

# Instructional Data Warehouse News

June 22, 2023

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## Third Party Tests—NWEA, STAR, iReady Patterns of proficiency mirrored State results in 2022— What's in store for 2023?

by Fred Cohen

First, let's remember that recent results for the NYS Grade 3-8 Assessments have been less aligned, grade to grade, than in pre-pandemic years. This was especially true in ELA for grades 3-6. Just look at the results for 2022, first for the Nassau County Region, and then for NYS. Notice the significantly lower proficiency rate for Grade 5. You might wonder why, especially in 2022, Grade 5 would have a 21% lower proficient rate than Grade 6. (See highlighted red square.)

### Nassau County Region (Instructional Data Warehouse Snapshot 2021-22)

Related Report Links												
Subject	Test	# L1	# L2	# L3	# L4	Total	L3+L4	% L1	% L2	% L3	% L4	L3+L4%
ELA	<a href="#">Grade 3 ELA</a>	949	3,093	5,760	1,141	10,943	6,901	9%	28%	53%	10%	63%
	<a href="#">Grade 4 ELA</a>	1,325	3,179	3,439	2,776	10,719	6,215	12%	30%	32%	26%	58%
	<a href="#">Grade 5 ELA</a>	1,794	3,455	2,870	2,433	10,552	5,303	17%	33%	27%	23%	50%
	<a href="#">Grade 6 ELA</a>	1,378	1,554	2,562	4,513	10,007	7,075	14%	16%	26%	45%	71%

Is it possible that Nassau County faced unique circumstances that compromised a sample as large as 10,000 plus students? To check, we looked at an even larger sample—NY State. Though lower percentages of students are proficient, the same pattern is evident. Remember, too, that a lower percentage of students, statewide, opted out.

### New York State Report Card 2021-22

Grade	Total	Not Tested		Tested		Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Proficient (Levels 3 & 4)	
	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Grade 3	182,578	25,392	14%	157,186	86%	29,344	19%	55,062	35%	63,354	40%	9,426	6%	72,780	46%
Grade 4	185,949	27,643	15%	158,306	85%	38,732	24%	53,851	34%	39,207	25%	26,516	17%	65,723	42%
Grade 5	187,945	30,129	16%	157,816	84%	46,476	29%	51,812	33%	34,641	22%	24,887	16%	59,528	38%
Grade 6	190,059	35,588	19%	154,471	81%	37,308	24%	29,681	19%	36,928	24%	50,554	33%	87,482	57%

In Nassau County, the 6th Grade proficiency rate was 42% higher than the 5th Grade rate, and, in New York State, the imbalance was even greater with a proficiency rate for 6th graders 50% higher than for 5th graders. The sample size for NY State was over 150,000 students per grade. Pre-pandemic numbers were out of balance too, but to a lesser degree. One might wonder what third party tests looked like in 2021-22? What did the projections from NWEA, iReady, and STAR suggest? Did their psychometricians predict such a disparity, and what is in store for 2023?



### Upcoming IDW Events

#### IDW Trainings:

**Late July and early August are ideal times to review all IDW reports by calling one of the IDW trainers listed at the end of the newsletter.**



Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

**Questions? Contact:** Stephanie Witt, Supervisor II, Instructional Data Warehouse  
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Unfortunately, we only have limited sets of data for these third party assessments. We can't tally up the districts who use each separate assessment in Nassau County, and we surely can't see NY State totals. What we can do is to look at many individual districts to see if similar patterns emerge. We also have the advantage of seeing three iterations of these tests each year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). But we must recognize that the **2022-23 NY State Assessments were based on the "Next Generation Learning Standards"** and not the Common Core Learning Standards used up until 2022. SED makes clear that the **2022-23 assessments will, therefore, not be comparable to 2022 assessments.**

When the Common Core was introduced in 2012-13, the drop in proficiency scores caused a public outcry; *Newsday* had a field day noting the "inflated" proficiency scores previously achieved. See the two Regional Snapshots below which dramatize the falloff in ELA scores. Math score changes were similar.

