The following is a non-accessible copy of the Spring 2026 Statewide Assessment Overview presentation. It will be replaced with the accessible version as soon as possible.

New Jersey Department of Education

New Jersey Assessment Results Spring 2026

Division of Academic Services

November 2026

nj.gov/education

Agenda

2026 Statewide Assessment Results

- Transition to New Assessments
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Adaptive (NJSLA-A)
  - English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
- New Jersey Student Learning Assessment-Science (NJSLA-S)
- New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A)
- WIDA ACCESS
- Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

A Comprehensive Picture of Student Learning

Serving Different Student Needs



NJSLA-Adaptive measures grade-level academic achievement

NJGPA-Adaptive measures graduation readiness

ACCESS measures English language proficiency for multilingual learners

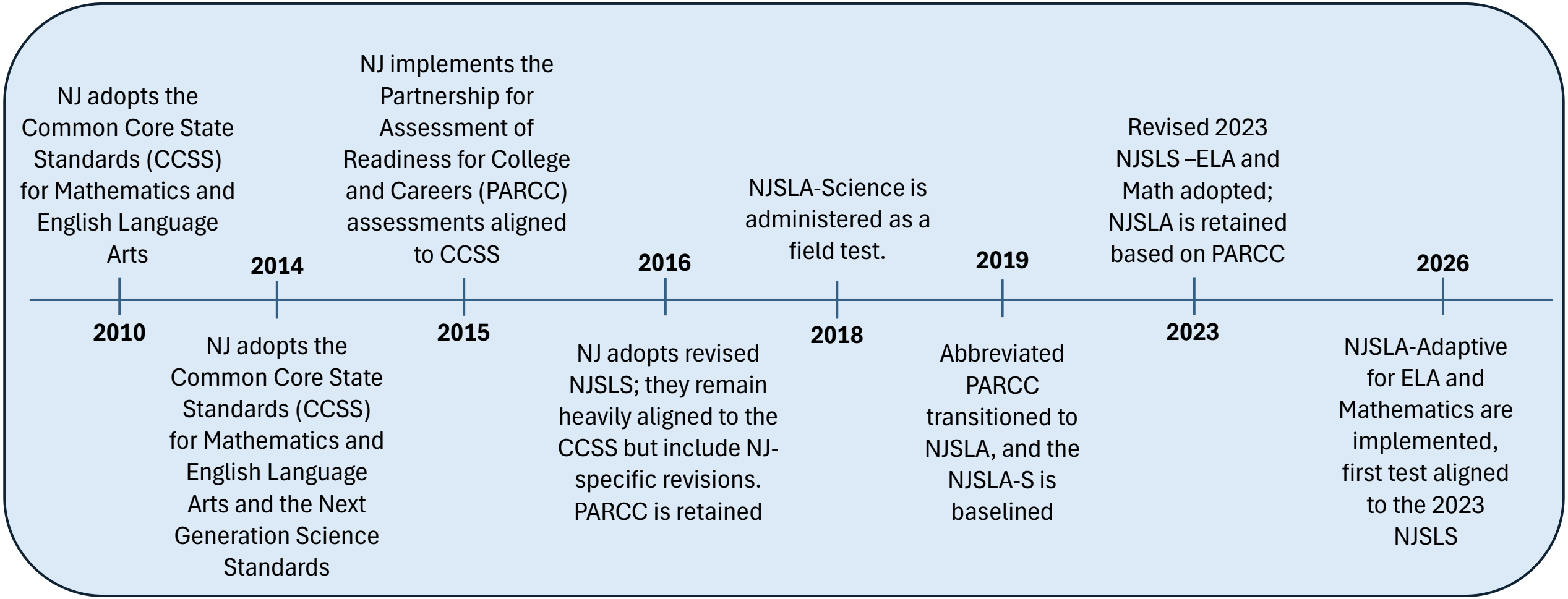
DLM measures progress toward alternate academic standards

Transition to New Assessments

NJSLA-A and NJGPA-A

New Jersey Standards and Assessments

Timeline Overview



What Has Changed Since 2025?

Because multiple components changed for English Language Arts and Mathematics simultaneously, 2026 results establish a new baseline and should not be directly compared with prior years.

New Standards

Aligned to 2023 NJSLS



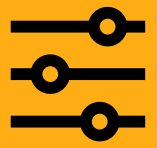
New Modality

Adaptive assessment



New Performance Levels

Redesigned reporting structure



New Cut Scores

New definitions of proficiency



Transitioning to the NJSLA-A and NJGPA-A



Spring 2026 results establish a new Statewide baseline.



Results help identify strengths and opportunity areas.



Results guide supports for districts, educators, and students.

Assessment Design

Stakeholder Input Shaped the New Assessments



Who Participated

- Educators
- District leaders
- Content experts
- Higher education partners

What Informed the Design

- Standards alignment
- Accessibility
- Assessment experience
- Reporting

Outcome

Criterion-referenced assessment aligned to the New Jersey State Learning Standards (NJSLS)

New Jersey Student Learning Assessments
2026 Results

Performance Level Category Titles

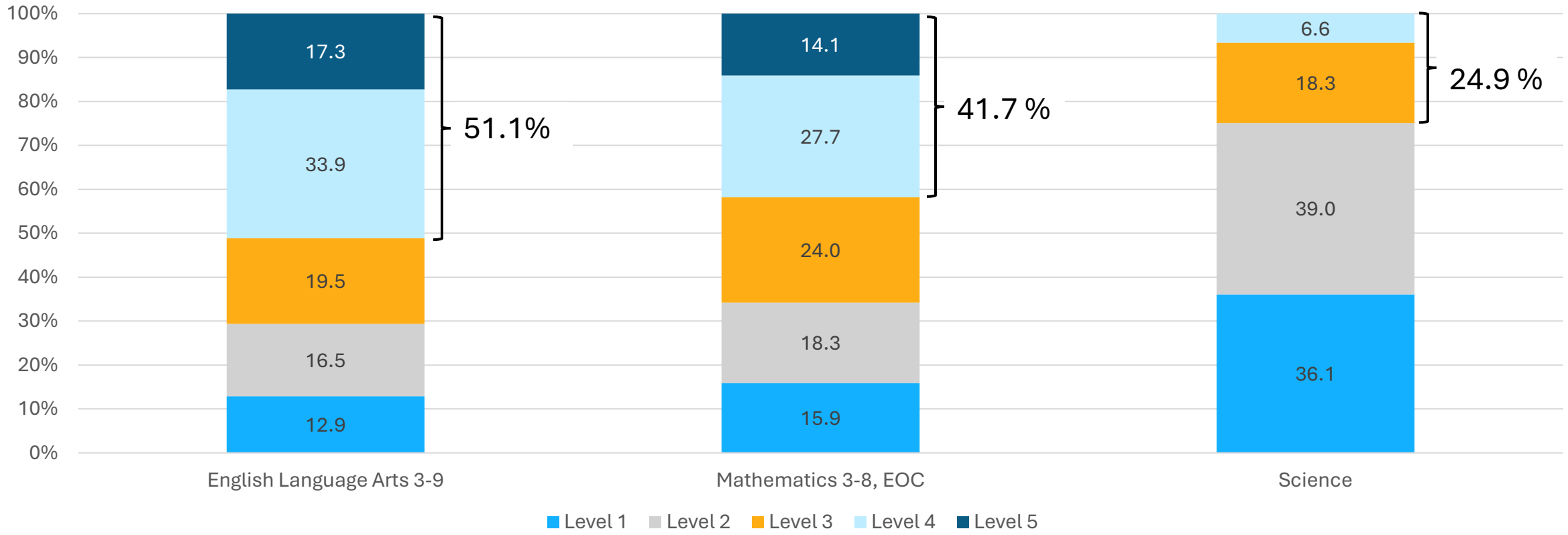
NJSLA-A for ELA and Mathematics

- Level 5 Exceeded Expectations
- Level 4 Met Expectations
- Level 3 Approaching Expectations
- Level 2 Partially Met Expectations
- Level 1 Did Not Yet Meet Expectations

NJSLA-Science

- Level 4 Advanced Proficiency
- Level 3 Proficient
- Level 2 Near Proficient
- Level 1 Below Proficient

