

Differences with the 3-8 ELA and Math Release on The Public Data Site and Data in the Level 2 Data Warehouse

Release of Preliminary 3-8 and Final Annual Assessment Data

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) releases preliminary Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessment results annually since the onset of the 3-8 assessments in 2006 by Commissioner Richard Paul Mills. The public reporting of preliminary Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Assessment results on the public data site began with the 2013-14 school year assessment results. The 2019 press release on August 22, 2019, "Measuring Student Proficiency in Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics" is publicly reported on NYSED's public data site, data.nysed.gov. The data in the media release is displayed on the public data site in two separate reports, the "NY STATE GRADES 3-8 ELA ASSESSMENT DATA" and the "NY STATE GRADES 3-8 MATH ASSESSMENT DATA" Report.

The "NY STATE GRADES 3-8 ELA ASSESSMENT DATA" and the "NY STATE GRADES 3-8 MATH ASSESSMENT DATA" Report are the only reports on the public data site that are based on preliminary assessment data. Preliminary assessment data is assessment data is the data initially submitted by schools and districts as of July 25, 2019. The date of the preliminary data extract is identified and displayed on the landing page of the annual report on the public data site. The public data site provides the reports and the data behind the reports in the form of database downloads.

Understanding the Grades 3-8 media release and NY State Grades 3-8 Assessment Data reports

The landing page of the 2019 reports, states: "Data available on this site are based on those reported by schools and districts to the State as of July 25, 2019 via the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). The New York State School Report Card 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics assessment data will be based on those data reported as of the final school year reporting deadline."

The report of Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessment data is completed with preliminary data extracts from July 25, 2019 to meet reporting timelines, to

provide access to aggregate assessment data to districts, schools and public in a timely manner.

In the time period between the preliminary July 25, 2019 data extract that is used to complete the news release and 3-8 assessment reports, data is refreshed daily and may reflect changes until the close of the NYSED Level 2 Data Warehouse (L2DW). This year, the 2018-19 L2DW closed on Friday, August 23, 2019. At that time, the annual school year data is locked. The locked data set is then captured in a final extract to be used for the reporting of remaining 2018-19 Student and School Data.

There are two different student data reports, 3-8 Assessment Data reports and the Enrollment Data report. Both student data reports are based on a preliminary data extract. The preliminary extract for the enrollment report is different than the preliminary extract for the 3-8 Assessment Data reports. The Enrollment Data report uses counts as of the Basic Education Data System (BEDS) Day, which is the first Wednesday in October. This report shows data "as of BEDS Day" and does not report final, end-of-year data. Districts and schools see differences in their enrollment data with the BEDS Day extract and their final end-of-year enrollment data in SIRS.

School Data Reports include, the School Report Card, High School Graduation Rate, High School Graduation Pathway Data and Student and Educator Reports. Data in all school data reports are based on final, locked data and is captured in the data extract that reflects the locked data in the NYSED Level 2 Data Warehouse as of the closing of the warehouse. Institutional accountability of a district and school is reported in the School Report Card, based on the final locked data set.

Data Collection and Reporting Systems

NYSED provides districts and schools with additional systems for collecting and reporting of data. One additional reporting system is the Level 2 Reporting Environment (L2RPT). L2RPT is a secure data reporting environment that reflects statewide (Level 2) data housed in the Student Information Repository System (SIRS), are made available through distributed applications at the regional (Level 1) Data Centers and are aggregated to the region at which they are hosted.

L2RPT reports are designed to help districts verify a variety of demographic, enrollment, program, assessment and graduation data in support of accountability and other requirements, as well as Reasonableness reports designed to flag significant deltas between expected and actual outcomes or values.

Using the L2RPT system, districts may see the differences in preliminary 3-8 assessment data because the preliminary assessment data is static as of July 25, 2019. The same is true of the preliminary enrollment data as that is static as of Wednesday, October 3, 2018. The L2RPT system provides designated district users access to the status of live data until the data is locked on August 23, 2019.

Differences in Data

Because the media report of the Grades 3-8 Data is completed with preliminary data contained in the Level 2 data warehouse prior to the closing of the data warehouse, the information in the district's L2RPT environment refreshes daily to reflect updates in the student and school level data. Therefore, the data in the public media release and the "NY STATE GRADES 3-8 ELA ASSESSMENT DATA" and the "NY STATE GRADES 3-8 MATH ASSESSMENT DATA" reports will not exactly match with the School Report Card and the data in L2RPT. Likewise, the data in the School Report Card and all school data reports, will match what is in the district and schools L2RPT.

The difference between the 3-8 assessment reports and all School Data reports exists because 3-8 uses an extract of preliminary data and are reported prior to the closing of the data warehouse. The School Report Card are based on the final, complete, locked data set and are reported after the closing of the data warehouse. L2RPT is live data that is fluid during the active school year and then is static with locked data after the data warehouse closes.

Assessment, student outcomes, graduation pathway, student attendance, student suspension, staff counts, teacher attendance and teacher turnover data are all reported after the closing of the data warehouse and are based on the final, locked data set. We are publicly transparent with the difference in preliminary assessment data and final annual assessment data as seen on the public data site by looking at the 3-8 Assessment data reports and the annual assessment section in the School Report Card. The annual assessment section in the School Report

Card reflects what the district and school see in L2RPT after the closing of the data warehouse.

Differences in assessment data may occur for a variety of reasons. Some reasons include, but are not limited to, a superintendent's determination, scoring discrepancies approved by the Office of State Assessment and corrected in the summer cleanup process, and deltas from human and machine scored data files.

Why are districts seeing difference in data this year?

Last year, the 2018 Grades 3-8 media release and Assessment Data reports on data.nysed.gov were released in September 2018. The delay in reporting was due to the standard setting process that was necessary with the switch from 3 days of testing to 2. The 2018 data warehouse closed and locked the data on August 24, 2018. Although the 2018 Grades 3-8 media release used preliminary data, it occurred after the summer cleanup and closing of the data warehouse.

No Student, School or District is penalized by participating in Computer Based Testing (CBT)

When a district or schools sees updated data in L2RPT, they can see that neither the student or school is being penalized by participating in 3-8 ELA or Math CBT. For example, the preliminary 3-8 assessment data report on the public data site may show different numbers of students within each performance level than what an authorized designated user would see in L2RPT. The updated data in L2RPT reflects what is used for student and institutional accountability and is reported in the School Report Card.

More importantly, the student level data reflected in L2RPT is what is used by schools to generate the Individual Student Report (ISR), also known as the Parent Report. Again, that means that the parent is receiving their child's report based on the final assessment data from the Level 2 Data Warehouse, not what is displayed in the aggregate preliminary data displayed in the media release and the public data site. The closing and locking of data in the data warehouse ensures districts, schools, and public stakeholders receive final student and institutional accountability data via the School Report Card while still being able to have earlier access to preliminary 3-8 assessment scores in a media release and assessment data reports.