MOUNTAIN LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

New Jersey Student Learning Assessments: Spring 2026 Administrations

NJSLA-Adaptive • NJSLA Science • NJGPA-A Results

Board of Education • November 16, 2026

Who was assessed?

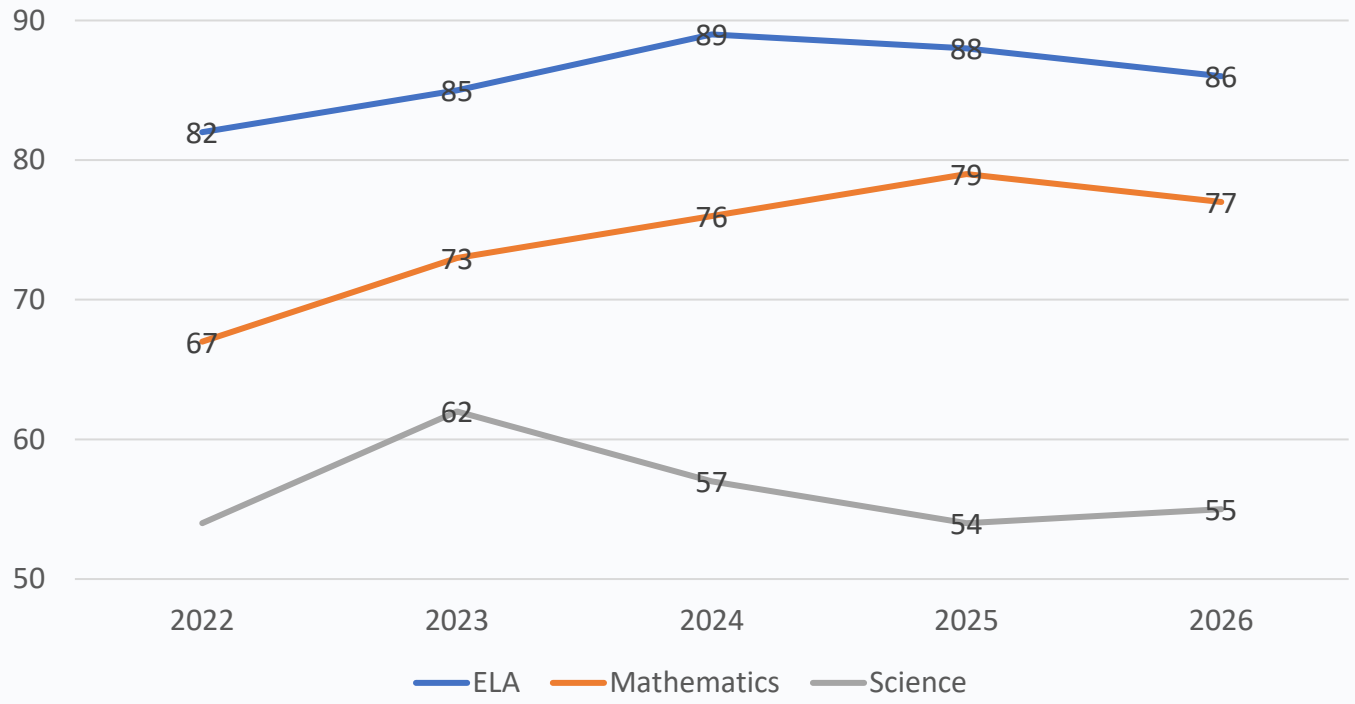
Assessment	Grades / Courses	How results are reported
NJSLA-Adaptive ELA	Grades 3–9	**Level 5 – Exceeding grade-level expectations** **Level 4 – Meeting grade-level expectations** Level 3 – Approaching grade-level expectations Level 2 – Partially meeting grade-level expectations Level 1 – Not yet meeting grade-level expectations
NJSLA-Adaptive Mathematics	Grades 3–8; Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II • Briarcliff: Course enrolled in • MLHS: Course enrolled in during grade 9	
NJSLA Science (non-adaptive)	Grades 5, 8, 11	**Level 4 – Advanced proficiency** **Level 3 – Proficient** Level 2 – Near proficient Level 1 – Below proficient
NJGPA-Adaptive	Grade 11 ELA and Mathematics	**450 – 650 Graduation ready** 300 – 449 Not yet graduation ready

Understanding the New Adaptive Assessments

- New Jersey introduced NJSLA-A and NJGPA-A in Spring 2026 for ELA and Mathematics, **aligned to the 2023 New Jersey Student Learning Standards**.
- Question difficulty **adjusts based on responses to groups of questions**, providing a more personalized assessment of grade-level learning.
- Students may see different questions, but all **are assessed on the same standards**; only grade-level items contribute to their scores.
- ELA includes reading and one extended writing response; the **writing task is not adaptive**. Mathematics uses machine-scorable items.
- The new assessments required **new scaled scores** and **cut scores**; results are one measure to consider alongside classroom and local assessment evidence.

Five-Year District Overview

ELA, Mathematics, Science — All Grades



Subject	2025	2026	Change
ELA	88%	86%	−2 pp
Mathematics	79%	77%	−2 pp
Science	54%	55%	+1 pp

