NJSLA Science Results: Spring 2019 Administrations

Wood-Ridge School District
March 28, 2022

New Jersey Student Learning Assessment – Science (NJSLA-Science)

The NJSLA-Science:

- Is a federally required state assessment administered to students in grades 5, 8, and 11
- Provides a snapshot of student performance on the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Science (NJSLS-Science).
- Was developed in collaboration with NJ educators, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), and New Jersey's contracted science vendors
- Is significantly different from the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) because NJSLS-Science are more rigorous standards and NJSLA-Science focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills rather than memorization of content.

WOOD-RIDGE
Number of Students Tested
in Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations
Science

Grade	Students Tested 2019	% of Students Tested 2019
5	88 of 89	99%
8	93 of 93	100%
11	100 of 100	100%
Total	281 of 282	99%

Note: “Students Tested” represents individual valid test scores for Science.

Comparison of Wood-Ridge School District's Spring 2019 Administration **Science to State of New Jersey's Percentages in 2019**

Grade	Level 1, District	Level 1, State	Level 2, District	Level 2, State	Level 3, District	Level 3, State	Level 4, District	Level 4, State	Diff. W.R. v. State Level 3 & 4
5	19.3	**34.8**	43.2	**36.0**	29.5	**22.7**	8.0	**6.6**	**+ 8.2**
8	36.6	**35.7**	49.5	**44.5**	14.0	**15.3**	0	**4.5**	**-5.8**
11	51	**49.0**	29	**23.6**	18	**19.5**	2	**7.8**	**-7.3**

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

PERFORMANCE LEVELS 1 & 2

Level 1

- Students who are at Level 1 demonstrated a ***minimal understanding*** of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards-Science (NJSLS-S) by ***misinterpreting information*** from a variety of sources (e.g., text, charts, graphs, tables) and inconsistently applying the knowledge gained from scientific investigations to develop incorrect explanations or models of observed phenomena.

Level 2

- Students who are at Level 2 demonstrated a ***limited grade-level understanding*** of the NJSLS-S by ***partially interpreting information*** from a variety of sources (e.g., text, charts, graphs, tables) and inconsistently applying the knowledge gained from scientific investigations to develop incomplete explanations or models of observed phenomena.

