

Florida Standards Assessments

Grade 3 English Language Arts



2021



Florida Standards Assessments

The Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) measure student achievement of the Florida Standards, which specify the challenging content Florida students are expected to learn in the subject areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. The Florida Standards were designed with input from educators, district administrators, community leaders and members of the public to ensure students receive the foundation necessary to succeed in each subsequent grade and/or course. The FSA was administered for the first time in Spring 2015.

Achievement Levels

The Achievement Level definitions that apply to FSA English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments are provided below, and the cut scores that define the levels are provided on page 3. Achievement Levels are referred to as Performance Levels on FSA student reports.

Level 5	Mastery —highly likely to excel in the next grade/course
Level 4	Proficient —likely to excel in the next grade/course
Level 3	Satisfactory —may need additional support for the next grade/course
Level 2	Below Satisfactory —likely to need substantial support for the next grade/course
Level 1	Inadequate —highly likely to need substantial support for the next grade/course

The FSA Achievement Levels were developed with input from more than 300 educators from around the state. In addition, a diverse group of statewide education stakeholders convened separately and made recommendations regarding passing scores on the new assessments. The Department of Education posted each group’s recommendations on its website and requested feedback from all members of the public. After receiving public comment, the Commissioner of Education recommended the Achievement Levels for each assessment, and they were approved by the State Board of Education in January 2016.

FSA English Language Arts Achievement Levels

Grade	Scale Scores				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
3	240-284	285-299	300-314	315-329	330-360

Florida Standards Assessments

Grade 3 English Language Arts

Summary of Grade 3 ELA Results

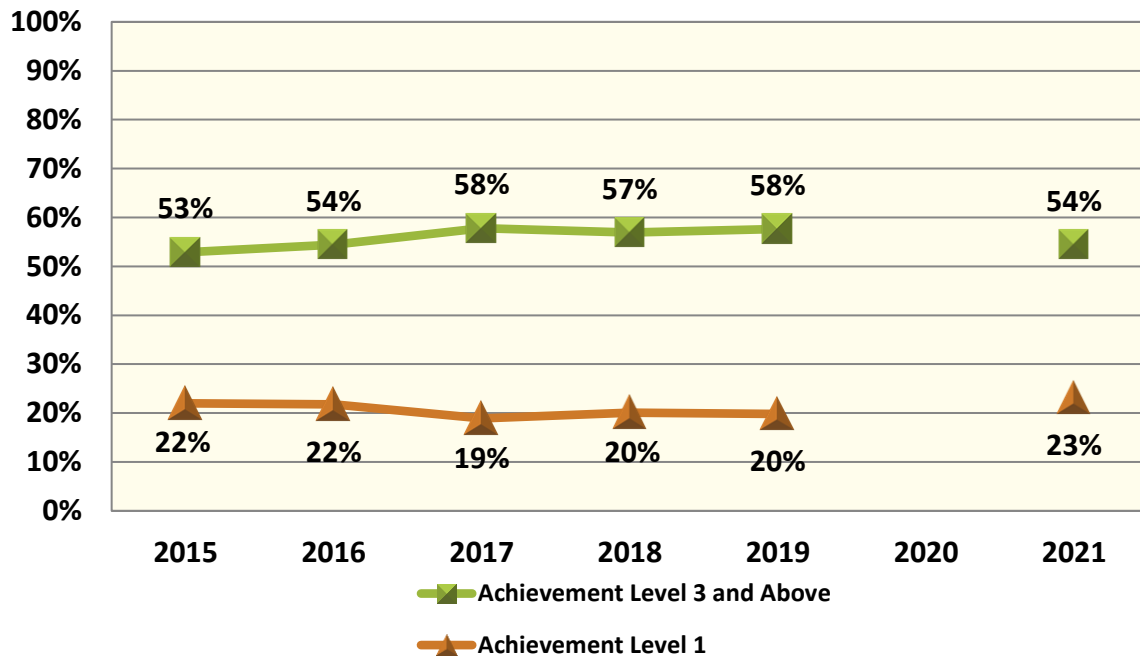
- Overall, performance at Level 3 and above decreased by 4 percentage points compared to 2019 (58% to 54%); however, compared to 2015 when the test was first administered, performance is up by 1 percentage point (54% vs. 53%).