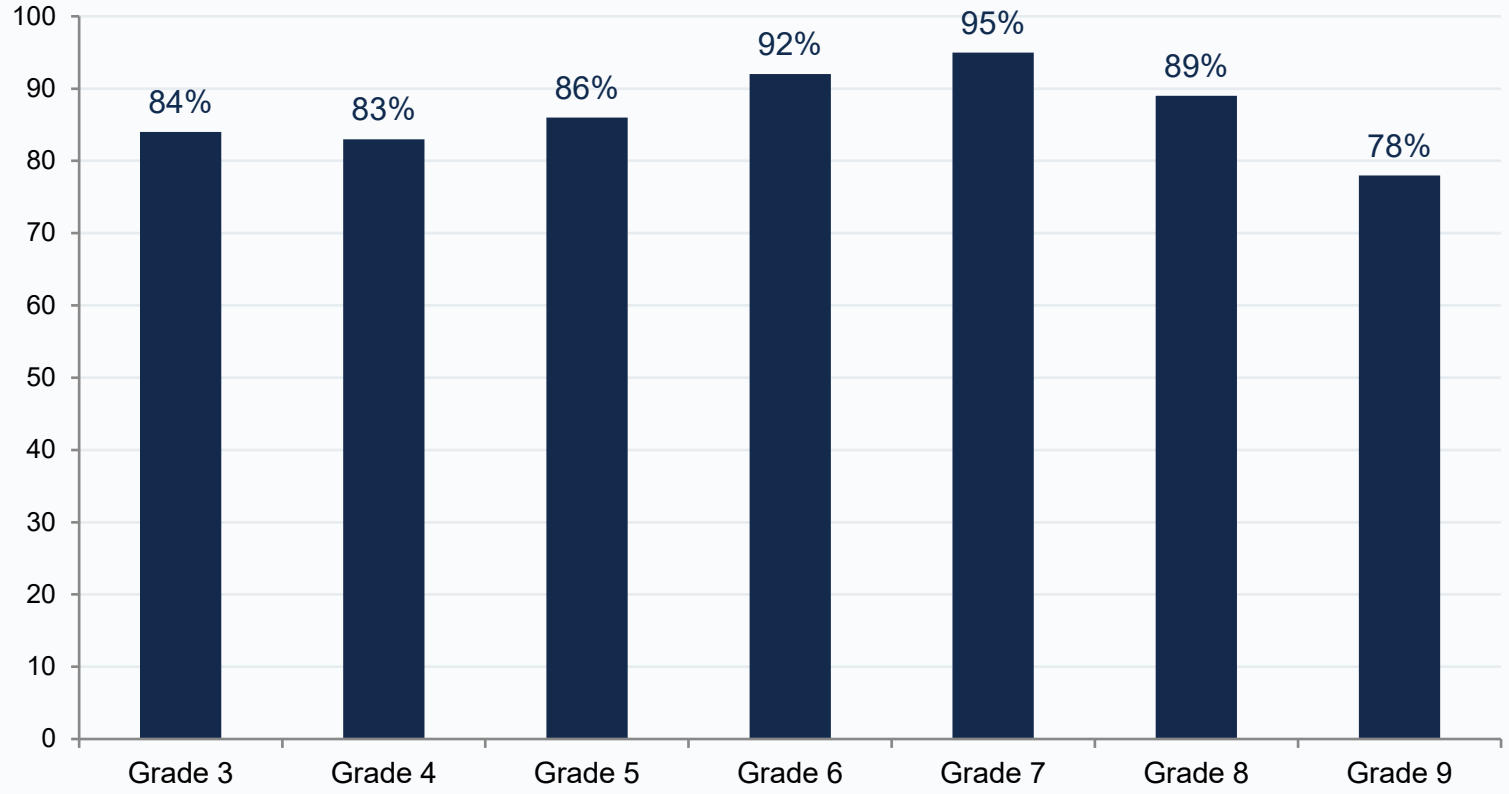
ELA | Number of Students Tested

Districtwide participation by tested grade or course



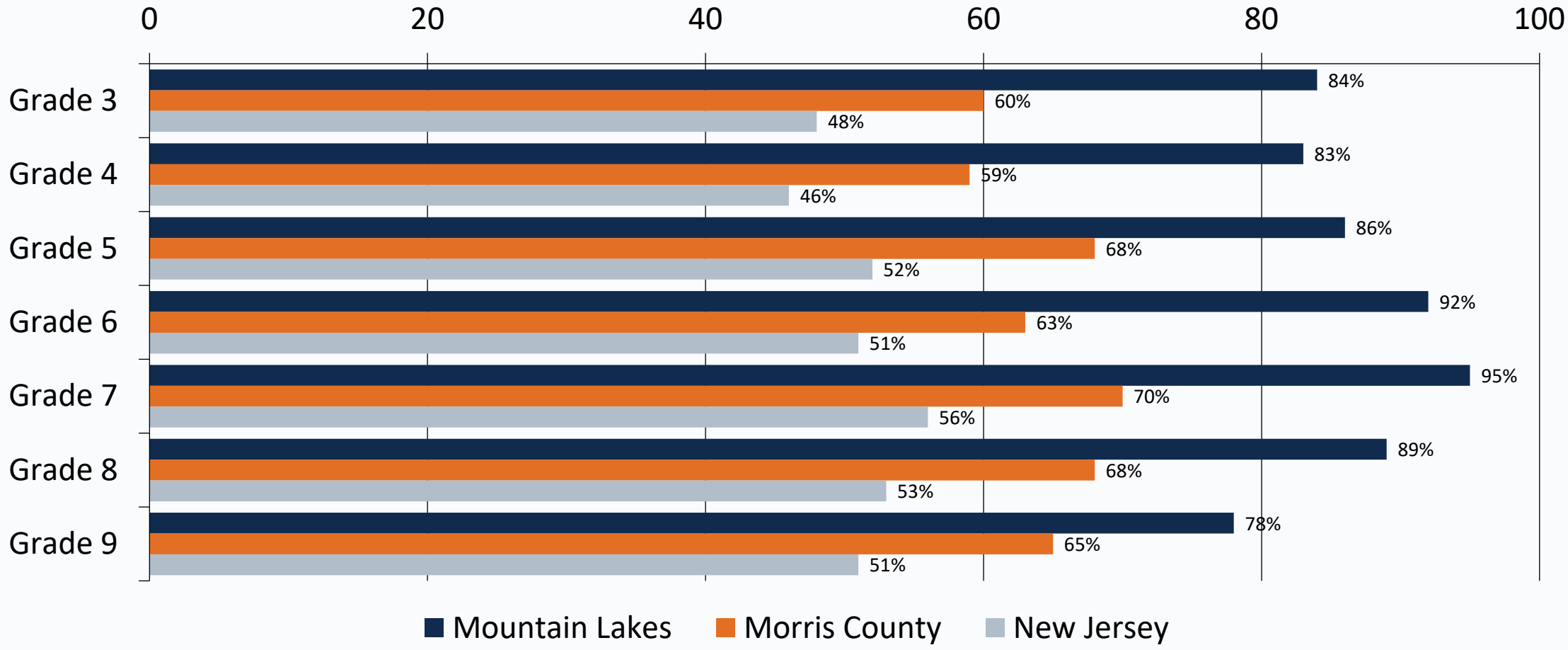
ELA | Spring 2026 Grade-Level Results

District: % meeting or exceeding



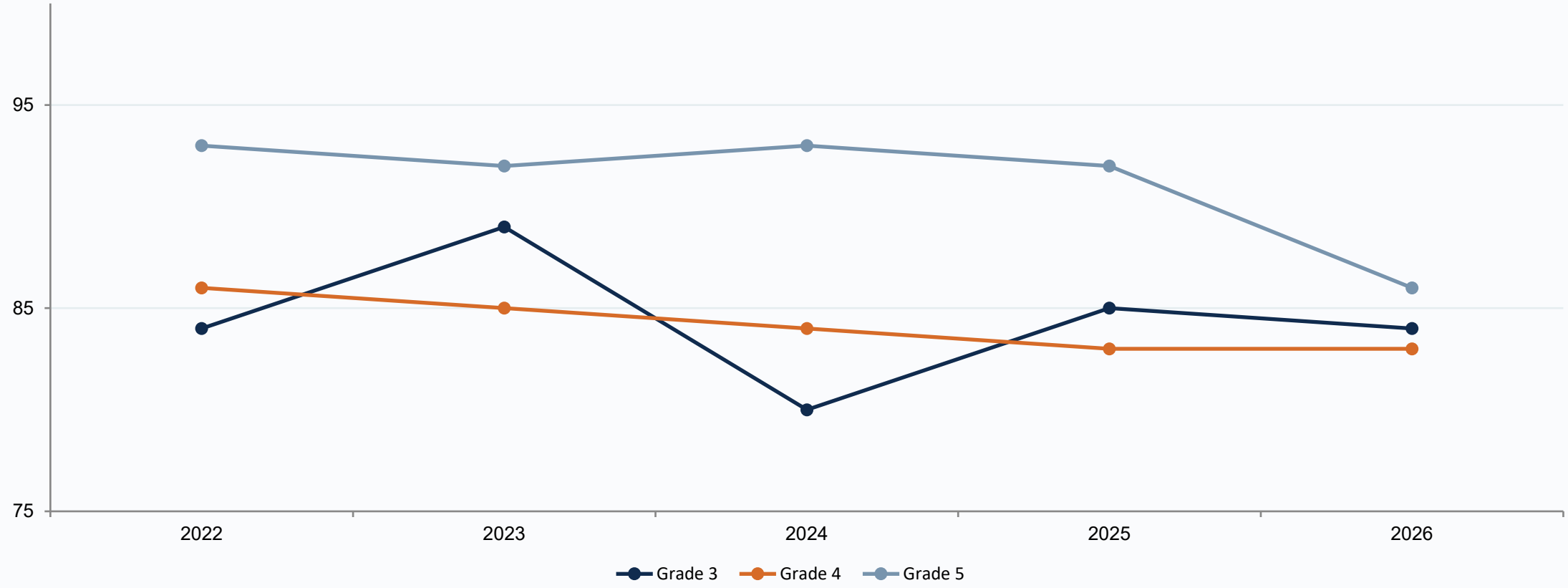
Grade	2025	2026	Δ pp
3	85%	84%	-1
4	84%	83%	-1
5	92%	86%	-6
6	98%	92%	-6
7	92%	95%	+3
8	86%	89%	+3
9	81%	78%	-3

