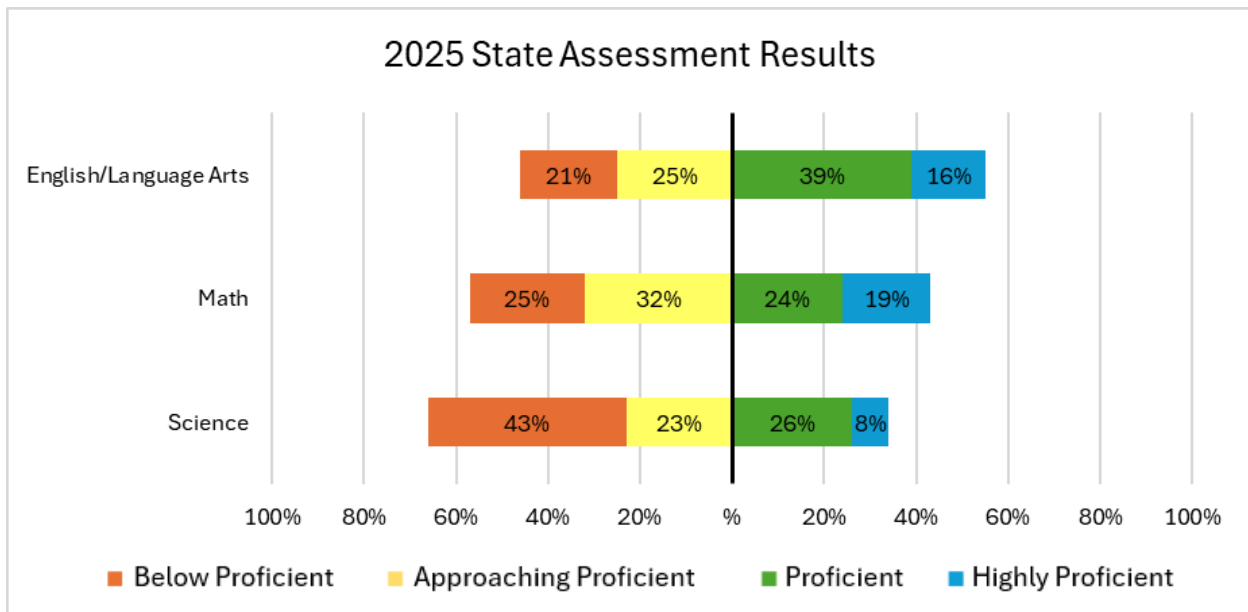


GWRSD Proficiency Scores



Key Points:

- **Who is assessed:**
New Hampshire State Assessments are administered to students in Grades 3–8 and Grade 11 for English Language Arts and Math, and in Grades 5, 8, and 11 for Science.
- **Timing of the assessment:**
These assessments are given a full 4–8 weeks before the end of the school year, yet they are designed to measure end-of-year, grade-level standards. As a result, students are assessed on content they may still be actively learning or, in some cases, have not yet been taught at the time of testing.
- **What “Below Proficient” really means:**
A student who does not meet grade-level benchmarks on this assessment is not “non-functional” in reading, math, or science. These results do **not** mean a student cannot read, do math, or understand scientific concepts. Instead, it indicates that the student is still developing the skills and understanding needed to consistently complete tasks aligned to grade-level expectations.
- **Assessments capture a moment in time:**
State assessments provide a **snapshot**, not a full picture of student learning. Significant growth often occurs during the final weeks of the school year—growth that is **not reflected** in these results.

- **Growth matters alongside proficiency:**

Many students identified as *Approaching Proficient* are demonstrating meaningful progress and are **often on track to reach proficiency**, even if they have not yet met the cut score during the testing window.

- **Instructional implications:**

Assessment data is most useful when applied to:

- Reviewing curriculum alignment
- Identifying instructional strengths and gaps
- Informing classroom instruction and targeted supports

It is not intended to serve as the sole measure of student ability, learning, or instructional effectiveness.

- **Why context matters for families and our communities:**

Without clear context, assessment results can be easily misunderstood. Providing this explanation helps families understand that proficiency is developmental, not a fixed label.

Bottom Line:

State assessment results show how students are progressing toward end-of-year grade-level expectations at a specific moment in time—often before all instruction has been completed. They are one of multiple measures used to understand student learning and guide continuous improvement.