

NJSLA Science Results:  
Spring 2019  
Administrations

Branchburg School District  
May 21, 2020

# New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-Science)

## The NJSLA-Science:

- Is a federally required state assessment administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11.
- Provides a snapshot of student performance on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-Science).
- Was developed in collaboration with NJ educators, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey's contracted science vendors.
- Is significantly different from the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) because the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS-Science) are more rigorous standards and NJSLA-Science focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills rather than memorization of content.

# New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science Score Reporting

Student performance on the NJSLA–S is described using scale scores, performance levels, and domain and practice performance indicators.

- Students performing at Level 3 and Level 4 are considered proficient and above; they demonstrate appropriate or exemplary understanding of the Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs).
- Students performing at Level 1 and Level 2 are considered to be below the state minimum level of proficiency. They demonstrate minimal or partial understanding of the DCIs and SEPs.
  - Students at this performance level may need additional instructional support, which could be in the form of individual or programmatic intervention.

# Branchburg's Number of Students Tested Spring 2019 NJSLA Science Administrations

Grade	Students Tested 2019
5	175
8	173
Total	348

Note: "Students Tested" represents individual valid test scores for Science.

# Branchburg's 2019 Spring NJSLA Grade-Level Outcomes Science Grade 5 & 8 - Percentages

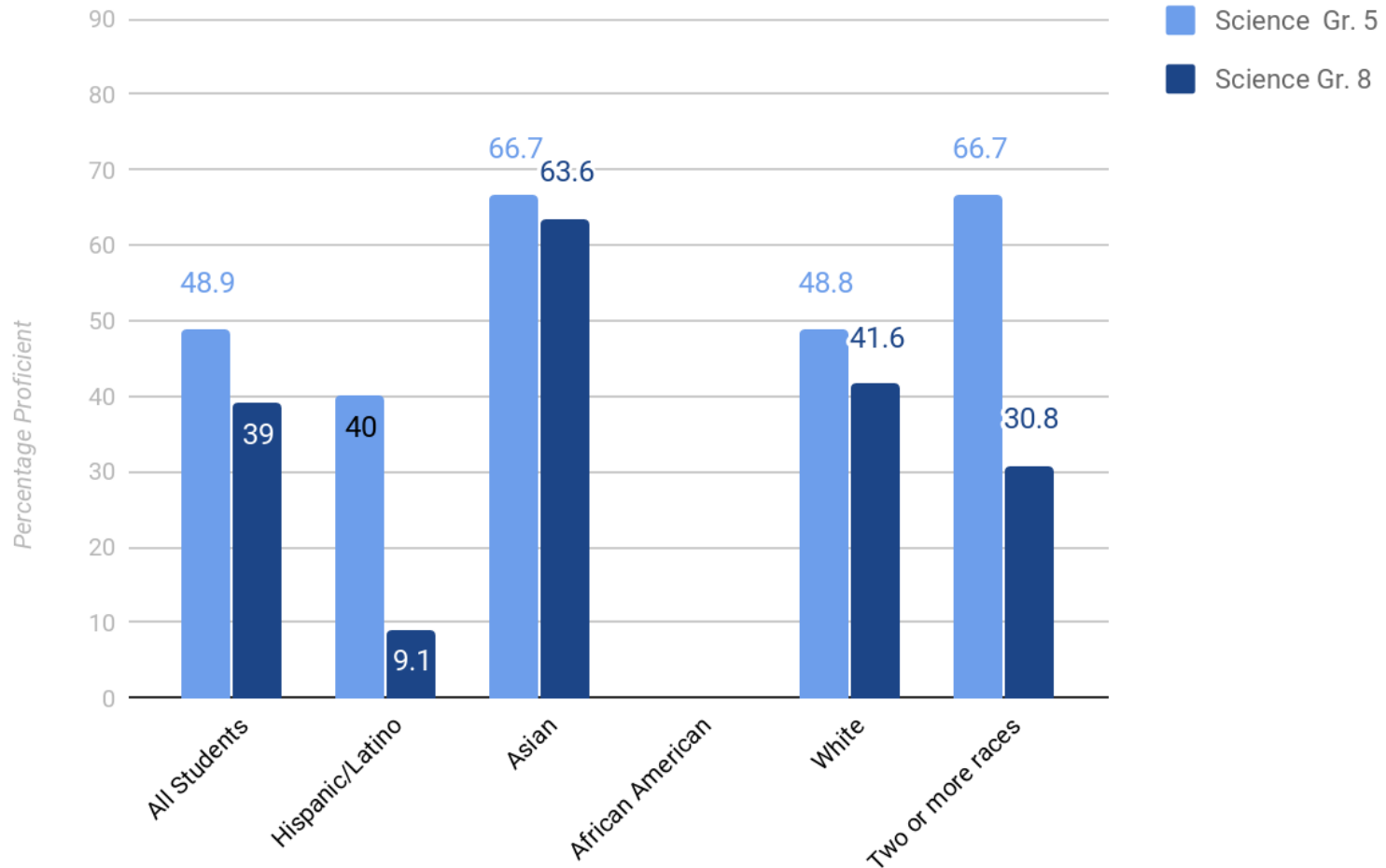
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of students at Level 3 and 4 (Branchburg)	% of students at Level 3 and 4 (State)
Grade 5	10.9	40.2	38.5	10.3	<b>48.9</b>	29.2
Grade 8	12.8	48.2	31.7	7.3	<b>39.0</b>	19.8

