



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2008-89 B

Friday, May 30, 2008

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WKCE show upward trend for mathematics, stable scores for reading

Three-year trend shows positive movement on closing achievement gaps

MADISON—Results for statewide testing show an overall upward trend for mathematics, stable scores in reading, and a slight narrowing of several achievement gaps. This three-year trend comes at a time when poverty is continuing to increase among Wisconsin students.

The 434,507 students who took the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) and the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) this school year showed gains over the past three years in mathematics in six out of seven grades tested. Reading achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels was stable over three years. An analysis of all combined grades indicates a narrowing of some achievement gaps by racial/ethnic group.

“These three years of assessment data show some positive trends. While some results point to achievement gains, we must continue our focus on closing achievement gaps and raising achievement for all students,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster.

Poverty rates for students tested rose again in 2007-08 from previous years. Statewide, 33 percent of students tested are from economically disadvantaged families, making them eligible for free or reduced-price school meals. Black students experience the highest poverty levels, with 76 percent from economically disadvantaged families compared to 22 percent of white students. For Hispanic students, 73 percent are from low-income families. The gap in the

WKCE/WAA-SwD — 2007-08

Achievement in Grades 3-8 and 10

Grade	Reading	Math
3	79.51	73.90
4	81.42	76.58
5	84.40	76.11
6	85.11	75.82
7	84.85	76.87
8	84.42	75.32
10	74.62	69.36

NOTE: Achievement is the percentage of all students with a Racial/Ethnic Group code who scored proficient or advanced.

Economically Disadvantaged — 2007-08

Percentage of Tested Students

American Indian	61.33
Asian	54.76
Black	75.54
Hispanic	72.78
White	21.68
All Students	32.90

NOTE: Economically disadvantaged students are those who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

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percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced between economically disadvantaged students and their peers ranges between 11 percentage points and 35 percentage points across all tests. Over the past three years for economically disadvantaged students and their peers in all grades combined, the gap narrowed in mathematics by 4 percentage points and widened by 1 percentage point in reading.

“The adverse effects of poverty work against our students and their learning,” Burmaster said. “Improving achievement in our schools requires shared responsibility among teachers and families as well as business and elected leaders to create communities that support academic achievement.”

At the elementary level, 82 percent of students scored proficient or advanced in reading and 76 percent in mathematics on the 2007-08 assessments. In middle school, 85 percent of students scored proficient or advanced in reading and 76 percent in mathematics. For high school students, 75 percent reached those achievement levels in reading and 69 percent in mathematics. The three-year trend points to higher mathematics achievement at elementary and middle school and a decline in high school. At all levels, reading achievement is stable.

Wisconsin Student Assessment System
Performance for All Students
Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced

Reading			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Elementary	82	82	82
Middle	84	85	85
High School	75	75	75
Mathematics			
Elementary	72	75	76
Middle	74	77	76
High School	72	71	69

In achievement gap analysis by racial/ethnic group of student results for all grades combined, the three-year trend shows a narrowing of the gap in mathematics between white students and Hispanic students by 4 percentage points and 3 percentage points for Asian students. The gap between white students and American Indian and black students in mathematics narrowed by 2 percentage points. The same analysis shows a narrowing of the gap for reading between white students and Hispanic students (by 2 percentage points) and Asian students (by 1 percentage point). Achievement gaps in reading have not changed for black students and widened by 1 percentage point for American Indian students.

“Our New Wisconsin Promise ensures a quality education for every child,” Burmaster said. “We must provide early learning opportunities, small class sizes, and quality educators in every classroom. While our schools cannot solve all of society’s problems, they must be centers of learning equipped with the staff and resources needed to support academic achievement and prepare students for their roles in work, family, and the community.”

To meet requirements of federal education law, the Department of Public Instruction administered the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) and the Wisconsin

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Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) this school year. This is the third year of statewide testing in grades three through eight and grade 10. Nearly every student in the tested grades took exams in reading and mathematics. Students in grades four, eight, and 10 also took exams in language arts, science, and social studies.

Results from the WKCE/WAA-SwD will be used for federal No Child Left Behind accountability purposes in the state's annual adequate yearly progress (AYP) evaluation. Schools and school districts will receive preliminary notification of their AYP status in June.

