

Forward in Excellence

Report to the Board of Education
November 27, 2018

Focus on Whole Child Annual Report

The Somers Central School District continues to enrich the learning opportunities in our schools to ensure all children can find success in a highly-challenging and competitive world. We are focused on the three pillars of our strategic vision:

- 21st Century Knowledge and Skills
- Social-Emotional and Physical Wellness
- Global Citizenship



21st Century Knowledge and Skills

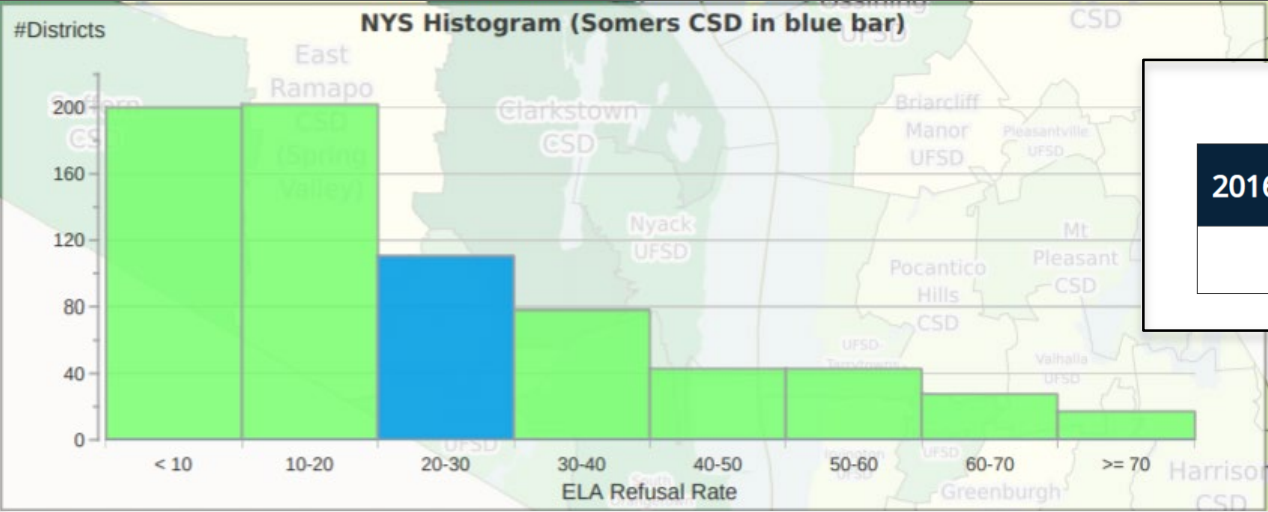
Rigorous, relevant and innovative **programs** provide students with pathways that engage and challenge them:

- Science Research
- STEM
- Project Lead the Way
- WISE – Senior Internships

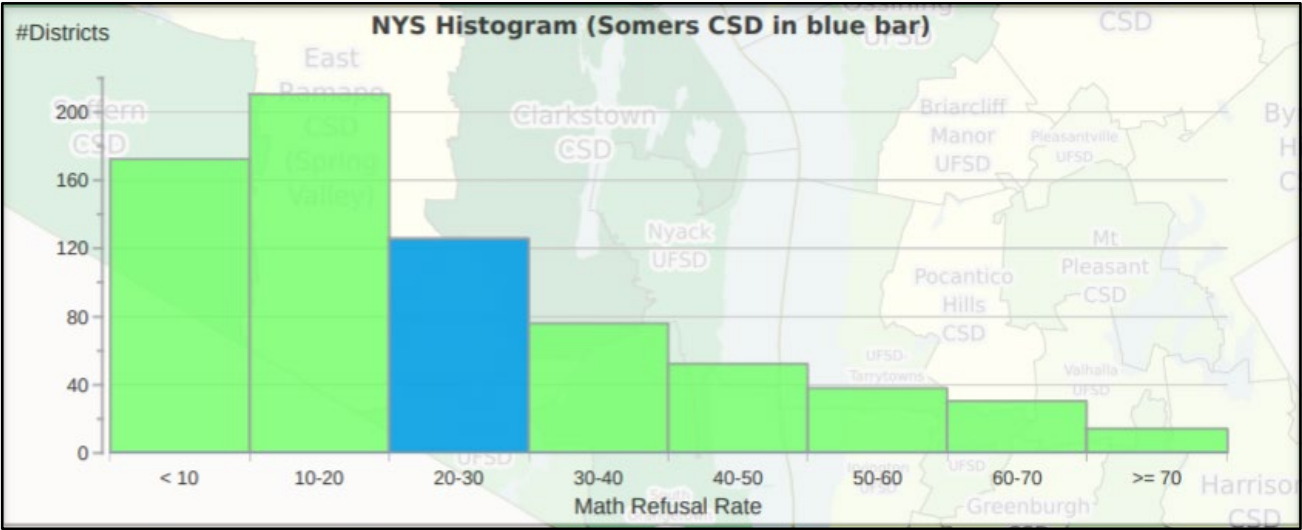
Student **perceptions** highlight their engagement in 21st Century learning:

