

FACT SHEET: Vermont's 2019 Smarter Balanced Scores

The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) has released the 2019 Smarter Balanced assessment scores. This is also the first year of statistically valid results on the Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA) and measure students' master of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Full scores and data are available on the [Vermont Education Dashboard](#).

Smarter Balanced Assessment

Vermont administers the Smarter Balanced assessment annually in the spring. Students in grades three through nine take the English Language Arts and Mathematics tests. The Vermont Science Assessment is given to students in grades five, eight and eleven.

2019 English Language Arts Scores

The English Language Arts section of the assessment program includes sections on Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Research/Inquiry. The results from each section are combined to form a broad English Language Arts score. The 2019 ELA results are mixed across the grades, with student performance improving in percent proficient and by scale score in some grades compared to 2018 scores, while in other grades we are seeing a decline. In particular, students in grade four and eight showed notable declines, although these two grades had a notable increase between 2017 and 2018.

Table 1: 2019 Smarter Balanced English Language Arts Results

Grade	Scale Scores			Total Proficient and Above	
	Proficient Score	State Average	Change from 2018	State Average	Change from 2018
Grade 3	2432	2426	↓ 2	50%	=
Grade 4	2473	2468	↓ 6	51%	↓ 2
Grade 5	2502	2509	↑ 2	56%	↑ 1
Grade 6	2531	2530	↓ 2	53%	=
Grade 7	2552	2557	↓ 2	56%	↓ 1
Grade 8	2567	2567	↓ 10	53%	↓ 4
Grade 9	2571	2580	↑ 1	57%	↑ 2

2019 Mathematics Scores

The Mathematics assessment includes tasks and questions that address Communicating Reasoning, Problem Solving and Modeling/Data Analysis, and Concepts and Procedures. The 2019 Math results are mixed across the grades as well, with student performance improving in some grades compared to 2018 scores, while in other grades we are seeing a decline. Overall the trend seems to be heading downward which is a concern.

Table 2: 2019 Smarter Balanced Math Results

Grade	Scale Scores			Total Proficient and Above	
	Proficient Score	State Average	Change from 2018	State Average	Change from 2018
Grade 3	2436	2438	↑ 1	52%	=
Grade 4	2485	2474	↓ 5	46%	↓ 3
Grade 5	2528	2504	=	42%	=
Grade 6	2552	2517	↓ 5	38%	↓ 3
Grade 7	2567	2540	↓ 1	43%	↓ 1
Grade 8	2586	2551	↓ 7	40%	↓ 2
Grade 9	2601	2545	↑ 2	35%	=

Results for Historically Marginalized Student Groups

As part of its response to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Agency’s accountability system now includes scores from a new grouping of students. Known as “Historically Marginalized Students,” this reporting group combines student groups historically underserved by educational institutions. The group includes non-white racial/ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English learners and students in poverty – groups that are generally too small to report separately for student privacy reasons.

Table 3: 2019 Smarter Balanced Results- Historically Marginalized Status

Grade	ELA Scale Scores			Math Scale Scores		
	Historically Marginalized	Not Historically Marginalized	Difference	Historically Marginalized	Not Historically Marginalized	Difference
Grade 3	2394	2459	65	2407	2470	63
Grade 4	2434	2506	72	2446	2507	61
Grade 5	2471	2550	79	2470	2541	71
Grade 6	2491	2568	77	2475	2557	82
Grade 7	2516	2598	82	2497	2582	85
Grade 8	2524	2605	81	2502	2595	93
Grade 9	2528	2616	88	2492	2583	91

2019 Vermont Science Assessment Results

In 2013, Vermont adopted the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) as a foundation for science instruction. Based on the [Framework for K-12 Education](#), the NGSS refocuses K-12 science education to improve readiness for college and STEM careers as well as preparing students to become informed, knowledgeable citizens. The NGSS focus on helping students use scientific inquiry, interdisciplinary thinking and science content to make sense of their natural and designed world. The VTSA is designed to help parents and educators determine if students are on target to achieve proficiency in the NGSS.

The VTSA is different than previous science assessments taken by Vermont students. The test questions are computer-based and are anchored by a phenomenon. Phenomena are observable events that occur in the universe that we can use our science knowledge to explain or predict. The goal of building knowledge in science is to develop general ideas, based on evidence, that can explain and predict phenomena.

The 2019 Science results will serve as a benchmark for tracking schools’ progress in helping students demonstrate knowledge of the NGSS. With only 37% to 41% percent of students

meeting proficiency on the assessment in 2019 across the grades, there is plenty of room for improvement.

Table 4: 2019 Science Results

Grade	Scale Scores		Total Proficient and Above
	Proficient Score	State Average	State Average
Grade 5	60	54	37%
Grade 8	60	54	39%
Grade 11	60	57	41%

As part of its response to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the AOE’s accountability system now includes scores from a new grouping of students. Known as “Historically Marginalized Students,” this reporting group combines all student groups historically underserved by educational institutions. The group includes racial/ethnic groups, students with disabilities, English learners and students in poverty – groups that are generally too small to report separately.

Table 5: 2019 Science Results- Historically Marginalized Status

Grade	Science Scale Scores		
	Historically Marginalized	Not Historically Marginalized	Difference
Grade 5	48	60	12
Grade 8	48	60	12
Grade 11	50	61	11