#### 2011/2012 NYS Snapshot - Regional

Related Report Links												
Subject	Test	# L1	# L2	# L3	# L4	Total	L3+L4	% L1	% L2	% L3	% L4	L3+L4%
ELA	<a href="#">Grade 3 ELA</a>	963	3,173	8,791	1,965	14,892	10,756	6%	21%	59%	13%	72%
	<a href="#">Grade 4 ELA</a>	557	3,223	10,007	1,224	15,011	11,231	4%	21%	67%	8%	75%
	<a href="#">Grade 5 ELA</a>	772	3,236	9,529	1,306	14,843	10,835	5%	22%	64%	9%	73%
	<a href="#">Grade 6 ELA</a>	839	3,773	10,424	731	15,767	11,155	5%	24%	66%	5%	71%
	<a href="#">Grade 7 ELA</a>	611	4,472	9,652	864	15,599	10,516	4%	29%	62%	6%	67%
	<a href="#">Grade 8 ELA</a>	585	4,887	9,911	515	15,898	10,426	4%	31%	62%	3%	66%

#### 2012/2013 NYS Snapshot - Regional

Related Report Links												
Subject	Test	# L1	# L2	# L3	# L4	Total	L3+L4	% L1	% L2	% L3	% L4	L3+L4%
ELA	<a href="#">Grade 3 ELA</a>	3,214	4,758	5,672	1,030	14,674	6,702	22%	32%	39%	7%	46%
	<a href="#">Grade 4 ELA</a>	2,949	5,630	4,194	2,166	14,939	6,360	20%	38%	28%	14%	43%
	<a href="#">Grade 5 ELA</a>	3,265	5,302	4,404	2,010	14,981	6,414	22%	35%	29%	13%	43%
	<a href="#">Grade 6 ELA</a>	2,567	6,067	3,205	3,040	14,879	6,245	17%	41%	22%	20%	42%
	<a href="#">Grade 7 ELA</a>	3,295	5,739	4,707	1,966	15,707	6,673	21%	37%	30%	13%	42%
	<a href="#">Grade 8 ELA</a>	2,628	5,439	4,779	2,518	15,364	7,297	17%	35%	31%	16%	47%

No one expects such dramatic changes for 2023. Some predict higher proficiency rates. Scores will also be affected by the introduction of computer based testing in many districts. So how can districts measure their progress when the standards on which the tests were based are different, and, for some, the method of testing changed from pencil and paper to computers? What is interesting is that two of the three third party test providers, NWEA and STAR, continue to project proficiency on the 2023 assessments despite the change in learning standards. **i-Ready, however, declined to issue NY State projections** for their assessment scores.

A look at the 2022-23 third-party assessments shows the same falloff in scores in Grade 5 and the ensuing bump in Grade 6. Does this suggest that Grade 5 instruction has been inferior to Grade 6 or are third party vendors simply reflecting the same misalignment in proficiency levels inherent in recent State assessments?