- 83% of students are asked to conduct research monthly
- 78% of students use their computer weekly in their classrooms
- 94% of students and teachers believe that their school encourages technology use for teaching and learning

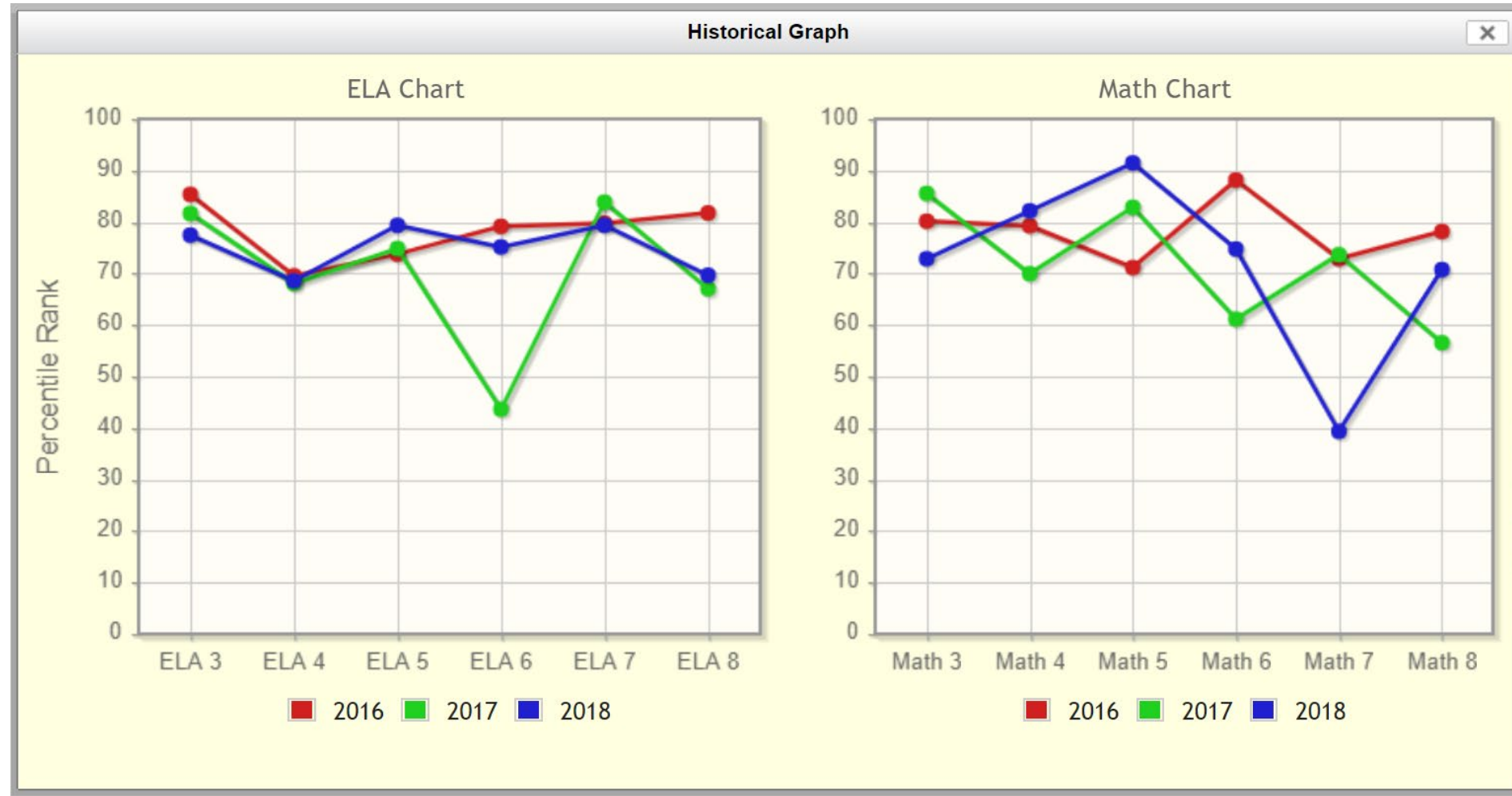
Test Refusal Rates



% of Students Statewide Who Refused to Test		
2016 Test Refusal	2017 Test Refusal	2018 Test Refusal
21%	19%	18%

