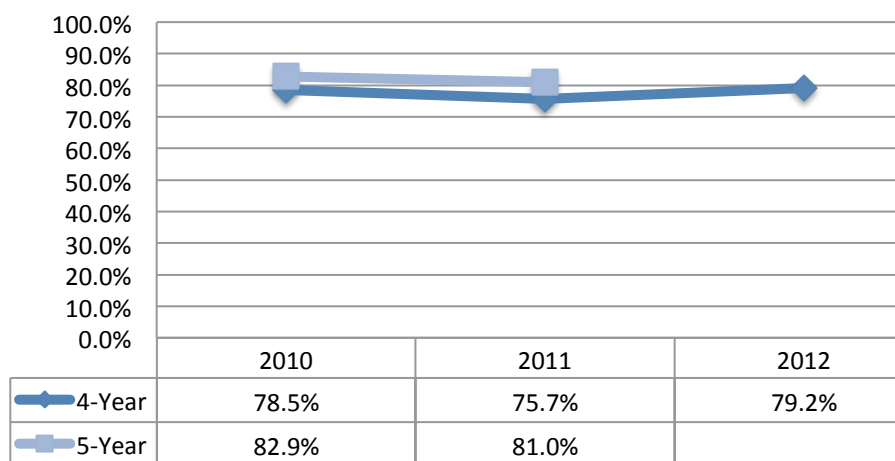


DMPS Sees 3.5 Percent Increase in Graduation Rate

The Des Moines Public Schools Class of 2012 had a graduation rate of 79.2%, an increase of 3.5% over the previous year and the highest since Iowa began using its current graduation rate formula in 2009. Overall, there were a total of 1,923 students in the Class of 2012 (counted as students who began high school as ninth graders in the fall of 2008); 1,522 of those students graduated in four years.

“Our focus on providing additional support for students to earn the credits needed to graduate – whether that takes four years or five years – is starting to pay off by helping more young people earn a high school diploma,” said Superintendent Tom Ahart. “While, in my opinion, progress can never be fast enough, our work is moving in the right direction.”

Graduation: 4- and 5-Year Cohort Graduation Rates 2010 to 2012



The 4-year cohort graduation rate increased from 75.7 percent in 2011 to 79.2 percent in 2012. This was an increase of 3.5 percent. The 5-year cohort graduation rate decreased by 1.9 percent from 82.9 percent in 2010 to 81.0 percent in 2011.



Test Scores Show Growth Among DMPS Students

The latest results from the Iowa Assessments – the state-wide test that measures student proficiency in reading and math – shows that students in Des Moines are moving in the right direction. The test results show student growth across every grade level and among nearly every demographic group in Des Moines.

As Superintendent Tom Ahart notes, “Proficiency is always the goal, but growth is what I find most important.” And Holly Crandell, the district’s executive director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, adds “The results of the Iowa Assessments show great growth in our district.”

Some of the biggest gains were made in reading, with every grade level seeing an increase on the Iowa Assessments. In grades 3-5, students overall saw an increase of 1.1%. In grades 6-8, students overall saw an increase of 0.6%. And in grade 11, students overall saw an increase of 3.9%.

The growth in mathematics was nearly as impressive, with increases at all grade levels. In grades 3-5, students overall saw an increase of 1.1%. In grades 6-8, students overall saw an increase of 1.5%. And in grade 11, students overall saw an increase of 1.8%.