



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Tom Waldman
(213) 241-6766

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“Common Core” Grades Show Impressive Gains in latest CST Results Deasy Lauds Increased Proficiency in English Language Arts, Math, for Grades 6 and 9

LOS ANGELES - Overall proficiency rates in mathematics and English language arts remained unchanged at the Los Angeles Unified School District in 2013, according to the latest California Standards Tests (CST) results.

The 2013 figures, just released by the California Department of Education, indicate that LAUSD recorded 48% proficient in English language arts and 45% proficient in mathematics, as was the case for both categories in 2012. Statewide, the results show a decrease of 1 percentage point in English language arts and no change in mathematics.

“While I always like to see gains,” said LAUSD Superintendent John Deasy, “I’m very concerned when we experience decreases. This round of tests was administered at the low point of the District’s unprecedented budget crisis. I’m proud overall of how our students and teachers performed under such extraordinarily difficult circumstances.”

Deasy added that the passage of Proposition 30 last November would in due course provide schools with the resources essential for students to achieve at their best.

In a hopeful sign for the future, the Superintendent noted that grades 6 and 9, which implemented the Common Core standards this past year, recorded the highest increase in proficiency rates. For grade 9, English language arts improved from 40% to 45% and Algebra I rose from 27% proficient to 31% proficient. For grade 6, English language arts rose two points to 49% and math went from 44% to 46%.

Other highlights:

- Proficiency improved in grade 10 life science by 2 percentage points, from 20% to 22%.
- In social science, scores increased by 1 percentage point in world history and U.S. history.
- An equal number of females and males were proficient or above in mathematics (45%). For the boys, this represented a 1 percentage point gain.

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- In English language arts, proficiency rates for African-America students increased by 2 percentage points.
- English Learners increased by 1 percentage point in English language arts in 2013 and 3 percentage points in mathematics.
- Students with disabilities increased by 2 percentage points in English language arts and 1 point in mathematics.
- Hoover Elementary School recorded a 7 percentage point gain in English language arts. Since 2010, the school has gone from 33% proficient to 55% proficient.
- King Middle School had a 7 percentage point gain in math in 2013.
- Venice High School has improved from 40% proficient in English language arts in 2010 to 55% in 2013.

“In recent years, the LAUSD has achieved its highest graduation rates in history, seen a dramatic upswing in the number of students taking the Advanced Placement exam, and reduced suspensions by a record amount,” said Deasy. “We look forward to similar gains in the CST in the coming years.”

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