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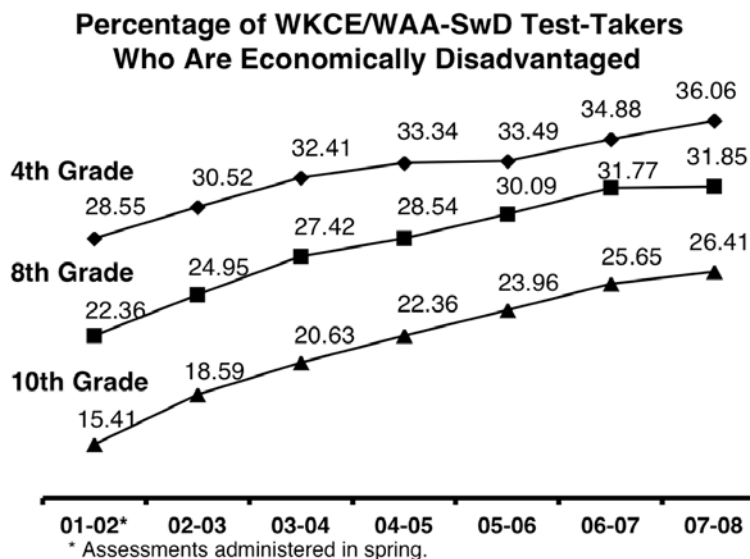
ATTACHMENTS: Tables with additional information about statewide performance on Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities follow.

NOTES: Data on school and district-level performance are available from local school districts and are posted on the Department of Public Instruction website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sig/index.html>. Click on "Data Analysis." This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_89.pdf.

2007-08 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities

3rd Grade	Enrollment*	Percent Proficient and Advanced					
		All Students	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
Reading	59,990	79.51	71.48	74.32	57.34	60.75	85.38
Mathematics		73.90	61.78	74.51	43.69	56.84	80.51
4th Grade							
Reading	60,075	81.42	73.18	74.37	57.40	65.74	87.13
Language Arts		75.92	64.51	70.72	51.35	61.74	81.52
Mathematics		76.58	64.51	75.75	46.73	60.55	82.96
Science		75.12	63.12	67.93	45.14	57.10	82.04
Social Studies		91.44	87.28	89.01	74.95	84.24	94.83
5th Grade							
Reading	59,612	84.40	80.57	78.01	61.29	69.76	89.53
Mathematics		76.11	68.76	77.50	44.31	59.16	82.39
6th Grade							
Reading	60,899	85.11	76.17	74.85	61.18	70.00	90.52
Mathematics		75.82	60.77	76.75	40.50	57.90	82.64
7th Grade							
Reading	62,031	84.85	77.70	77.93	61.10	68.78	90.15
Mathematics		76.87	64.60	75.34	40.84	56.30	84.14
8th Grade							
Reading	64,147	84.42	75.18	76.14	58.91	67.85	89.96
Language Arts		62.57	45.22	54.31	36.17	41.26	68.79
Mathematics		75.32	63.51	73.37	36.85	55.29	82.72
Science		74.51	61.83	64.54	37.90	53.84	82.09
Social Studies		80.78	70.66	72.93	49.26	64.28	87.14
10th Grade							
Reading	70,165	74.62	61.22	61.71	37.94	48.91	81.50
Language Arts		70.46	50.14	60.03	32.55	46.55	77.39
Mathematics		69.36	49.47	62.22	24.90	41.04	77.20
Science		72.45	54.63	61.42	28.93	45.40	80.23
Social Studies		76.42	59.79	68.98	40.57	54.35	82.78

*Includes all students with a Racial/Ethnic Group code reported. Less than 0.03% of students are missing Race/Ethnicity codes by grade.



Racial/Ethnicity Achievement Gap Analysis

Mathematics — All Grades

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

	White	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic
2005-06	80	58	69	36	50
2006-07	82	62	72	40	57
2007-08	82	62	74	40	56
Gap Change from 2005-06 to 2007-08	Reference	-2	-3	-2	-4

Reading — All Grades

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

	White	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic
2005-06	87	73	72	55	62
2006-07	88	73	72	57	64
2007-08	88	73	74	56	65
Gap Change from 2005-06 to 2007-08	Reference	1	-1	0	-2

NOTE: The Gap Change from 2005-06 to 2007-08 refers to the change in the achievement gap between white students and students from other racial/ethnic groups. A negative number indicates a gap reduction.

