

Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary

September 12, 2025

Agenda Item:	2025 Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress Results
State Board Goal:	Goal 2
State Board Role/Authority:	In addition to statutory responsibilities, the State Board of Education provides leadership for the system of education in Iowa.
Presenter(s):	Jay Pennington, Administrator Division of Teacher Quality and Innovation
Attachment(s):	One
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.
Background:	This information will provide an overview of the latest results from the spring 2025 Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress.

Iowa 2025 spring student assessment results



Spring 2025 assessment results from the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) for students in grades 3-11 show encouraging improvements in student achievement across most grade levels in English Language Arts (ELA) and science, while high school math proficiency rates continue to lag behind those of earlier grade levels.

Key Takeaways Since Last Year

Early Literacy Advancements: Following the enactment of landmark early literacy legislation in 2024, students who were in 3rd grade during the 2023-24 school year showed impressive gains as 4th graders in 2024-25, with proficiency **increasing 11 percentage points from last year**.

Math Needs: Overall math proficiency in high school grades is much lower than that of earlier grade levels, with differences ranging between **4 to 12 percentage points lower in high school**. Results do not show change beyond 1-2 percentage points since last year, reinforcing the need for the Math Counts Act passed in 2025.

Science Advancements: Since the inclusion of science proficiency in Iowa's new, unified school accountability system, students in 10th grade experienced strong proficiency gains, with **proficiency increasing 7 percentage points from last year**.

Long-term Results

ELA (tested grades 3-11): Since 2019, ELA results showed an **11 percentage point increase in grade 8**.

- Results also show a 5 percentage point increase in 4th grade, 6 percentage point increase in 6th grade, and 5 percentage point increase in 7th grade.

Math (tested grades 3-11): Since 2019, math results showed a **5 percentage point increase in 3rd grade**, but show a **5 percentage point decrease in 9th grade**.

- Results also show a 3 percentage point increase in 6th grade. All other grades are within 1-2 percentage points.

Science (tested grades 5, 8, and 10): Since 2019, science results showed a **12 percentage point increase in both 5th and 8th grade**.