2026 | ELA: Comparison of Mountain Lakes to State and County



ELA | Five-Year Trends, Grades 3–5

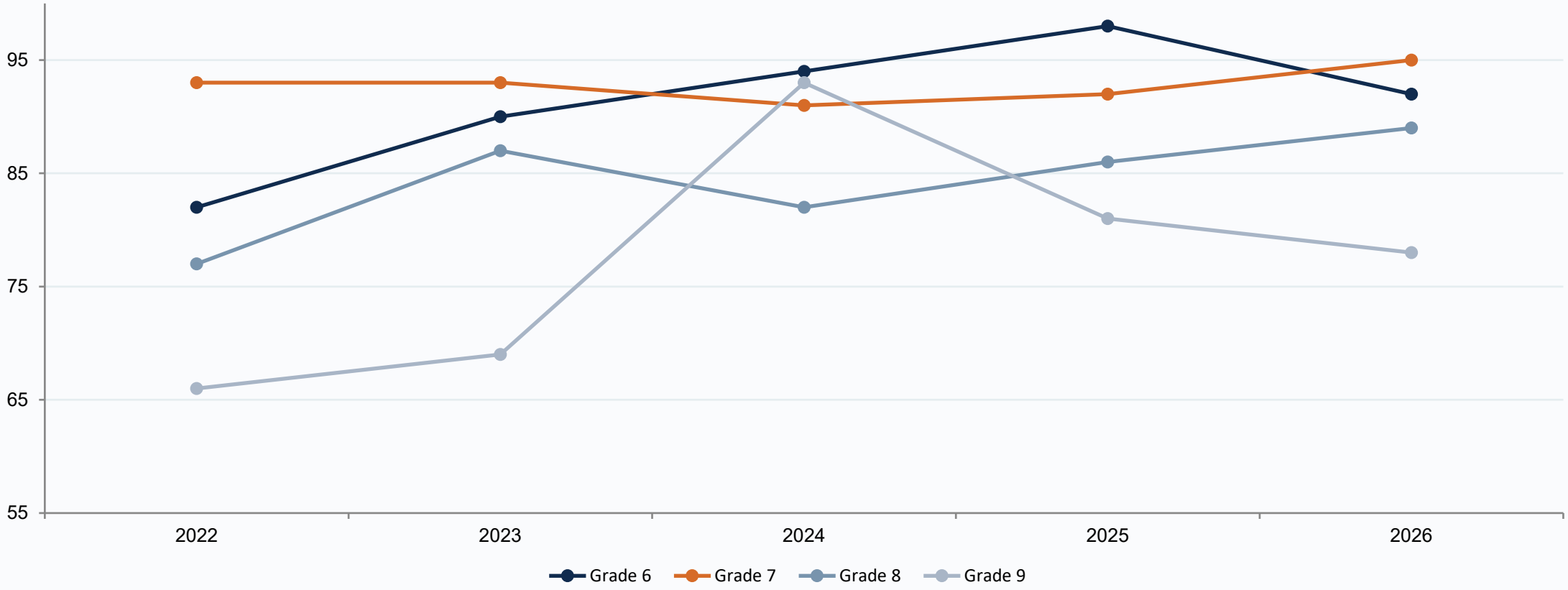
Wildwood Elementary — % meeting / exceeding



Grade-level comparisons reflect different student groups from year to year.

ELA | Five-Year Trends, Grades 6–9

Briarcliff and MLHS — % meeting / exceeding



Grade-level comparisons reflect different student groups from year to year.