Economic Achievement Gap Analysis

Mathematics — All Grades

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

	Not Disadvantaged	Economically Disadvantaged
2005-06	67	53
2006-07	67	57
2007-08	67	57
Gap Change from 2005-06 to 2007-08	Reference	-4

Reading — All Grades

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

	Not Disadvantaged	Economically Disadvantaged
2005-06	88	67
2006-07	89	67
2007-08	89	67
Gap Change from 2005-06 to 2007-08	Reference	1

NOTE: The Gap Change from 2005-06 to 2007-08 refers to the change in the achievement gap between white students and students from other racial/ethnic groups. A negative number indicates a gap reduction.

2007-08 Wisconsin Student Assessment System

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities Performance

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

3rd Grade	All Students*	English Language Learners	English Proficient	Students with Disabilities	Nondisabled	Economically Disadvantaged	Not Economically Disadvantaged
Reading	79.51	55.07	81.45	51.47	84.09	65.54	87.48
Mathematics	73.90	57.39	75.20	53.90	77.16	58.54	82.65
Enrollment	59,990	4,396	55,600	8,416	51,580	21,777	38,219
4th Grade							
Reading	81.42	56.87	83.16	50.20	86.64	67.52	89.26
Language Arts	75.92	54.43	77.44	51.82	79.95	61.95	83.80
Mathematics	76.58	58.30	77.88	51.72	80.74	61.34	85.18
Science	75.12	50.78	76.85	58.03	77.98	58.86	84.13
Social Studies	91.44	81.19	92.16	79.61	93.42	84.52	95.34
Enrollment	60,075	3,976	56,105	8,614	51,467	21,668	38,413
5th Grade							
Reading	84.40	61.08	85.96	52.60	89.69	71.79	91.09
Mathematics	76.11	55.43	77.50	46.66	81.01	59.64	84.85
Enrollment	59,612	3,751	55,868	8,512	51,107	20,676	38,943
6th Grade							
Reading	85.11	56.87	86.81	50.95	90.76	70.89	92.26
Mathematics	75.82	54.30	77.12	41.07	81.58	57.36	85.11
Enrollment	60,899	3,466	57,440	8,656	52,250	20,394	40,512
7th Grade							
Reading	84.85	57.61	86.38	49.53	90.55	71.02	91.58
Mathematics	76.87	50.39	78.35	40.62	82.72	57.99	86.06
Enrollment	62,031	3,310	58,731	8,631	53,410	20,336	41,705
8th Grade							
Reading	84.42	57.49	85.78	46.97	90.78	69.99	91.16
Language Arts	62.57	30.69	64.17	25.50	68.86	43.50	71.47
Mathematics	75.32	51.62	76.51	36.73	81.88	55.43	84.61
Science	74.51	44.23	76.04	42.57	79.94	55.33	83.60
Social Studies	80.78	55.70	82.03	48.60	86.24	64.42	88.41
Enrollment	64,147	3,086	61,068	9,323	54,831	20,436	43,718
10th Grade							
Reading	74.62	30.78	76.23	31.82	81.34	53.31	82.26
Language Arts	70.46	30.62	71.92	27.95	77.14	48.12	78.47
Mathematics	69.36	31.98	70.73	25.79	76.20	45.86	77.78
Science	72.45	31.70	73.95	35.65	78.23	45.29	80.52
Social Studies	76.42	40.20	77.74	37.85	82.47	56.70	83.48
Enrollment	70,165	2,495	67,690	9,536	60,649	18,535	51,650

* Includes all students with a Racial/Ethnic Group code reported. Less than 0.03% of students are missing Race/Ethnicity codes by grade.

