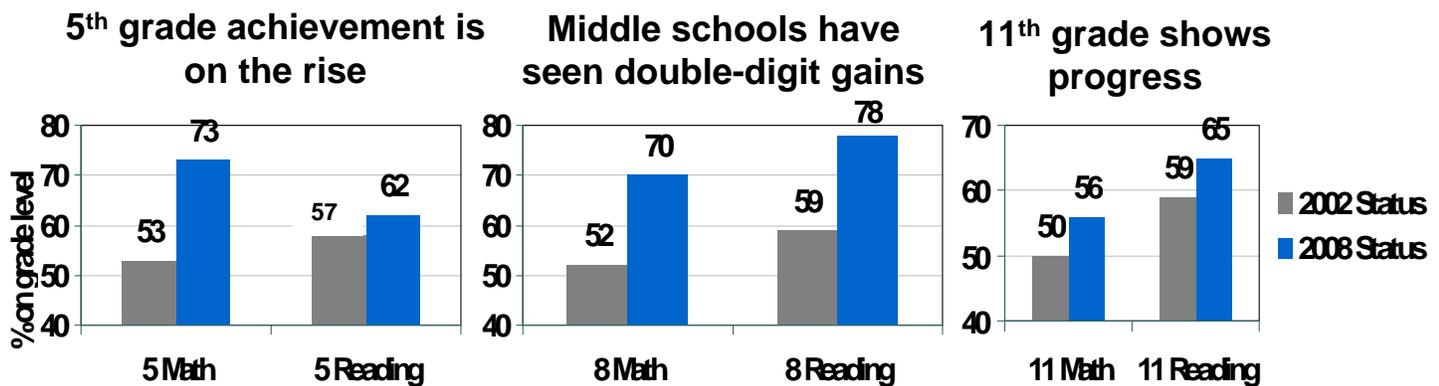


2008 Student Achievement Fast Facts: 7 of 10 students are on grade level, but our greatest challenges remain

29% more students are on grade level than in 2002, and historically low-achieving schools are driving Pennsylvania's progress

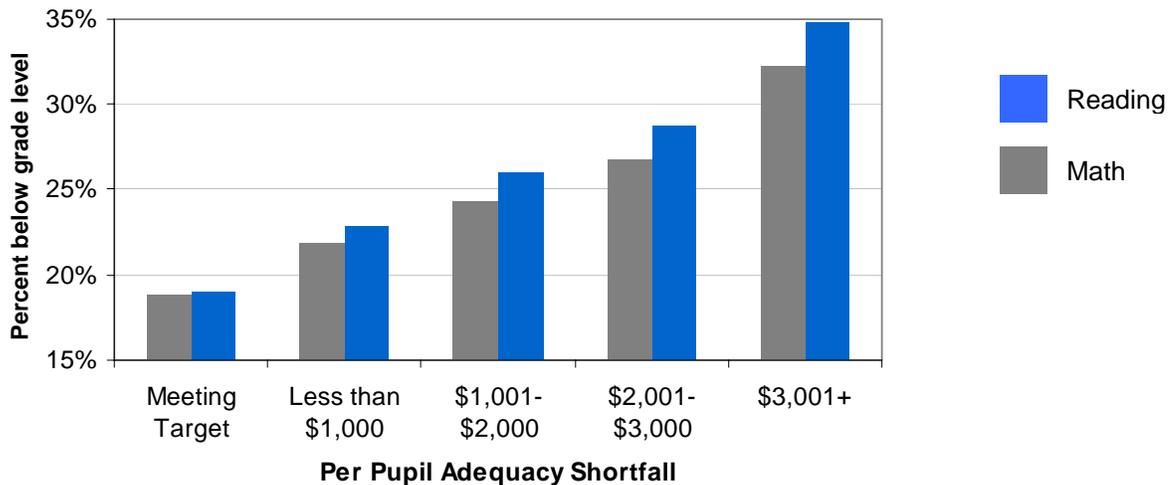
- **PSSA scores in math and reading rose or remained steady at every grade level in the 2007-08 school year.** A total of 71 percent of students met state standards in grades 5, 8, and 11.
- Student achievement has increased in every subject, at all grade levels and for all ethnic, racial and economic groups of students since 2002:



