

MCAS - Spring 2021



A Report to the Winchendon
Public Schools School
Committee

October 7, 2021

Context - Different from any prior MCAS administration

- Some students in person; some remote
- Shorter assessments at elementary and intermediate grade levels
- Cancellation of scheduled tests and re-tests
- Waiver of MCAS graduation requirements for the class of 2020, 2021 & 2022
- Most importantly, from a learning standpoint, **significant COVID “headwinds.”**

“Score changes between 2019 and 2021 were much larger than those seen between 2018 and 2019, and all the changes showed declines in grades 3-8.”

- DESE, MCAS 2021 SGP Explained

Figure 1: 2019 SGP Distribution

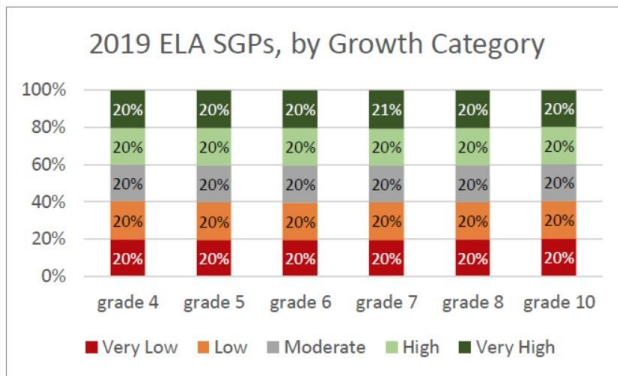
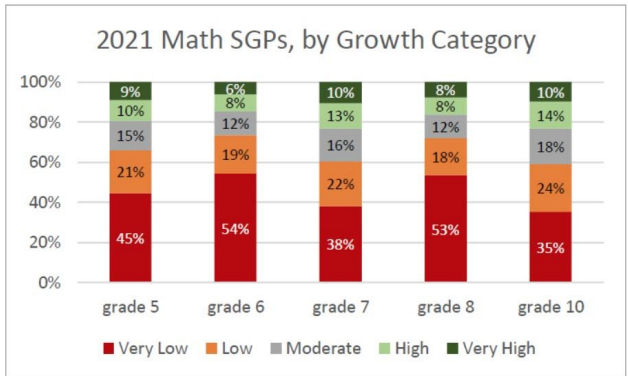


Figure 2: Example of Baselined Growth



Dramatically Lower Student Outcomes & A New Method for Calculating SGP

These graphics show statewide data.

In past years, DESE would have classified students' rates of growth over time as you see on the left - that is, they would have classified students' growth as falling into one of five growth categories, each including 20% of the state's student population - but for 2021, using the old methods just didn't make sense. So many students' scores actually declined that the state changed the method for calculating growth scores to better represent the reality of declining outcomes.

The graphic on the right shows **statewide** math growth and

- at NO grade are less than 60% of students' growth outcomes very low or low, and
- no more than 24% of students' growth is high or very high.

As was true across the country and the world, students made less academic progress last year than has ever been measured before.

That said, we were really pleased to see that, under this new method of calculations, students in Winchendon grew (or in many cases lost ground more slowly) than students across the state as a whole.

It's been a tough year, but we have some

GOOD NEWS

Grade and Subject	Avg. SGP District	Avg. SGP State
GRADE 05 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	30.9	34.9
GRADE 05 - MATHEMATICS	25.6	31.9
GRADE 06 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	38.2	37.3
GRADE 06 - MATHEMATICS	20.7	26.3
GRADE 07 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	43.8	36.1
GRADE 07 - MATHEMATICS	43.8	35.8
GRADE 08 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	46.1	34.8
GRADE 08 - MATHEMATICS	37.2	27.4
GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	62.5	52.5
GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS	46.9	36.5
GRADES 03 - 08 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	40	35.8
GRADES 03 - 08 - MATHEMATICS	32	30.4

SGP measures how students' performance in math or ELA grew compared to other students across the state who had similar prior scores. In this table, for each MCAS exam for which the Student Growth Percentile measure is available, you can see the average student growth percentile of WPS students in the left column, compared to the average growth of students across the state in the right-hand column.