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Subject



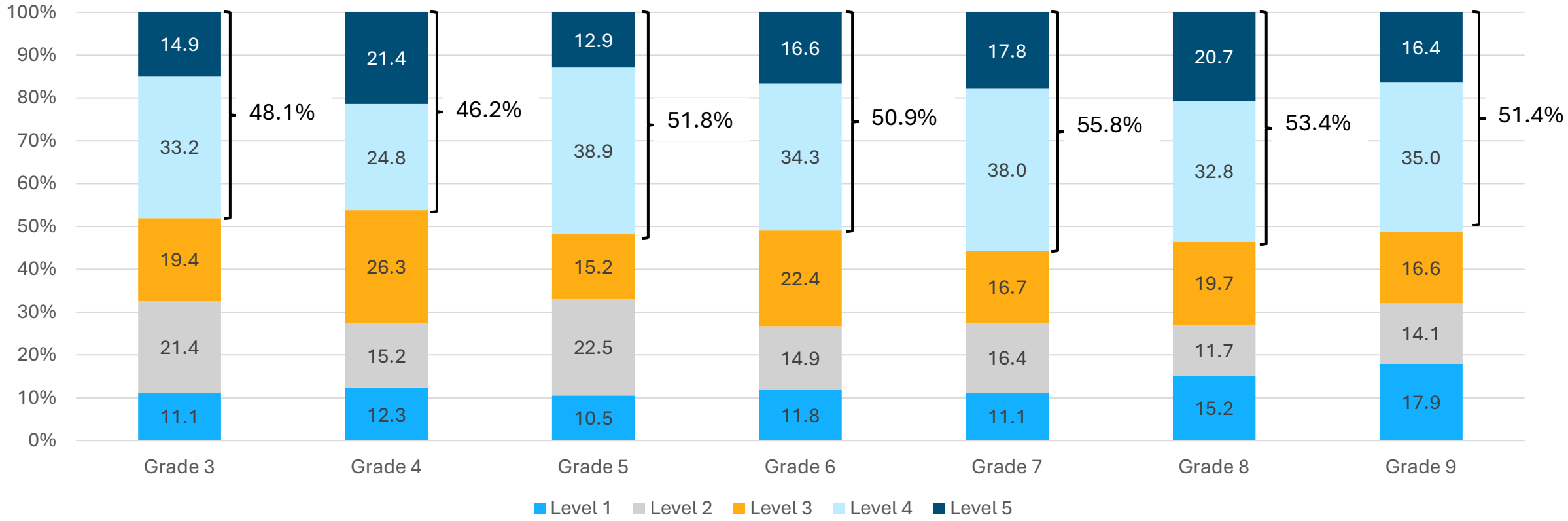


New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Adaptive

English Language Arts and Mathematics

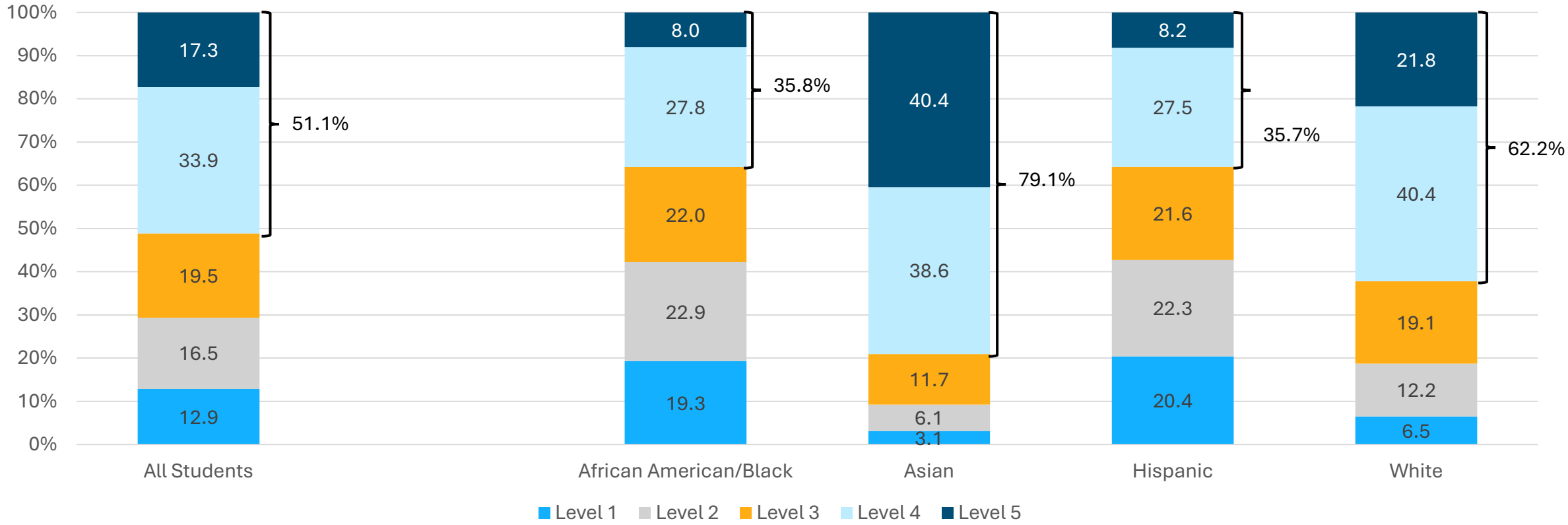
English Language Arts (ELA)

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Grade



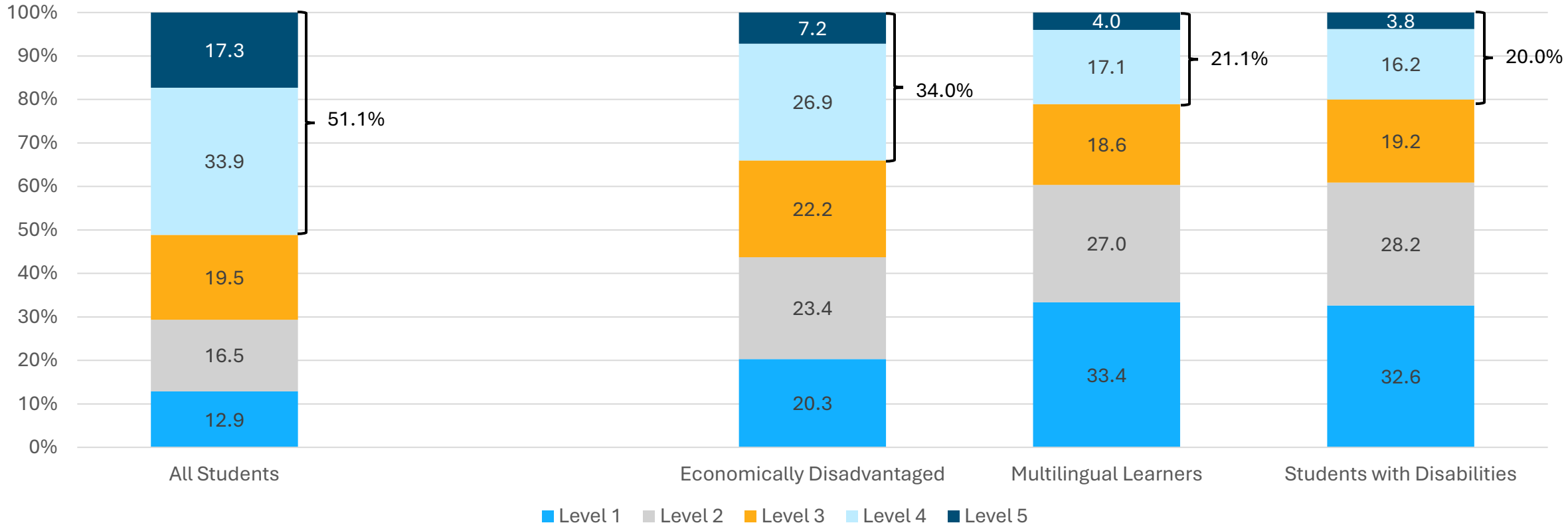
English Language Arts: All Tested Grade Levels Combined

Student Demographics by Performance Level



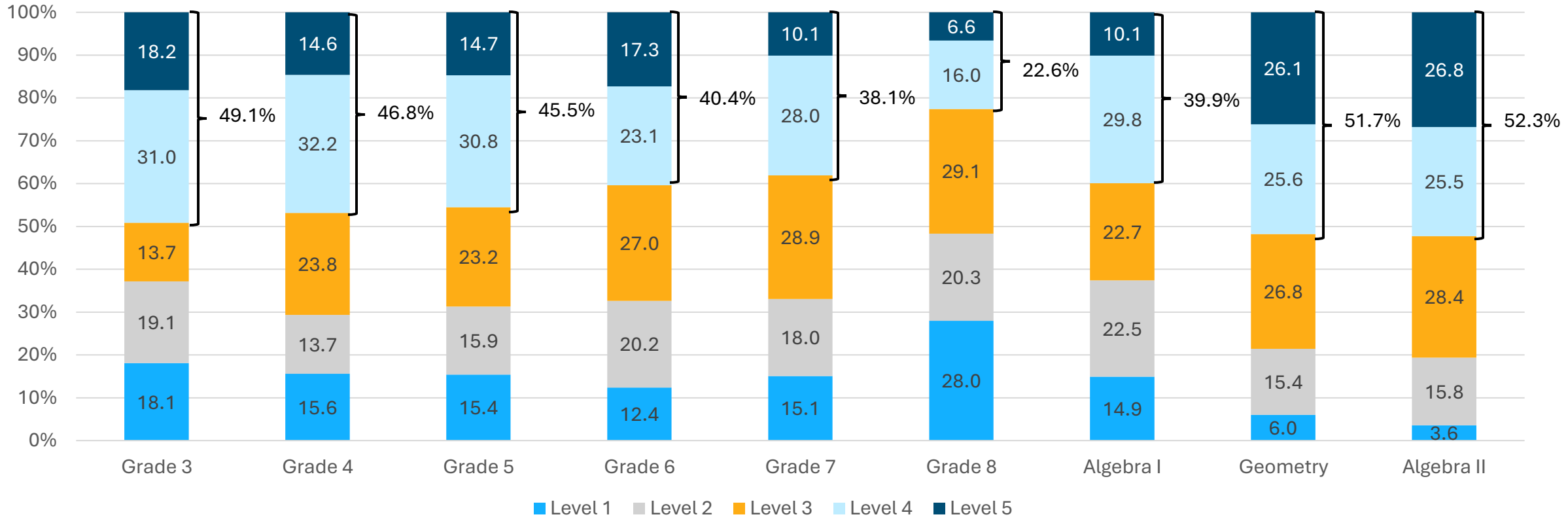
English Language Arts: All Tested Grade Levels Combined