- Though the decline in grade 3 ELA performance at Level 3 and above between 2019 and 2021 was greater among charter schools than non-charter schools (5 percentage-point decline compared to a 4 percentage-point decline), charter school performance was higher than non-charter school performance by 8 percentage points on the 2021 Grade 3 FSA ELA (61% vs. 53%). Additionally, charter school performance has been consistently higher than non-charter school performance since 2015 when the test was first administered.
- In 2021, 60% of Traditional Virtual, 56% of Innovative, and 54% of Traditional Brick and Mortar students scored Achievement Level 3 or above, while 17% of Traditional Virtual, 21% of Innovative, and 23% of Traditional Brick and Mortar students scored in Achievement Level 1
 - However, it must be noted that of all grade 3 test takers, only 1 percent were Traditional Virtual students, while 74% of test takers were Traditional Brick and Mortar students and 24% were Innovative students..
- In 2021, African American and Hispanic student performance at Level 3 and above decreased by 3 percentage points (54% to 51% and 40% to 37%, respectively), while White student performance decreased by 4 percentage points (71% to 67%).
- Between 2019 and 2021, the performance of African American students and Hispanic students declined at a lower rate than the performance of White students, meaning that the achievement gap between African American students and White students and between Hispanic students and White students narrowed by 1 percentage point.
 - However, it must be noted that though gaps did narrow, the performance level of White, African American, and Hispanic students all declined in 2021 compared to 2019.
- In 2021, Students with Disabilities decreased performance at Level 3 and above by 2 percentage points (32% to 30%); however, compared to 2015, performance continues to be 5 percentage points higher (30% vs. 25%).
- Performance at Level 3 and above for Economically Disadvantaged students decreased by 4 percentage points compared to 2019 (48% to 44%) and is 1 percentage point higher than in 2015 (44% vs. 43%).
- In 2021, English Language Learners' performance decreased by 5 percentage points (27% to 22%) compared to 2019 and is 2 percentage points higher than in 2015 (22% vs. 20%).