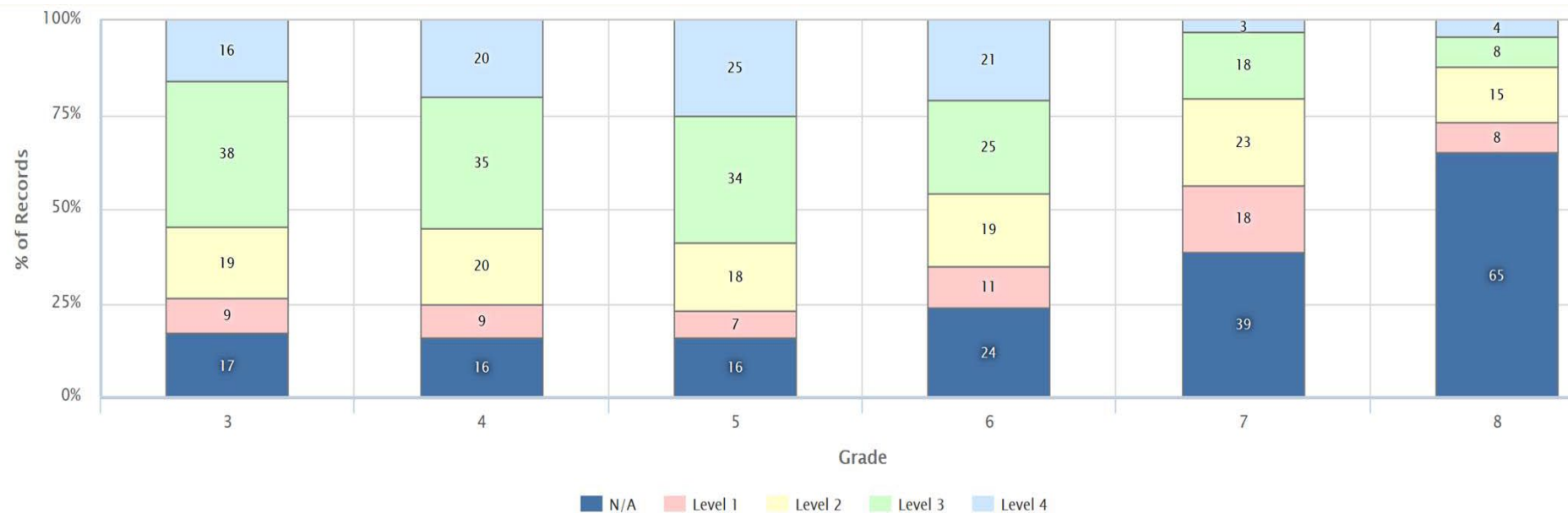


Three Year Review of ELA and Math 3-8



21st Century Knowledge and Skills

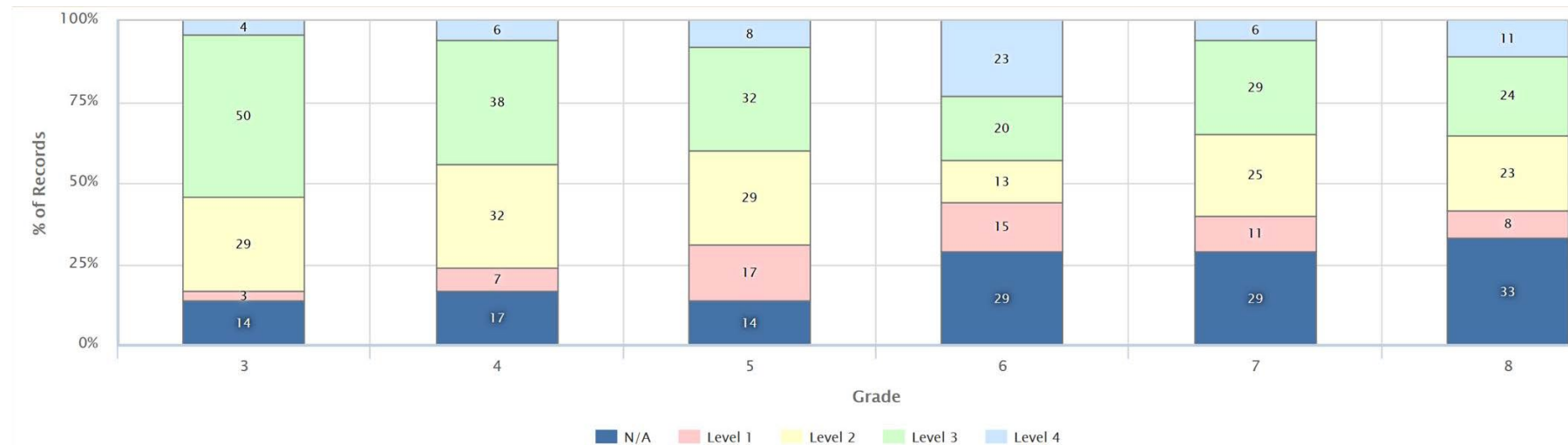
Performance of students on New York State Testing Program Grades 3-8 Mathematics



**Approximately 30% of SCSD students/families refused to take the NYSTP 3-8 ELA and Math assessments during the 2018 testing period.*