# Comparison of Branchburg's Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations Science to New Jersey Percentages for 2019

Grade	Level 1, District	Level 1, State	Level 2, District	Level 2, State	Level 3, District	Level 3, State	Level 4, District	Level 4, State
5	10.9	34.8	40.2	36.0	38.5	22.7	10.3	6.6
8	12.8	35.7	48.2	44.5	31.7	15.3	7.3	4.5

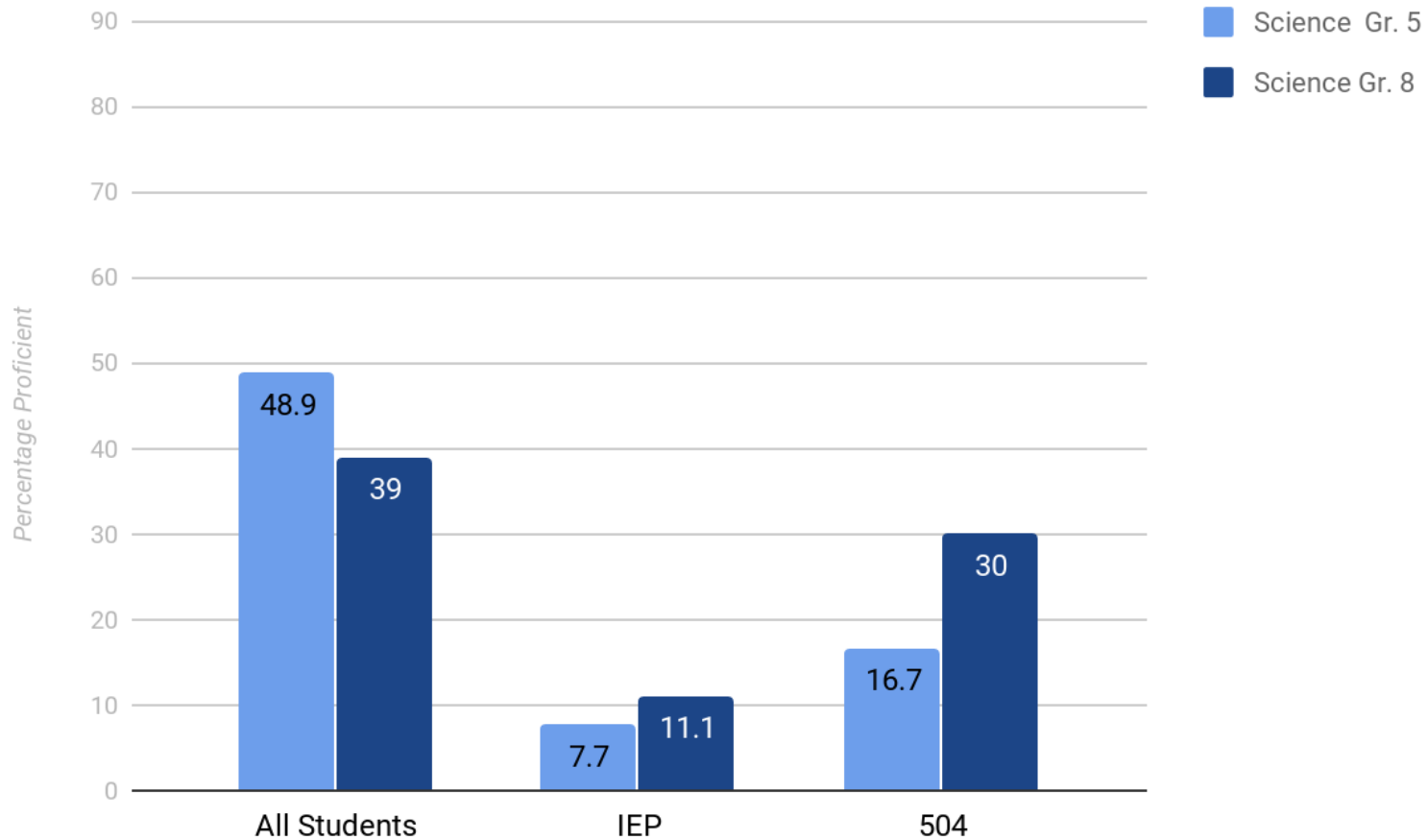
Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