Student Group by Performance Level



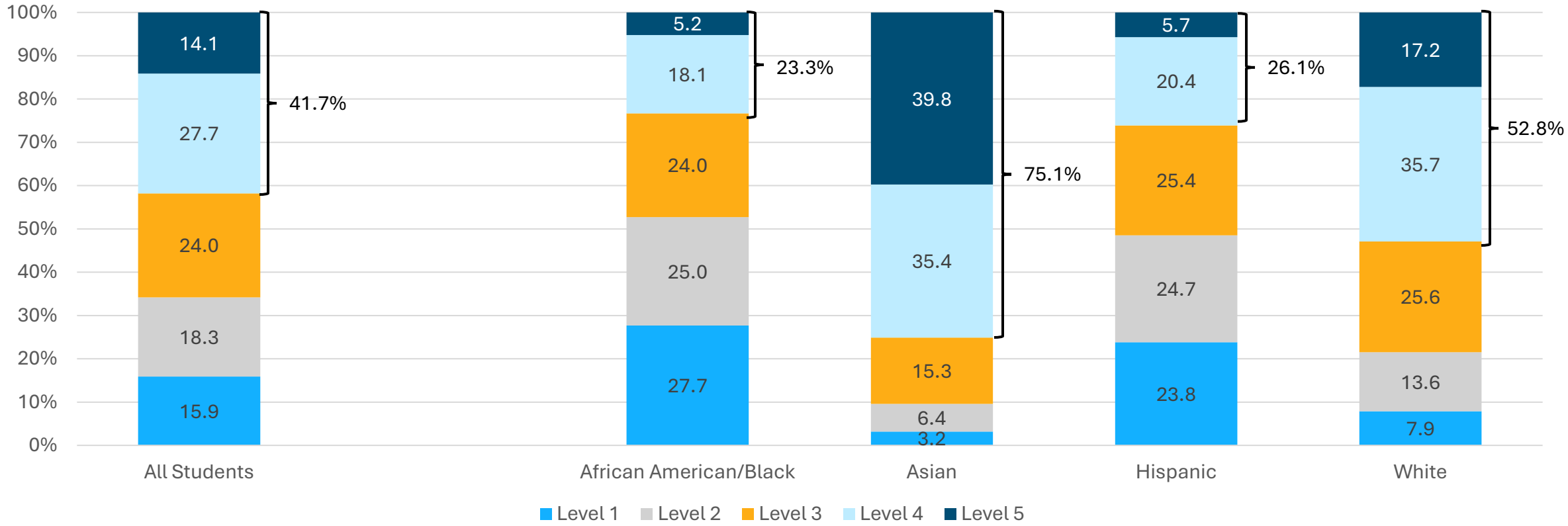
Mathematics

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Grade



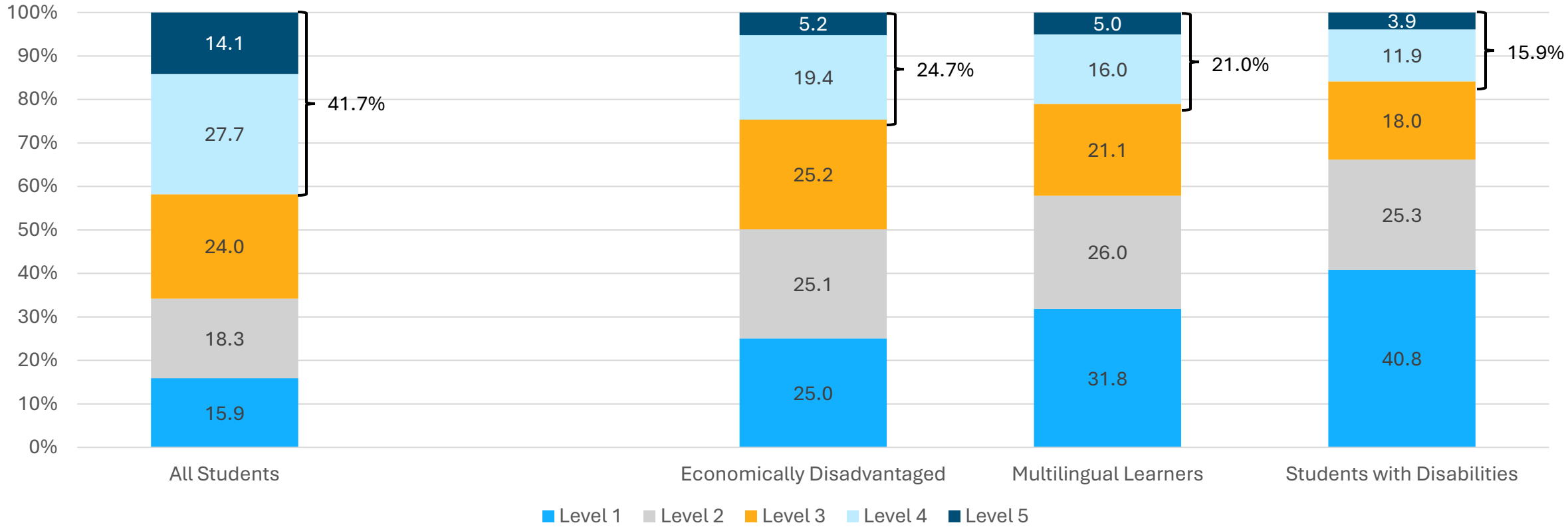
Mathematics: All Tested Grade Levels Combined

Student Demographics by Performance Level



Mathematics: All Tested Grade Levels Combined

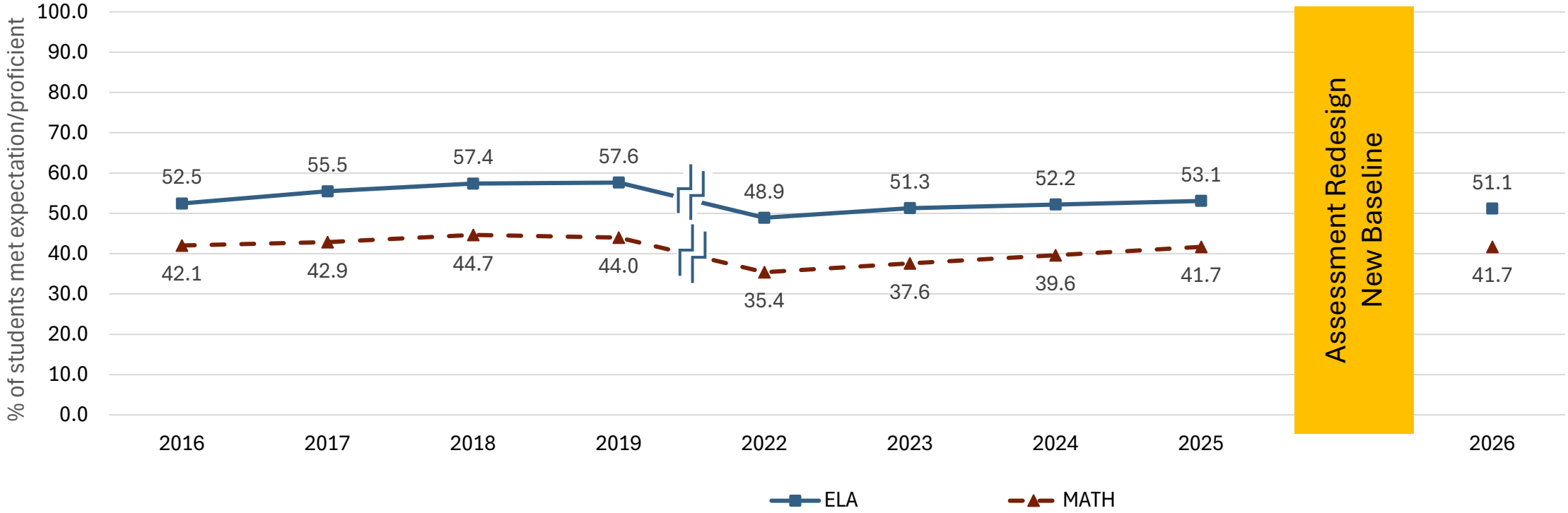
Student Group by Performance Level



English Language Arts and Mathematics Results by Year
2016-2026

Assessment Results 2016-2026

This graph shows the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on state ELA and mathematics assessments across all grades, 2016–2026.

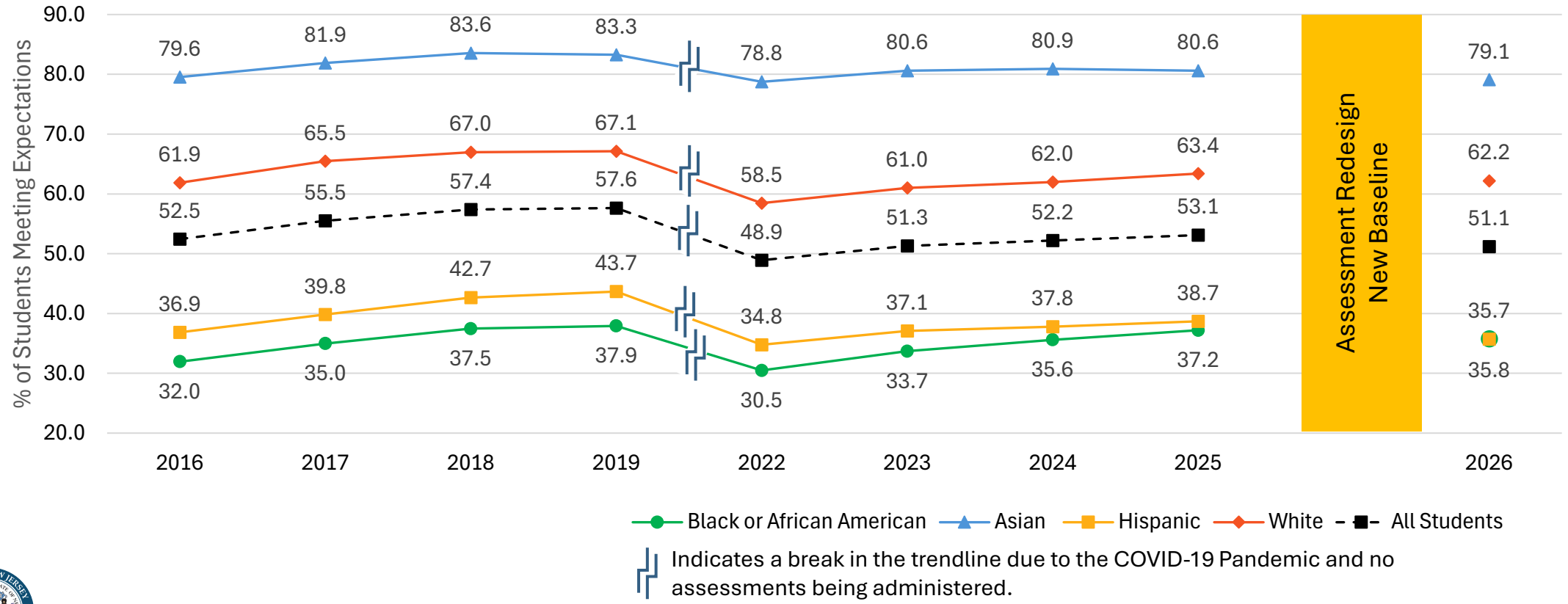


*State results for high school math do not include grade 11 and grade 12 students.

Indicates a break in the trendline due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and no assessments being administered.