- **Many historically low-achieving school districts have made dramatic improvements.** Two school districts – Philadelphia and Aliquippa – stunningly doubled the percent of students who are proficient or advanced in grades 5, 8 and 11 since 2002. A total of 72 school districts have increased the proportion of students who are on grade level by at least 40 percent.
- 479 school districts have a majority of students on grade level compared to 375 school districts in 2002 – an increase of nearly 30 percent.
- The number of students scoring “below basic” – the lowest performance level – has been cut by 38 percent since 2002, and there are now 36,000 fewer students who are “below basic” in math and 13,000 fewer students who are below basic in reading.
- At the same time, high-achieving students are continuing to make progress. Seventy-five thousand more students are “advanced” in reading and 65,000 more students are “advanced” in math – the highest performance level – in 2008 than in 2002, an 88 percent gain.
- **Pennsylvania is closing the achievement gap as a result of major gains by minority and low-income students.** Today more than double the proportion of African-American students, 84 percent more Latino students and 88 percent more low-income students are on grade level than in 2002. As a result, the state’s achievement gaps have shrunk by an average of more than 20 percent.
- **Pennsylvania’s progress is a result of hard work by educators using new resources provided by the state.** Since 2002, Pennsylvania has invested an additional \$2.7 billion in PreK-12 education, targeting these resources to the school districts with the greatest need and the programs that are proven to work in boosting student achievement – including early childhood education, tutoring, smaller classes and teacher training.

The students who are still below grade level are heavily concentrated in districts with large funding gaps and in high schools

- **School districts with the largest funding gaps average 78 percent more students below grade level than districts with adequate resources.**

