



Newport News Students Make Notable Gains on SOL Tests School Division Committed to Increasing Achievement

Newport News Public Schools' Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores released by the Department of Education show increased achievement on tests taken during the 2014-2015 school year. District-wide, Newport News public school students posted gains on all SOL tests.

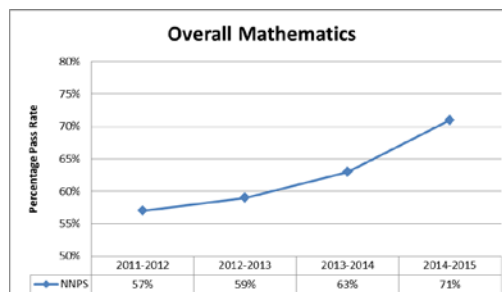
In 2011, the Virginia Department of Education began implementing more rigorous standards in all subjects to better prepare students to meet national and international benchmarks for college and career readiness. As predicted by the Department of Education, these tests created a new baseline to measure student progress. In NNPS, the revised standards and tests created new achievement goals and improvement plans for all students.

NNPS educators are utilizing a revised curriculum that supports the new standards. In addition, schools are focusing on literacy and math skills, utilizing student-written success plans, providing students with more time for extra help, using computer based assessments, and increasing learning time by giving fewer tests - targeted actions which have resulted in notable gains in all subject areas.

"We can all be proud of the academic growth that our students have achieved. Last year was a great story of progress for Newport News Public Schools, and this year we will refine our practices to realize the smart potential of every student," said Dr. Ashby Kilgore, superintendent of schools. "We will continue to see notable advancement in all subject areas," she said.

Mathematics Results

Results in mathematics had the largest gain, improving by eight percentage points when compared to 2013-2014 district results, and by 14 points since 2011-2012, when the Virginia Department of Education introduced new mathematics tests that require students to apply critical-thinking skills and their knowledge of grade-level or course content to solve multistep problems.



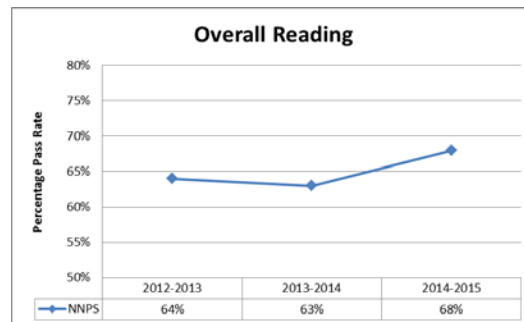
Students in Newport News Public Schools posted gains on all math tests. NNPS students also achieved pass rates of 70 percent or higher on six assessments (grades 4, 5, 6 grade level math tests and Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II end-of-course tests).

Students in grade 7 improved performance by 15 percentage points to 53% from 2014-2015 followed by a 10 point improvement for grades 5 and 6 and students taking Algebra I and Algebra II.

Grade/Course	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change from 13-14	Change from 11-12
Grade 3 Math	49	49	60	66	6	17
Grade 4 Math	60	60	73	75	2	15
Grade 5 Math	56	56	62	72	10	16
Grade 6 Math	68	70	67	77	10	9
Grade 7 Math	33	43	38	53	15	20
Grade 8 Math	44	42	43	48	5	4
Algebra I	66	72	71	81	10	15
Geometry	62	63	68	74	6	12
Algebra II	58	59	67	77	10	19
Overall Math	57	59	63	71	8	14

English/Reading Results

Performance on English/reading tests improved five percentage points when compared to the prior year, and four percentage points from 2012-2013, when more challenging English/reading and writing SOL tests were introduced.



NNPS students improved performance on all grade level reading tests (grades 3-8). Grade 4 improved performance by 13 percentage points from 2013-2014 followed by grade 5 and 3 with a seven percentage point improvement and six percentage point improvement respectively. High school end-of-course reading test results dipped slightly, but the pass rate remains high at 83%.

Grade/Course	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change from 13-14	Change from 11-12
Grade 3 Reading	62	58	64	6	2
Grade 4 Reading	59	58	71	13	12
Grade 5 Reading	58	59	66	7	8
Grade 6 Reading	64	60	62	2	-2
Grade 7 Reading	64	66	71	5	7
Grade 8 Reading	59	57	61	4	2
EOC Reading	85	88	83	-5	-2
Overall Reading	64	63	68	5	4

Science Results

District-wide performance in science improved by seven percentage points from 2013-2014 to 74%. Science improved for grades 5 and 8 as well as biology, chemistry and earth science (high school level end-of-course tests). Overall student performance in science improved by three percentage points since the 2010 science standards were first assessed in 2012-2013.

Grade/Course	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change from 13-14	Change from 11-12
Grade 5 Science	67	59	69	10	2
Grade 8 Science	72	58	64	6	-8
Biology	71	71	79	8	8
Chemistry	76	82	87	5	11
Earth Science	75	72	78	6	3
Overall Science	71	67	74	7	3

History/Social Science Results

Newport News students improved performance in history/social science by four percentage points to 81% over 2013-2014. Performance increased for all history/social science classes when compared to 2013-2014.

Grade/Course	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change from 13-14	Change from 11-12
VA Studies	83	80	76	82	6	-1
Civics & Econ.	75	81	75	77	2	2
Geography	73	76	77	80	3	7
W. History I	84	84	84	85	1	1
W. History II	86	82	85	87	2	1
VA & US History	74	77	79	80	1	6
Overall History	77	78	77	81	4	4

NNPS is committed to advancing student achievement

Newport News Public Schools' academic action plan focuses on increasing literacy and math skills, and providing students with more learning time.

At the elementary level, an additional 2.5 hours a week of targeted instruction for students is provided through the use of a daily intervention/enrichment block at all schools. Interventionists provide intensive instruction in reading and mathematics for students in need of additional academic support and teacher coaches are focusing on developing teachers in mathematics and content integration.

At all grade levels, the written curriculum for teachers has been simplified. Common, computer-based assessments will be utilized to assist teachers with monitoring student progress. And students will work cooperatively with teachers to create success plans that set performance goals which will be reviewed quarterly.

NNPS' curriculum supports student learning

Newport News Public Schools curriculum is aligned to the new SOL content, but NNPS educators go beyond teaching the minimum state standards. The NNPS curriculum combines the SOLs with the district's college,

career and citizen-ready skills (information literacy, communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity and innovation, initiative and self-direction, social responsibility and collaboration) to better prepare students for success as learners, future employee and contributing citizens.

To assess student learning, SOLs and college, career and citizen-ready skills are integrated within performance assessments or tasks that students engage in to demonstrate their understanding and application of learning goals.

Student performance on SOL tests is one measure of achievement. NNPS students are assessed regularly using a variety of measures to determine and encourage understanding and skill.

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