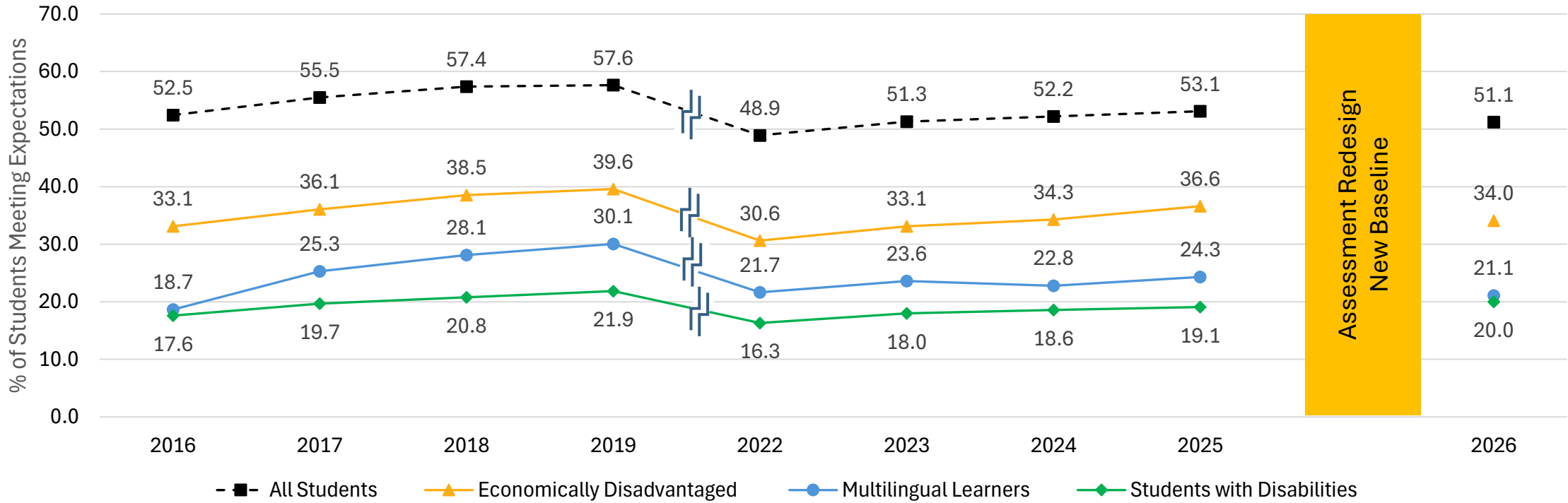
ELA 2016-2026: Student Demographics

This graph shows the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on state ELA assessments, by demographic group, across all grades, 2016–2026.



ELA 2016-2026: Student Groups

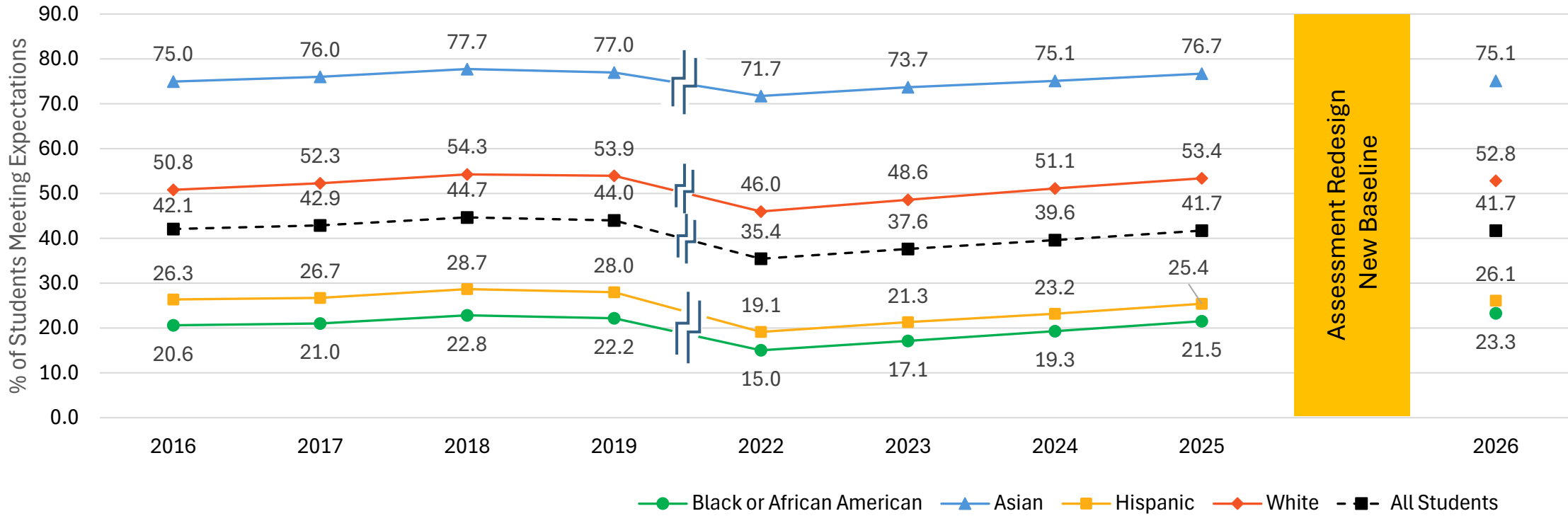
This graph shows the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on state ELA assessments, by student group, across all grades, 2016–2026.



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Mathematics 2016-2026: Student Demographics

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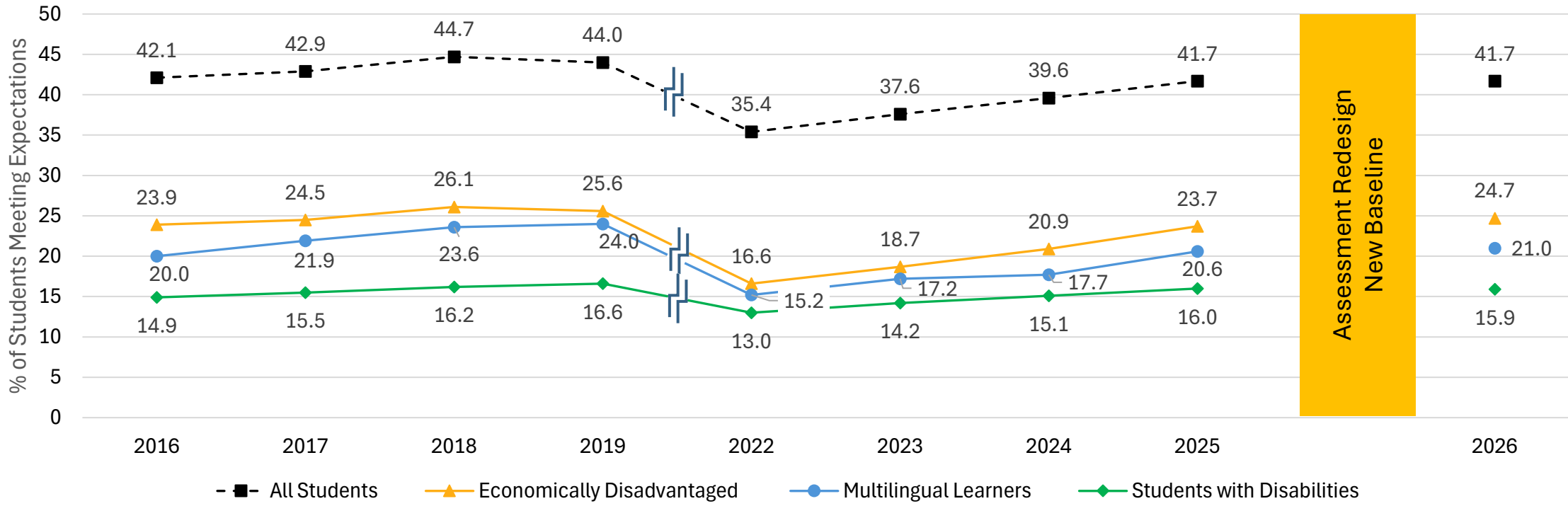


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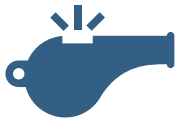
Improving English Language Arts Outcomes

Inspired Instruction



Early Literacy Screening

- Supporting districts in administering universal literacy screeners three times annually.
- Helping educators identify reading challenges earlier and respond more quickly.



Literacy Coaching & Professional Learning

- Providing evidence-based literacy supports aligned to NJSLS – ELA.
- Expanding educator access to high-quality instructional resources and professional learning.



High-Impact Tutoring

- Expanding access to targeted support for students who need additional reading instruction.

Strong literacy skills are foundational to success across all subjects. The Department is investing in earlier identification, stronger instruction, and intensive support for struggling readers.

Strengthening Mathematics Achievement

Inspired Instruction



High-Impact Tutoring

- Prioritizing students furthest from proficiency.
- Providing additional instructional time focused on foundational mathematics.



Technical Assistance & Professional Learning

- Supporting district implementation of the 2023 NJSLS-M.
- Sharing instructional strategies and promising practices.



Data-Driven Improvement

- Helping districts use assessment results to identify strengths and target supports.

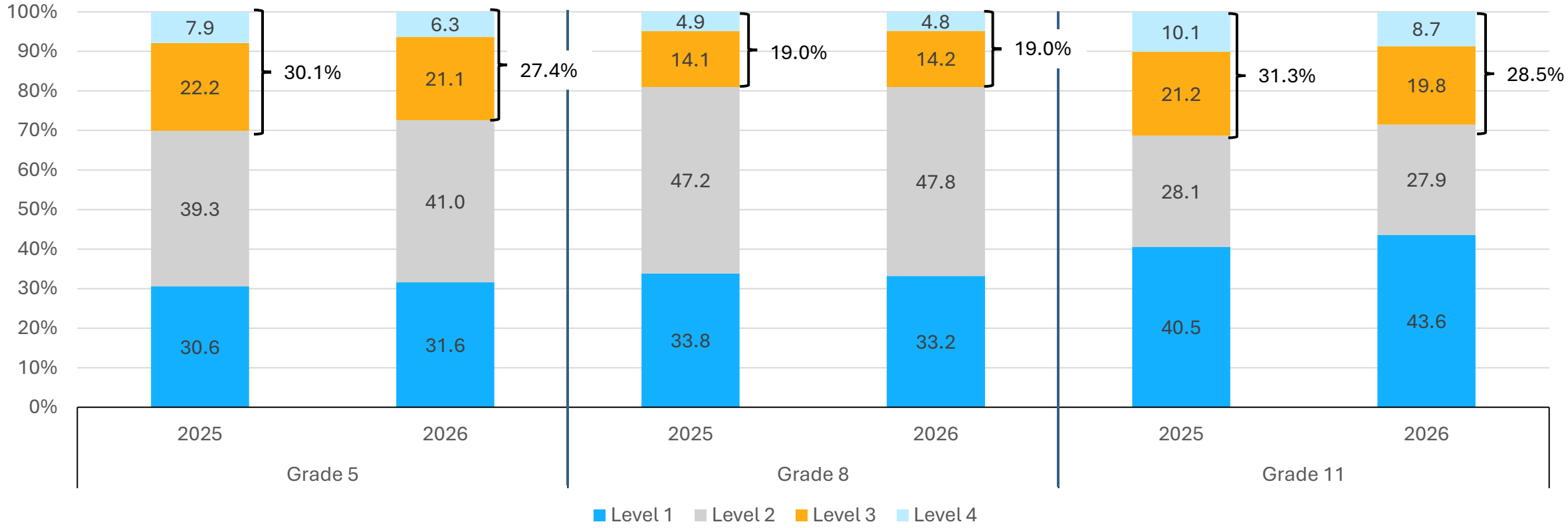
Closing mathematics gaps requires both strong grade-level instruction and targeted interventions for students who need additional support.