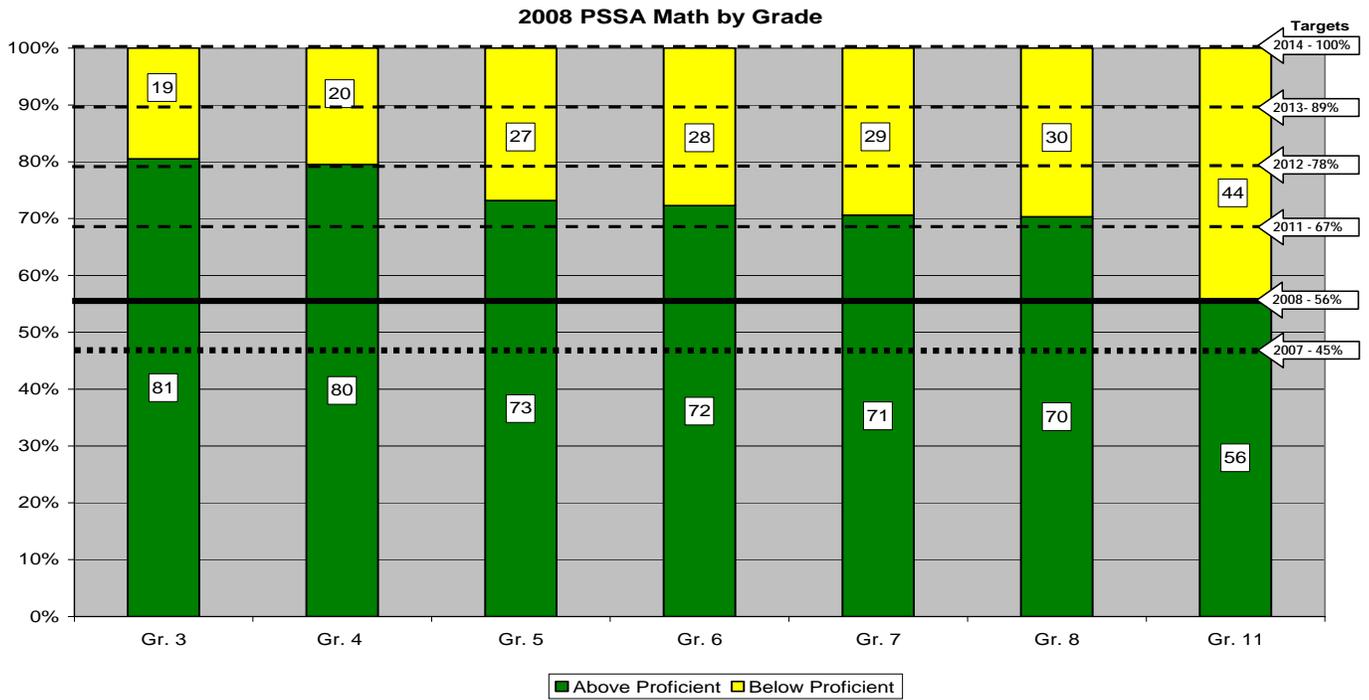


- **Pennsylvania’s struggling students are overwhelmingly located in under-funded school districts.** Sixty-eight percent of students who are “below basic” attend school districts with a shortfall of at least \$2,000 per pupil.
- **Two out of every five Pennsylvania high school students are below grade level, and independent research shows that students who score proficient in 11th grade are far more likely to succeed in college.** At the current pace, it would take 40 years for all 11th graders to meet state standards.
- Pennsylvania can overcome the high school challenge:
 - **Closing the adequacy gap will benefit the lowest-achieving high schools.** 68 percent of low-performing high schools are in school districts with at least a \$2,000 per pupil funding shortfall.
 - **Pennsylvania must ensure that all students have access to a strong curriculum with clear expectations for the skills they must master in order to earn a high school diploma.** That requires a rigorous curriculum that delivers core content regardless of where a student lives, new teaching tools and intensive training for teachers, and a menu of ways for students to show that they are ready for college or the workforce before they graduate.

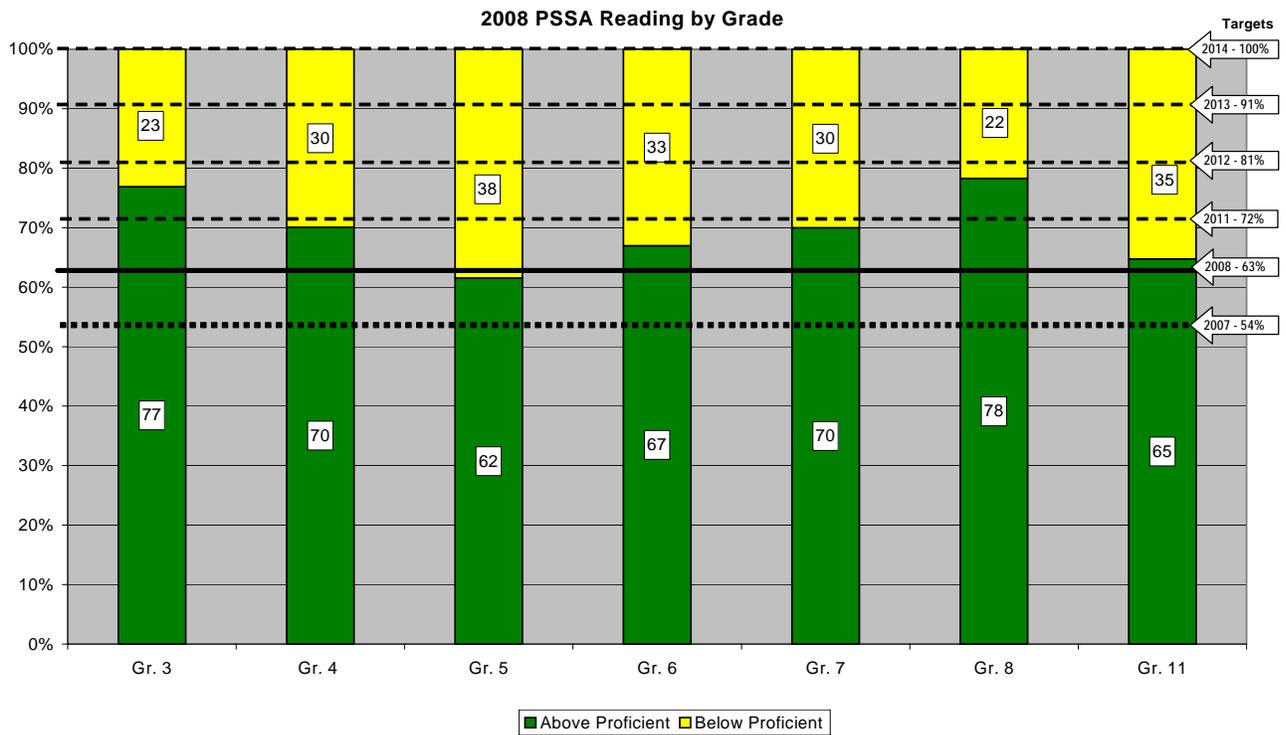
72% of Pennsylvania schools are meeting all of their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets – in spite of higher achievement goals in 2008

