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 ECRA GROUP

# 3 Things Your District Should Know About the New Illinois Proficiency Benchmarks

# New Illinois Proficiency Benchmarks



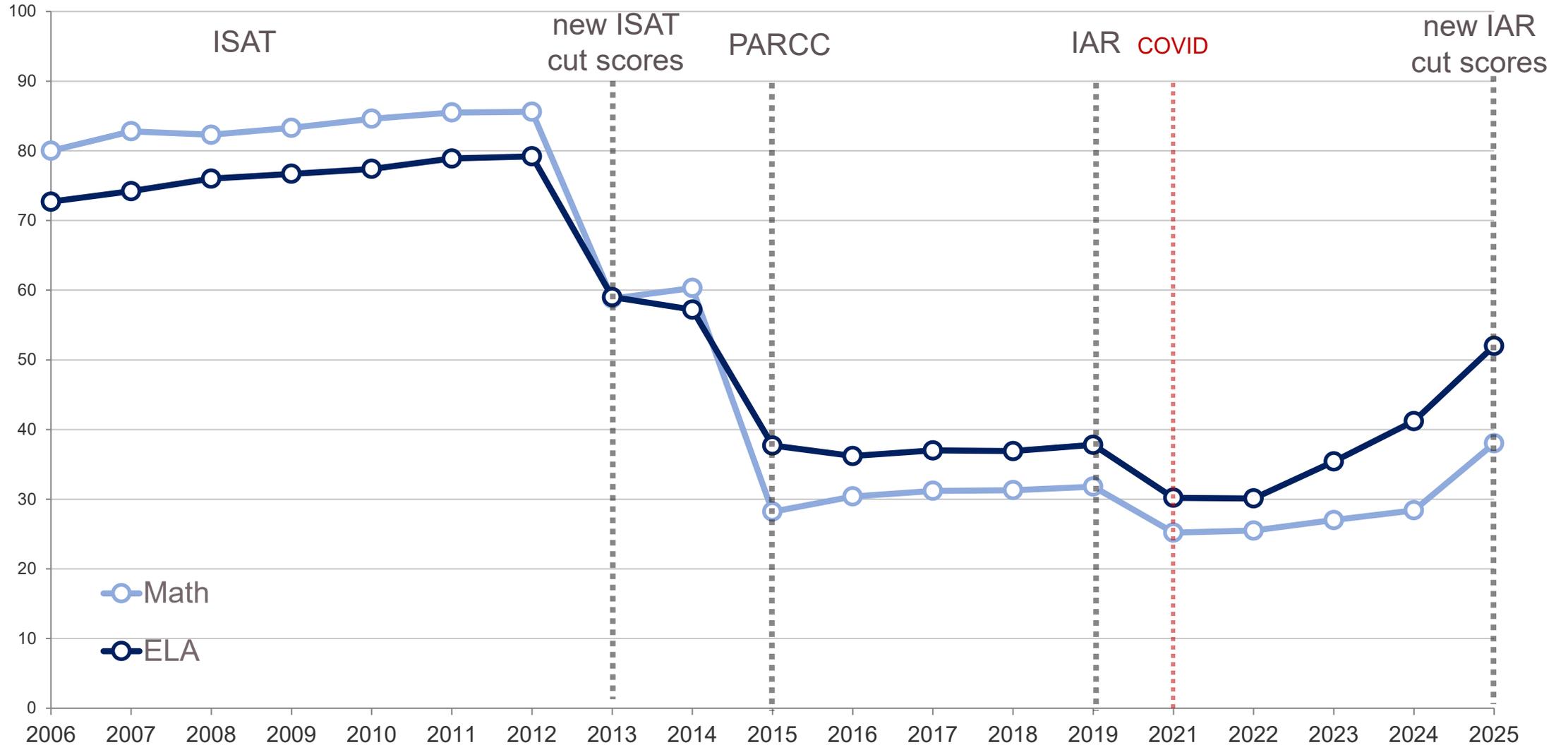
		ELA		Math		Science	
		Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
IAR & ISA	<b>Grade 3</b>	750	735	750	732		
	<b>Grade 4</b>	750	737	750	740		
	<b>Grade 5</b>	750	739	750	740	799	812
	<b>Grade 6</b>	750	741	750	742		
	<b>Grade 7</b>	750	743	750	745		
	<b>Grade 8</b>	750	745	750	745	799	812
ACT	<b>Grade 9*</b>	N/A	14	N/A	17	N/A	14
	<b>Grade 10*</b>	N/A	15	N/A	18	N/A	16
	<b>Grade 11*</b>	N/A	18	N/A	19	N/A	19

(\*Note: Illinois' high school assessment changed from SAT to ACT, starting with spring 2025 testing, so there are no prior ACT benchmarks to compare.)