New Jersey Student Learning Assessments-Science

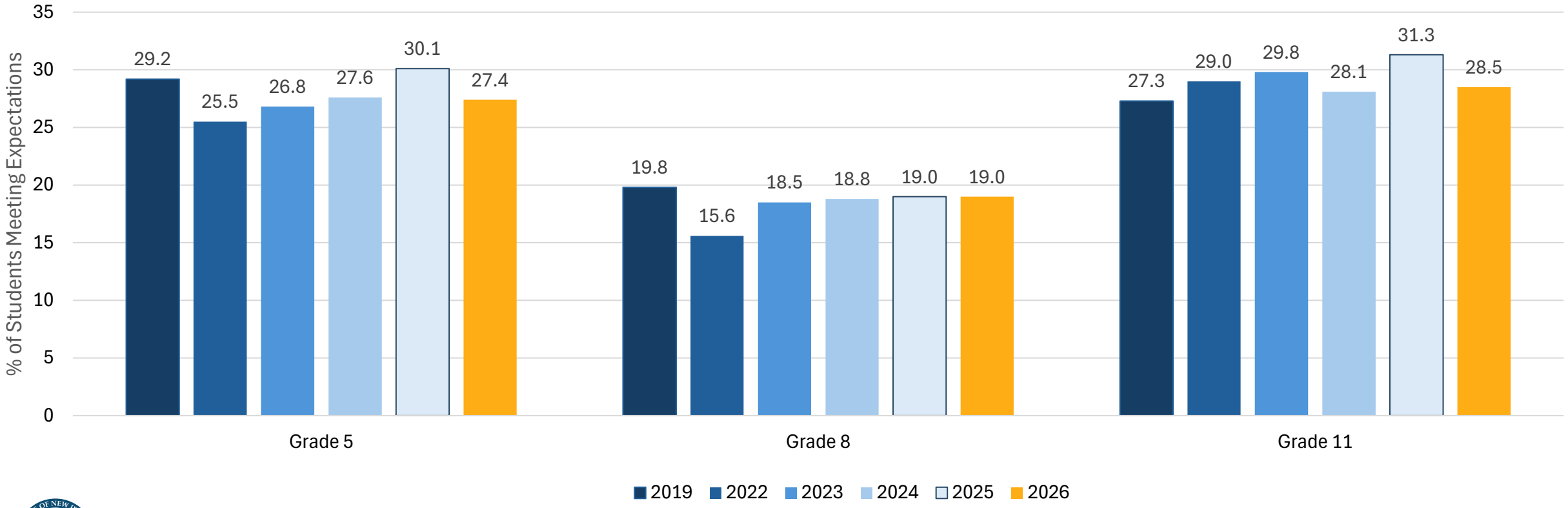
Science

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Grade



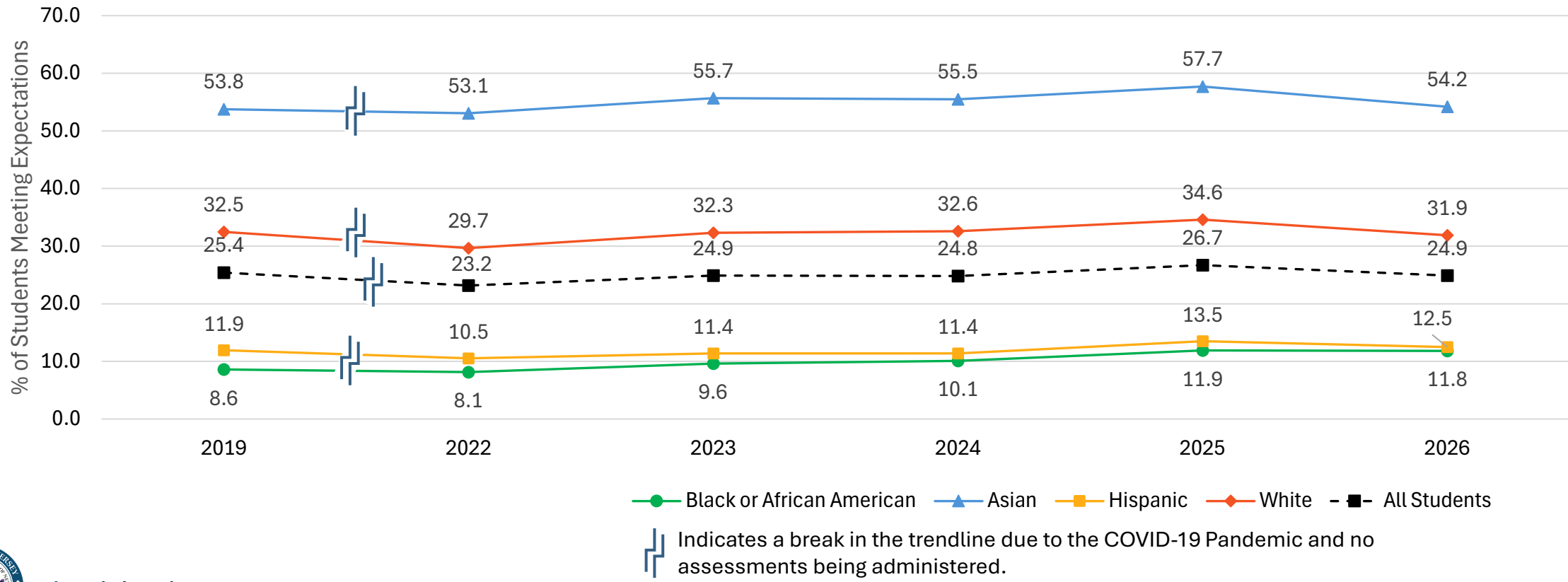
Science 2019-2026

The graph shows the percentage of students meeting proficiency or advanced proficiency on each science state assessment, 2019 - 2026.



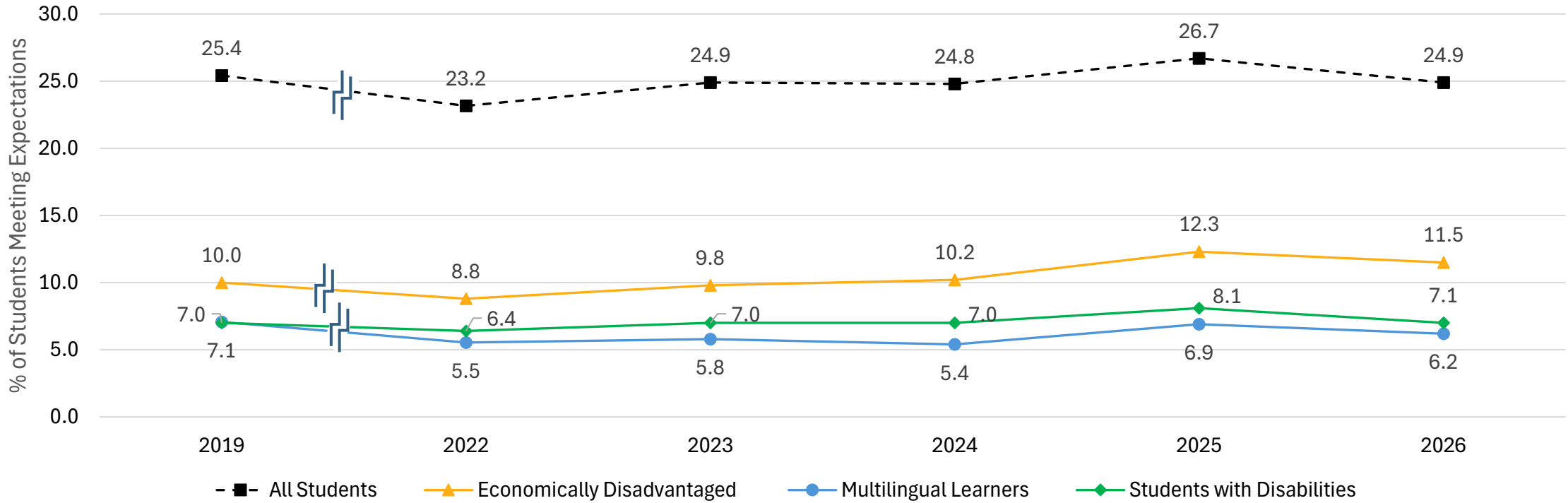
Science 2019-2026: Student Demographics

This graph shows the percentage of students meeting proficiency or advanced proficiency on state science assessments, by demographic group, across all grades, 2019–2026.



Science 2019-2026: Student Groups

This graph shows the percentage of students meeting proficiency or advanced proficiency on state science assessments, by student group, across all grades, 2019–2026.



Indicates a break in the trendline due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and no assessments being administered.

Strengthening Science Achievement
Inspired Instruction

Building Capacity in Science Education

- Professional learning focused on three-dimensional science instruction.
- Continued support for implementation of the NJSLS – Science.
- Expansion of high-quality instructional resources aligned to the standards.
- Sharing promising practices from schools demonstrating strong science outcomes.



Science proficiency requires students to apply knowledge and scientific practices together. Our supports are designed to strengthen both.



2026 New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment – Adaptive (NJGPA – A)

Only Grade 11 Students

New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment-Adaptive (NJGPA-A)

Overview

- NJGPA-A is designed to measure the extent to which students are graduation ready in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.
- Graduation readiness is reported separately for each content component.
- The ELA component is aligned to the grade 10 standards.
- The Mathematics component is aligned to Algebra I and Geometry standards.