PERFORMANCE LEVELS 3 & 4

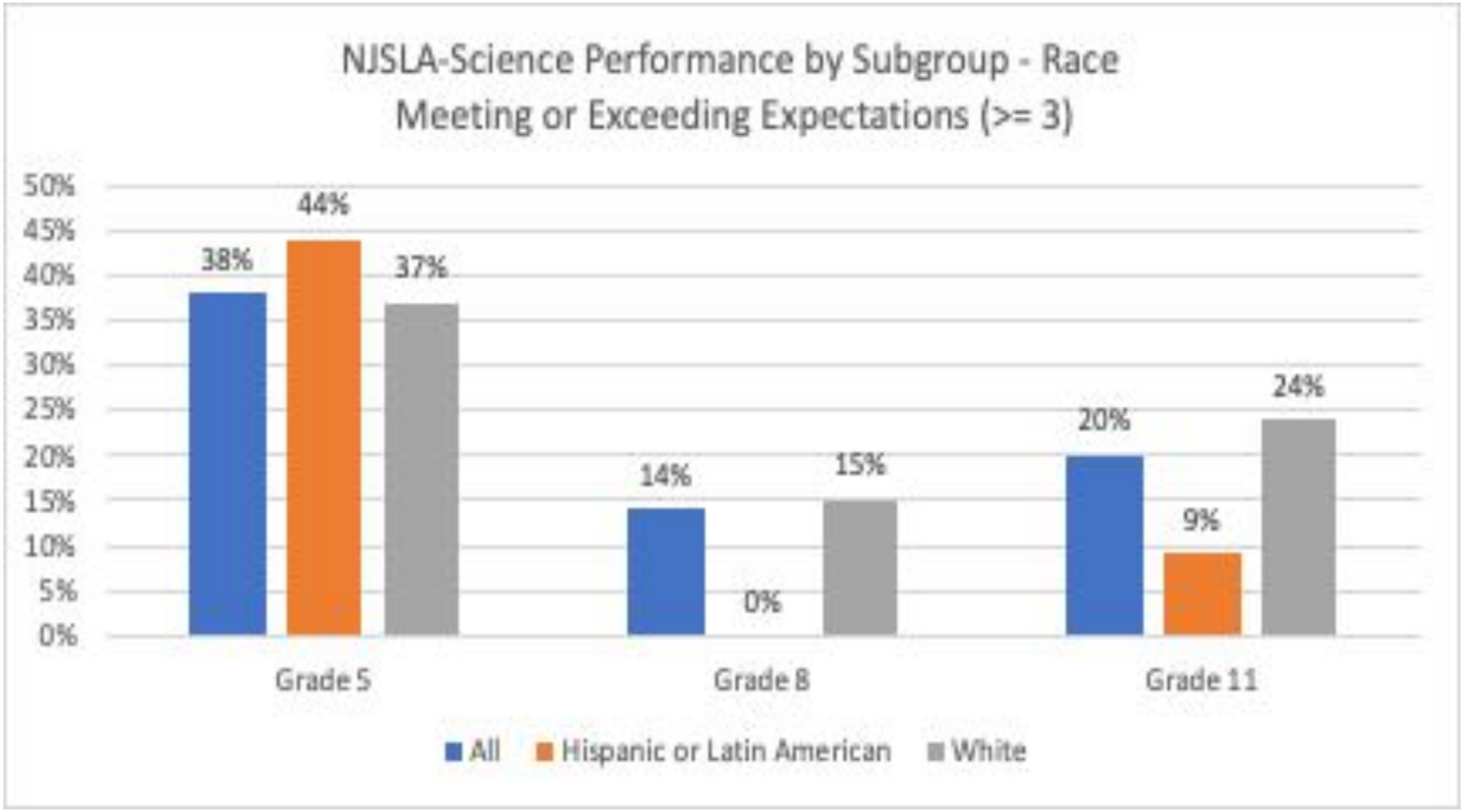
Level 3

- Students who are at Level 3 demonstrated ***appropriate grade-level understanding*** of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards-Science (NJSLS-S) by ***comprehending information*** from a variety of sources (e.g., text, charts, graphs, tables) and applying the knowledge gained from scientific investigations to develop accurate explanations and models of observed phenomena.