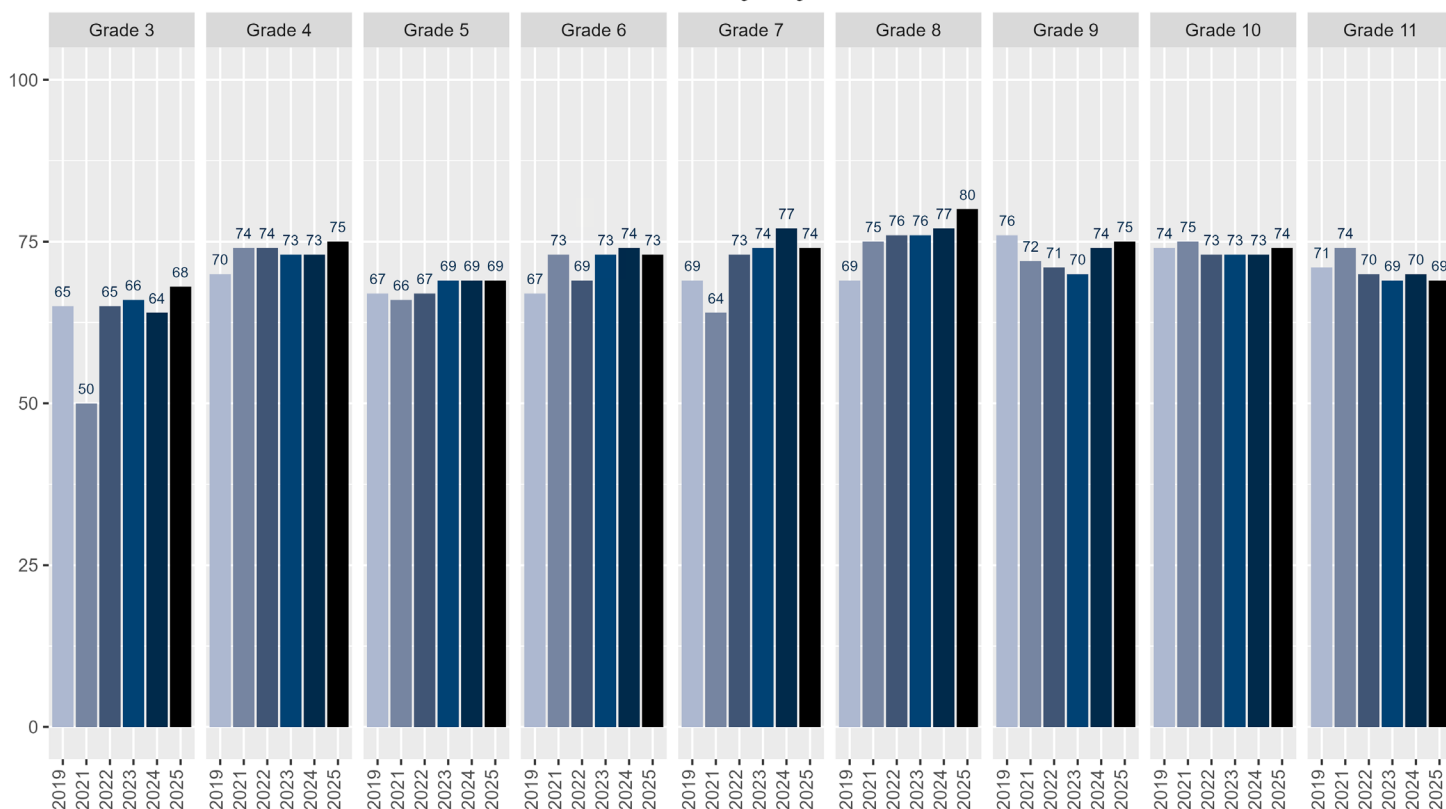
- Results also show a 3 percentage point increase in 10th grade, following recovery of declining proficiency in 2023 and 2024.

English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement

Spring 2025 ELA proficiency rates, compared to spring 2024, increased in five grades (3, 4 and 8-10), stayed the same in grade 5 and decreased in three grades (6, 7 and 11). The largest increases were in grade 3 (four percentage points) and grade 8 (three percentage points). The largest decrease was in grade 7 (three percentage points).

Comparing spring 2025 results to pre-pandemic results from 2019 indicate Iowa student achievement has overall rebounded to pre-pandemic levels in ELA achievement.