NOTES:

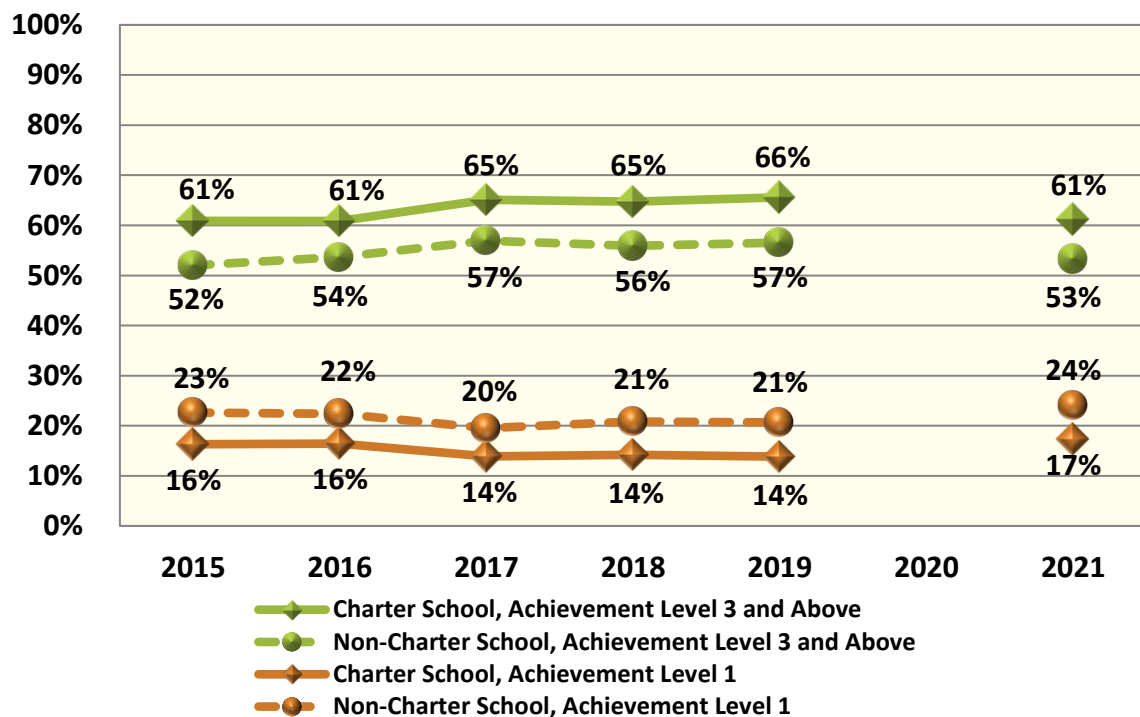
- 1) Pursuant to [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1](#), spring K-12 statewide assessment test administrations for the 2019-20 school year were canceled; therefore, data are not reported for 2020.**
- 2) Percentages displayed in this document for prior years may reflect minor differences from percentages published previously. This is because of the inclusion of additional assessment records reported after the initial publication of data.
- 3) Student performance on the 2015 FSA ELA presented in this document is reported using the Achievement Levels established by the State Board of Education in January 2016. The results were retrofitted to the established score scale and Achievement Levels so stakeholders can compare school years and see how students would have performed if the Achievement Levels had been established in 2015.
- 4) Florida Statutes requires any third-grade student who does not score at Level 2 or higher on the grade 3 statewide FSA ELA to be retained unless the student qualifies for a good cause exemption; however, for 2021, in accordance with [Florida Department of Education DOE Order No. 2021-EO-02](#), “Third Grade Promotion: Notwithstanding the requirements found in s. 1008.25(5), Fla. Stat., a student may be promoted to grade four, regardless of the absence of an English Language Arts (ELA) assessment score or the absence of a Level 2 or higher ELA score, if the district is able to determine that a student is performing at least at Level 2 on the ELA assessment through the good cause exemption process provided in s. 1008.25, Fla. Stat., or other means reasonably calculated to provide reliable evidence of a student's performance.” Due to the cancellation of the 2020 statewide, standardized assessments, and pursuant to [Florida Department of Education Emergency Order No. 2020-EO-1](#), School districts were authorized to evaluate students for grade 3 promotion decision for the 2019-2020 school year.