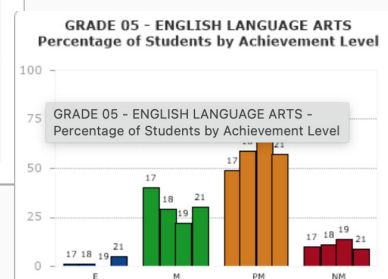
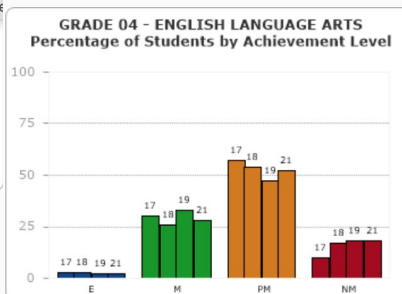
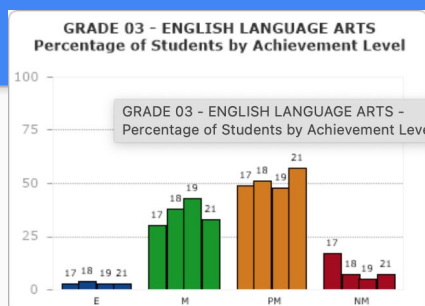
As you can see, wherever the rate of growth in Winchendon exceeded the statewide average SGP, we have highlighted our SGP rate in green. Where our rate was lower than the statewide rate, we have highlighted our score in yellow.

- In 9 of 10 categories from grade 6 through 10, Winchendon's students' growth rate was higher than the state average!
- At grades 8 and 10, our growth rates in both ELA and math were ALL over 10 points above the state average

In other words, while students across the state, the nation and the world lost ground last year, relative to how students did across the state, students here in Winchendon lost less ground and in some instances, actually grew despite the tremendous headwinds.

That said, we we have our work cut out for us moving forward

ELA MCAS Performance Over Time

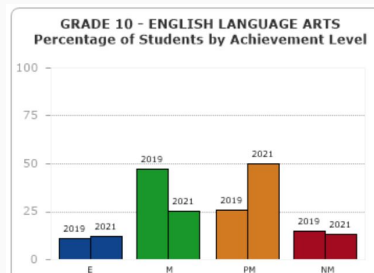
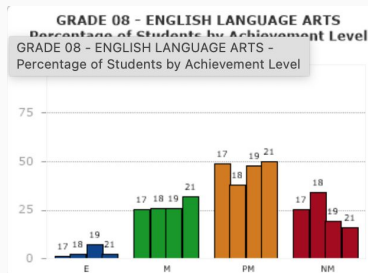
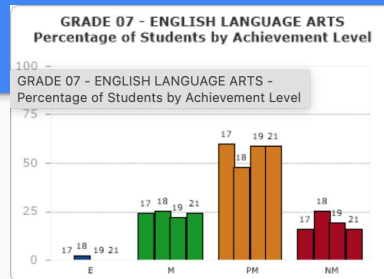
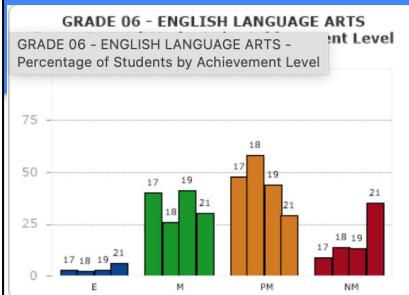


These next four slides illustrate changes in outcomes over time.

- You can see the test year above each bar in the graph
- For each color, the chronology reads from left to right, with the earliest reported test year on the left and 2021 on the right-hand side.
- Blue bars show how many students exceed expectations; green bars show meets; orange show partially meets and red show how many students scored 'does not meet' expectations.