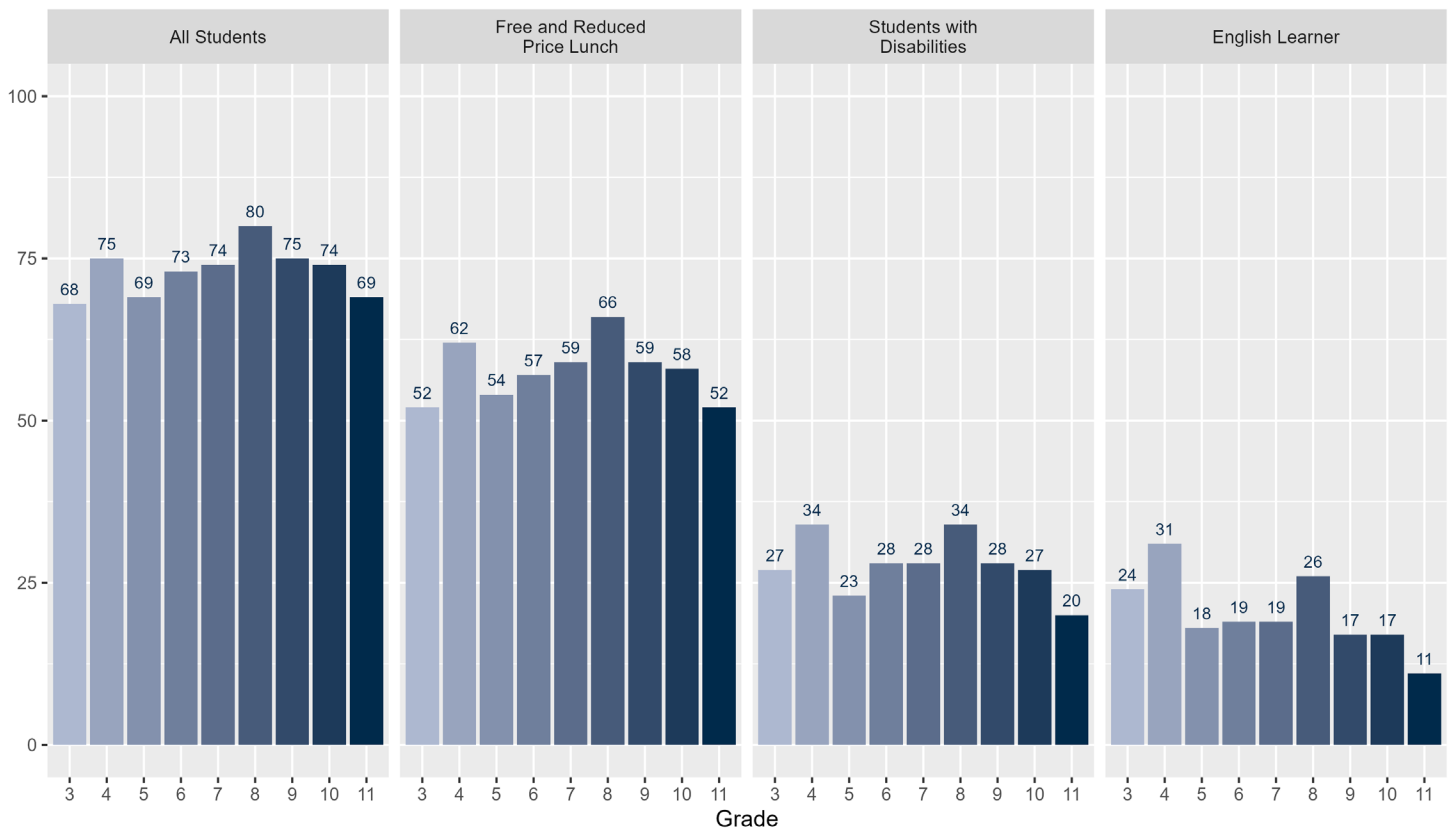
ISASP ELA Proficiency by Year - All Students



English Language Arts (ELA) results by student group

However, when broken down further, the 2025 ELA results show significant proficiency gaps between some student groups and their classmates, including students who were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (13 to 17 percentage point difference), students with disabilities (41 to 49 percentage point difference) and English learners (44 to 58 percentage point difference).