Graduation Pathways

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 Graduation requirements



Pathway 1

Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA-A)



Pathway 2

Menu of Alternate Assessments

(PSAT, SAT, ACT, and Accuplacer)



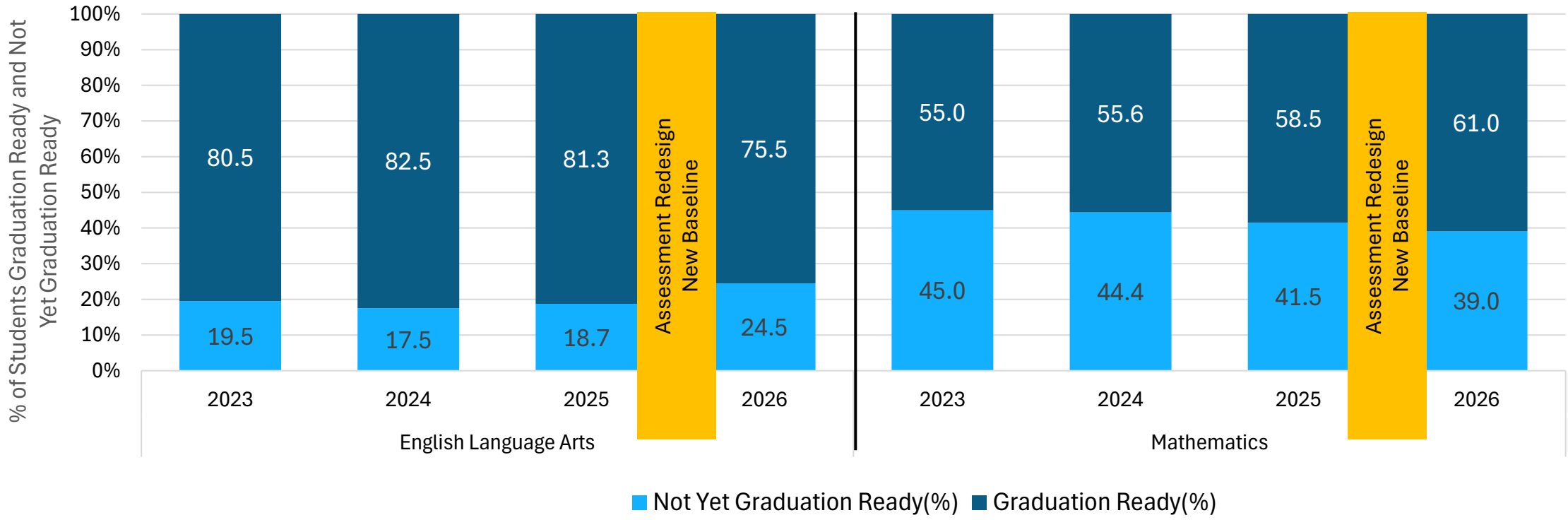
Pathway 3

Portfolio Appeals and Streamlined Portfolio Appeals*

*substitute a qualifying ASVAB score, Industry Valued Credentials, or Work-based Learning experiences in lieu of part of the Portfolio Appeal

NJGPA and NJGPA-A 2023-2026

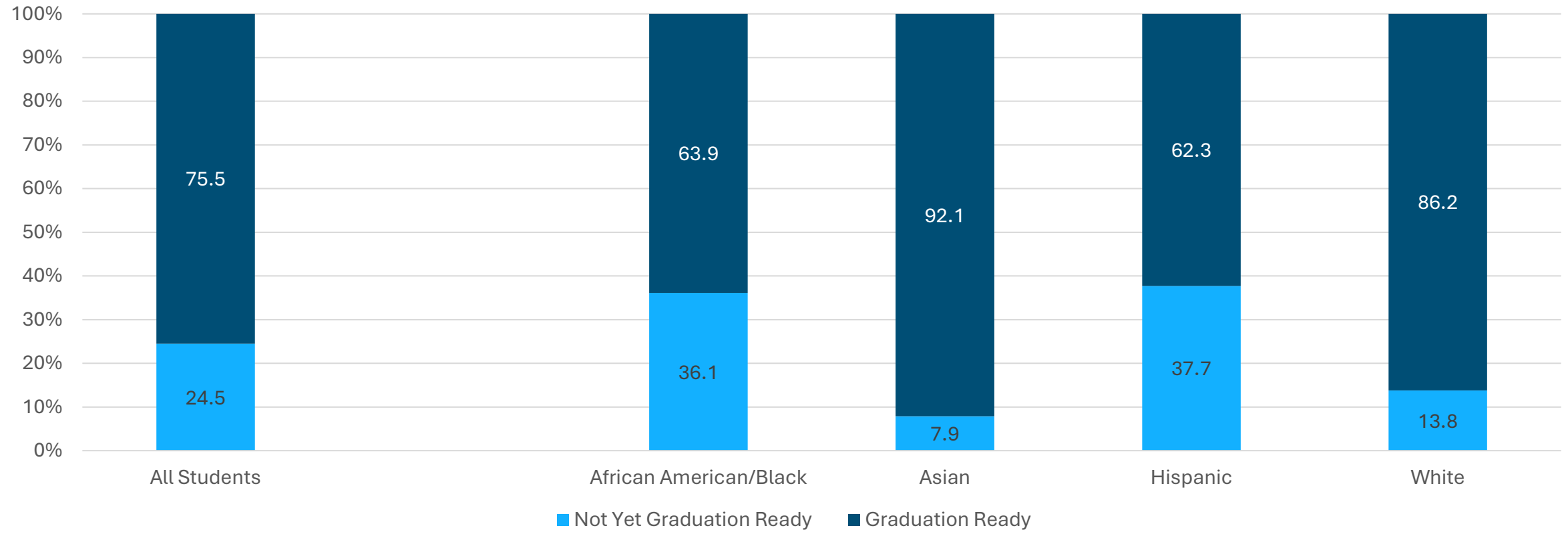
The graph shows the percentage of students Graduation Ready and Not Yet Graduation Ready for the ELA and Mathematics components of the NJGPA and NJGPA-A , 2023 - 2026.



*The data only include Grade 11 students.

