



Science and Social Studies Tests Preliminary Results Spring 2015 Administration

Highlights

The new Ohio’s State Tests in science and social studies were administered for the first time during the 2014-2015 academic year. These tests were developed by Ohio educators in cooperation with the American Institutes for Research.

In September, the State Board of Education approved the recommended performance level scores as recommended by a panel of Ohio educators. Because these are new tests, the results should not be compared to results on the Ohio Achievement Assessments or the Ohio Graduation Tests.

The preliminary results of the spring 2015 test administration provide the basis for these highlights. Schools and districts have not verified these results. The final figures may differ due to rescoring, late scoring and other changes.

Numbers of Students Tested

Table 1 presents the total numbers of public school (including community school) students who took the science and social studies tests in the spring of 2015. High school end-of-course tests administered in the fall of 2015 are not included in these figures.

TABLE 1 – NUMBERS OF STUDENTS TESTED

Subject	Public Districts	Community Schools	Total Public
Grade 4 Social Studies	112,596	6,775	119,371
Grade 6 Social Studies	115,880	7,733	123,613
Grade 5 Science	115,663	7,214	122,877
Grade 8 Science	113,837	8,208	122,045
American Government	72,559	3,965	76,524
American History	108,536	6,637	115,173
Biology	Not tested in spring 2015		
Physical Science	96,284	4,832	101,116

Scale Score Ranges for Performance Levels

Table 2 provides the scaled scores associated with each of the five performance levels on each test for the spring 2015 administration. Unlike raw score cuts, scale score cuts are invariant and will apply to other test administrations despite using test forms comprised of different test items.

TABLE 2 – SCALE SCORE RANGES FOR ALL SUBJECTS AND PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Subject	Limited	Basic	Proficient	Accelerated	Advanced
Grade 4 Social Studies	621-686	687-699	700-724	725-750	751-800
Grade 6 Social Studies	541-675	676-699	700-724	725-754	755-829
Grade 5 Science	559-663	664-699	700-724	725-752	753-845
Grade 8 Science	575-673	674-699	700-724	725-765	766-868
American Government	642-686	687-699	700-724	725-738	739-774
American History	619-683	684-699	700-724	725-737	738-800
Biology	617-684	685-699	700-724	725-734	735-823
Physical Science	634-683	684-699	700-724	725-748	749-815

Preliminary Test Results

Tables 3 and 4 summarize the performance of Ohio public school students on the spring 2015 science and social studies tests. Students with individualized education programs (IEPs) and/or English language learner status are included in the figures.

TABLE 3 – RESULTS OF THE SPRING 2015 SCIENCE TESTS

Grade 5 Science									
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public	
		Count	Percent	61.6	Count	Percent	29.7	Count	Percent
Proficient or Above	Advanced	20,087	17.4		38.4	305		4.2	70.3
	Accelerated	26,168	22.6	684		9.5	26,852	21.9	
	Proficient	24,946	21.6	1,152		16.0	26,098	21.2	
Below Proficient	Basic	30,283	26.2	38.4	2,763	38.3	70.3	33,046	26.9
	Limited	14,179	12.3		2,310	32.0		16,489	13.4

Grade 8 Science									
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public	
		Count	Percent	63.5	Count	Percent	40.0	Count	Percent
Proficient or Above	Advanced	15,044	13.2		63.5	312		3.8	40.0
	Accelerated	31,594	27.8	1,233		15.0	32,827	26.9	
	Proficient	25,698	22.6	1,739		21.2	27,437	22.5	
Below Proficient	Basic	22,224	19.5	36.5	2,346	28.6	60.0	24,570	20.1
	Limited	19,277	16.9		2,578	31.4		21,855	17.9

Physical Science												
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public				
		Count	Percent		Count	Percent		Count	Percent			
Proficient or Above	Advanced	5,530	5.7		67.6	105	2.2		48.5	5,635	5.6	
	Accelerated	17,576	18.3			428	8.9			18,004	17.8	
	Proficient	41,985	43.6			1,809	37.4			43,794	43.3	
Below Proficient	Basic	19,526	20.3		32.4	1,316	27.2		51.5	20,842	20.6	
	Limited	11,667	12.1			1,174	24.3			12,841	12.7	

Biology ¹												
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public				
		Count	Percent		Count	Percent		Count	Percent			
Proficient or Above	Advanced											
	Accelerated											
	Proficient											
Below Proficient	Basic											
	Limited											

¹ Biology was not administered in spring 2015

TABLE 4 – RESULTS OF THE SPRING 2015 SOCIAL STUDIES TESTS

Grade 4 Social Studies												
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public				
		Count	Percent		Count	Percent		Count	Percent			
Proficient or Above	Advanced	6,458	5.7		72.7	75	1.1		46.0	6,533	5.5	
	Accelerated	27,318	24.3			555	8.2			27,873	23.3	
	Proficient	48,109	42.7			2,488	36.7			50,597	42.4	
Below Proficient	Basic	18,848	16.7		27.3	2,010	29.7		54.0	20,858	17.5	
	Limited	11,863	10.5			1,647	24.3			13,510	11.3	

Grade 6 Social Studies												
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public				
		Count	Percent		Count	Percent		Count	Percent			
Proficient or Above	Advanced	16,230	14.0		58.7	314	4.1		29.4	16,544	13.4	
	Accelerated	25,886	22.3			718	9.3			26,604	21.5	
	Proficient	25,914	22.4			1,240	16.0			27,154	22.0	
Below Proficient	Basic	20,050	17.3		41.3	1,505	19.5		70.6	21,555	17.4	
	Limited	27,800	24.0			3,956	51.2			31,756	25.7	

American Government												
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public				
		Count	Percent		Count	Percent		Count	Percent			
Proficient or Above	Advanced	3,489	4.8		60.4	116	2.9		43.8	3,605	4.7	
	Accelerated	8,540	11.8			223	5.6			8,763	11.5	
	Proficient	31,830	43.9			1,398	35.3			33,228	43.4	
Below Proficient	Basic	16,595	22.9		39.6	1,058	26.7		56.2	17,653	23.1	
	Limited	12,105	16.7			1,170	29.5			13,275	17.3	

American History										
PERFORMANCE LEVEL		Public Districts			Community Schools			Total Public		
		Count	Percent		Count	Percent		Count	Percent	
Proficient or Above	Advanced	21,487	19.8	68.6	643	9.7	47.7	22,130	19.2	67.4
	Accelerated	16,767	15.4		614	9.3		17,381	15.1	
	Proficient	36,195	33.3		1,906	28.7		38,101	33.1	
Below Proficient	Basic	18,535	17.1	31.4	1,500	22.6	52.3	20,035	17.4	32.6
	Limited	15,552	14.3		1,974	29.7		17,526	15.2	

Note: Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. The few students (fewer than 4 percent of the total) who did not take both the performance-based assessment and end-of-year sections of their tests were assigned scale scores based on the number of points earned on the sections taken.