Mathematics | Number of Students Tested

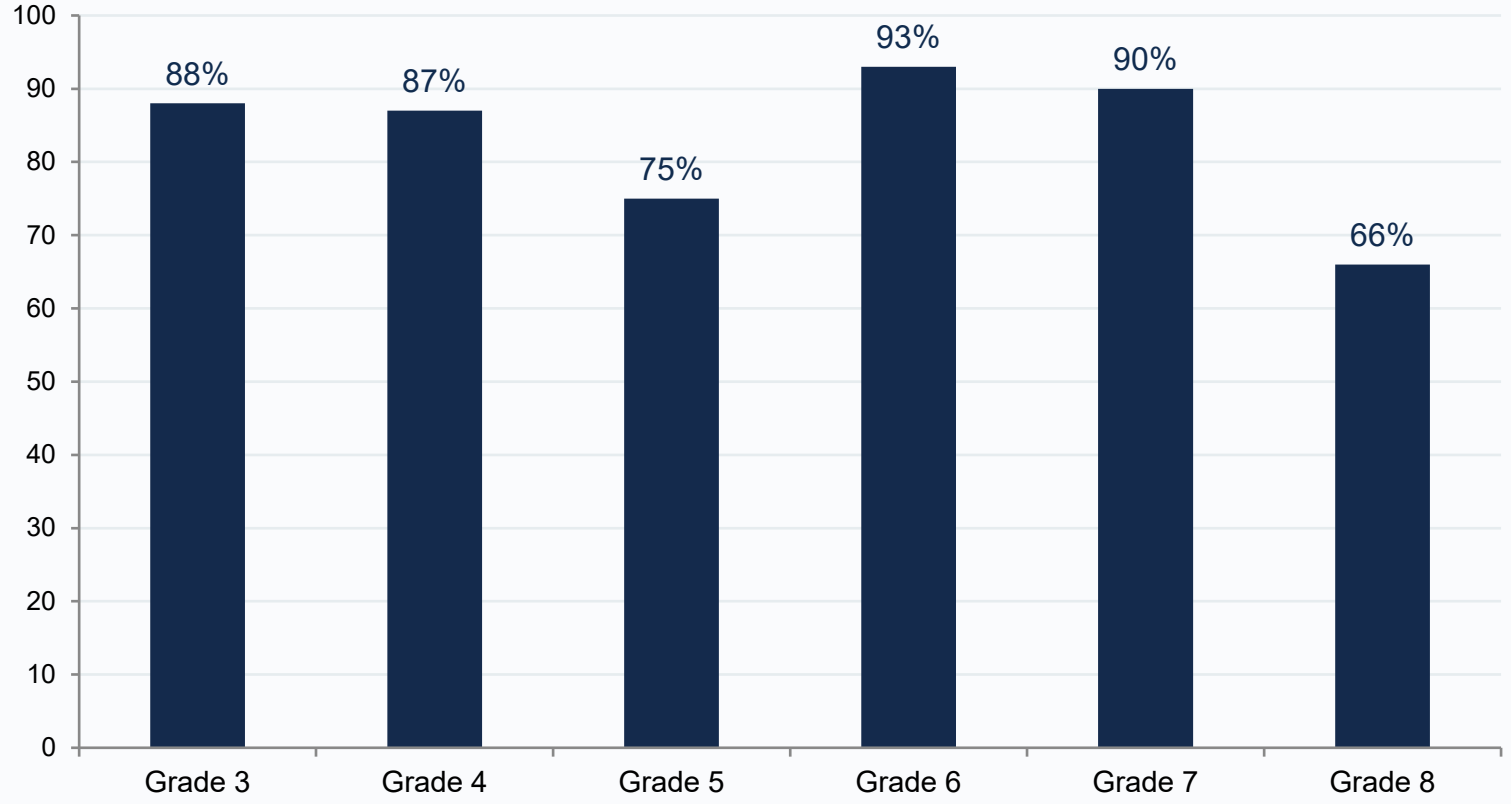
Districtwide participation by tested grade or course



Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II include students tested in Briarcliff and MLHS.

Mathematics | Spring 2026 Grade-Level Results

District: **% meeting or exceeding**



Grade	2025	2026	Δ pp
3	89%	88%	-1
4	86%	87%	+1
5	82%	75%	-7
6	88%	93%	+5
7	85%	90%	+5
8	39%	66%	+27

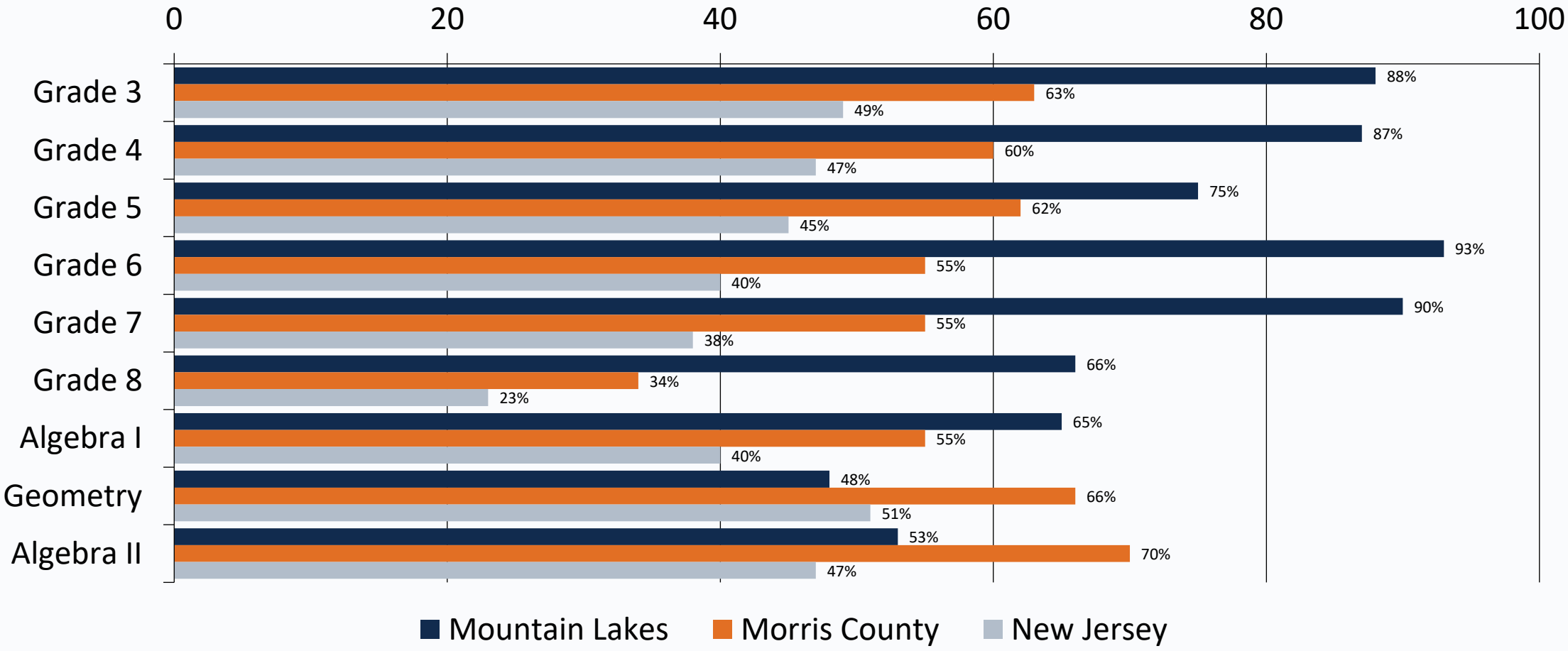
Some students in grade 8 participated in the Algebra I or Geometry assessment in place of the 8th grade Math assessment.