English Language Arts – FSA Grade 3

By Achievement Level, All Schools

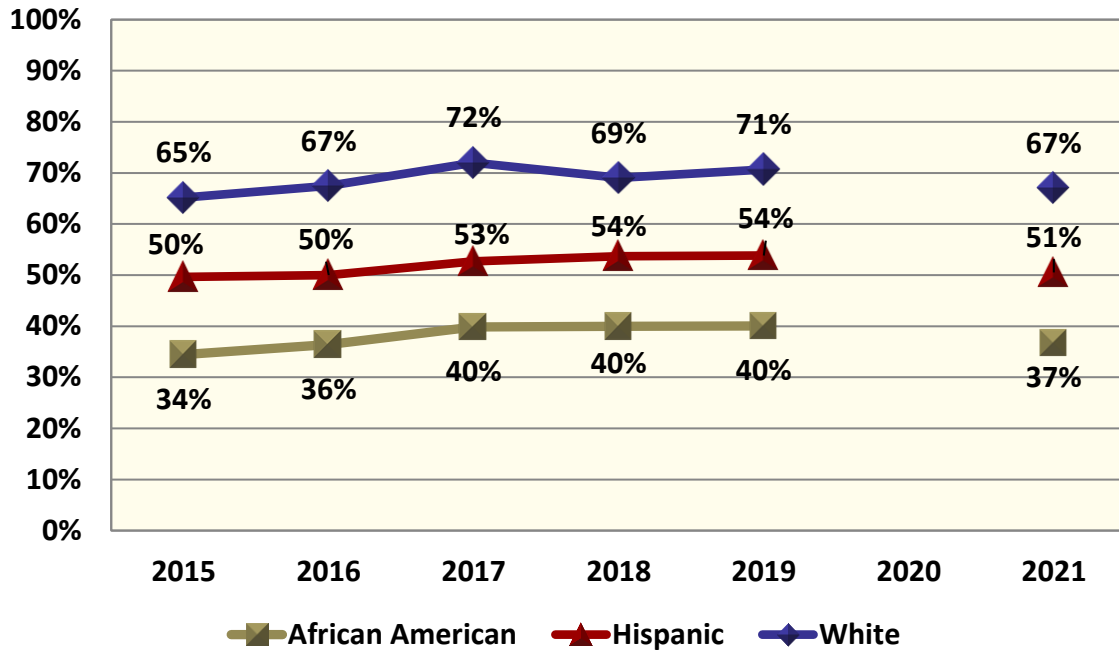


By Achievement Level, Charter vs. Non-Charter Schools

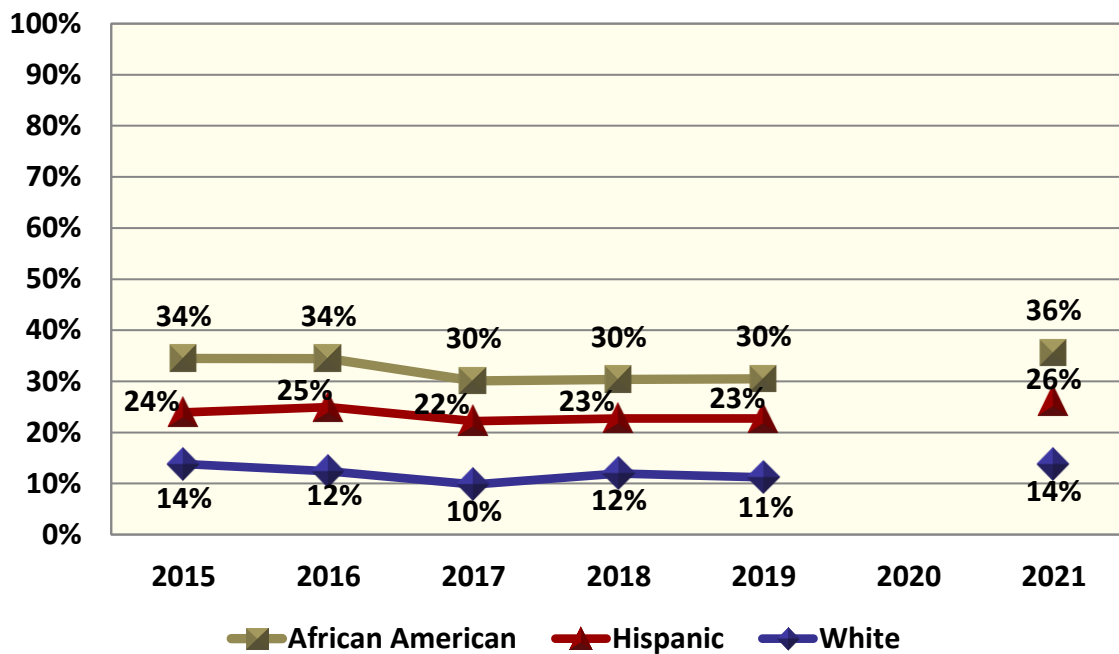


English Language Arts – FSA Grade 3

At or Above Achievement Level 3, by Race/Ethnicity

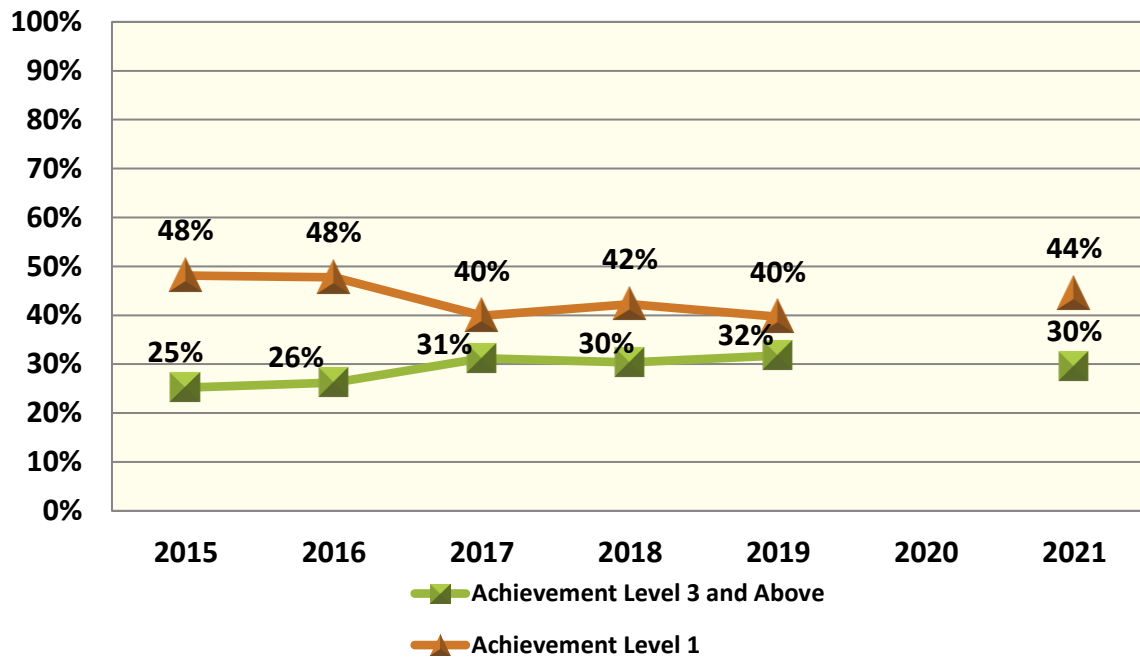