# Illinois Proficiency Over Time (Grades 3-8)

\*NOTE: 2025 are projections based on 2024 distributions.





## Understanding the Difference Between “Proficiency” and “At Grade Level”

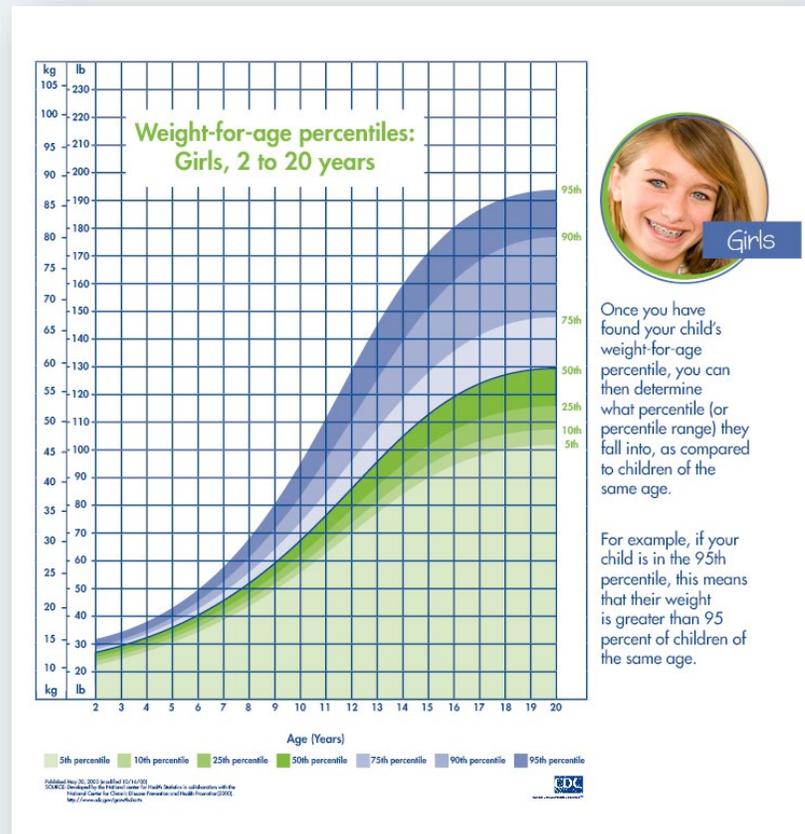
Proficiency is a policy construct that compares a student’s performance to a fixed aspirational standard.

At Grade Level is an empirical construct that compares a student’s performance to what is typical at a particular grade level.



# What Does it Really Mean to be at Grade Level?

## A motivating example for the use of percentiles.



Benefits of percentiles for board and public reporting

Percentiles are:

1. Simple
2. Contextual
3. Comparable



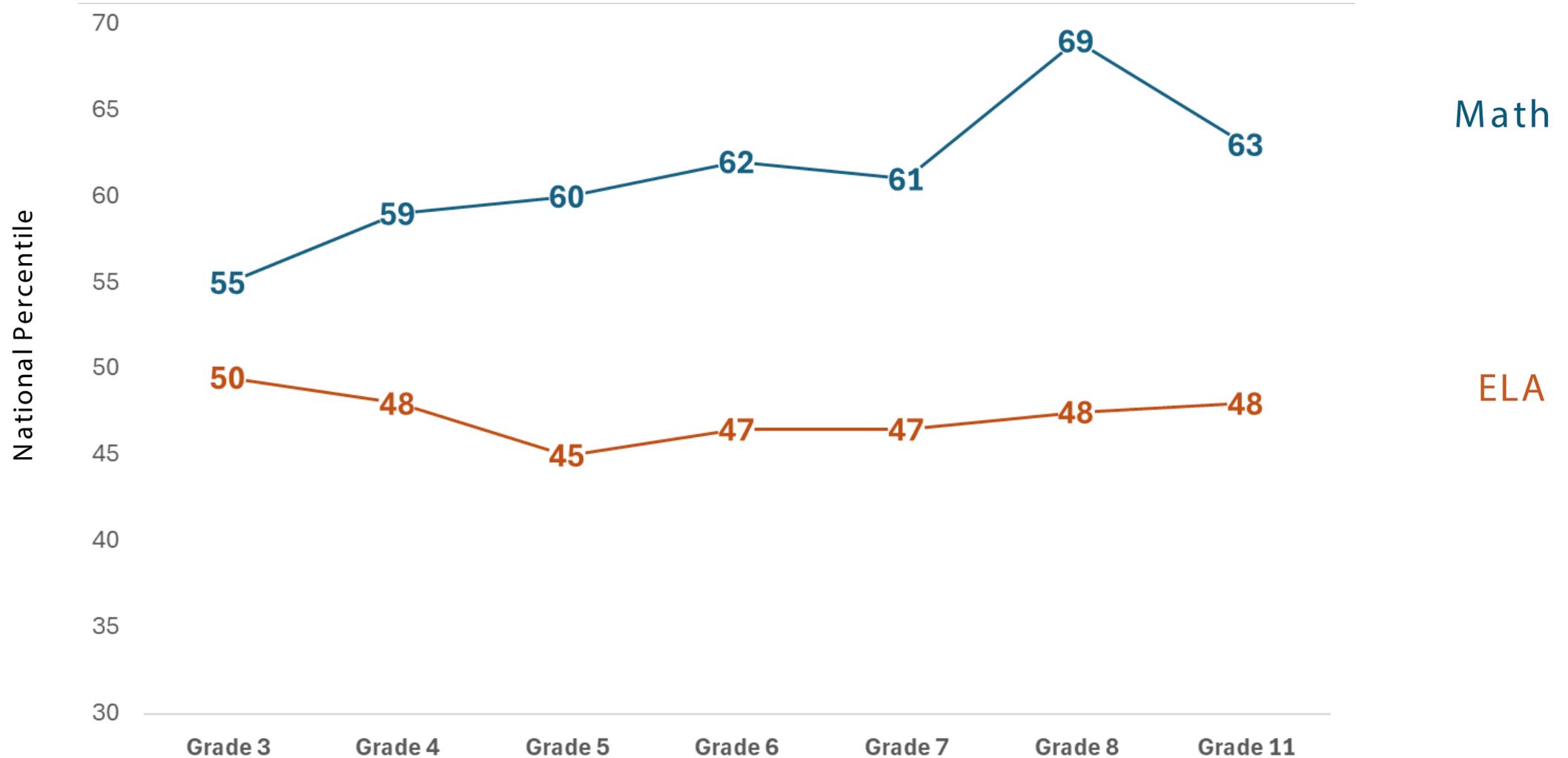
# The Three Most Important Things to Understand About the New Proficiency Benchmarks

1. There is significant variation in rigor across grades and subjects, ranging from the 45<sup>th</sup> national percentile to the 69<sup>th</sup> national percentile.
2. Most districts will see a steady drop in math proficiency from Grade 3 to Grade 8 that is unrelated to student, school, or district performance.
3. Most districts will show significantly higher proficiency in ELA compared to math, despite being equally competitive compared to the state and nation.

**1** There is significant variation in rigor across grades and subjects, ranging from the 45th national percentile to the 69th national percentile.