ELA - Percent Proficient or Above Spring 2025 by Student Group

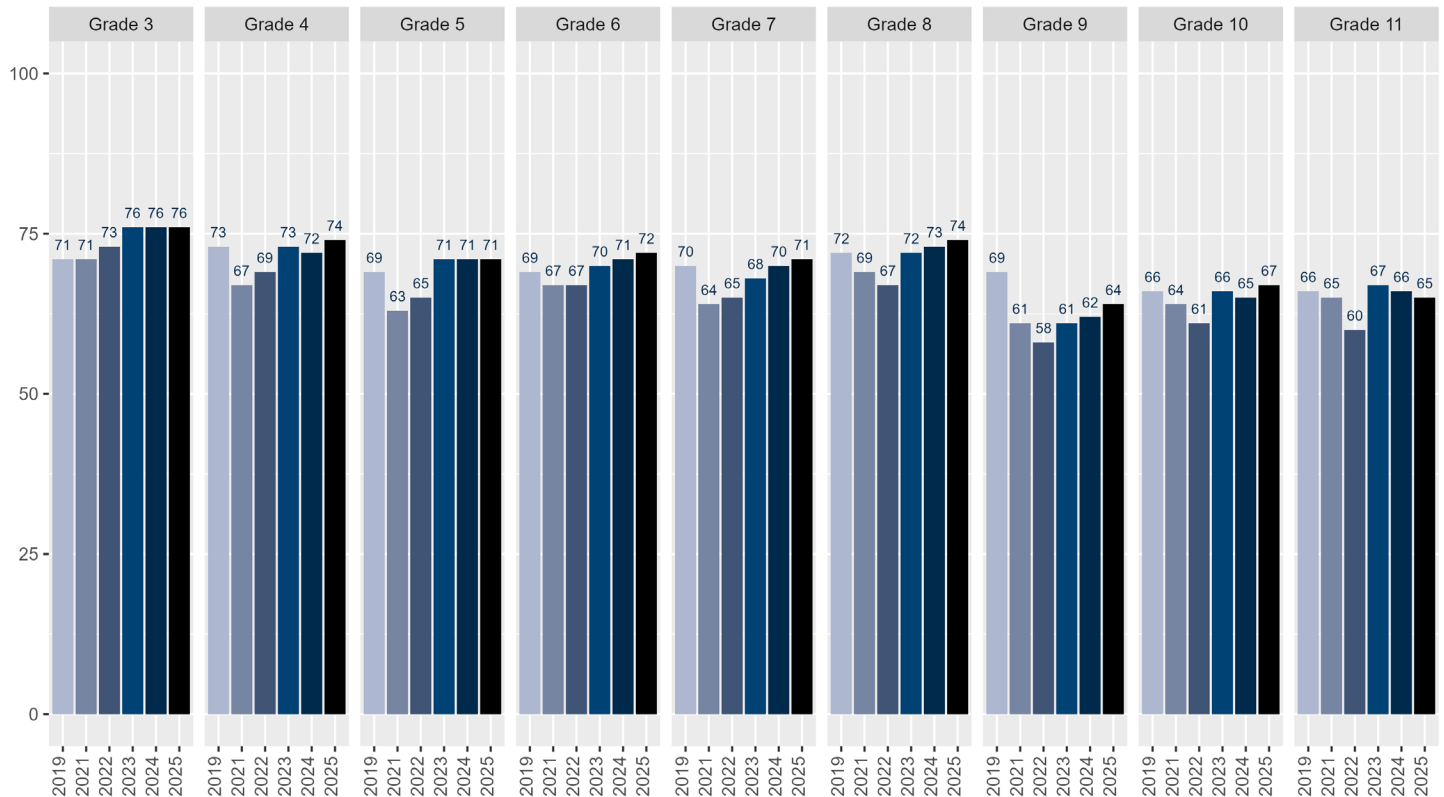


Math Achievement

Spring 2025 math proficiency rates, compared to spring 2024, increased in six grades (4 and 6-10), stayed the same in two grades (3 and 5) and decreased in grade 11. The changes were not large—no grade changed by more than two percentage points.

Overall, Iowa students' math achievement proficiency rates rebounded to 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