21st Century Knowledge and Skills

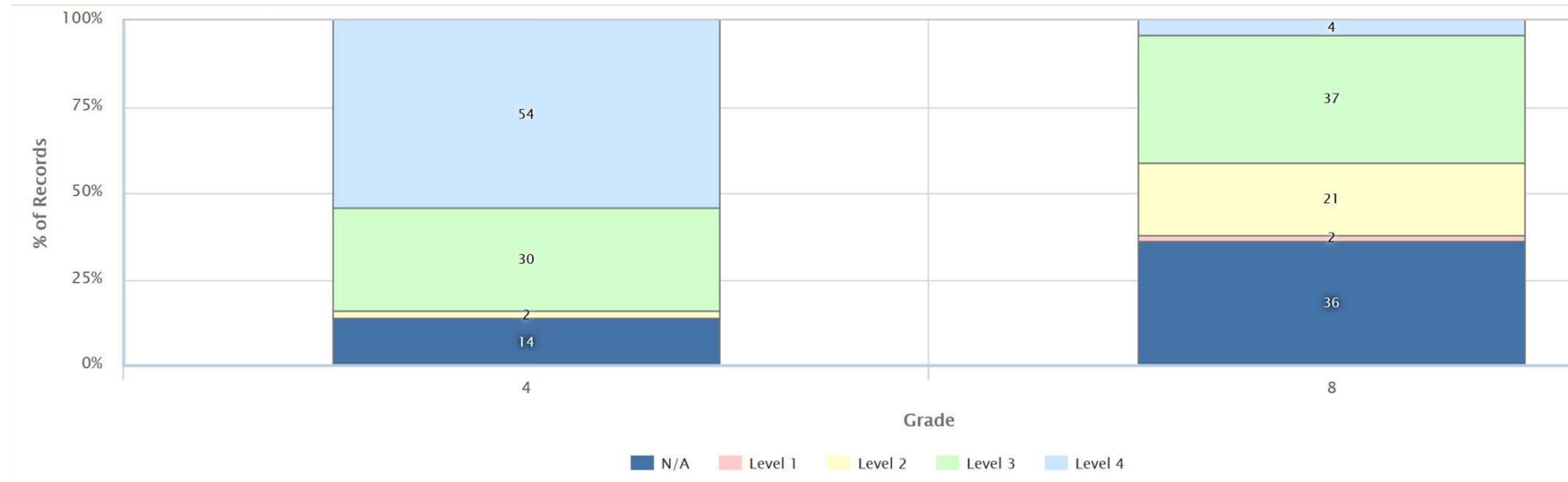
Performance of students on New York State Testing Program Grades 3-8 English Language Arts



**Approximately 30% of SCSD students/families refused to take the NYSTP 3-8 ELA and Math assessments during the 2018 testing period.*