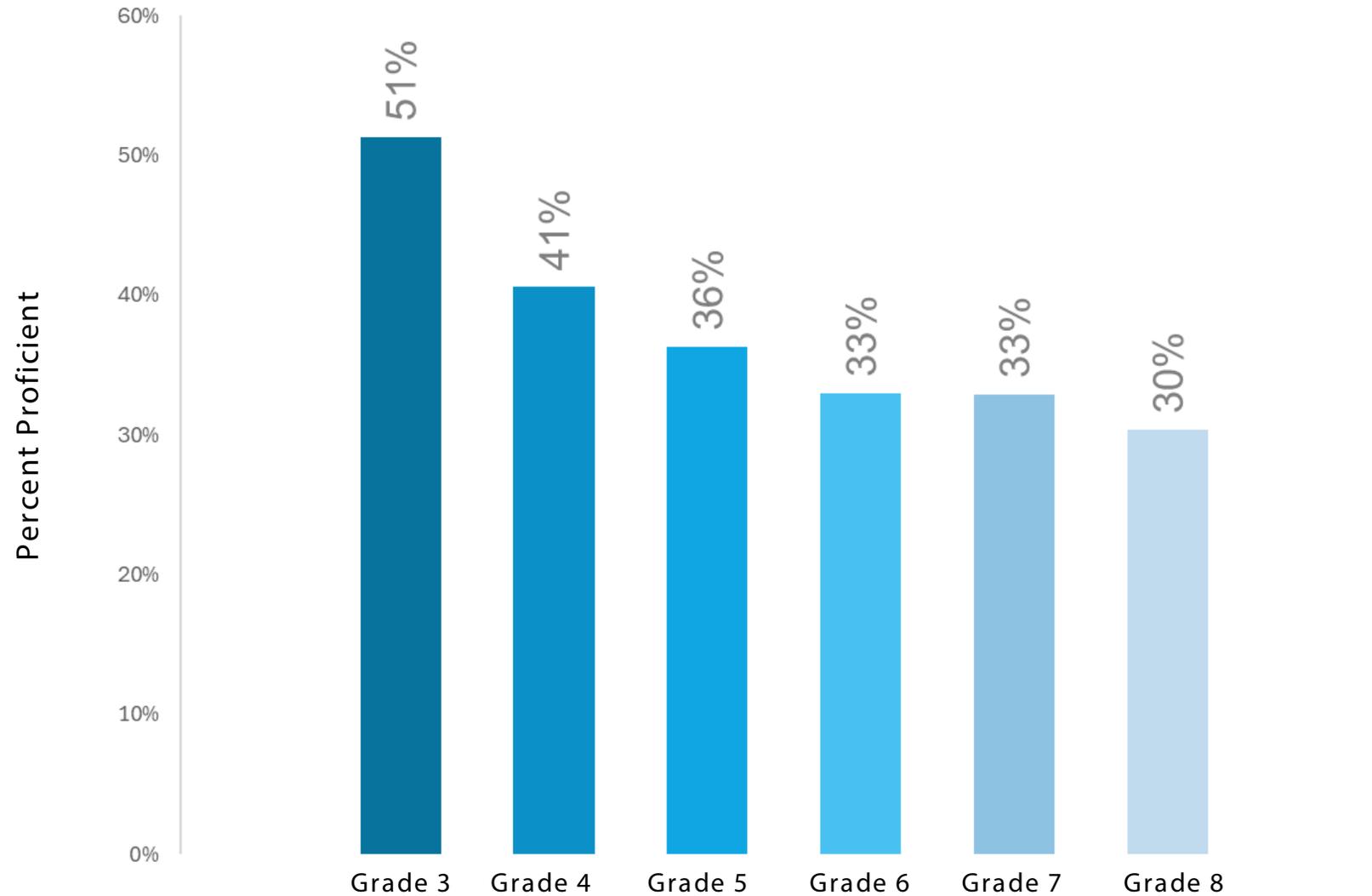
# National Percentiles Corresponding to New Illinois Proficiency Benchmarks



**2** Most districts will see a steady drop in math proficiency from Grade 3 to Grade 8 that is unrelated to student, school, or district performance.