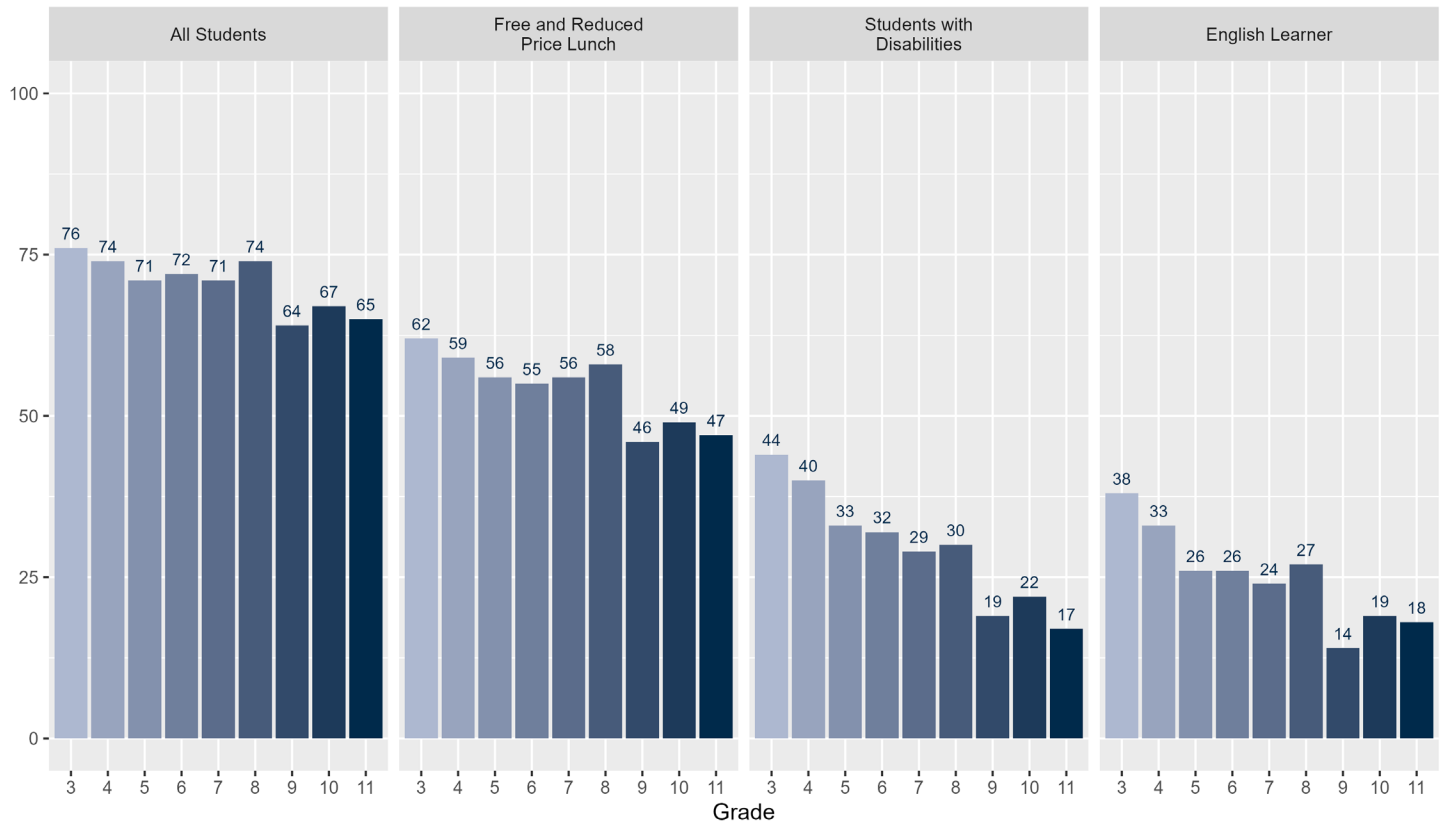
ISASP Math Proficiency by Year - All Students



Math results by student group

Like ELA, math results show significant proficiency gaps between some student groups and their classmates, including students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (14 to 18 percentage point difference), students with disabilities (32 to 48 percentage point difference) and English learners (38 to 50 percentage point difference).