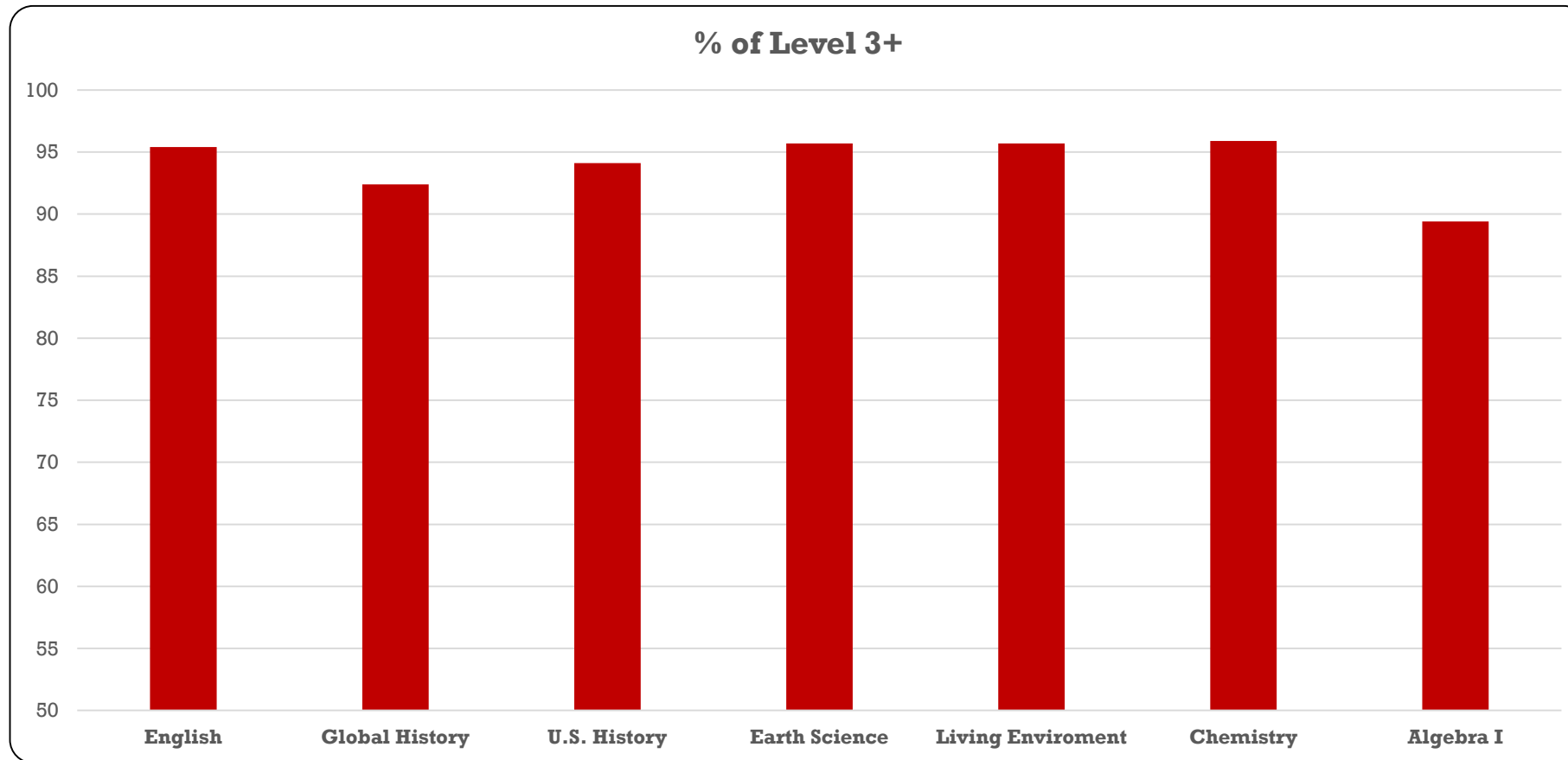
21st Century Knowledge and Skills

Performance of students on New York State Testing Program Grades 3-8 Science



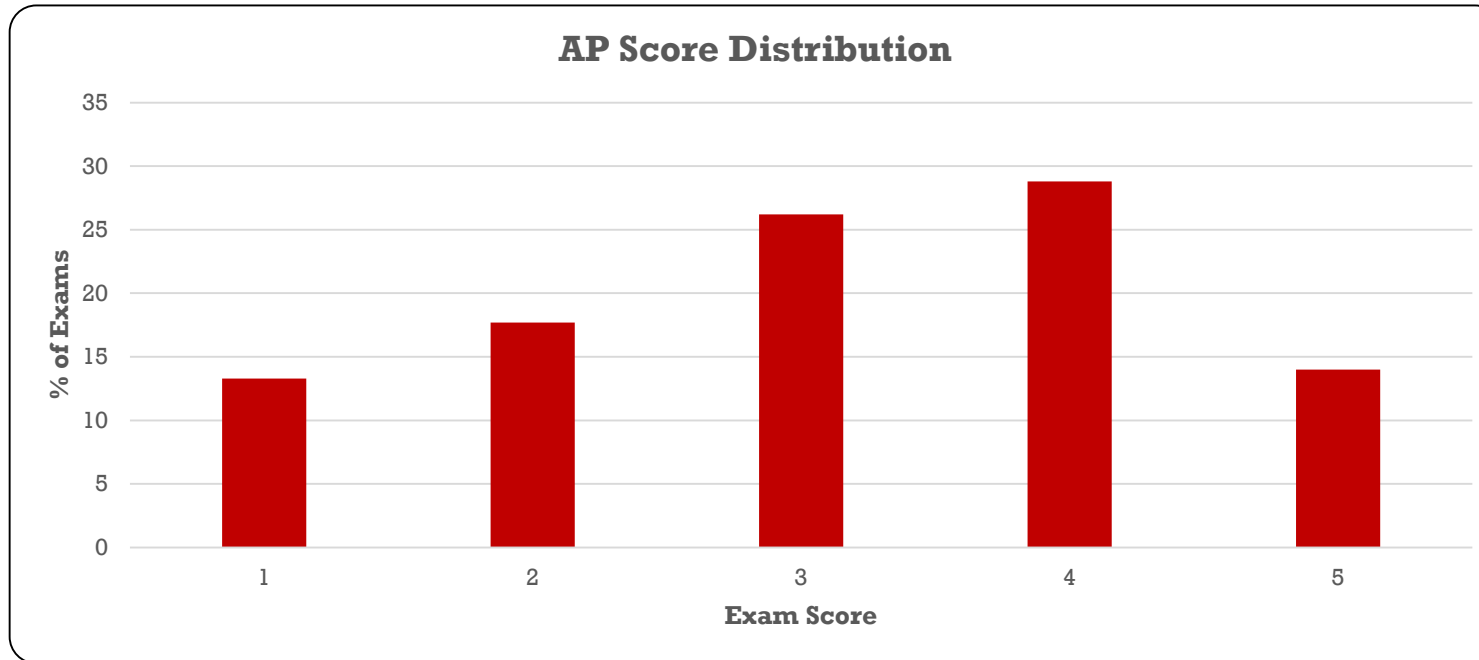
21st Century Knowledge and Skills

Performance of students on New York State Regents Examinations



21st Century Knowledge and Skills

Performance of students on AP Examinations



**257 Students sat
for a total of 550
AP exams.**

Somers offered the following AP courses during the 2017-2018 School Year:

English Language Composition, English Literature, European History, MacroEconomics, MicroEconomics, Psychology, US History, World History, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, French, Spanish

21st Century Knowledge and Skills

Performance of students on SAT and ACT exams:

<u>SAT SCORES</u>	Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	Math
<u>SOMERS</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>610</u>
<u>NEW YORK STATE</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>574</u>
<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>561</u>

<u>ACT SCORES</u>	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
<u>SOMERS</u>	<u>24.4</u>	<u>23.9</u>	<u>25.2</u>	<u>24.3</u>	<u>24.5</u>
<u>NY STATE</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>24.9</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>24.5</u>

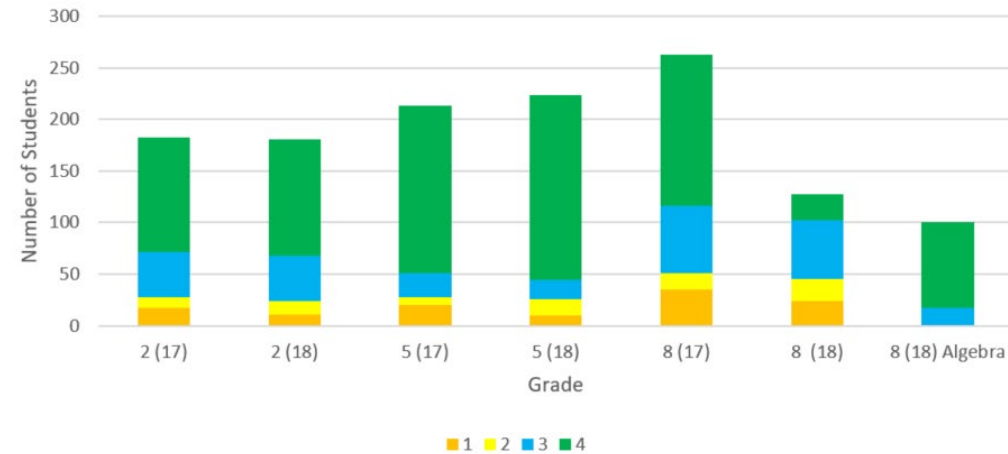
21st Century Knowledge and Skills

Performance of students on local measures

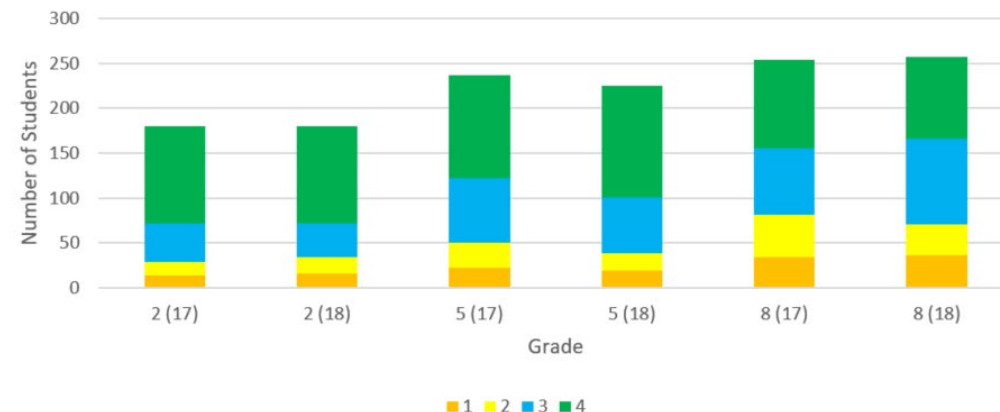
SCSD uses Renaissance STAR assessments for Reading and Math (including Algebra) from grades K-8 as a benchmarking and progress monitoring tool.

These graphs represent 2 years of data (2017 and 2018) for the spring performance of students in school exit grades – 2, 5 and 8.

STAR Math Performance Level by Grade



STAR Reading Performance Level by Grade



Social-Emotional and Physical Wellness

The Somers Central School District's focus on the "Whole Child" includes a wide variety of **programs** to support the social and emotional learning needs of its students. Starting at Primrose, the "Place of Great Beginnings," and continuing through Somers Intermediate School, children engage in "**Responsive Classroom**" and begin each day with a morning meeting that creates a classroom community of caring and respect. Each of our elementary schools has a full time elementary counselor who provides lessons for all students and supportive groups for students needing help with making friends or managing their feelings. When students make mistakes, "**apologies of action**" help students to right their wrongs in meaningful ways.



Social-Emotional and Physical Wellness



At the secondary level, Somers Middle School's **Advisory** groups meet weekly and students discuss topics that are relevant to their experiences and help them to focus on creating a school climate that is welcoming and respectful to all. Practices such as “**restorative justice**” begin in middle school and continue through Somers High School. Building on the practices started at the elementary level, students learn from their mistakes and make amends to those they have offended. Knowing that students who are connected in school are more likely to have a positive social and emotional outlook, our **Coordinator of Student Life** at Somers High School ensures that students find an activity – a club, a sport, an after-school program - that suits their interests.