Mathematics | Course-Based Results

Course / location	2025	2026	Change
Algebra I • Middle School	97%	**100%**	+3 pp
Algebra I • High School	60%	**35%**	−25 pp
Geometry • Middle School	N/A	**100%**	—
Geometry • High School	N/A	**38%**	—
Algebra II • High School	84%	**53%**	−31 pp

Course enrollment and tested cohorts vary by year.

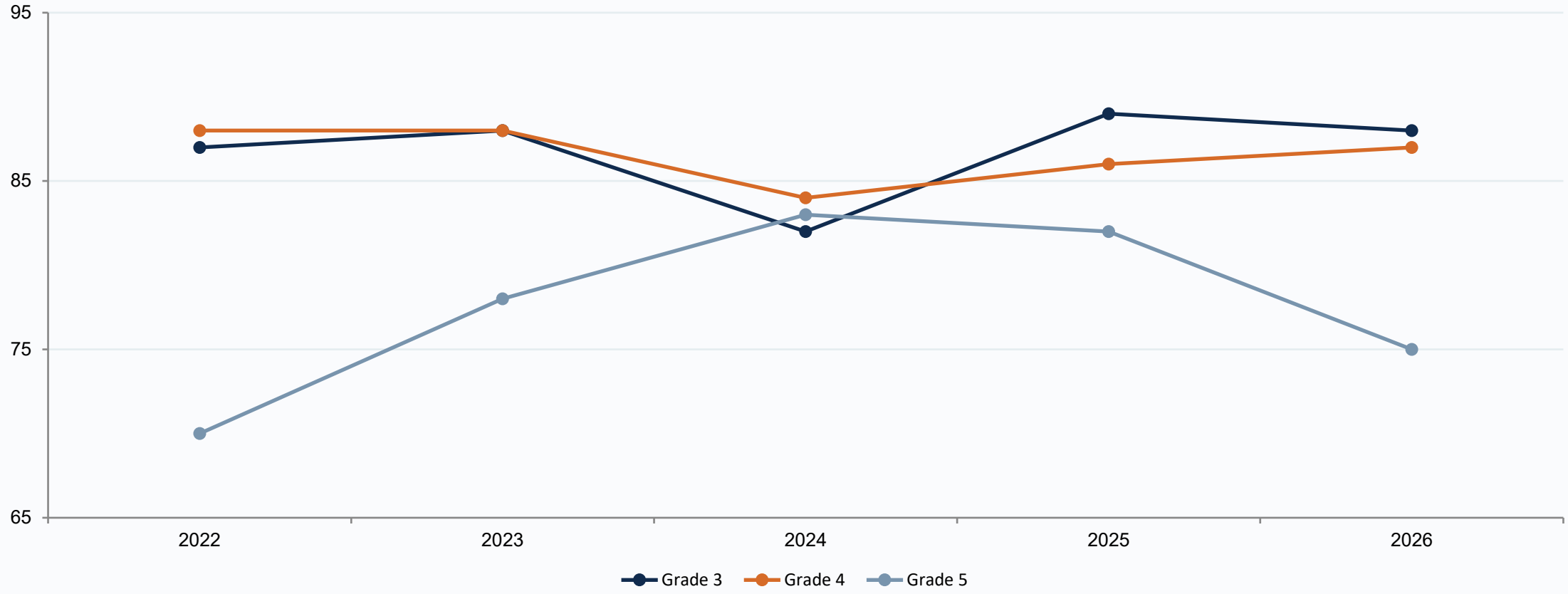
2026 | Mathematics: Comparison of Mountain Lakes to State and County



Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II include students tested in Briarcliff and MLHS.

Mathematics | Five-Year Trends, Grades 3–5

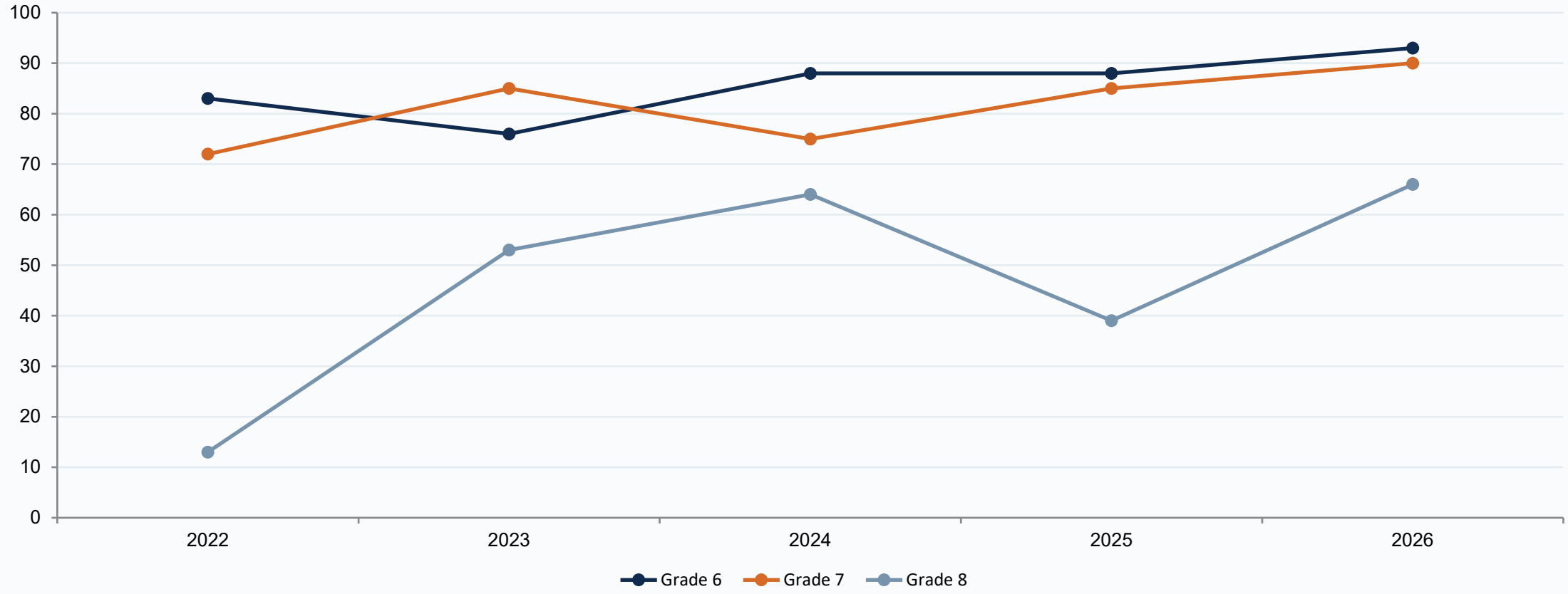
Wildwood Elementary — % meeting / exceeding



Grade-level comparisons reflect different student groups from year to year.

