

## **Statewide Executive Summary Results**

### **Grade 4 New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Spring 2008**

The spring 2008 grade 4 New Jersey Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (NJ ASK) consisted of three content areas: Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, and Science. The NJ ASK is designed to give an early indication of the progress students are making in mastering the knowledge and skills described in the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The results are to be used by schools and districts to identify strengths and weaknesses in their educational programs. It is anticipated that this process will lead to improved instruction and better alignment with the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The results may also be used, along with other indicators of student progress, to identify those students who may need instructional support in any of the content areas. This support, which could be in the form of individual or programmatic intervention, would be a means to address any identified knowledge or skill gaps.

The NJ ASK scores are reported as scale scores in each of the content areas. The scores range from 100-199 (Partially Proficient), 200-249 (Proficient), and 250-300 (Advanced Proficient). The scores of students who are included in the Partially Proficient level are considered to be below the state minimum of proficiency, and those students may be most in need of instructional support.

The NJ ASK was administered in March 2008. From a total fourth grade student population of 102,719, valid scores were obtained in Language Arts Literacy from 100,740 students, with 300 students not present and 930 voids (unscorable due to illness, other difficulties during testing, or an insufficient number of items answered in a given content area). Valid scores were obtained in Mathematics from 101,526 students, with 236 not present and 243 voids. Valid scores were obtained in Science from 101,418 students, with 477 not present and 144 voids.

This executive summary includes three tables summarizing statewide test results for the 2008 administration of the grade 4 NJ ASK. Table A.4.1 presents results for Language Arts Literacy, Table A.4.2 presents results for Mathematics, and Table A.4.3 presents results for Science. Results are presented for the following student groups: all, general education, special education, and limited English proficient (LEP) students. LEP is further broken out by the following groups: LEP current, and LEP former. Data are also summarized for several demographic variables including: gender, ethnicity, and economic status. The tables include the number of students enrolled, not present, voided, and with valid scale scores. In addition, the tables present mean scale score and the percent of students in each performance category (i.e., Partially Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced Proficient).

The tables that follow are derived from the statewide performance data of the Cycle II report. Note that the enrollment is based on the number of students with scannable test booklets. Also, students coded as multiple ethnicity and those whose ethnicity was unspecified are counted as Other. The percentage of students in the combined category, Proficient or Advanced Proficient, is calculated by subtracting the percentage of students in Partially Proficient from one hundred. The percentages may not total to one hundred due to rounding.