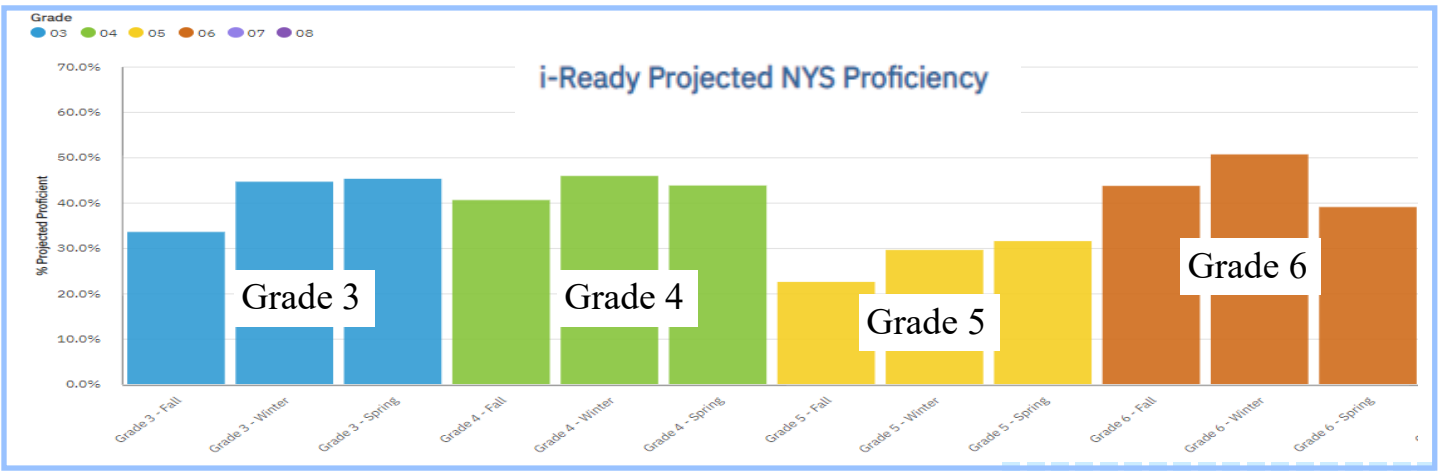
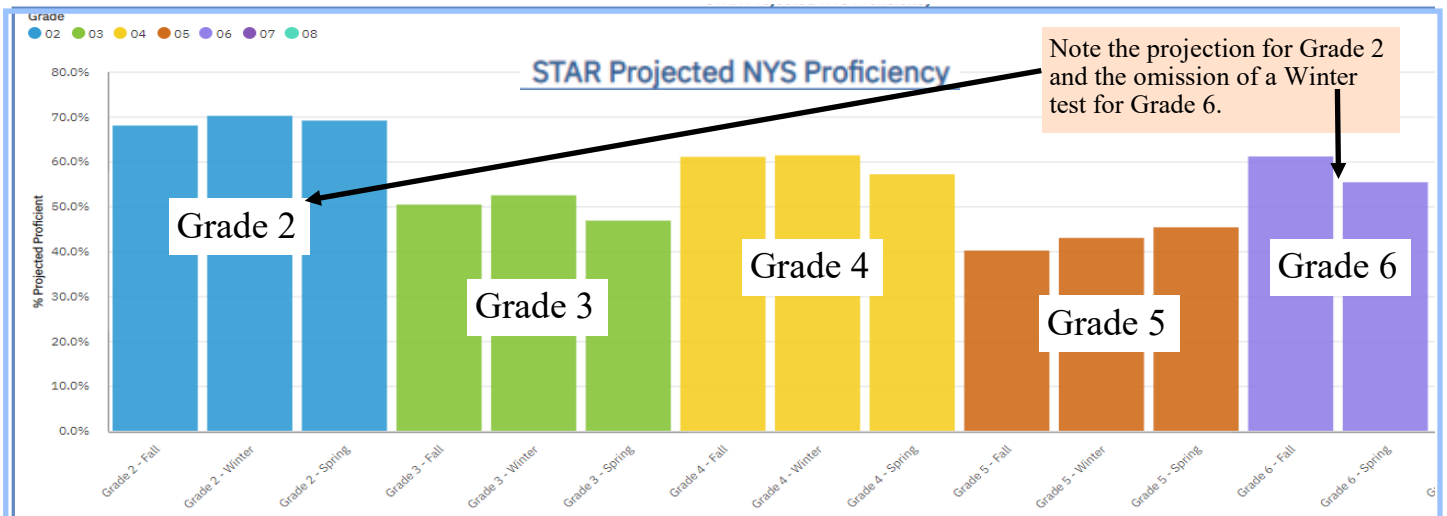
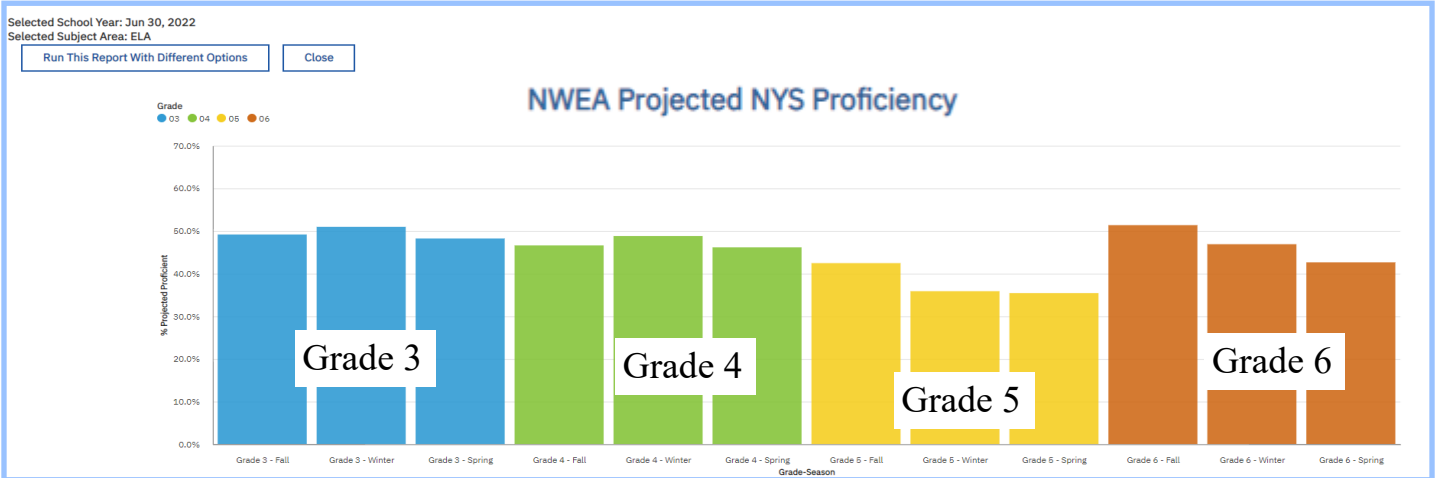