At Achievement Level 1, by Race/Ethnicity

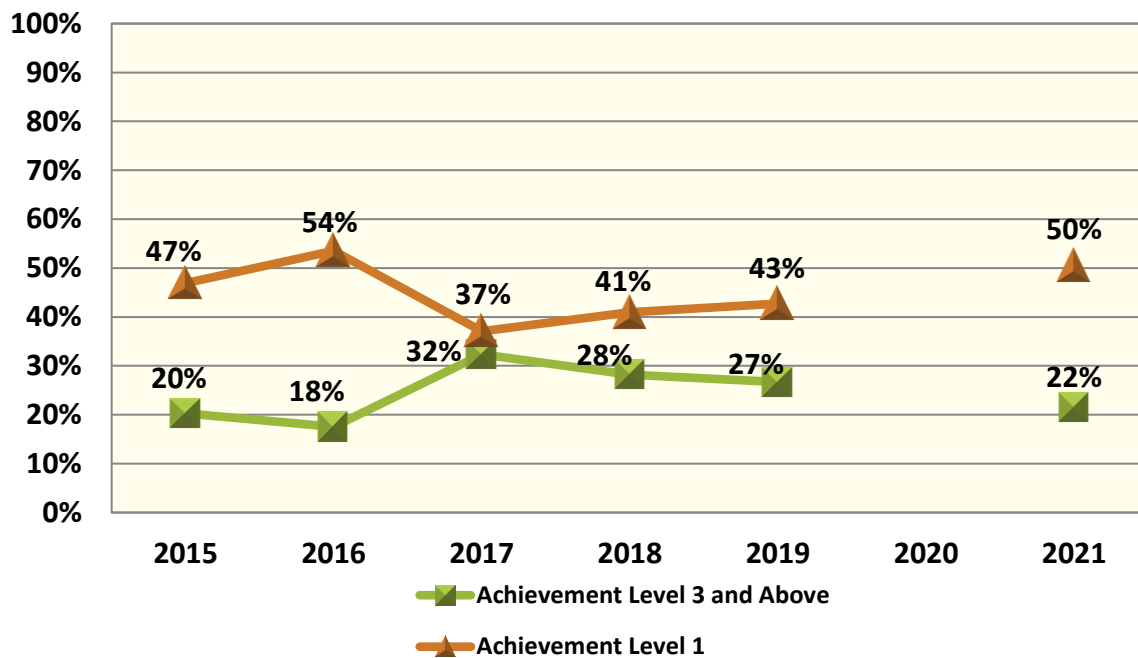


English Language Arts – FSA Grade 3

By Achievement Level, Students with Disabilities

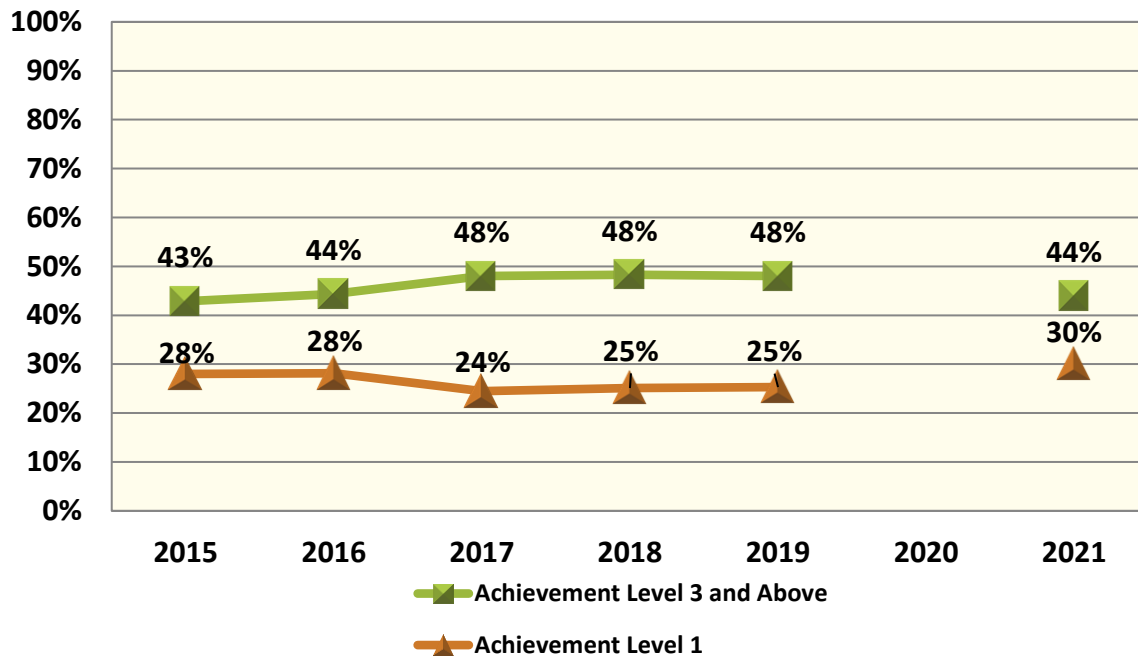


By Achievement Level, English Language Learners



English Language Arts – FSA Grade 3