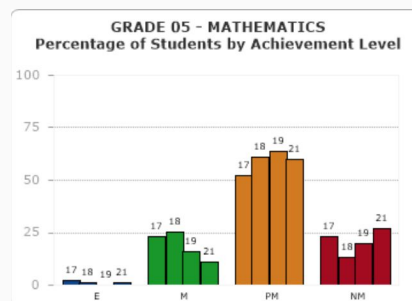
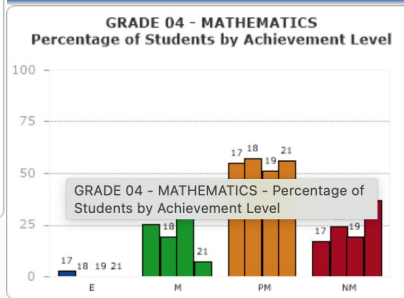
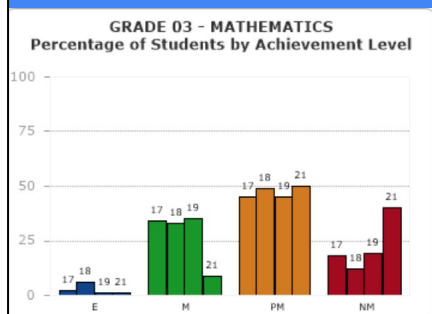
Across the elementary grades, here in Winchendon, outcomes were generally similar or slightly worse in 2021 to what they were in 2019.

ELA MCAS Performance Over Time



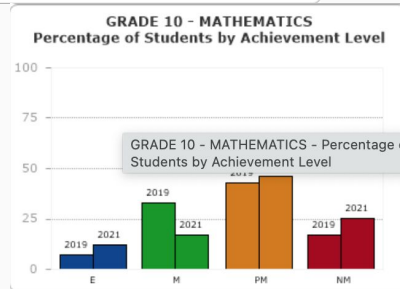
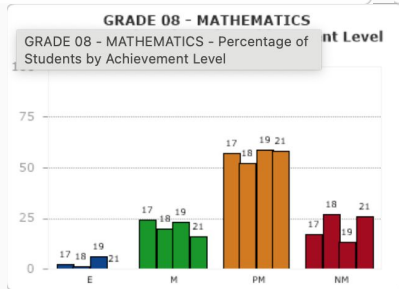
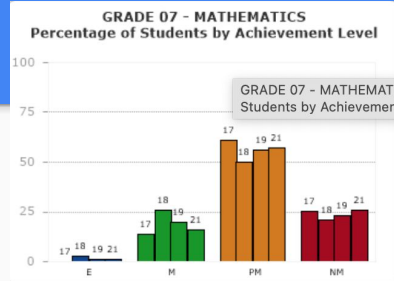
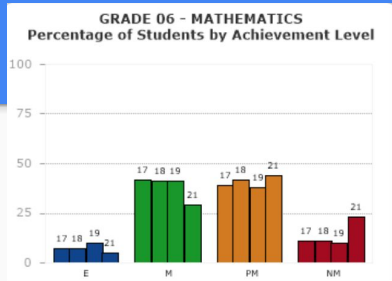
At the secondary level, the story is similar. Despite experiencing smaller setbacks than students across the state generally did - many more Winchendon 6th graders did not meet expectations this year and a much higher number of 10th graders scored in the partially meets category in 2021 than in 2019.

Math MCAS Performance Over Time



As was true for students throughout MA, many of our elementary and secondary students experienced significant setbacks in math. As you can see, at each grade level, many more students scored in the red or 'does not meet' category in spring 2021, and many fewer students met or exceeded expectations.

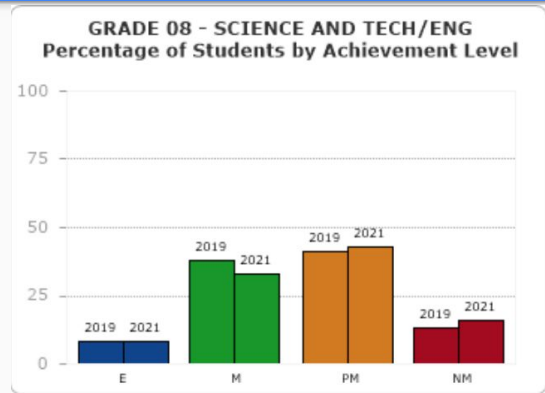
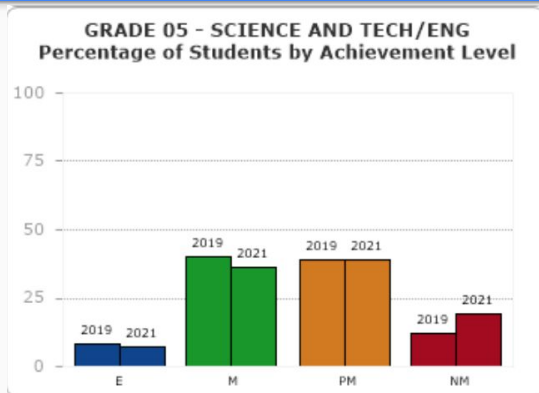
Math MCAS Performance Over Time