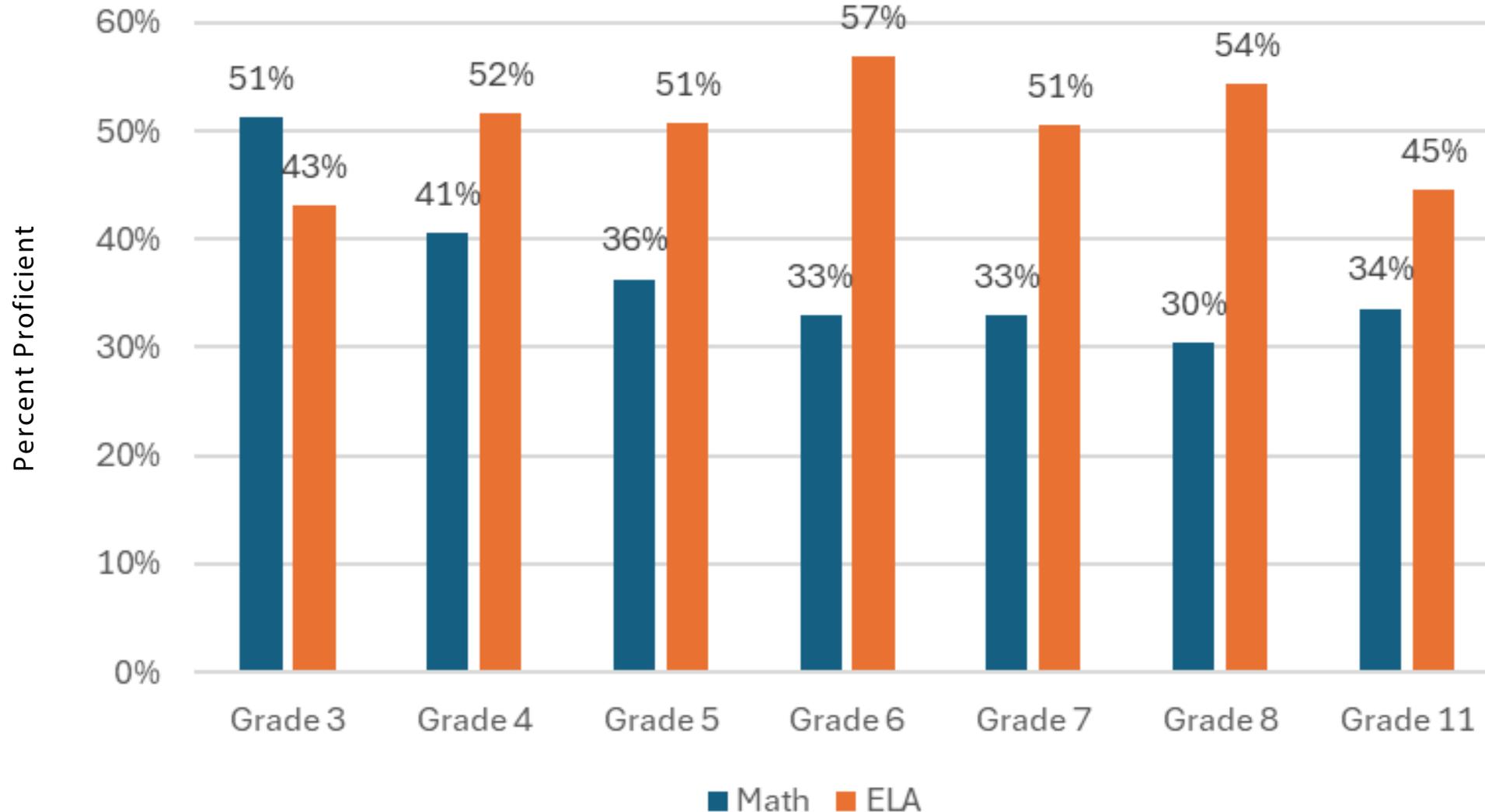
# Math Proficiency for New Benchmarks Applied to Statewide 2024 Distributions



**3** Most districts will show significantly higher proficiency in ELA compared to math, despite being equally competitive compared to the state and nation.



# Math Versus ELA Proficiency for New Benchmarks Applied to 2024 Statewide Distributions



**Guidance for how to interpret and communicate student proficiency under the new benchmarks.**



## Guidance

1. Do not compare student proficiency between grades or subjects.
2. When interpreting or communicating proficiency, report a state or national percentile alongside the percent proficient metric for context.
3. When evaluating or communicating district, school, or program performance, use student growth, not proficiency. Student growth is the most meaningful school improvement metric.

# How can ECRA help?





# Longitudinal Proficiency Analysis Based on New Illinois Benchmarks with Percentiles and 2026 Projections

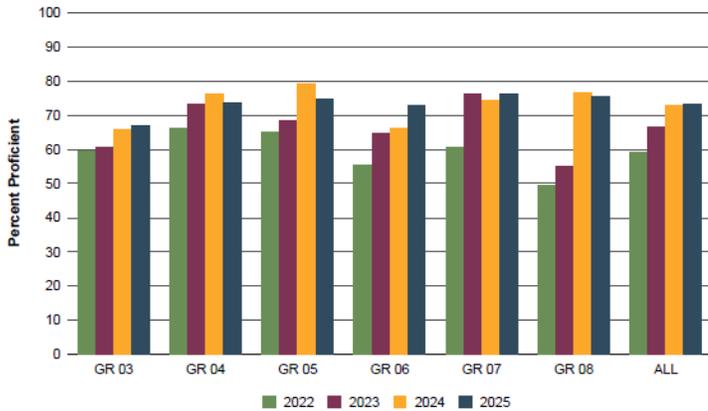
## Longitudinal Proficiency Analysis Based on New Illinois 2025 Benchmarks

