



# New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA)



## **NJGPA Results: Spring 2023 Administration**

Hawthorne Public Schools

September 19, 2023





# NJGPA Overview (1 of 2)



- Statute requires the State graduation proficiency assessment to **administered to all grade 11 students.** (N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6)
- NJGPA is designed to measure the extent to which students are graduation ready in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.
  - Graduation readiness is reported separately for each content component.
  - The ELA component is aligned to the grade 10 standards.
  - The Mathematics component is aligned to Algebra I and Geometry standards.





# NJGPA Overview (2 of 2)



- On May 3, 2023, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted the proficiency level cut score for the English language Arts (ELA) and mathematics components of the NJGPA, as well as the menu of alternative assessments and aligned cut scores.
- Students who take but do not meet the minimum required score on each component of the assessment will have the opportunity to receive additional supports and may take the following steps:
  - Retake the ELA and/or mathematics components of the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment in the following summer or fall;
  - Meet a designated cut score from the menu of substitute competency tests; or
  - Complete a portfolio appeal.



# Comparison of Hawthorne Public School's Spring 2023 NJGPA Administration - Percentages



Content Component	Graduation Ready, District	Graduation Ready, State	Not Yet Graduation Ready, District	Not Yet Graduation Ready, State
English Language Arts (ELA)	92.5	80.5	7.5	19.5
Mathematics	44.1	55.0	55.9	45.0

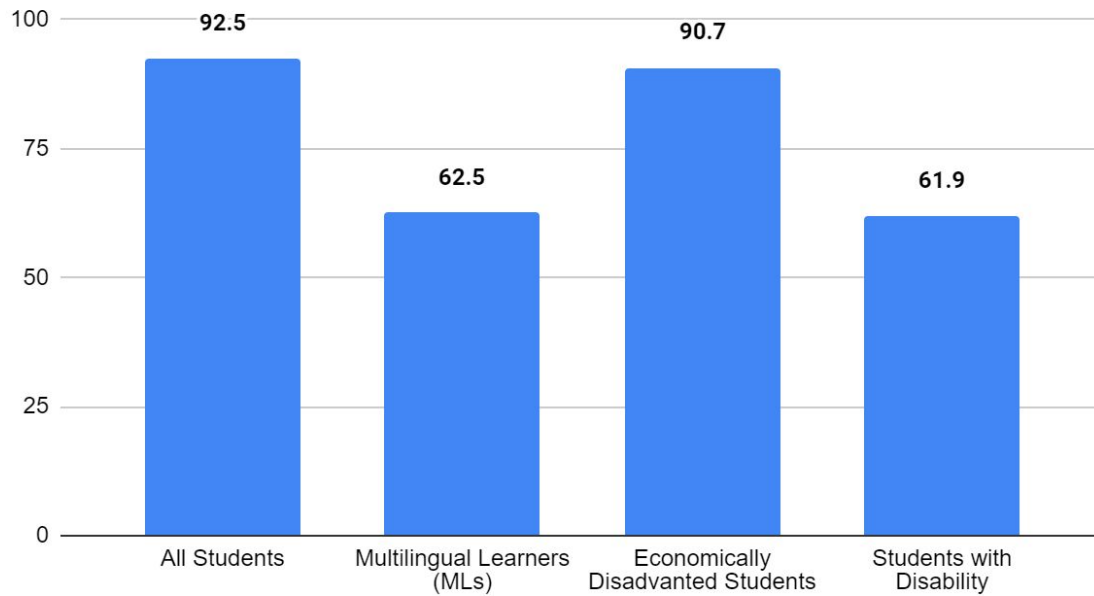
Note: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