Outcomes were similar at the secondary level

This year and into the future, especially in math but in ELA as well, we're going to have to focus a great deal of our attention on what DESE is describing as 'accelerating the learning' - in short, to efficiently closing learning gaps that have opened up during the pandemic while continuing to give students access to stimulating grade level content.

Science MCAS Performance Over Time



The state did not require a 10th grade Science MCAS assessment in 2021 so we don't have a graphic to display here, but in general what you can see is that - similar to what we saw in ELA - we had small declines in outcomes at both 5th and 8th grades

The Work Ahead

Grade and Subject	Meeting or Exceeding Expectations		Exceeding Expectations		Meeting Expectations		Partially Meeting Expectations		Not Meeting Expectations	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
GRADES 03 - 08 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	33	46	3	8	30	38	51	38	17	16
GRADES 03 - 08 - MATHEMATICS	13	33	1	5	12	29	56	45	31	22
GRADES 05 & 08 - SCIENCE	31	42	1	7	30	34	52	41	17	17
GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	37	64	12	19	25	45	50	27	13	9
GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS	29	52	12	11	17	41	46	36	25	12

Finally, while we are talking about the work ahead, and now that we have properly celebrated the relative strength of our students' growth or progress in a state where the headwinds have been intense, we can't lose sight of the big picture for WPS - that is, that across most grade levels, in ELA, Math and Science, there are still many students who are not yet meeting grade level expectations and gaps between our students' outcomes and the outcomes of students statewide.

This table details the percent of students here in WPS and in the state as a whole, in each performance category. In the columns with a dark green header, for example, for each category of test, on the left you can see the percentage of our students in grades 3-8 who met or exceeded expectations, and on the right you can see the percentage statewide. In any category where there's still a substantial gap between our students' performance and the performance of students across the state, we have color coded the WPS box red. Where we meet or exceed state performance, we have color-coded the box in green. Unfortunately, as the red stripes highlight, as of now there are gaps between our students' performance and the statewide average nearly across the board.

All of our kids are capable of performing at high levels, and many of them aren't there yet. For example, at most grade levels and in most content areas, only a handful of our students perform at the "Exceeds Expectations" level. We still have a lot of work to do to empower our students to achieve at their full potential.

What's exciting, though is that, if our growth continues to outstrip the state, we will have the opportunity to catch up and to surpass statewide performance in the years ahead.

A Final Note re: Accountability

No change in ratings for 2021-22

Given the tremendous headwinds, the tests that weren't administered, and the concerns about equity arising from the significant differences in context from community to community, the Board of Education voted to make no changes to accountability ratings for 2021-22. Thus, our rating this year remains the same as it was in the 2019-2020 school year.

Current Accountability Status

WPS

Overall classification: Not requiring assistance or intervention
Reason for classification: Substantial progress toward targets
Progress towards accountability targets: 51%

MHS

Overall classification: Not requiring assistance or intervention
Reason for classification: Substantial progress toward targets
Progress towards accountability targets: 60% Accountability Percentile: 25th

MMS

Overall classification: Requiring assistance or intervention
Reason for classification: In need of focused/targeted support
Among the lowest performing 10% of schools
Low subgroup performance: White -High needs
Progress towards accountability targets: 56% - Substantial progress toward targets Accountability Percentile: 7th

TTE:

Overall classification: Requiring assistance or intervention
Reason for classification: In need of focused/targeted support
Among the lowest performing 10% of schools
Low subgroup performance: White
Progress towards accountability targets: 31% - Moderate progress toward targets Accountability Percentile: 8th

Here are the ratings for the district and also for each school.

Questions?

Comments?

Concerns?