By Achievement Level, Economically Disadvantaged



Statewide Comparison Report 2015 to 2019, 2021

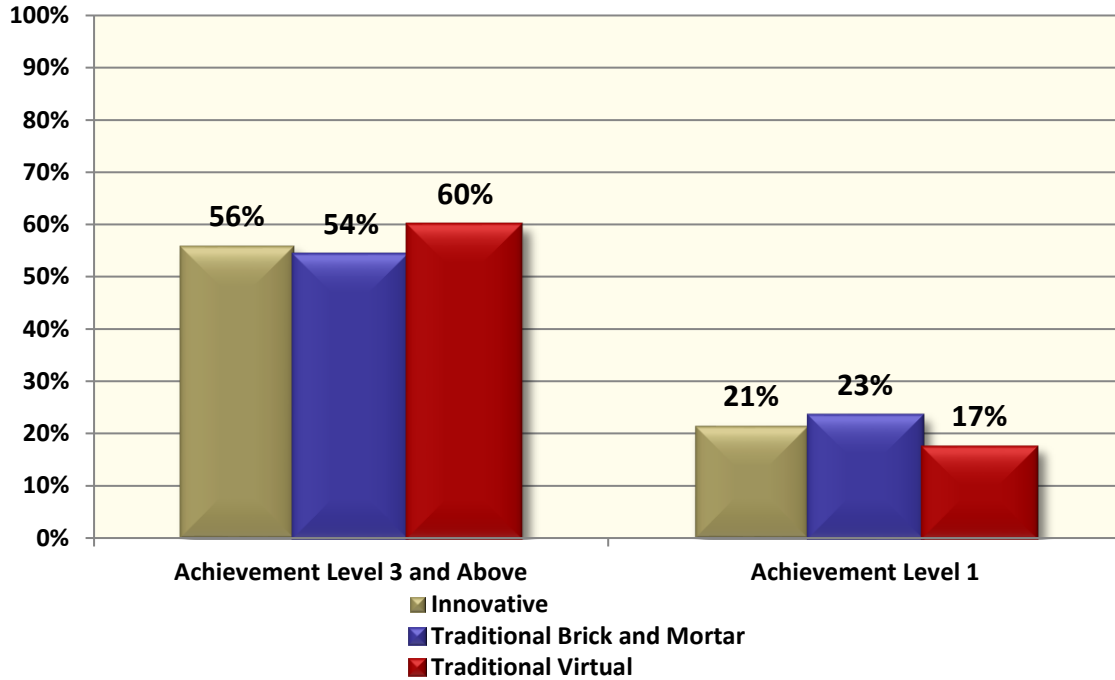
FSA English Language Arts

Grade	Year	Number of Students	Mean Scale Score	Percentage of Students by Achievement Level*					Percentage Level 3 and Above*
				1	2	3	4	5	