Wisconsin Student Assessment System

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities Performance
by Racial/Ethnic Group in Reading and Mathematics for Three Years at Grades 3-8 and 10
Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

3rd Grade	All Students*			American Indian			Asian			Black			Hispanic			White		
	05-06	06-07	07-08	05-06	06-07	07-08	05-06	06-07	07-08	05-06	06-07	07-08	05-06	06-07	07-08	05-06	06-07	07-08
Reading	80.60	80.86	79.51	75.15	72.45	71.48	71.85	73.42	74.32	58.22	60.42	57.34	65.13	62.78	60.75	85.89	86.37	85.38
Mathematics	71.95	73.85	73.90	62.05	61.78	61.78	70.64	71.85	74.51	37.34	42.13	43.69	55.35	56.89	56.84	78.81	80.71	80.51
Enrollment	58,842	59,611	59,990	809	853	887	2,146	2,103	2,181	6,352	6,594	6,507	4,663	5,011	5,396	44,872	45,050	45,019
4th Grade																		
Reading	82.35	81.91	81.42	74.97	75.60	73.18	71.93	72.87	74.37	58.87	60.72	57.40	67.13	64.15	65.74	87.85	87.39	87.13
Mathematics	72.64	77.29	76.58	58.82	70.55	64.51	68.18	76.11	75.75	39.49	46.10	46.73	54.55	61.74	60.55	79.63	83.60	82.96
Enrollment	60,135	59,447	60,075	867	832	865	2,269	2,160	2,111	6,538	6,469	6,582	4,539	4,814	5,070	45,922	45,172	45,447
5th Grade																		
Reading	82.90	84.16	84.40	76.45	76.40	80.57	77.23	75.98	78.01	58.76	62.68	61.29	67.99	67.64	69.76	88.16	89.33	89.53
Mathematics	72.61	74.96	76.11	61.35	65.23	68.76	69.71	73.62	77.50	38.28	42.45	44.31	52.44	56.67	59.16	79.78	81.55	82.39
Enrollment	60,438	60,306	59,612	828	860	813	2,222	2,244	2,178	6,630	6,447	6,378	4,405	4,567	4,723	46,353	46,188	45,520
6th Grade																		
Reading	83.34	85.05	85.11	73.93	78.01	76.17	73.37	75.99	74.85	56.32	61.77	61.18	66.19	68.16	70.00	89.32	90.50	90.52
Mathematics	73.00	76.00	75.82	58.92	61.28	60.77	70.11	76.43	76.75	36.39	40.53	40.50	54.47	57.31	57.90	80.24	83.04	82.64
Enrollment	63,109	61,313	60,899	959	873	831	2,268	2,232	2,262	7,012	6,657	6,447	4,114	4,472	4,534	48,756	47,079	46,825
7th Grade																		
Reading	83.81	84.44	84.85	75.29	77.31	77.70	73.79	73.98	77.93	57.41	57.12	61.10	66.81	66.80	68.78	89.48	90.45	90.15
Mathematics	73.84	79.07	76.87	58.04	67.35	64.60	69.30	75.40	75.34	33.98	42.47	40.84	55.16	61.96	56.30	81.41	86.14	84.14
Enrollment	65,286	63,931	62,031	1,020	974	870	2,339	2,260	2,279	7,051	7,045	6,653	4,101	4,211	4,513	50,775	49,441	47,716
8th Grade																		
Reading	84.61	84.06	84.42	75.22	74.85	75.18	77.23	79.43	76.14	56.38	61.26	58.91	68.23	66.92	67.85	90.29	89.00	89.96
Mathematics	74.20	74.91	75.32	55.98	60.02	63.51	72.55	73.62	73.37	36.64	38.30	36.85	53.64	55.28	55.29	81.41	81.90	82.72
Enrollment	67,001	65,647	64,147	1,029	1,018	951	2,284	2,358	2,276	7,285	6,995	6,936	3,988	4,217	4,261	52,415	51,059	49,723
10th Grade																		
Reading	75.00	74.89	74.62	60.88	59.76	61.22	60.88	55.62	61.71	38.95	37.87	37.94	51.60	47.65	48.91	81.33	82.04	81.50
Mathematics	71.62	70.60	69.36	50.91	50.32	49.47	64.95	61.17	62.22	27.85	25.47	24.90	45.75	43.57	41.04	78.76	78.31	77.20
Enrollment	72,869	71,707	70,165	1,043	1,081	1,047	2,582	2,591	2,382	6,642	6,565	6,529	3,552	3,782	3,991	59,050	57,688	56,216

* Includes all students with a Racial/Ethnic Group code reported. Less than 0.03% of students are missing Race/Ethnicity codes by grade.