# Science Performance by Race Subgroup



\*African American scores were not reported due to possible identifiable information.

# Science Performance by Students with Disabilities Subgroup





# Branchburg's Notable Achievements

- Strong participation in the first administration of the NJSLA-Science, which provides valuable data to support student instructional needs.
- Data from the NJSLA-Science administration supports the implementation of the new standards in the district science curricula.
  - The new standards have begun to make an impact on the shift in science thinking from memorization of content to the application of science knowledge.
- District proficiency scores rise above State averages.

# Branchburg's Data Review and Next Steps

- Having received data from the initial administration of the NJSLA-Science, the district will begin a more in-depth review of student performance in each of the Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs) and Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs).
- Administration, instructional coaches and teachers will work together to identify discernible trends and construct meaningful scaffolds to support our students in the following areas:
  - student cohort groups
  - grade level performance
  - curriculum content areas/standard performance
- Additional years of data will help us to refine our practices in each of these areas.

# Frequently Asked Questions

# When will the NJSLA-Science scores be utilized in NJQSAC?

(New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum)

- NJQSAC for school year 2021-2022 will be the first year in which results from the NJSLA-Science will be factored into NJQSAC, utilizing the results from the 2020-2021 administration of the assessment.

## Does a student have to pass the NJSLA-Science to graduate?

- The NJSLA-Science is not a state graduation assessment requirement.

# How can schools and districts use data from the NJSLA-Science?

- The NJSLA-Science data will be used to evaluate the district's science curriculum and school and classroom instruction.
- This data, in combination with classroom level data collected through formative, summative, and benchmark assessments, can provide schools and districts feedback on students' strengths and weaknesses with particular skills.
- The reports can be used as a catalyst for conversation and exploration of questions such as:
  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the effectiveness of our program for English Language Learners, students who receive special education services, gifted and talented, general education students, and/or students who qualify for free or reduced lunches?
  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the allocation of time and resources to our science program?

# What resources are available for further support?

- The NJDOE Office of Standards has a repository of various resources to help support educators and districts with the implementation of the NJSLS-Science:
  - <https://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/science/mc.htm>
- NJSLA-Science practice tests are also available online at the following site:
  - <https://measinc-nj-science.com/>
- The NJDOE plans to continue to develop additional resources, such as K-12 instructional units based on the NJSLS-Science and connect educators with free resources and course materials.