3	2015	215,754	300	22%	25%	27%	18%	7%	53%
	2016	220,924	301	22%	24%	27%	19%	9%	54%
	2017	228,233	303	19%	23%	28%	21%	9%	58%
	2018	221,845	302	20%	23%	29%	20%	9%	57%
	2019	216,974	302	20%	23%	28%	22%	8%	58%
	2021	198,628	300	23%	22%	28%	20%	6%	54%

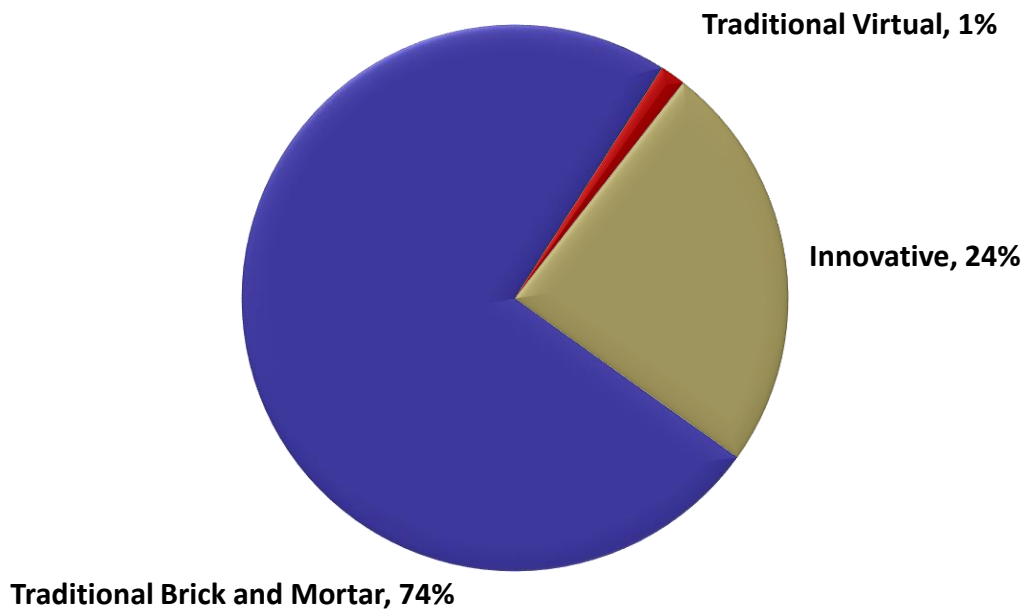
*Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