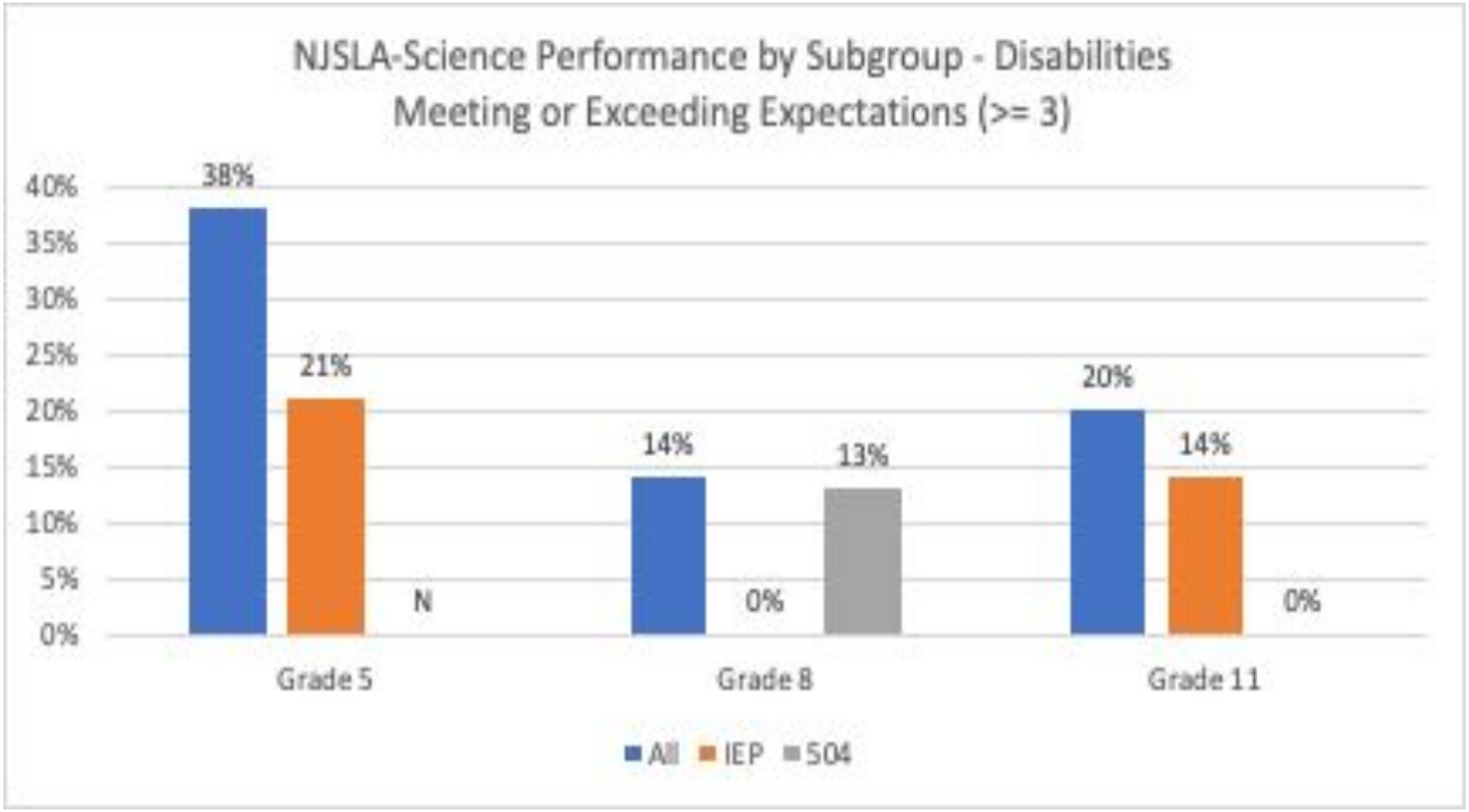
Level 4

- Students who are at Level 4 demonstrated ***advanced understanding*** of the NJSLS-S by i***ntegrating information*** from a variety of sources (e.g., text, charts, graphs, tables) and analyzing the knowledge gained from scientific investigations to develop sophisticated explanations and models of observed phenomena.

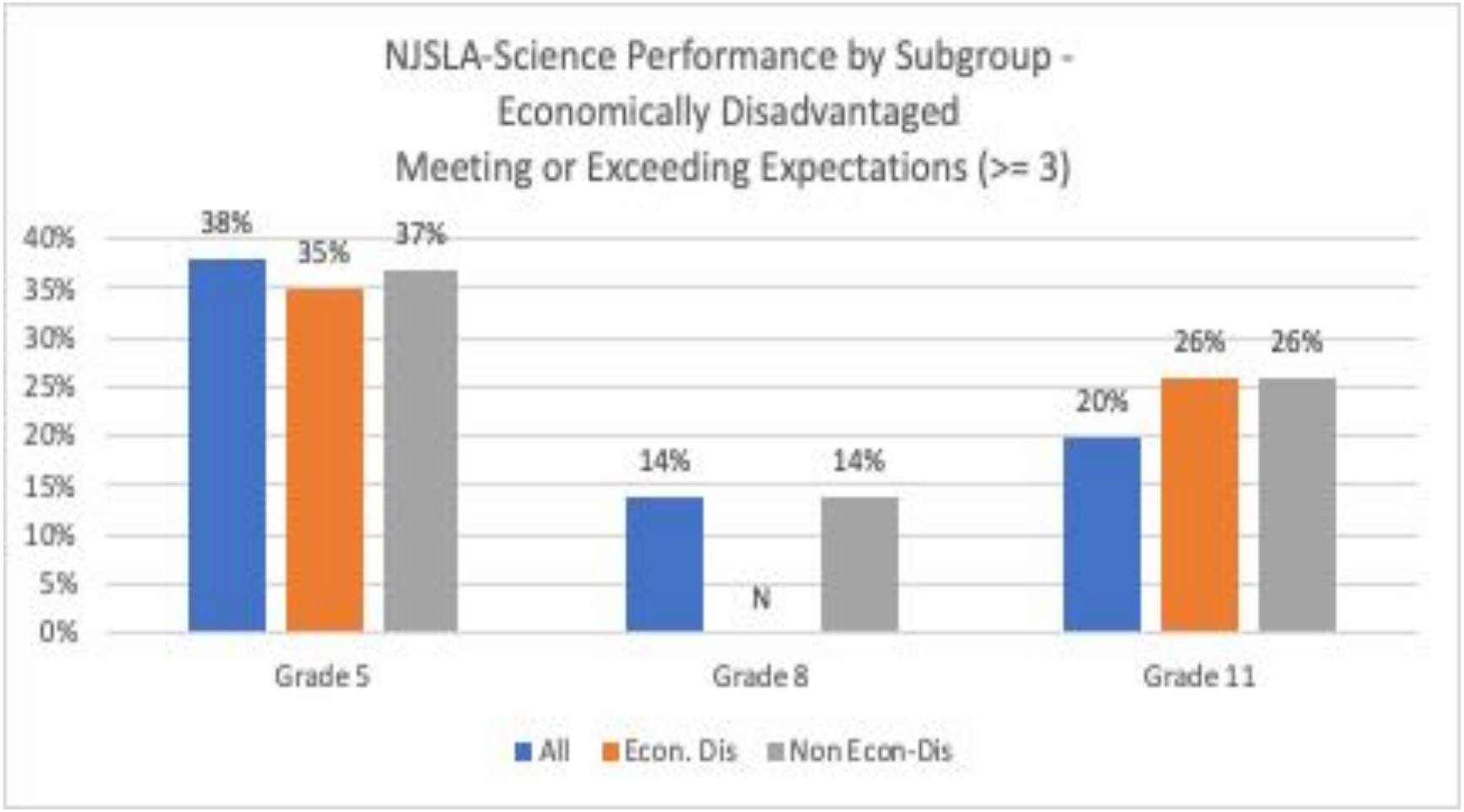
Wood-Ridge School District's
Spring 2019 Administration
Science by Subgroup - Race Performance