Mathematics | Five-Year Trends, Grades 6–8

Briarcliff Middle School — % meeting / exceeding



Grade-level comparisons reflect different student groups from year to year.

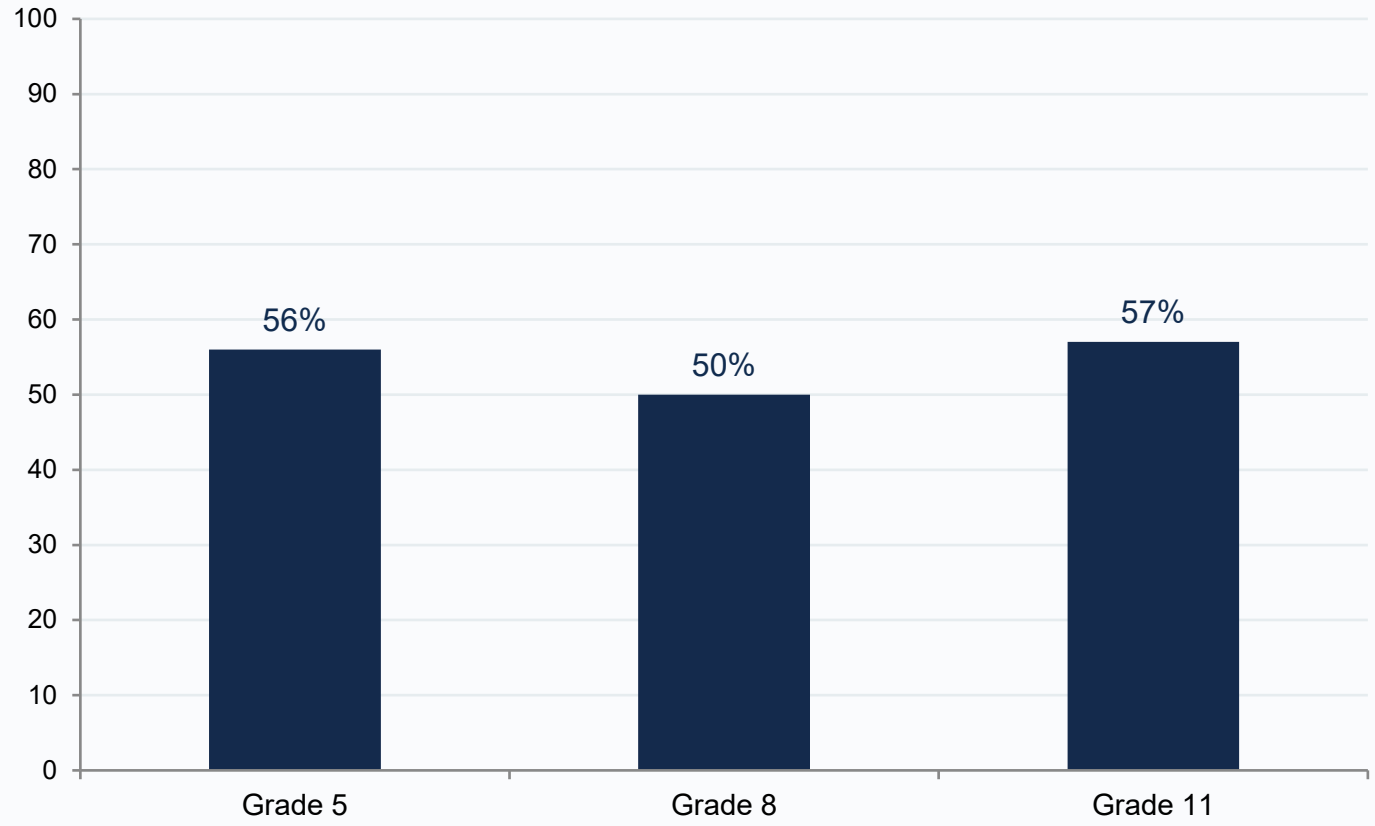
Science | Number of Students Tested

Districtwide participation by tested grade or course



Science | Spring 2026 Grade-Level Results

District: % proficient or advanced

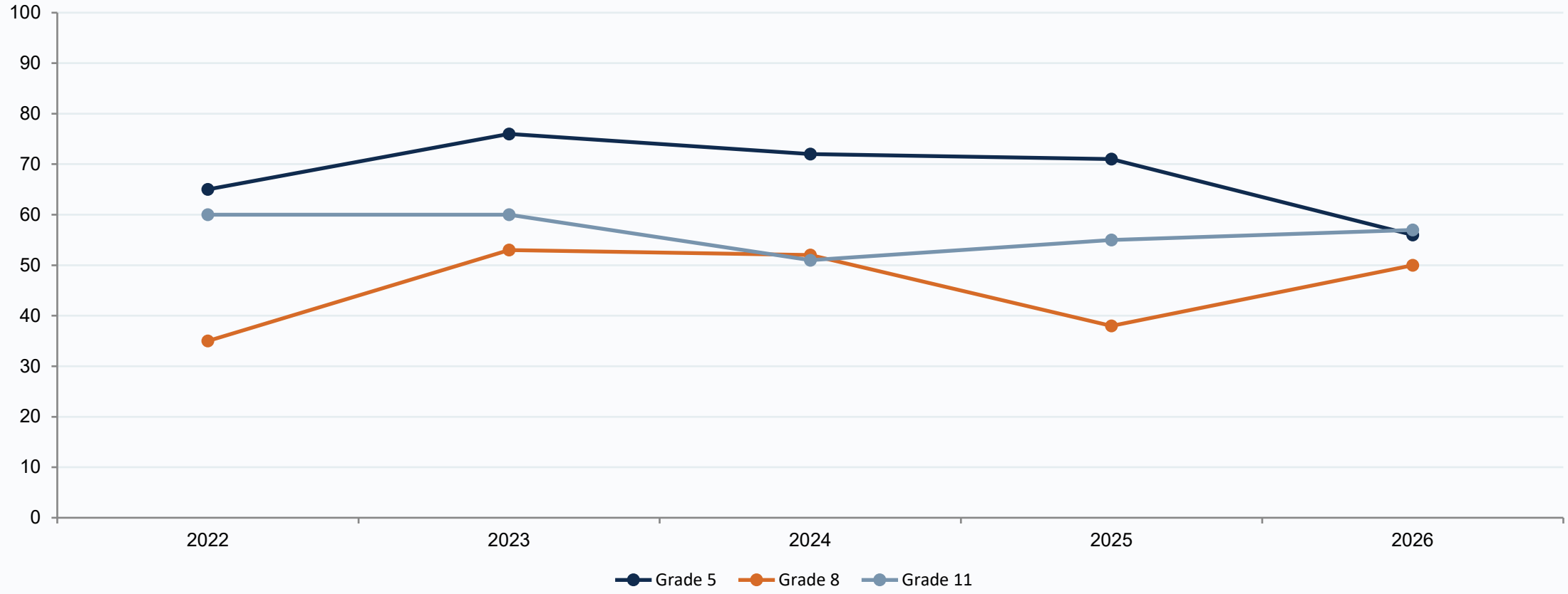


Grade	2025	2026	Δ pp
5	71%	56%	-15
8	39%	50%	+11
11	55%	57%	+2