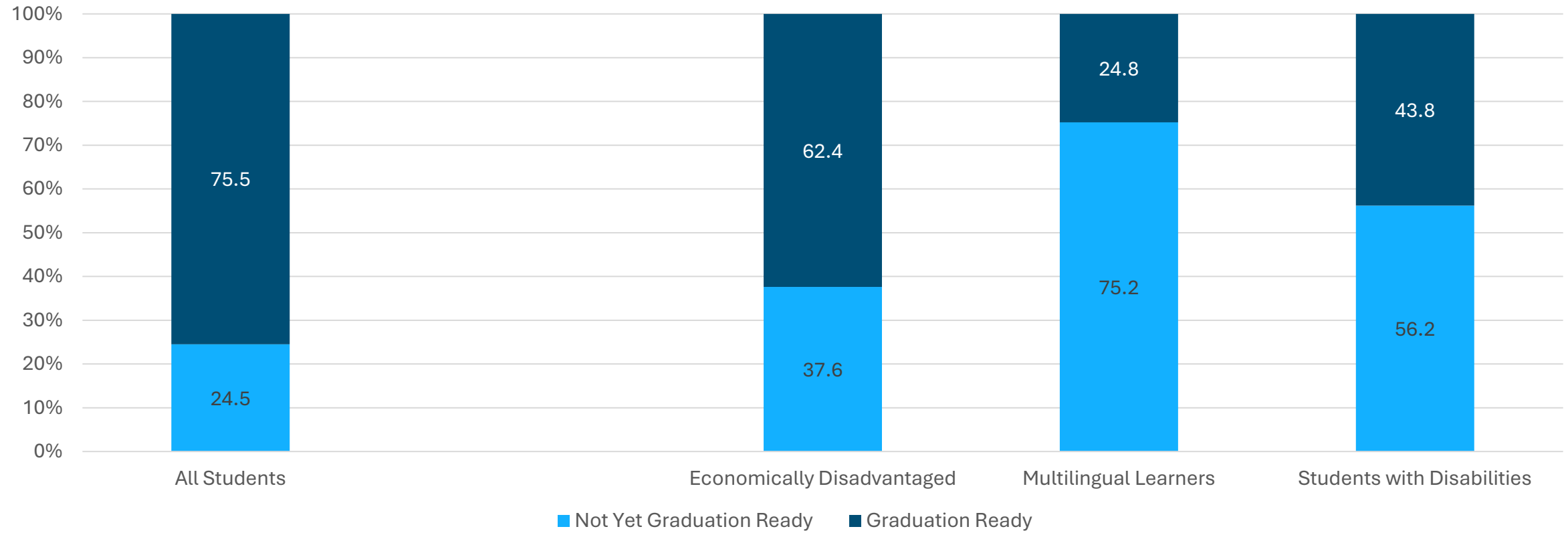
English Language Arts 2026

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Demographic



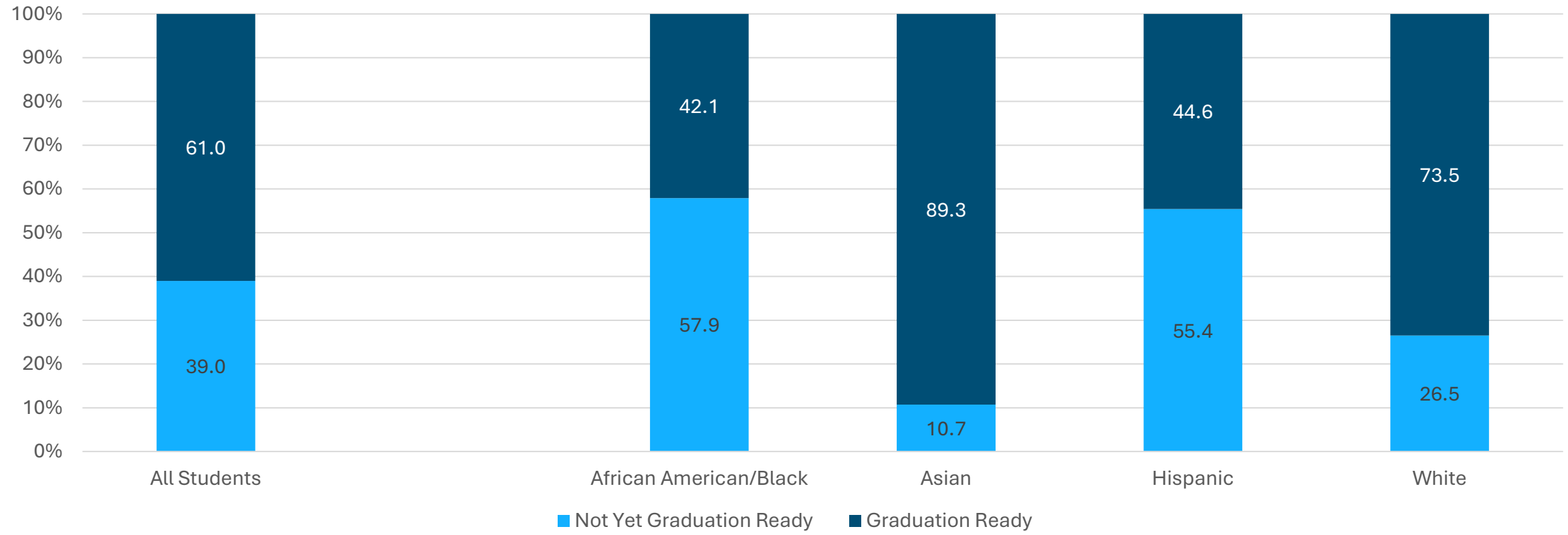
English Language Arts 2026

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Student Group



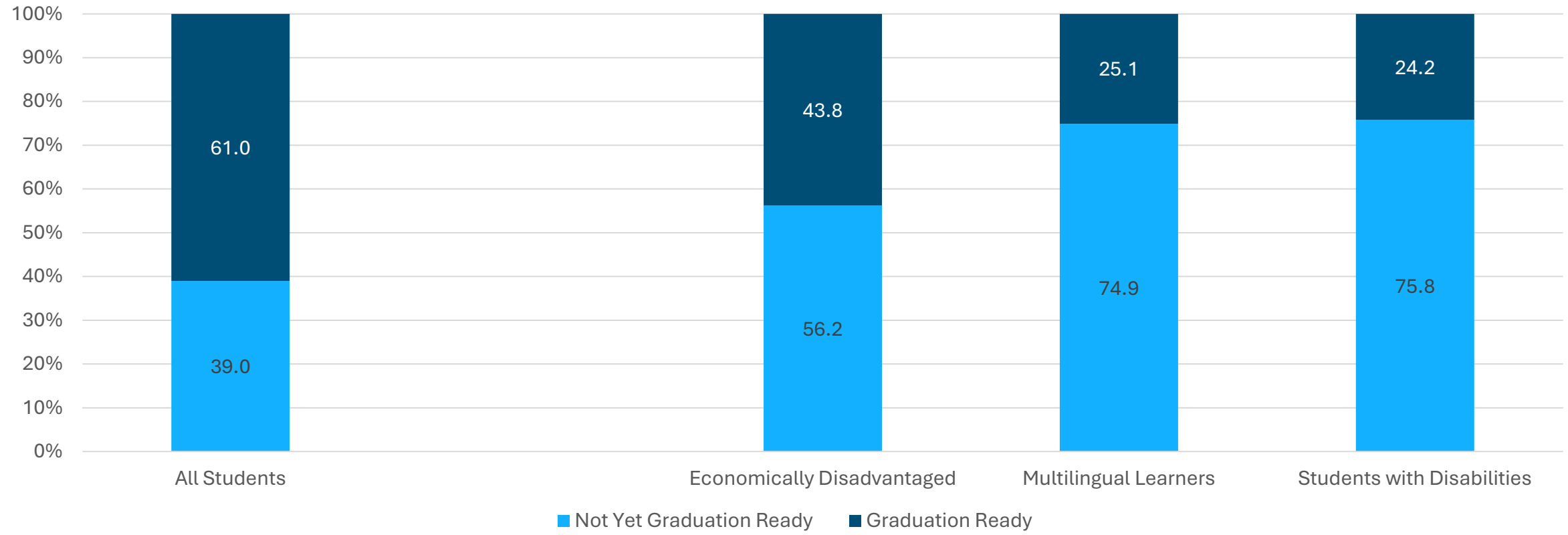
Mathematics 2026

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Demographic



Mathematics 2026

Percent of Students by Performance Level by Student Group

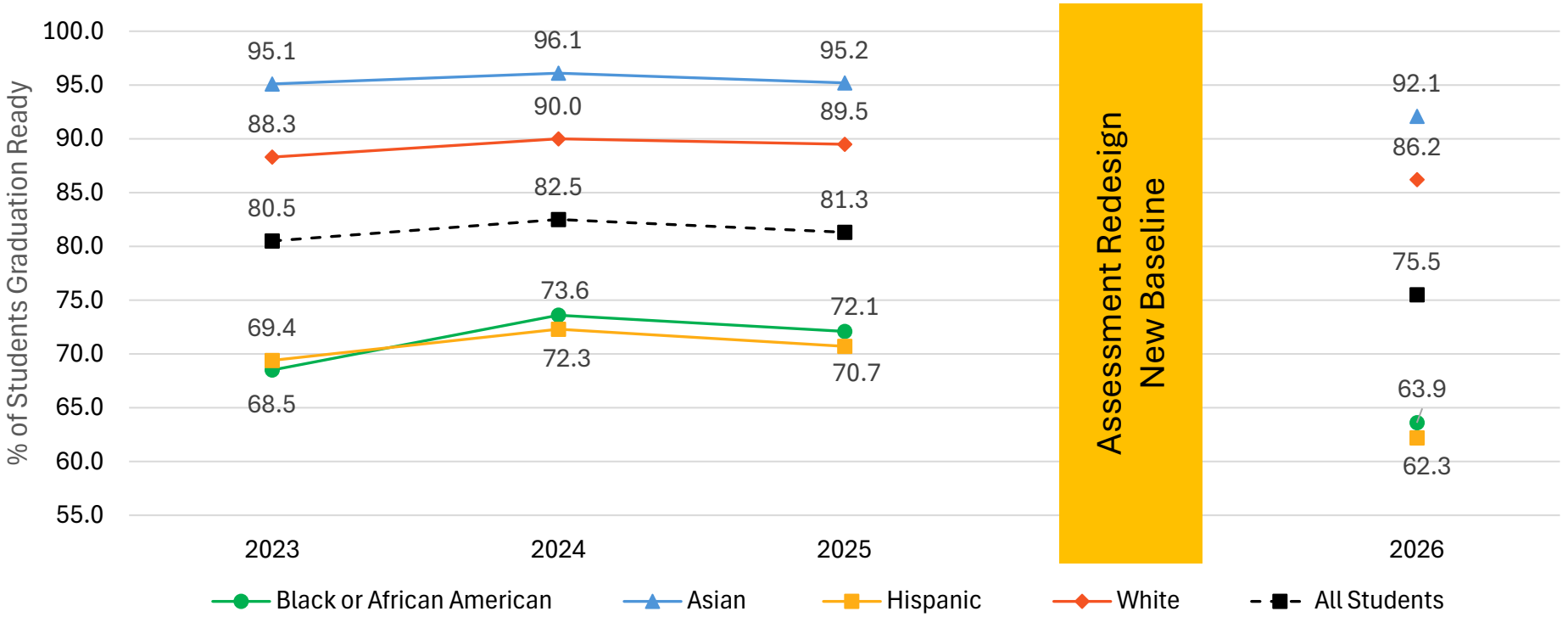


NJGPA and NJGPA-A Results by Year

2023-2026

ELA Component 2023-2026: Student Demographics

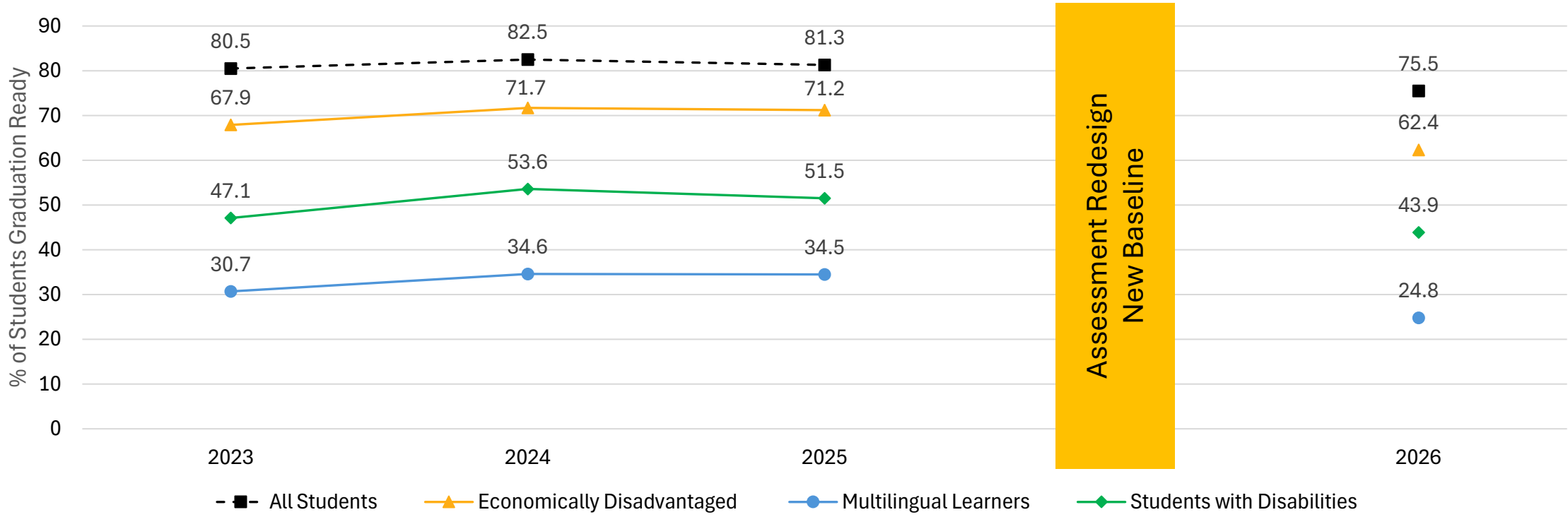
The graph shows the percentage of students Graduation Ready across the NJGPA ELA component, by demographic group, 2023 -2026.



*The data only include Grade 11 students.

