

NJSLA Science Results:
Spring 2019
Administrations
South Hackensack
School District

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.

South Hackensack School District's Number of Students Tested in Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations **Science**

Grade	Students Tested 2019
5	44
8	29
Total	73

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

South Hackensack School District's 2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes Science Grade 5 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of students at Level 3 and 4
Memorial School	27.3%	38.6%	22.7%	11.4%	34.1%

***34.1% of students were at a Level 3 or Greater**

South Hackensack School District's 2019 Spring NJSLA School- & Grade-Level Outcomes Science Grade 8 - Percentages

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	% of students at Level 3 and 4
Faust School	24.1%	65.5%	6.9%	3.4%	10.3%

***10.3% of students were at a Level 3 or Greater**

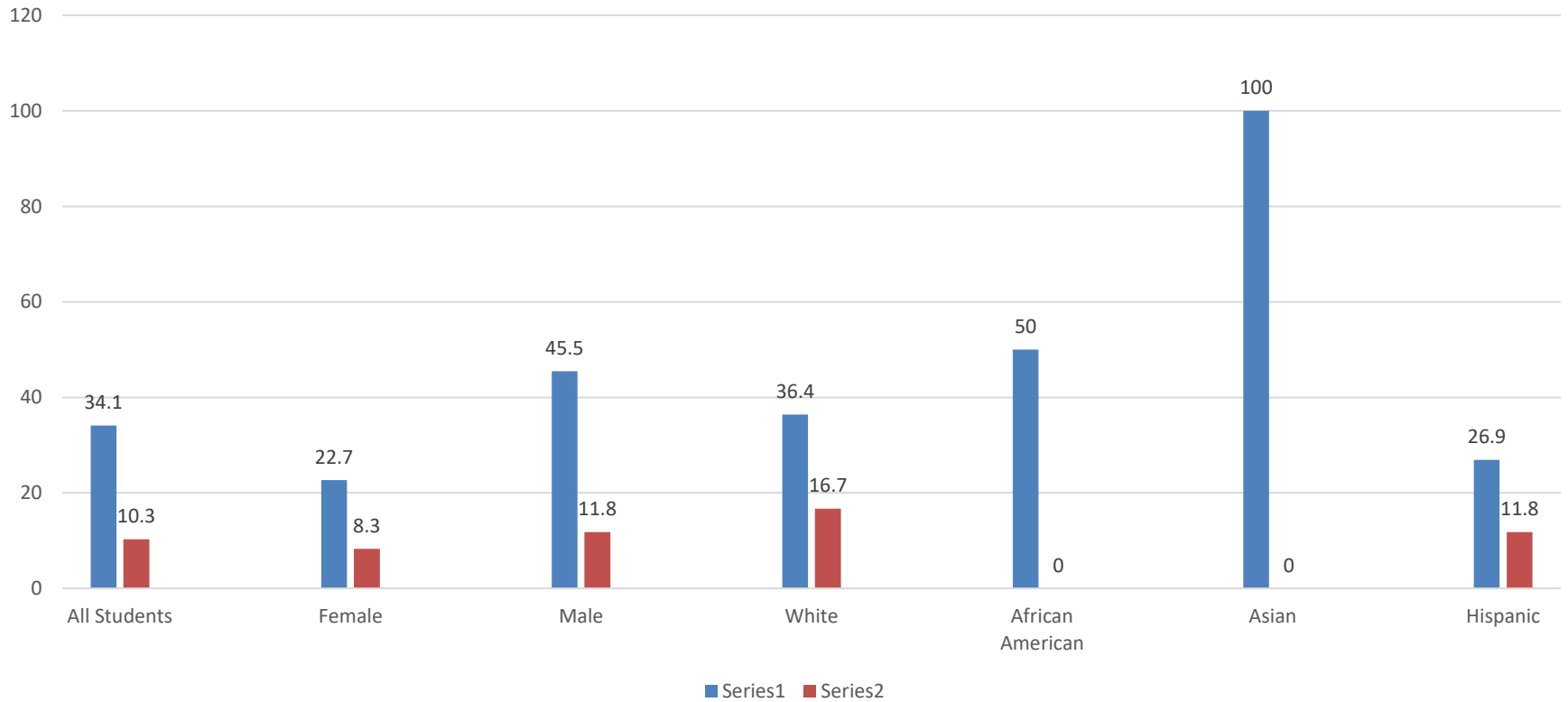
Comparison of South Hackensack School District's Spring 2019 NJSLA Administrations Science to New Jersey Percentages for 2019

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
5	27.3	34.8	38.6	36.0	22.7	22.7	11.4	6.6
8	24.1	35.7	65.5	44.5	6.9	15.3	3.4	4.5

Notes: Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Subgroup Charts

Science Performance by Race Subgroup \geq Level 3



Series 1 = Grade 5
Series 2 = Grade 8

South Hackensack's School District's Notable Achievements

- The District participated in a joint effort with other Jointure districts to rewrite the Science curriculum 4 years ago
- During the 2017-2018 and 2018 - 2019 school year the districts STEAM PLC geared its focus on creating a curriculum based on the standards of the NJSLS-S, formerly NGSS, and is using an integrated science model for the Middle School Grades
- Since the 2018-2019 school year, the District has implemented Elevate Science through Pearson to best fit the needs of the NJSLS-S
- At the middle school level, funds were allocated to provide updated lab equipment as well as materials to conduct more experiments
- The district also implemented a Kindergarten through Eighth Grade STEAM program to compliment the Science program
- Finally, the elementary school schedule has science 5 days per week at 40 minute periods

South Hackensack's School District's Intervention Strategies

- The district implemented the PLC method to ensure targeted and meaningful professional development for teachers
- At the middle school level, much emphasis is placed on Grade-band analysis of the Science and Engineering Practices (SEPs) as well as Analysis of assessments (tests, quizzes, labs, activities etc.)
- The district has focused on expanding reading intervention for tier two and tier three students at the elementary level
- Special education teachers and paraprofessionals have been pushing into Science classes to support struggling learners at both the elementary and middle School Level

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>
- NJSLSA-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.