NJSLA Science is non-adaptive.

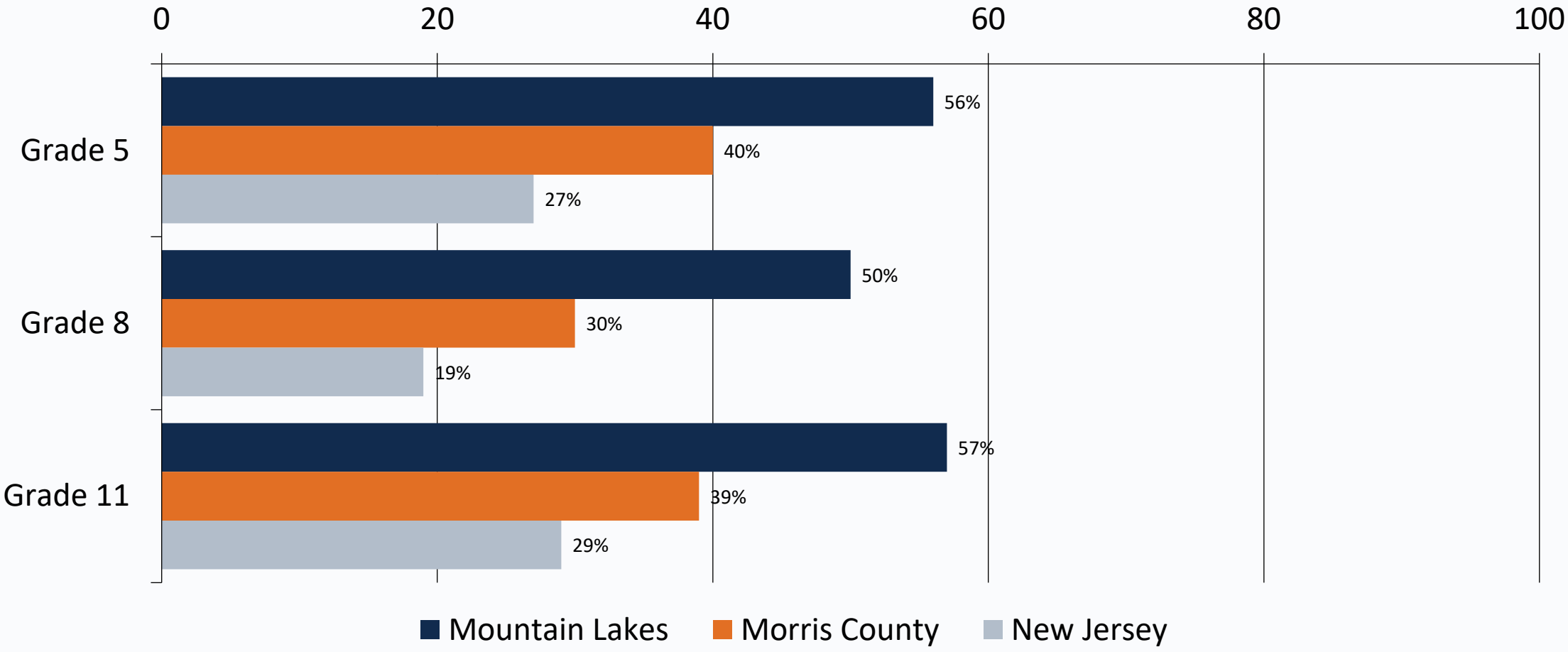
Science | Five-Year Trends

Grades 5, 8,11 — % proficient / advanced



Grade 11 science is NJSLA Science; it is not the NJGPA mathematics or ELA graduation-readiness assessment.

2026 | Science: Comparison of Mountain Lakes to State and County



Special Education | Five-Year Trends % proficient / advanced

Assessment	2022	2025	2026	2024-25 to 2025–26
ELA	48%	47%	48%	+1 pp
Mathematics	37%	41%	49%	+8 pp
Science	19%	23%	15%	−8 pp