ELA Component 2023-2026: Student Groups

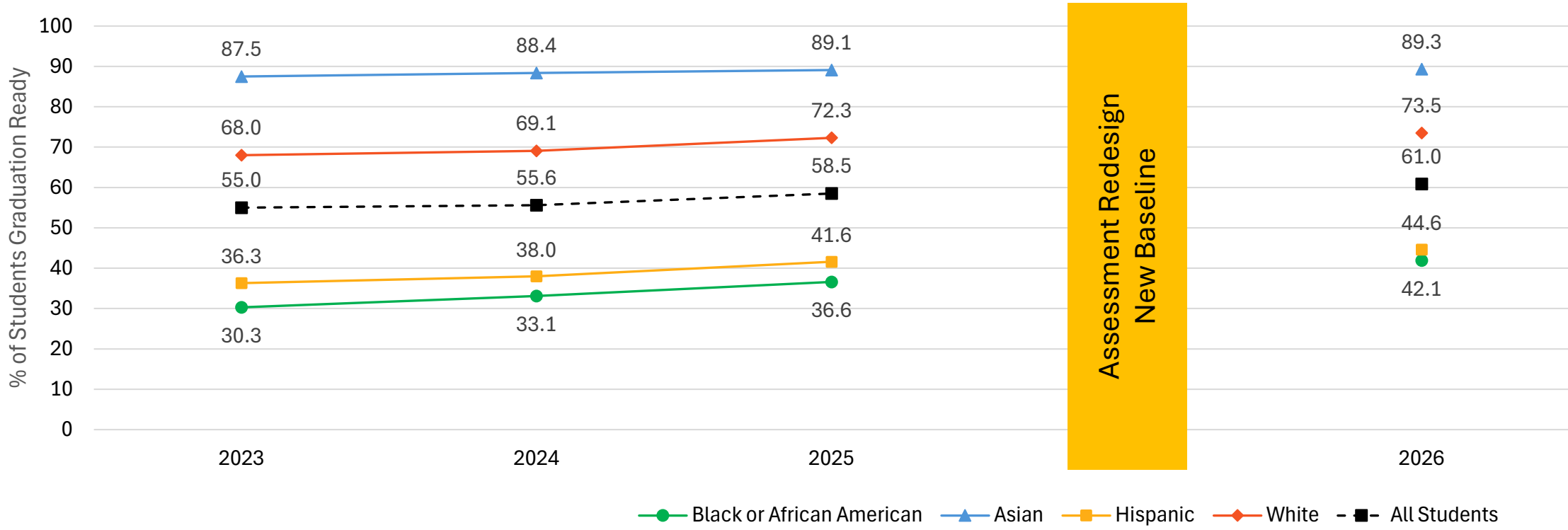
The graph shows the percentage of students Graduation Ready across the NJGPA ELA component, by student group, 2023-2026.



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Math Component 2023-2026: Student Demographics

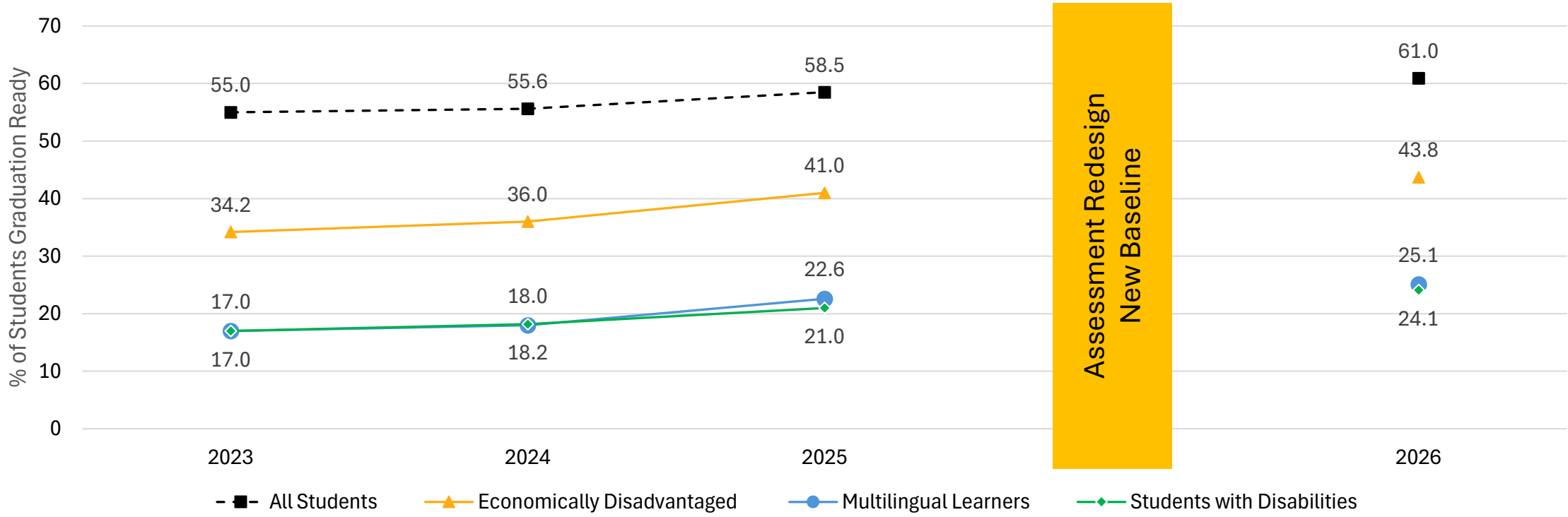
The graph shows the percentage of students Graduation Ready across the NJGPA mathematics component, by demographic group, 2023 - 2026.



*The data only include Grade 11 students.

Math Component 2023-2026: Student Groups

The graph shows the percentage of students Graduation Ready across the NJGPA mathematics component, by student group, 2023 - 2026.



*The data only include Grade 11 students.

WIDA ACCESS

WIDA ACCESS

- The WIDA ACCESS assessments serve as New Jersey's English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments as required by ESSA and N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.10(b).
  - WIDA ACCESS is administered in grades K–12 to students who have been identified as Multilingual Learners (MLs).
  - Multilingual learners are students whose native language is other than English and have varying degrees of ELP in any one of the language domains of speaking, reading, writing, or listening.
- WIDA ACCESS measures English proficiency growth tied to the WIDA (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment) English Language Proficiency standards, which are aligned to the academic content area standards.
- An Overall Composite cut score of 4.5 (on a scale from 1.0 to 6.0) on the WIDA ACCESS assessment is used as one of multiple measures by which multilingual learner students are exited from program services in NJ.

WIDA ACCESS: Overall Composite Score Level

Grade in Spring 2026	Participation Rate (%)	Level 1: Entering (%)	Level 2: Emerging (%)	Level 3: Developing (%)	Level 4: Expanding (%)	Level 5: Bridging (%)	Level 6: Reaching (%)
Kindergarten	99.9	74.0	8.1	6.1	5.2	6.6	0
Grade 1	99.6	36.6	39.6	20.9	2.4	0.4	0.1
Grade 2	99.7	16.8	20.0	45.7	16.5	1.1	0.1
Grade 3	99.7	15.7	17.5	45.7	19.4	1.5	0.2
Grade 4	99.9	10.6	12.2	28.1	37.7	9.8	1.5
Grade 5	99.8	14.9	14.1	31.2	32.3	6.8	0.6
Grade 6	99.8	19.4	25.5	41.6	12.9	0.5	0.1
Grade 7	99.8	21.7	25.1	35.1	17.0	0.9	0.1
Grade 8	99.8	23.7	23.7	33.3	18.2	1.0	0.1
Grade 9	99.7	18.4	26.9	38.3	14.4	1.9	0.1
Grade 10	99.7	24.4	26.8	34.7	12.6	1.4	0.1
Grade 11	99.8	27.0	27.9	33.1	10.7	1.2	0.1
Grade 12	99.7	31.8	29.1	29.3	9.1	0.6	0

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Overview

- DLM is used as the State's alternate assessment aligned with alternate academic achievement standards (AA-AAAS) for students with the most significant intellectual disabilities, as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and N.J.A.C. 6A:8-4.
  - DLM is administered in grades 3-8 and 11 to eligible students, who meet the participation guidelines, in ELA, Mathematics, and Science.
  - DLM is a **computer-adaptive assessment** based on DLM's Essential Elements that is personalized to the needs of each student for this special population.
- The DLM assessment is designed for the approximately 1% of the student population with significant intellectual disabilities.
  - Wide variability of skills within this 1% of students.
  - Some students may be able to complete the DLM relatively independently while others may need a substantial level of support to participate.

DLM Participation Rate Yearly Comparison

Percent by Student Grade Level

Grade	ELA 2026	ELA 2025	ELA 2024	Math 2026	Math 2025	Math 2024	Science 2026	Science 2025	Science 2024
Grade 3	96.0	99.6	96.0	96.0	99.6	95.9			
Grade 4	96.0	99.8	96.3	96.0	99.6	96.3			
Grade 5	96.0	99.7	96.3	96.0	99.5	96.3	96.0	96.7	96.3
Grade 6	96.0	99.7	96.1	96.0	99.4	96.1			
Grade 7	96.0	99.1	96.4	96.0	99.1	96.4			
Grade 8	95.0	99.0	95.7	95.0	99.2	95.5	95.0	97.8	95.4
Grade 11	97.0	98.8	95.9	96.0	98.3	95.9	96.0	96.7	96.0
Total	96.0	99.4	96.1	95.9	99.3	96.1	95.7	96.9	95.9

DLM ELA Results
Percent by Student Grade Level

Grade	Level 1: Emerging	Level 2: Approaching	Level 3: At Target	Level 4: Advanced
Grade 3	64.7	16.7	16.7	1.9
Grade 4	63.0	20.8	13.6	2.7
Grade 5	59.3	14.2	22.7	3.8
Grade 6	54.1	19.4	18.2	8.2
Grade 7	43.6	30.7	18.9	6.7
Grade 8	45.9	25.0	23.9	5.3
Grade 11	38.5	29.4	24.2	7.9

DLM Math Results

Percent by Student Grade Level

Grade	Level 1: Emerging	Level 2: Approaching	Level 3: At Target	Level 4: Advanced
Grade 3	56.3	13.2	19.8	10.9
Grade 4	54.7	8.3	28.3	8.7
Grade 5	54.0	19.6	11.6	14.8
Grade 6	62.3	17.7	11.0	9.0
Grade 7	55.5	20.5	15.4	8.6
Grade 8	55.1	31.5	9.3	4.2
Grade 11	42.8	27.6	27.2	2.4

DLM Science Results
Percent by Student Grade Level

Grade	Level 1: Emerging	Level 2: Approaching	Level 3: At Target	Level 4: Advanced
Grade 5	66.5	19.9	13.2	0.3
Grade 8	59.2	18.4	16.0	6.4
Grade 11	55.0	24.6	14.4	6.0

What the Results Tell Us



Areas of Progress

- Recovery from pandemic-era declines continues.
- Many student groups are demonstrating growth.
- Graduation readiness remains strong for many students.



Persistent Challenges

- Literacy and mathematics proficiency remain below desired levels.
- Significant gaps continue among student groups.
- Science achievement remains an area of focus.



Strategic Plan

- Student Supports
- Early Excellence
- Inspired Instruction
- Future Pathways
- Stronger Systems

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