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Below is a sampling of three districts and their projected scores for 2022 showing each of the three vendors. Each different color represents the three tests (Fall, Winter, Spring) given in 2022. Note especially, Grade 5 and 6 discrepancies. The differences in projected proficiency levels are similar to the County's on Page 1.



Most districts have not posted their Spring 2023 tests yet, and i-Ready, due to the change in learning standards for 2023, is not projecting State proficiency for the current school year delaying their projections until 2024. The pattern for Grades 5 and 6 for ELA, however, is unchanged for this year's third party tests. **Students in most districts are projected to earn lower than average proficiency rates in Grade 5 (compared to the other grades) and higher than average proficiency rates in Grade 6.**

Many of us can remember just a few years ago when tests were vertically aligned from grade to grade and tests standards were consistent from year to year. In such an environment, checking instructional progress was easy. This year, we also have the shift to computer based testing and the effects of the pandemic to consider. Clearly, checking grade level and student progress is an immense challenge for administrators. Let us hope that 2023 proves to be a reliable base year to serve as a standard to check progress for future years, We need stable, consistent, and vertically aligned assessments to successfully monitor our instructional programs. Let's hope we get them.

As always, IDW personnel are available to provide telephone assistance as well as virtual and in-district training for any district seeking to learn more about this newsletter, or about other best data practices. To schedule a training session or ask any IDW-related questions, please call Stephanie Witt at (516) 608-6623, Tammy Mazza at (516) 608-6633, Fred Cohen at (516) 608-6640 or Dr. Wanda Toledo at (516) 608-6648.

### ***What's New in the IDW?***

- **The 2023 preliminary 3-8 ELA and Math reports are now available. Reports include Gap, Item Analysis, WASA and student raw score report. Links to the test questions are available. The path to the reports is Reports > Preliminary 3-8 Reports > Prior to Official Scoring.**
- **Don't forget to view the full suite of IDW Reports for third party examinations**
- **Fall, Winter and Spring NWEA, Star, and i-Ready assessments have now been completed Don't forget to send Nassau BOCES your updated data for inclusion in IDW Reports**



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