Math - Percent Proficient or Above Spring 2025 by Student Group

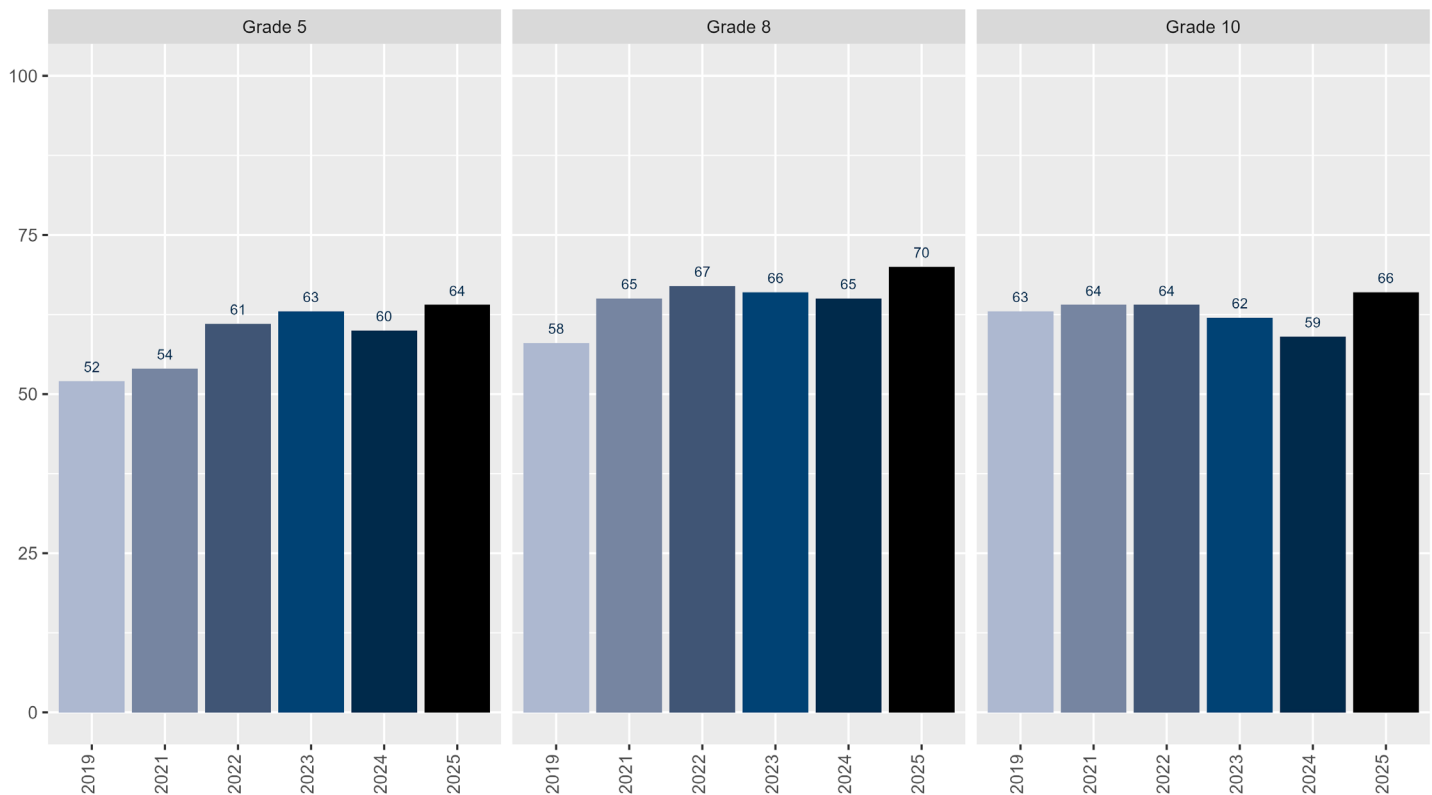


Science Achievement

Spring 2025 science proficiency rates, compared to spring 2024, increased in all three tested grades (5, 8 and 10). The changes were significant as each grade increased by between 4 to 7 percentage points.

Iowa students' science proficiency rates have rebounded and exceeded pre-pandemic levels across all three tested grade levels.