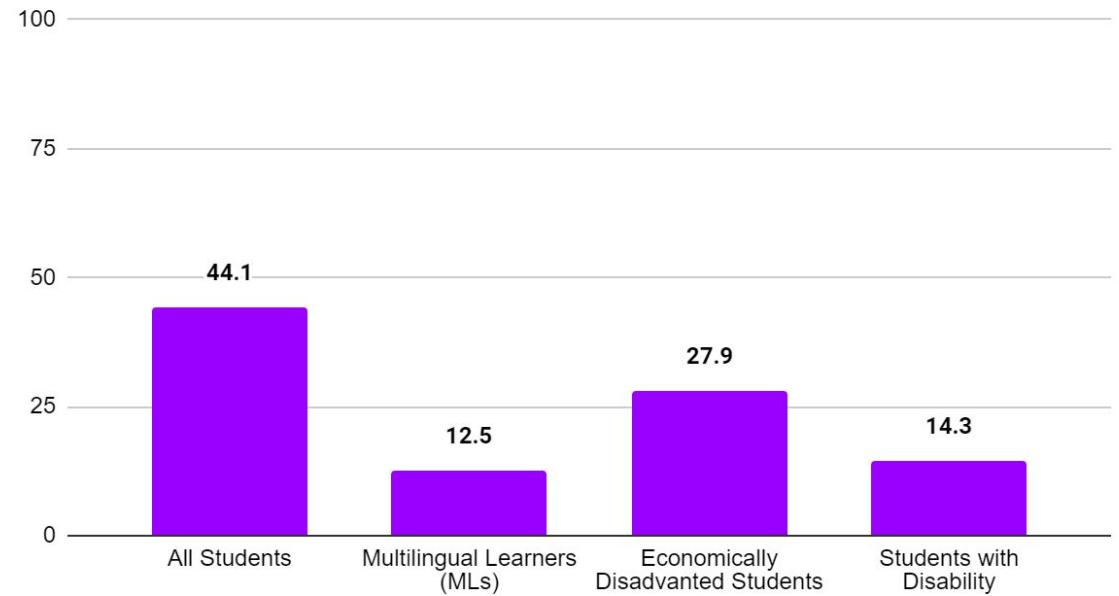
# Subgroup Charts



### Subgroup Data ELA - Percent Graduation Ready



### Subgroup Data Math - Percent Graduation Ready





# Notable Achievements - English Language Arts



Across the board (all grades), **Written Expression/Writing Conventions** are pretty strong!

At the HS, ELA teachers were trained last year on how to structure their EMPA multiple choice questions like NJGPA close reading, vocabulary in context questions, while still using their content.

Teachers 9-12 have been provided guidance on differentiating between teaching the story and teaching the skills. Curriculum 6-12 has been rewritten to specify **literary devices and their purposes to focus** on in each unit.

Common Lit provides an abundance of resources for teachers in this regard (along with comprehension/discussion questions and data teachers can use to track progress).





# Intervention Strategies - English Language Arts



**Vocabulary** seems is a targeted area of improvement...intervention strategies:

- Grades 6-12 ELA Curriculum now has hundreds of vocabulary words built into it (chosen from the types of words on NJGPA practice tests/other standardized testing as well as words that will be useful in helping them understand complex readings and write in a more sophisticated manner).
- MS Curriculum now has focus areas of Connotation vs. Denotation, Latin/Greek roots to help expand vocabulary knowledge

United push across the board (even in SS in addition to ELA) to ensure students are supporting their claims with evidence from the text -- Common rubrics created in SS for writing DBQs to ensure alignment with ELA skills. ELA has adopted the Single-Point rubric to provide more specific and ongoing feedback for students.



# Notable Achievements - Mathematics



- Despite the 44% pass rate, between 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, our graduation ready rate increased by 25% compared to the statewide increase of 11%. Additionally, the gap between our graduation ready rate and the state has decreased from 14% to 11% (again progress)
- The state average score in math was 734, ours was 727 (2022-2023). This shows that many of our students are *so close!*
- 60 students' scores fell between a 700 and a 725. These are the students we are targeting because they are SO CLOSE to passing. If we can get these kids to pass, we would be above 80% graduation ready rate.





# Intervention Strategies - Mathematics



Consulted with Nancy Schultz to develop comprehensive resources aligned to NJSLS/NJSLA and NJGPA (started 2020-2021)

- Making changes to instructional practices to align with best practices rooted in current research (Building Thinking Classroom, Peter Liljedahl):
  - Moving away from rote memorization of procedures and mimicking tasks.
  - Incorporating lessons that use Burners stages of Learning: Enactive, which is the representation of knowledge through actions.  
Iconic, which is the visual summarization of images. Symbolic representation, which is the use of words and other symbols to describe experiences.
- New this year:
  - Smaller class sizes for Algebra 1 allowing for more individual support to struggling students.
  - Review the current Algebra 1 and 2 curriculums to ensure that all standards are being addressed in the appropriate sequence and with the appropriate depth.
  - Intentional integration of NJGPA questions by building these questions into our common summative assessments.
  - Identifying students with Renaissance data and NJSLA historical data to offer basic skills support through Math Lab to explicitly target the students who are closely approaching the target score