Social-Emotional and Physical Wellness

District-wide initiatives such as “**No Place for Hate**,” “**Success Highways**,” and “**Brainology**,” along with **Peer Leadership** at SHS help to support all students. The “**Team Tuskers**” mentoring program and transitional support programs such as “**True North**” at SMS and the “**Transitional Support Program**” at SHS support students in ways that meet their specific SEL needs and help them build **resilience** as they face the challenges of growing up.



Social-Emotional and Physical Wellness

Student **perceptions** about their social-emotional and physical wellness were captured through focus group conversations and surveys in grades 6-12 during the Fall of 2017:

How safe do you feel about being in this school?

92%

92% of respondents answered 'Very safe' or 'Somewhat safe'

How good do you feel about being in this school?

91%

91% of respondents answered 'Very good' or 'Somewhat good'

In describing how students felt when they first came to SHS

- *"I perceived high school as a giant scary school, in reality, I always had a good experience. I had friends of different ages and strengths, good teachers."*
- *"It was scary. Coming in I knew a lot of people and that helped. Did basketball freshman year, got to know the older kids. Freshman year was my favorite year. After the first week, I felt like I belonged here."*
- *"I participated in extracurricular things, which helped. I did drama the first year, had a huge group of friends."*

Supporting Social-Emotional Wellness

Academic Challenge	20	Math Honor Society	35
Art Activities, National Art Honor Society	34	Math Team	8
Band Club	53	Mock Trial Club	Just starting
Culture Club	18	Model UN	
Dance Team	28	National Honor Society	210
Educators Rising	20	On My Mind	
English National Honor Society		Photography Club	35
Environmental Club	Starting soon	Physics Club	26
Fall Drama		Representatives Inspiring Social Equality (RISE)	15
Fashion and Textile Arts Club	21	S.A.A.S.A (Student Athletes Against Substance Abuse)	46
Film Video Club	Just starting	School Newspaper	16
Foreign Language Honor Society (French)	43	Science National Honor Society	40
Foreign Language Honor Society (Italian)	36	Senior Class	7
Foreign Language Honor Society (Spanish)	88	Sign Language Club	22
Freshman Class	17	Ski and Snowboard Club	10
Gay Straight Alliance Club	15	Social Action Club (STAT)	30
Gear Squad		Somers Cancer Research Club	18
Girls in STEAM	13	Sophomore Class	10
Green Power Engineering Club	17	Special Olympics volunteers	9
History and Current Events	56	Spring Musical	
Human Rights Club	17	Student Council	64
Interact (Rotary)/ Habitat for Humanity	24	Technology Student Association	
Junior Class	13	Tri M (Music Honors Society)	just starting
Literary Magazine "Gambit"		Youth to Youth	8

47 HS clubs
and
organizations
with
membership
over 1100!

Global Citizenship

Programs

- Somers High School is an authorized IB World School and offers courses enabling students to achieve an IB Diploma.
- IB Diploma Program current course offerings include Theory of Knowledge; Film; Sports, Exercise and Health Science; Business; Psychology; and Dance.
- Somers Middle School is a candidate school and hopes to offer the IB Middle Years Program beginning in the 2020 – 2021 school year
- Students in grades as early as kindergarten and throughout their experiences in the Somers Central School District engage in experiences that help them understand their place in their local and global community. The books they read represent both “mirrors and windows” reflecting who they are but also the experiences of others who live near and far.
- A district focus on social justice and *Teaching Tolerance’s “Social Justice Standards,”* helps students know themselves, respect diversity, seek a just world and take action to make the world a better place.

Global Citizenship

Student **perceptions** about their experiences in IB classes Spring 2018:

- *“If I hadn’t taken IB classes, I don’t think I would have had the freedom to answer questions that itch away at me every day like, ‘What was the effect of the Chicago boys on the Pinochet regime?’ or I wouldn’t be able to look at advertising through a Marxian lens – just so many big picture things that I could explore with IB that basically quenches my natural curiosity so that’s why I value IB.”*
- *“If I hadn’t taken an IB course I wouldn’t have developed my work ethic and learned practical skills.”*
- *“If I hadn’t taken IB classes I wouldn’t have had a more personalized and self-paced learning experience.”*
- *“Without IB Math SL, I wouldn’t know how to apply math skills to the real world like currencies or conversion rates.”*

Global Citizenship

IB Diploma Program courses aim to encourage students to be knowledgeable, inquiring, caring, open-minded, and to develop intercultural understanding and the attitudes necessary to appreciate a range of viewpoints.