District  
Sample School District

Subject  
ELA

### Longitudinal Proficiency by Grade (ISBE 2025 Benchmarks)

	GR 03	GR 04	GR 05	GR 06	GR 07	GR 08	ALL
2022 % Met	59%	66%	65%	56%	60%	49%	59%
2022 Percentile	59	63	61	47	55	45	55
2022 Count	586	588	579	594	582	587	3,516
2023 % Met	61%	73%	68%	65%	78%	55%	66%
2023 Percentile	62	68	65	58	71	51	62
2023 Count	560	599	601	577	599	582	3,518
2024 % Met	66%	76%	79%	66%	74%	77%	73%
2024 Percentile	68	70	73	55	70	65	67
2024 Count	600	582	579	607	588	592	3,528
2025 % Met	67%	73%	75%	73%	76%	76%	73%
2025 Percentile	69	70	70	66	70	70	69
2025 Count	619	612	568	585	603	601	3,578



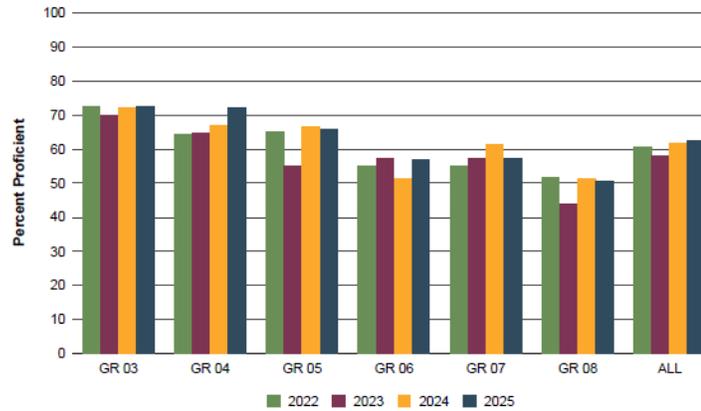
## Longitudinal Proficiency Analysis Based on New Illinois 2025 Benchmarks

District  
Sample School District

Subject  
Mathematics

### Longitudinal Proficiency by Grade (ISBE 2025 Benchmarks)

	GR 03	GR 04	GR 05	GR 06	GR 07	GR 08	ALL
2022 % Met	73%	64%	65%	55%	55%	52%	61%
2022 Percentile	68	70	71	68	69	67	69
2022 Count	583	588	576	594	578	586	3,505
2023 % Met	70%	65%	55%	57%	57%	44%	58%
2023 Percentile	65	71	66	70	71	64	68
2023 Count	561	599	600	575	598	579	3,512
2024 % Met	72%	67%	66%	51%	61%	51%	62%
2024 Percentile	68	72	74	67	73	70	71
2024 Count	601	562	578	604	587	590	3,522
2025 % Met	72%	72%	66%	57%	57%	51%	63%
2025 Percentile	67	74	71	69	70	70	70
2025 Count	618	612	555	585	603	600	3,573