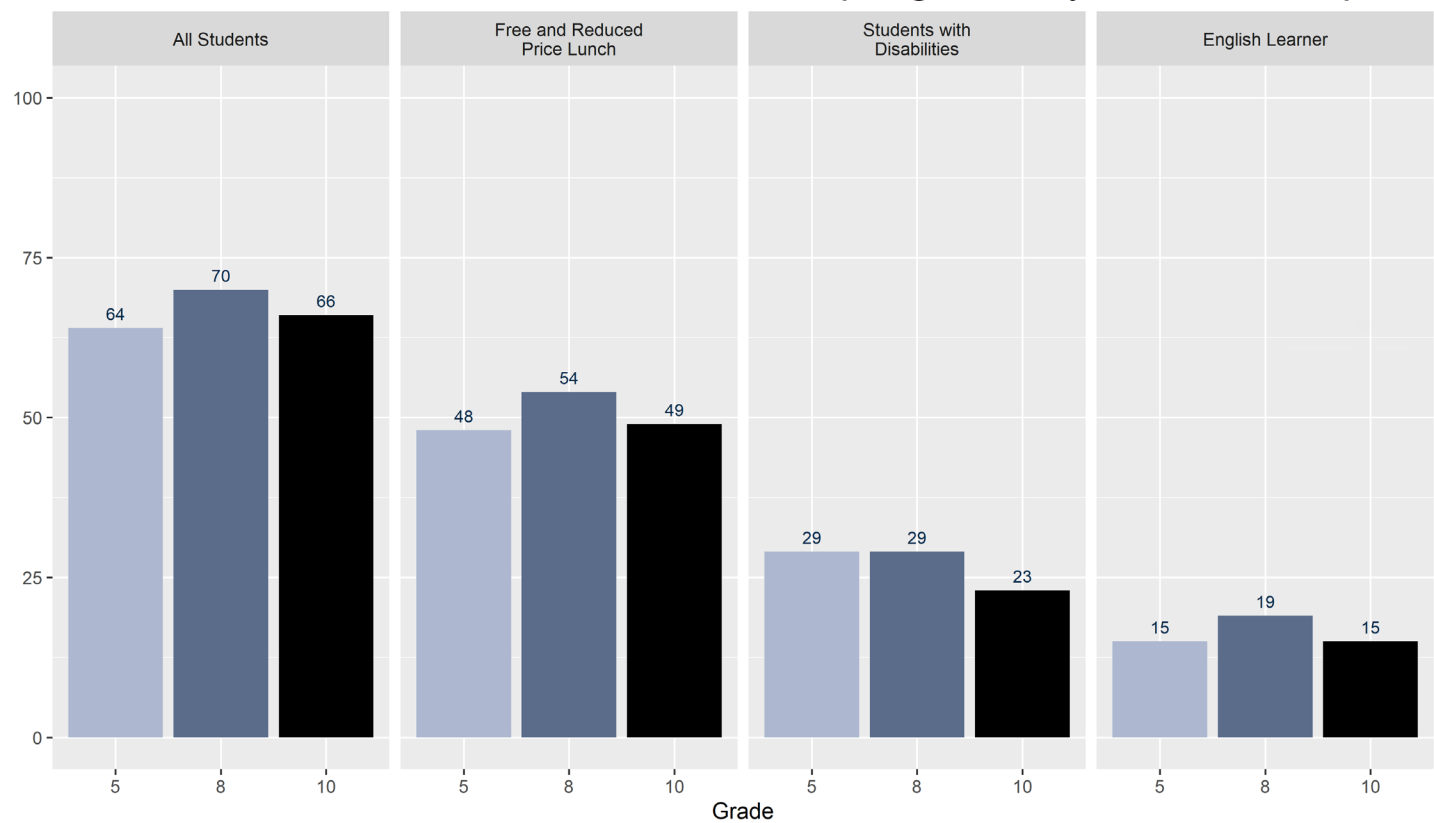
ISASP Science Proficiency by Year - All Students



Science results by student group

Like ELA and math, science results show significant proficiency gaps between some student groups and their classmates, including students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch (16 to 17 percentage point difference), students with disabilities (35 to 43 percentage point difference) and English learners (49 to 51 percentage point difference).

Science - Percent Proficient or Above Spring 2025 by Student Group



What is the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)?

The ISASP is administered each spring and is the general summative accountability assessment in Iowa that meets the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ISASP reflects what's being taught in Iowa classrooms and how students are progressing toward grade-level expectations outlined in Iowa's academic standards. The ISASP is a measure that helps teachers understand where students are succeeding and where they may need more help.

ISASP data will inform the Department's work to support school improvement and efforts to ensure resources are targeted to those communities, schools and students most in need.



**For more
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