Students can earn an IB Diploma by fulfilling all the requirements: a course in each of the six required subject areas, Theory of Knowledge class, an essay on a topic of their choosing and involvement in creative, active and service projects. Others may choose to “dip in” and take just one or several IB classes individually. Similar to the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) Program, IB classes provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit while they are still in high school.

During Somers High School's first year as an authorized IB school, 103 students enrolled in IB courses. With some of these students taking multiple courses and seven fully committing to earning the IB Diploma, IB class enrollments totaled 187.



103 1 in 5
**IB Students
Enrolled
in Year 1**

SCSD Involves the Whole Child

GET INVOLVED!

- 47 HS Clubs with total membership to date of 1100+ students.
- HS Fall Athletics
9 sports and 20 teams with 399 students playing Varsity or JV and 108 students playing modified sports.



95%
Attend
College

Graduation
Rate

98%

Merit
National
Finalists



SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL
SCIENCE RESEARCH

**25 Somers High School students
were recognized award winners
in local and national science
competitions during the
17-18 school year.**

NO place
for
HATE

Anti-Defamation League®

Somers Schools Strive to Move Forward in Excellence



At **Primrose**, we want all of our students to become well educated, to enjoy coming to schools, to feel positive about themselves, to be caring and cooperative, and have an opportunity to develop their individual talents.

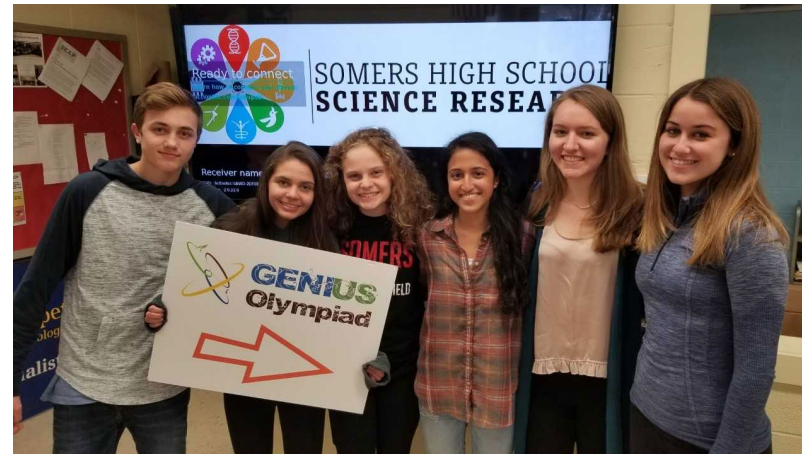
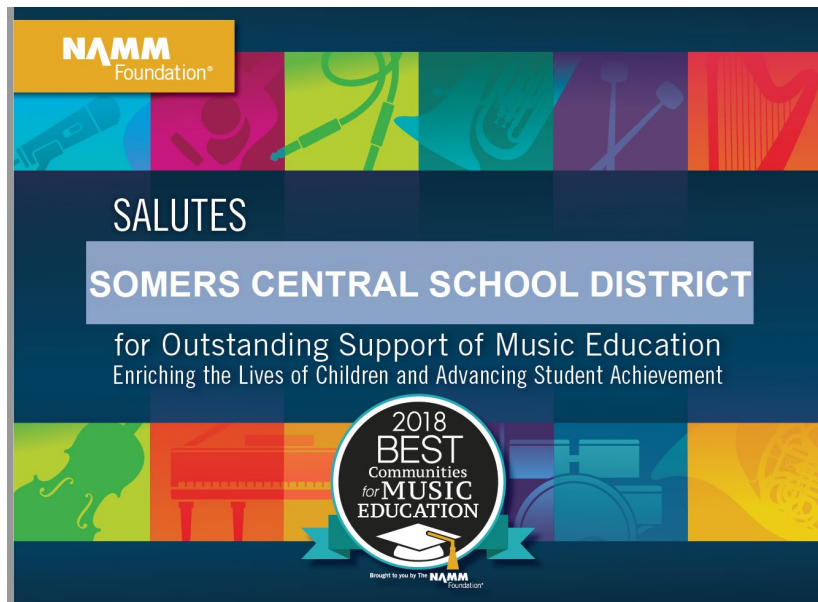
At **SIS**, we embrace the belief in educating the whole child. We believe children thrive in a safe learning community where they have support to grow socially, emotionally, physically , and academically during these formative years.

The faculty and staff of **SMS** engage all students with a dynamic learning experience that supports academic success and social/emotional growth focused on the adolescent learner.

Somers High School faculty and staff are committed to providing an environment that promotes learning experiences that will enhance the development of our students into caring, responsible, and productive citizens of the 21st century,

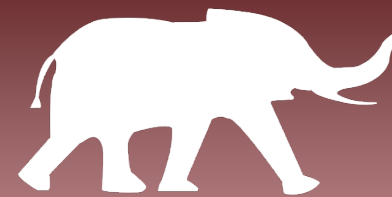


Forward in Excellence





SCSD
SOMERS CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Forward in Excellence



*Thank you, for your time
and attention.*

November 27, 2018

