

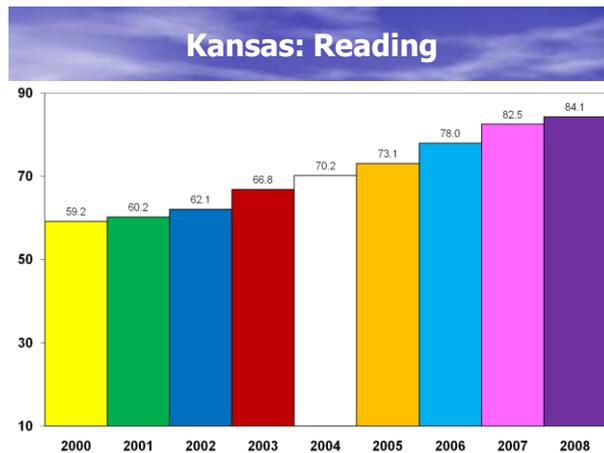
# NEWS

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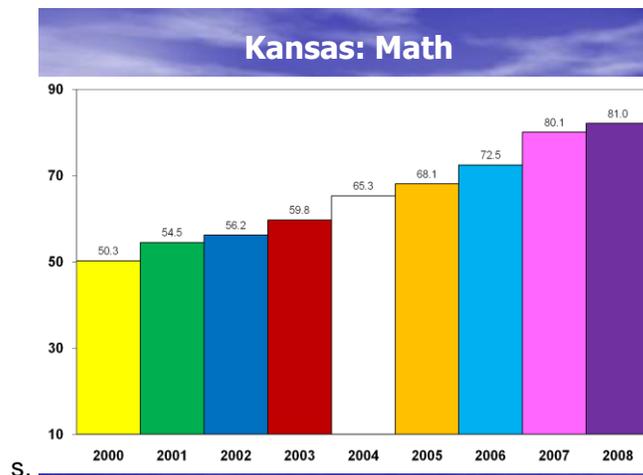
October 15, 2008

## State Assessment Results Show Strong Performance by Kansas Students

TOPEKA—Results released today from the 2008 Kansas Statewide Assessments show strong performance in reading, mathematics, science and history/government for all students.

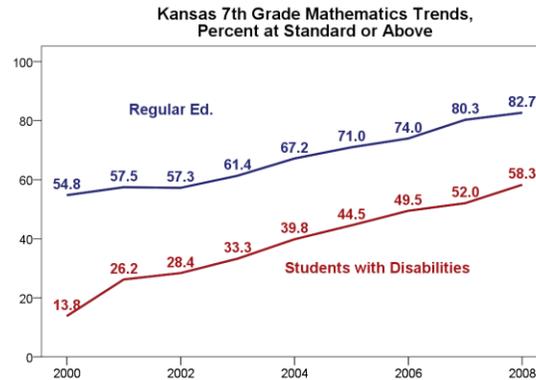
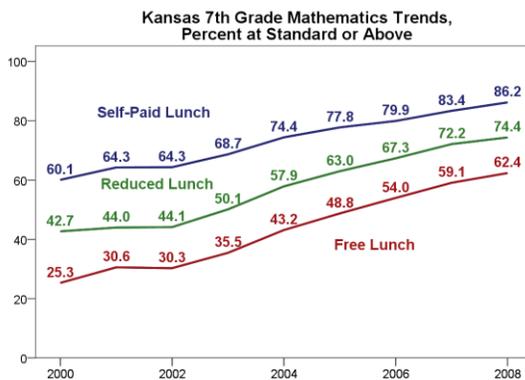
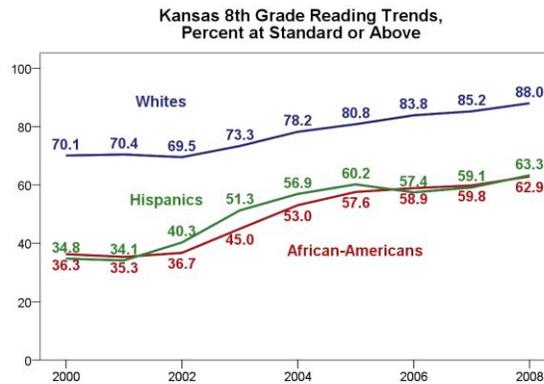
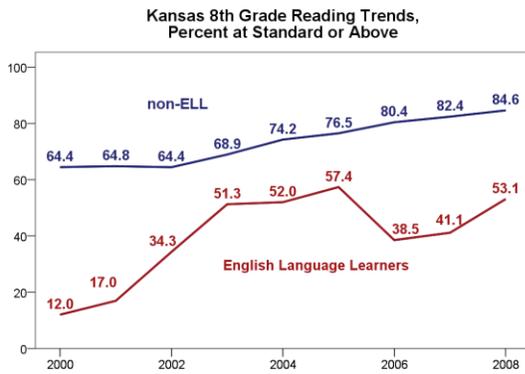
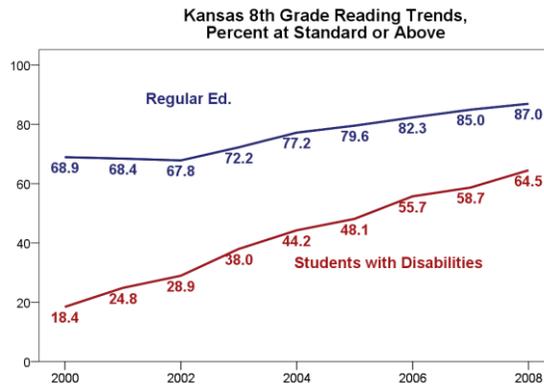
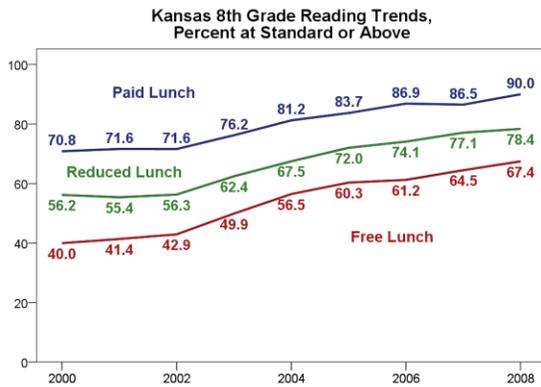