Wood-Ridge School District's
Spring 2019 Administration
Science by Subgroup - IEP & Section 504 Performance



Wood-Ridge School District's
Spring 2019 Administration
Science by Subgroup - Economic Disadvantage Performance



How can we use data from the NJSLA-Science?

- The NJSLA-Science data should be used to evaluate the district's science curriculum and school and classroom instruction.
  - **Step 1: Review the data. Each group will meet with building administration to review overall performance data of the school and of individual students' strengths and weaknesses.**
- This data, in combination with classroom level data collected through formative, summative, and benchmark assessments, can provide the district feedback on students' strengths and weaknesses with particular skills.
  - **Step 2: Become familiar with the test. Teacher and students should become familiar with the tests for their grade level.**
  - **Step 3: Create sample task based exercise on each unit that can be used throughout the year to reinforce learning.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did we need a new test?

- A new test was needed to measure the State's new, more rigorous science standards (NJSLS-Science) that are informing classroom instruction.
- The NJSLS-Science standards were adopted by the State in 2014. The timeline for transition to the new standards for districts required full implementation in grades 6-12 by September 2016 and full implementation in grades K-5 by September 2017.

When will the NJSLA-Science scores be utilized in NJQSAC?

- NJQSAC for school year 2021-2022 will be the first year in which results from the NJSLA-Science will be factored into NJQSAC, utilizing the results from the 2020-2021 administration of the assessment.

Does a student have to pass the NJSLA-Science to graduate?

- The NJSLA-Science is not a state graduation assessment requirement.

Why do NJSLA-Science scores look different from those of the previous state science tests?

- The NJSLA-Science assessment reflects new expectations outlined in the new science standards, the NJSLS-Science, which focuses on the application of science knowledge and skills.
- The prior assessment, New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK), emphasized the memorization of content.

How can schools and districts use data from the NJSLA-Science?

- The NJSLA-Science data should be used to evaluate the district's science curriculum and school and classroom instruction.
- This data, in combination with classroom level data collected through formative, summative, and benchmark assessments, can provide schools and districts feedback on students' strengths and weaknesses with particular skills.
- The reports can be used as a catalyst for conversation and exploration of questions such as, but not limited to;
  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the effectiveness of our program for English Language Learners, students who receive special education services, gifted and talented, general education students, and/or students who qualify for free or reduced lunches?
  - What do the patterns in the data suggest about the allocation of time and resources to our science program?

What resources are available for further support?

- The NJDOE Office of Standards has a repository of various resources to help support educators and districts with the implementation of the NJSLS-Science:
  - https://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/science/mc.htm
- NJSLA-Science practice tests are also available online at the following site:
  - https://measinc-nj-science.com/
- The NJDOE plans to continue to develop additional resources, such as K-12 instructional units based on the 2020 NJSLS-Science and connect educators with free resources and course materials.