NJGPA-A Overview

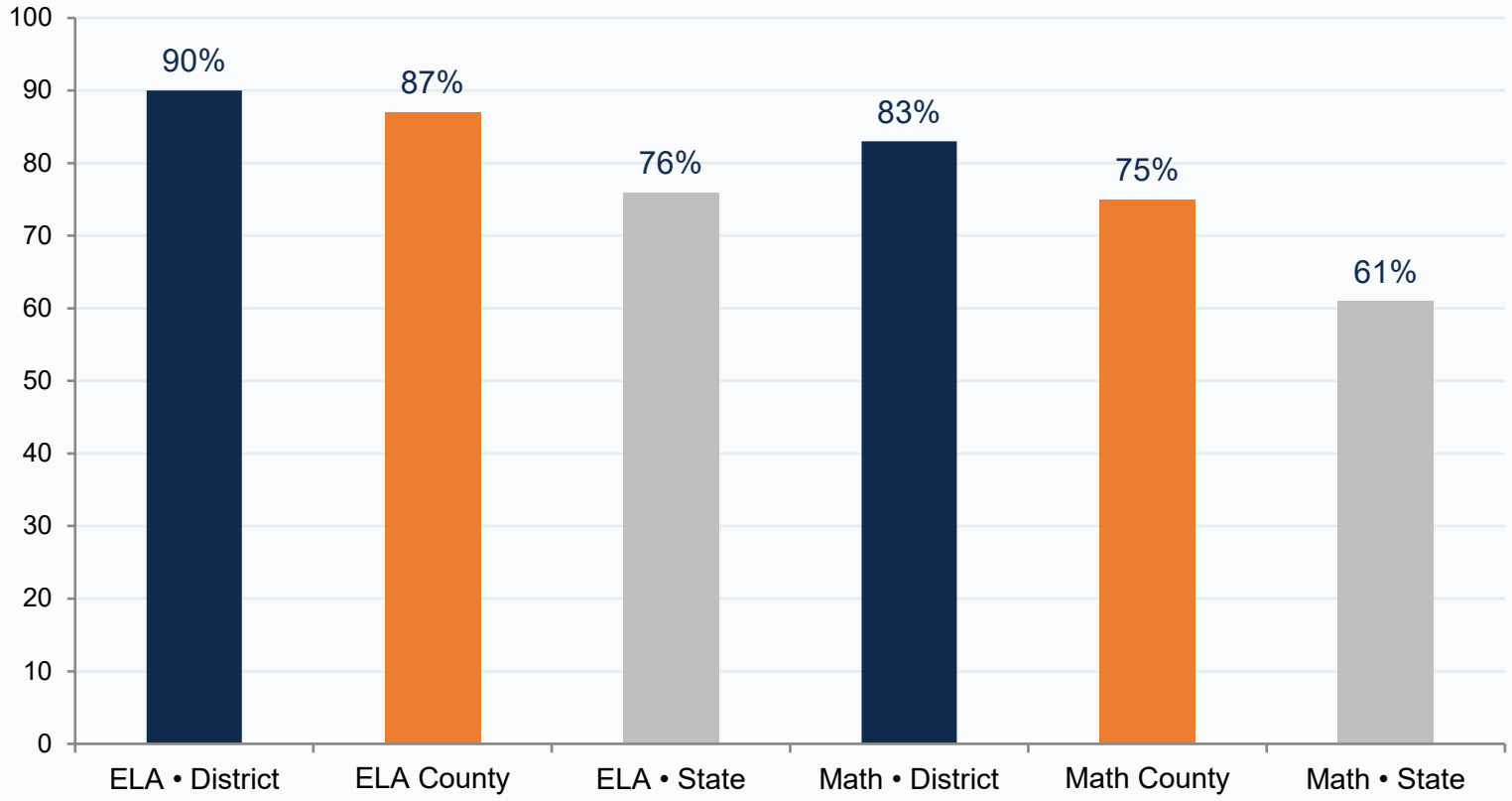
- The State graduation proficiency test [NJGPA-A] shall be administered to all 11th grade pupils and to any 11th or 12th grade pupil who has previously failed to demonstrate mastery of State graduation proficiency standards on said test. (N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-6)
- NJGPA-A is designed to measure the extent 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.

Students who take but do not meet the minimum required score (450) 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 NJGPA-A in the following fall;
- Meet a designated cut score from the menu of substitute competency tests*; or
- Complete a portfolio appeal.

NJGPA | Grade 11 Graduation Ready

Spring 2026 — % proficient



Assessment	District	County	State
ELA (143 students)	90%	87%	76%
Mathematics (141 students)	83%	75%	61%

Notable Achievements

01 English Language Arts

- Consistent proficiency in **grades 3 & 4**
  - **Grade 4** reduced 6 pp in students Not Meeting + Partially Meeting
- **Grades 7 & 8** – increase of **3 pp**
- Increase in 5-Year trend for **grades 6, 7, 8** (10 pp, 2 pp, & 12 pp respectively)
- Outperformed **Morris County** across grades 3-9
- **90 % of Grade 11** students Graduation Ready (87% in Morris County)
- Increase in proficiency among **grades 6-8** students receiving **special education services**
  - (15 pp 2025 to 2026; 9 pp across 5 years)
- Increase in proficiency among **grades 6 to 8 male** students across 5 years (7 pp)
  - **Grade 9 male** students across 5 years (10 pp)

Notable Achievements

02

Mathematics

- Consistent proficiency in **grades 3 & 4**
- **Grades 6 & 7** – increase of **5 pp**
- **Grade 8** – increase of **27 pp**
- Significant increase in 5-Year trend for **grades 6, 7, 8** (10 pp, 18 pp, & 53 pp respectively)
- Outperformed **Morris County** across grades 3-8, and Algebra I
- **83 % of Grade 11** students Graduation Ready (75% in Morris County)
- Increase in proficiency among students receiving **special education services**
  - (8 pp 2025 to 2026; 12 pp across 5 years)
- Increase in proficiency among students within **Section 504** (13 pp 2025 to 2026)
- Increase in proficiency among **grades 6 to 8 female** students across 5 years (24 pp)

Notable Achievements

03

Science

- **Grade 8** - science increased 9 pp (2025 to 2026), 15 pp across 5 years
- Comparison Data:
  - **Grade 5** – 16 pp above the county; 29 pp above the state
  - **Grade 8** – 20 pp above the county; 31 pp above the state
  - **Grade 11** – 18 pp above the county; 28 pp above the state

Intervention Strategies

01 English Language Arts

- **Grades 3 – 5**
  - Reading Literary Texts
    - Different genres, text elements, structures in poetry
    - How visual and multimedia elements contribute to meaning, tone, or beauty of text
  - Writing: Narrative + Explanatory
- **Grades 6 – 8**
  - Reading Informational Texts
  - Writing: Argumentative + Explanatory
- **Grade 9**
  - Reading Literary Texts
  - Writing: Argumentative + Explanatory

Intervention Strategies

02 Mathematics

- **Grade 5**
  - Operations & Algebraic Thinking / Measurement
  - Prioritize the identification of foundational skill gaps and provide targeted instructional support
- **Grade 8**
  - Geometry
  - Review student performance by mathematical standard
- **Algebra I (HS)**
  - Functions
  - Statistics & Probability
  - Examine opportunities for targeted intervention, additional practice, and more frequent formative assessments to monitor student understanding and provide timely feedback

Intervention Strategies

03 Science

- Review curriculum; ensure alignment to NGSS
- Review science-skill data and incorporate instructional supports into lesson plans
  - Teacher articulation sessions – **sensemaking** and **critiquing practices**
    - Students – make sense of scientific phenomena, construct explanations, critically evaluate ideas and evidence
- Incorporate IXL and other programs to target specific learning needs

Resources for Parents

- NJSLA-Adaptive and NJGPA-Adaptive FAQs
- NJDOE Students & Families
  - Sample Item Type Tutorials
  - Practice Tests
  - Family Portal
- NJGPA-A Score Interpretation Guide for Parents
- Sample NJSLA-A Individual Student Report
- NJSLA-Science Parents/Students Resources


Thank
you!!