- To make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), schools and school districts have to meet targets for achievement, attendance, graduation and test participation. As Pennsylvania gets closer to the 2014 federal deadline for all students reaching grade level, the achievement targets are increasing.
- In 2008, at least 63 percent of students had to be on grade level in reading (compared to 54 percent last year) and at least 56 percent of students had to be on grade level in math (compared to 45 percent last year).
- **Pennsylvania met 13 of 14 statewide achievement targets in 2008: scoring at or above the math target in every grade and the reading target in every grade except 5th grade:**

Students met this year's AYP math targets in all grades, but must improve high school achievement to meet the 2011 target



Reading poses a greater challenge, demanding progress over the next three years in high school and in grades 4 to 7



- A total of 72 percent of schools met all of their AYP targets in 2008. **If the targets had stayed at 2007 levels, 85 percent of schools would have made AYP – compared to 78 percent last year:**

	2007		2008	
	Number of schools	Percent of schools	Number of schools	Percent of schools
Met AYP	2,302	74.2%	2,138	68.9%
Making Progress	102	3.3%	97	3.1%
Warning	380	12.2%	461	14.8%
School Improvement 1	81	2.6%	149	4.8%
School Improvement 2	53	1.7%	75	2.4%
Corrective Action 1	44	1.4%	33	1.1%
Corrective Action 2	142	4.6%	152	4.9%

} **72% of schools met all AYP targets in 2008**

- **92 percent of Pennsylvania school districts met all of their AYP targets in 2008.** The number of school districts in Corrective Action – the lowest AYP rating – dropped by five.

	2007		2008	
	Number of districts	Percent of districts	Number of districts	Percent of districts
Met AYP	452	90.4 %	455	91.0%
Making Progress	8	1.6 %	6	1.2%
Warning	18	3.6%	21	4.2%
District Improvement 1	0	0.0%	2	0.4%
District Improvement 2	2	0.4%	1	0.2%
Corrective Action 1	12	2.4%	2	0.4%
Corrective Action 2	8	1.6%	13	2.6%

} **92% of school districts met all AYP targets in 2008**

- Struggling school districts have a lot in common:
 - **They educate at-risk students** – 39% of the schools that missed their AYP targets had at least 3 in 10 students are minorities or low-income
 - **They are under-funded** – More than three quarters of school districts that did not make AYP have an adequacy shortfall of at least \$2,000 per pupil
 - **Their high schools have low achievement** – more than half of Pennsylvania’s high schools did not make AYP this year

2008 Student Achievement Backup Data: Pennsylvania Making Progress

15,000 more students reached grade level in math this year

Percent of students on grade level in math

Math	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
3 rd graders	*	*	*	81%	83%	79%	81%
4 th graders	*	*	*	*	77%	78%	80%
5 th graders	53%	56%	62%	69%	67%	71%	73%
6 th graders	*	*	*	*	68%	70%	72%
7 th graders	*	*	*	*	66%	67%	71%
8 th graders	52%	51%	58%	63%	62%	68%	70%
11 th graders	50%	49%	49%	51%	52%	54%	56%

13,000 more students reached grade level in reading this year

Percent of students on grade level in reading

Reading	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
3 rd graders	*	*	*	68%	69%	73%	77%
4 th graders	*	*	*	*	68%	70%	70%
5 th graders	57%	58%	63%	64%	61%	60%	62%
6 th graders	*	*	*	*	66%	64%	67%
7 th graders	*	*	*	*	68%	67%	70%
8 th graders	59%	63%	69%	64%	71%	75%	78%
11 th graders	59%	59%	61%	65%	65%	65%	65%