

Print Report - MSA Proficiency Levels

The MSA Proficiency Levels page reports the grade level performance on the Maryland School Assessments and includes the performance on MSA, Mod-MSA, and HSA. Students in grades 3 through 8 take the MSA. Students in grade 10 take the HSA or Mod-MSA.

Maryland has defined three performance levels for student performance: Advanced, Proficient and Basic. The Advanced and Proficient levels meet the goal set for all students and the Basic level is below the goal. There are generic descriptions of the three MSA Proficiency Levels at the bottom of the page that will help you understand the difference between the three levels. Student responses to the test questions are transformed into scale scores. Through standard setting procedures, scale scores were used to set the cut scores for the MSA proficiency categories: basic, proficient, and advanced. To hear more about how Maryland set standards, click on the link to the MSA Standard Setting Process.

Looking at this elementary school's report, we can see that there are three columns of data shown on the page. The column on the left shows the school's performance. The middle column shows the county or school district's performance and the right hand column shows the state's performance.

The data is shown by grade level and only data from the grades in that school are displayed in the school column. High school data is not divided by grade because the test used to determine if AMO targets were met is an end-of-course test and could be given in any grade depending on when the course is offered. So after grade 8 on the left hand side under reading, you will see E 2010. This represents the high school English test. Under mathematics, you will see A 2010. This represents the Algebra / Data Analysis test and under science, you will see B 2010 which represents the Biology test.

The data is presented on a horizontal stacked bar graph. The three vertical black lines running down the page separate the Proficient and Advanced performance levels from the Basic level and are placed on the "0" line. The percentage of students that performed in each of these levels is indicated on the bar. The percent of students in the proficient level and the percent in the Advanced Level are added together to determine the total percent of students who met the proficient standard. In third grade at this school we can see 65.4% of students performed in the Proficient Level and 9% performed in the Advanced Level. By adding the two together we know that 74.4% of the third graders at this school met the proficient standard.

We can also quickly see where we have the highest percent of students not meeting proficient by looking for the longest bar on the left hand side of the vertical line. In this school, our 3rd grade underperformed our 4th and 5th grade students on the MSA Reading test. Third grade had 25.6% of the students not meeting the proficient level and 24.1% and 17.9% of their 4th and 5th graders, respectively, not meeting the proficient level.

The two columns on the right of the school level data show the performance results from the school district and the state so that you can see how your school performed next to your district and state. We can see that in this school, 65% of the 5th grade students did not meet the proficient standard on the science assessment, well below the performance of this school's district and the state. Science is not included as a target in AYP decisions.

Additional information about your data:

[Analyzing Your MSA Data](#)

(<http://mdk12.org/data/index.aspx?Nav=1.2>)

[Analyzing Your HSA Data](#)

(<http://mdk12.org/data/index.aspx?Nav=1.5>)

[MSA Standard Setting Process](#)

(http://mdk12.org/assessments/ayp/newstandards/gh_presentation.html).