

Key Takeaways on SOL Test Results

This morning, the Virginia Department of Education released the Standards of Learning test results.

Main points:

- Math scores have seen progress
- ACPS still has much work to do with academic achievement - but SOLs are just one measure of student success.
- Beyond the test scores ACPS also looks at career readiness, meeting the social and emotional needs of all students, building character, the experiences they have inside and outside of the classroom, and how they give back to the community.
- Measuring What Matters will be released at the end of August, just before the start of the new school year.

Math:

- ACPS now has a **higher percentage** of students testing proficient in math than in previous years.
- The percentage of students testing proficient in math increased by **nine** percentage points
- Math results increased across the board in all subgroups:
 1. Black, Hispanic, English Learner and Economically Disadvantaged students proficient in math all increased by **nine** percentage points or more
 2. The ACPS rate of growth in math for all students was **four** percentage points higher than growth seen at the state level
 3. The ACPS rate of growth in math for Economically Disadvantaged students was **five** percentage points higher than at the state level
- Math has been an area of **intense academic focus** for the school division over the past couple of years and these results demonstrate progress in this area.
- Over the past year, the focus on math has included:
 1. Analysis of data in quarterly meetings
 2. Monthly professional learning
 3. Intensive equity training for instructional leaders to ensure the needs of all students are being met
 4. Kagan training
 5. Professional learning by Marilyn Friend
 6. Development of the curriculum
 7. Progress timelines connected to the curriculum
- There is still much work to be done and the **focus on math will need to continue**. A 70% pass rate is not our end goal.

Other subject areas:

- Other results either remained flat or saw a slight drop and remain focus areas for ACPS
- These results are not acceptable and ACPS will continue to work relentlessly to change the narrative for all of our students.

Reading focus for next school year:

This coming school year, ACPS will have an intentional focus on improving reading skills.

ACPS has already taken a variety of proactive measures, including:

- implementing a new comprehensive elementary reading program;
- focusing on writing instruction at all grade levels;
- continuing alignment of the curriculum with Virginia State standards;
- ongoing data analysis and instructional support using reading inventory results and other assessment measures; and
- sustaining professional learning at all grade levels.

The importance of Equity

- It is clear that not all students have access to the same educational opportunities
- We will be working to remove barriers for students so that they are provided the support necessary to achieve within ACPS and beyond

Changes to the state testing:

- Virginia Math Standards of Learning were updated this past year
- This school year will see necessary changes to the Virginia English Standards of Learning

Accreditation:

- Final school accreditation ratings for the 2019-2020 school year will be announced on **September 26**
- These ratings include adjustments for successful instructional support, growth of students towards proficiency in reading and mathematics, and allowances for transfer students and English learners.