# State Report Card Analysis

## State Percentile

## Comparative District

### Sample School District Illinois Report Card Analysis

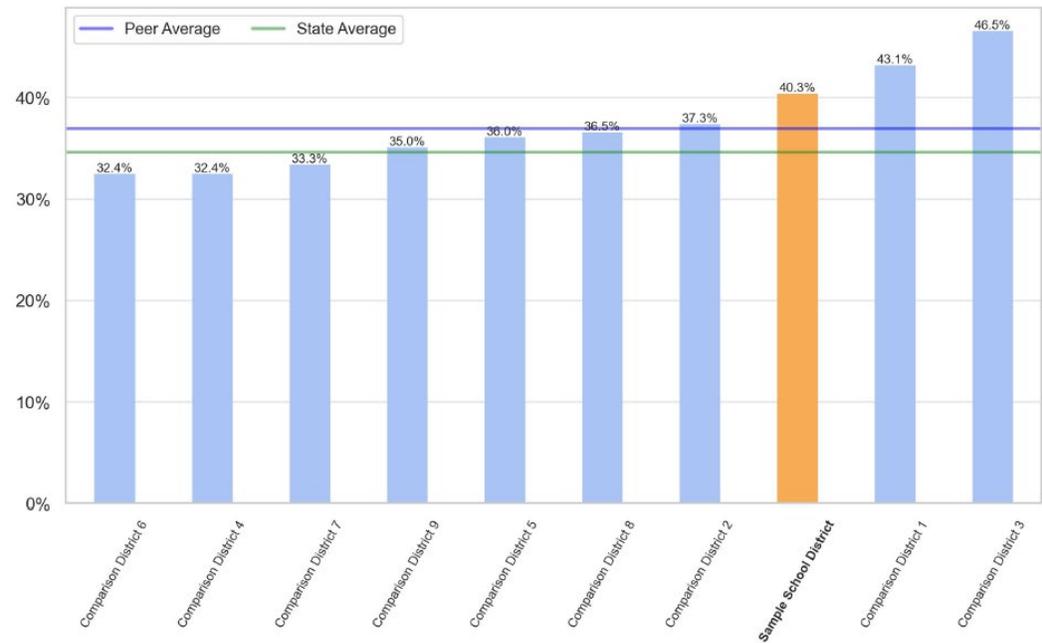
**Table 1. Student Achievement**

\* The state value columns report values at the 50th percentile across all districts in the state.

Indicator	State Value*	2022 District Value	District Percentile	State Value*	2023 District Value	District Percentile	Change 2022 to 2023 District Value	District Percentile
ELA Proficiency	28.6%	52.3%	91	33.8%	57.2%	90	+4.9%	-1
Math Proficiency	23.0%	36.7%	79	23.8%	40.5%	83	+3.8%	+4
ISA Science Proficiency	54.0%	74.1%	90	54.9%	78.4%	94	+4.3%	+4
ELA Participation	98.9%	99.3%	69	99.1%	99.5%	68	+0.2%	-1
Math Participation	98.7%	99.2%	68	99.0%	99.4%	67	+0.2%	-1
ELA Growth Percentile	49.1	56.6	83	48.6	52.9	70	-3.7	-13
Math Growth Percentile	48.6	46.9	38	48.3	46.8	40	-0.1	+2
8th Grade Students Passing Algebra I	20.9%	17.5%	43	22.7%	19.7%	44	+2.2%	+1
9th Grade on Track	89.1%	90.1%	55	90.9%	90.9%	50	+0.8%	-5
HS 4-Year Graduation Rate	88.2%	87.8%	48	88.6%	90.1%	58	+2.3%	+10
Graduates Enrolled in College Within 12 Months	58.2%	71.8%	82	59.9%	73.7%	85	+1.9%	+3
Graduates Enrolled in College Within 16 Months	59.4%	72.5%	82	60.5%	76.5%	89	+4.0%	+7
Community College Remediation	19.0%	15.1%	36	19.7%	14.1%	31	-1.0%	-5

### Sample School District Comparative Peer District Analysis

**Figure 1: Percent Proficient on Illinois State Tests - ELA**





# Comprehensive Student Growth Analysis

**Student Growth by Grade**

Grade	Student Count <sup>^</sup>	% Met Benchmark	% High Growth	% Expected Growth	% Low Growth	Growth
03	418	43%	22%	60%	19%	+ 0.07 
04	430	54%	25%	56%	18%	+ 0.17 
05	435	58%	41%	50%	9%	+ 0.74 
06	458	51%	21%	66%	13%	+ 0.16 
07	435	60%	27%	64%	9%	+ 0.39 
08	437	55%	31%	57%	13%	+ 0.37 
<b>ALL</b>	2,613	54%	28%	59%	13%	+ 0.32 
<b>EXPECTED</b>			16%	68%	16%	0.00

\* Dot color is green for all growth scores that are not statistically significant

<sup>^</sup> Student count only includes students with at least 2 predictors

*\*\*Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding*

*\*\*\*Results not reported for groups with fewer than 5 students*

# Register For Your State Report Card Analysis

[ecragroup.com/IL](https://ecragroup.com/IL)





**QUESTIONS?**  
**[support@ecragroup.com](mailto:support@ecragroup.com)**

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