English Language Arts – FSA Grade 3

By Achievement Level, Learning Environment



Test Takers by Learning Environment



Note: Students enrolled after Survey 3 reporting are not represented in this pie chart.

District Comparison Report 2019 to 2021

FSA English Language Arts, Grade 3

District	Percentage Level 3 and Above		Percentage Point Change
	2019	2021	
STATEWIDE	58%	54%	-4%
ALACHUA	57%	53%	-4%
BAKER	73%	68%	-5%
BAY	61%	52%	-9%
BRADFORD	59%	51%	-8%
BREVARD	64%	60%	-4%
BROWARD	60%	53%	-7%
CALHOUN	62%	62%	0%
CHARLOTTE	69%	62%	-7%
CITRUS	61%	54%	-7%
CLAY	68%	63%	-5%
COLLIER	61%	60%	-1%
COLUMBIA	68%	60%	-8%
MIAMI-DADE	60%	57%	-3%
DESOTO	34%	32%	-2%
DIXIE	62%	56%	-6%
DUVAL	51%	48%	-3%
ESCAMBIA	56%	53%	-3%
FLAGLER	68%	59%	-9%
FRANKLIN	50%	34%	-16%
GADSDEN	37%	31%	-6%
GILCHRIST	70%	55%	-15%
GLADES	62%	38%	-24%
GULF	53%	50%	-3%
HAMILTON	50%	34%	-16%
HARDEE	59%	51%	-8%
HENDRY	47%	37%	-10%
HERNANDO	57%	57%	0%
HIGHLANDS	50%	46%	-4%
HILLSBOROUGH	52%	51%	-1%
HOLMES	59%	46%	-13%
INDIAN RIVER	60%	60%	0%
JACKSON	58%	62%	4%
JEFFERSON	45%	28%	-17%
LAFAYETTE	62%	63%	1%
LAKE	60%	52%	-8%
LEE	58%	50%	-8%

District Comparison Report 2019 to 2021

FSA English Language Arts, Grade 3

District	Percentage Level 3 and Above		Percentage Point Change
	2019	2021	
STATEWIDE	58%	54%	-4%
LEON	61%	54%	-7%
LEVY	52%	51%	-1%
LIBERTY	66%	56%	-10%
MADISON	40%	44%	4%
MANATEE	51%	49%	-2%
MARION	44%	44%	0%
MARTIN	54%	52%	-2%
MONROE	70%	58%	-12%
NASSAU	75%	68%	-7%
OKALOOSA	66%	63%	-3%
OKEECHOBEE	59%	51%	-8%
ORANGE	55%	55%	0%
OSCEOLA	51%	47%	-4%
PALM BEACH	54%	54%	0%
PASCO	60%	56%	-4%
PINELLAS	56%	54%	-2%
POLK	52%	47%	-5%
PUTNAM	41%	39%	-2%
ST. JOHNS	78%	78%	0%
ST. LUCIE	50%	47%	-3%
SANTA ROSA	71%	65%	-6%
SARASOTA	70%	66%	-4%
SEMINOLE	67%	65%	-2%
SUMTER	66%	68%	2%
SUWANNEE	56%	53%	-3%
TAYLOR	59%	39%	-20%
UNION	69%	63%	-6%
VOLUSIA	58%	54%	-4%
WAKULLA	67%	60%	-7%
WALTON	66%	61%	-5%
WASHINGTON	60%	60%	0%