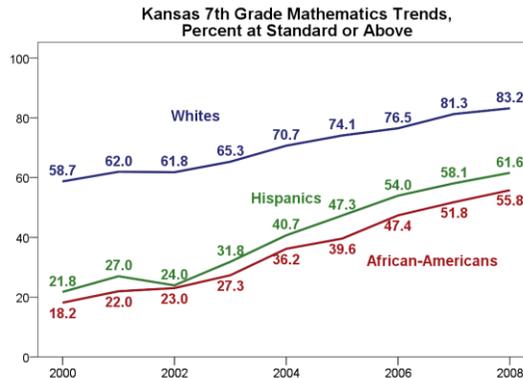
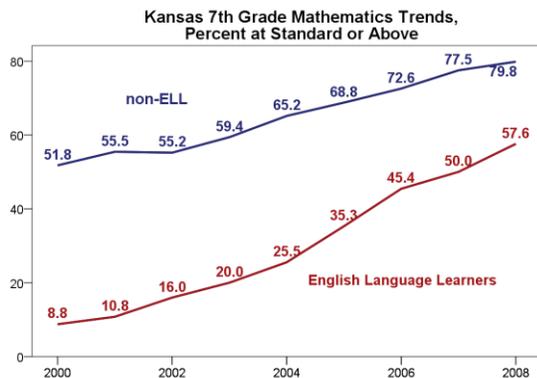
With over 99 percent participation by all students in reading, student performance is continuing an upward trend. The same holds true for Kansas students in mathematics.



When compared with the 2000 – 2007 results, the reading and mathematics scores reflect a continuing upward trend. “I use the word phenomenal when describing the achievement of our students across all grade levels in Kansas, said Dr. Alexa Posny, Kansas Commissioner of Education. She continued, “I attribute these outstanding results to the sustained focus of educators, administrators, and boards of education across Kansas. They have met and exceeded increasing higher targets under the No Child Left Behind legislation and their students are the beneficiaries.”

These trends also show that the gap among students is gradually closing.





According to Dr. Posny, “The achievement gaps among various groups of Kansas students in both reading and mathematics are gradually closing. Students and educators are working tirelessly to ensure that all children achieve to high levels.” She continued, “Participation rates on all assessments in Kansas are above ninety-nine percent for all students. This indicates that the stakeholders in Kansas take the assessments very seriously and make sure that all students are counted.”

History/government is tested bi-yearly in grades 6, 8, and high school. Science is assessed every year in grades 4, 7, and high school.

More information regarding the 2008 Kansas Report Card is available at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org) on the left side of the homepage under “Data/Report Card. State, district and individual schools information is available.

Kansas awards the Standard of Excellence at grade levels and building-wide. To receive a Standard of Excellence in reading for grades 3-6, at least 25% of students must be in the *Exemplary* category on the state assessment, with not more than 5% of students in *Academic Warning*. For grades 7-8, 20% of students must score in the *Exemplary* category, with not more than 10% of students in *Academic Warning*. For high schools, at least 15% of students must be in the *Exemplary* category, with not more than 10% of students in *Academic Warning*.

To receive a Standard of Excellence at the grade or building level in reading, the building must make AYP in the “All Students” group. Additionally, the following are expected percentage values for a school of excellence in reading.

- Grades 3-6, 60% of students classified as *Exceeds Standard* or above; 80% as *Meets Standard* and above; and 95% as *Approaches Standard* and above.
- Grades 7-8, 55% of students classified as *Exceeds Standard* and above; 75% as *Meets Standard* and above; and 90% classified as *Approaches Standard* and above.
- High school, 50% of students classified as *Exceeds Standard* and above; 70% as *Meets Standard* and above; and 90% classified as *Approaches Standard* and above.

To receive a Standard of Excellence in mathematics for grades 3-6, at least 25% of students must be in the *Exemplary* category on the state assessment, with not more than 5% of students in *Academic Warning*. For grades 7-8, 25% of students must score in the *Exemplary* category, with not more than 10% of students in *Academic Warning*. For high schools, at least 15% of students must be in the *Exemplary* category, with not more than 15% of students in *Academic Warning*.

To receive a Standard of Excellence at the grade or building level in mathematics, the building must make AYP in the “All Students” group. Additionally, the following are expected percentage values for a school of excellence in mathematics.

- Grades 3-6, 60% of students classified as *Exceeds Standard* or above; 80% as *Meets Standard* and above; and 95% as *Approaches Standard* and above.
- Grades 7-8, 60% of students classified as *Exceeds Standard* and above; 80% as *Meets Standard* and above; and 90% classified as *Approaches Standard* and above.
- High school, 40% of students classified as *Exceeds Standard* and above; 70% as *Meets Standard* and above; and 85% classified as *Approaches Standard* and above.

Similar formulas are used to calculate the Standard of Excellence for science and history/government awards.

This year saw an increase in the number of awards for both reading and mathematics. There were 3,461 Standard of Excellence certificates awarded in reading; 2,755 in mathematics, 437 in science; and 217 in history/government.

The list of grades/schools receiving a Standard of Excellence is posted on the Kansas State Department of Education’s website ([www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)) on the right side of the homepage under “Hot Topics.”