

Comparison charts

The following pages contain two kinds of charts. The first set of charts (“**School comparisons**”) illustrates how each district school compares to averages on indicators selected by A+ Schools. The second set of charts is based on the **Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)**, which measures growth in PSSA scores.

School comparisons

The charts on pages 109 through 113 show how each school compares to averages at the same grade or level. For elementary schools, there were 13 points of comparison; for K-8s, 19; for middle schools, 11; and for high schools, 21.

Although this component of the report is based on averages, readers should not conclude that we are endorsing average achievement.

How to interpret comparisons that group students by race or family income

PSSA test results were compared in these ways:

- All students in a school, or a grade within a school, compared to averages for all students at that grade (all eighth graders, or all high school seniors...)
- Black students in a grade compared to averages for black students at that grade
- White students in a grade compared to averages for white students at that grade
- Low-income students (eligible for free/reduced-price lunch) in a grade compared to averages for low-income students at that grade

Keep in mind that these comparison groups hold even when the school’s population is all one race, or all low-income. For example, a purple arrow (indicating below average) for low-income fifth graders in a school with 100% low-income students is still a comparison of those students to averages for low-income fifth graders, not to all fifth graders.

PVAAS

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) is a measure of growth in PSSA achievement, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). For fourth through eighth grades, PVAAS reports whether or not each grade level in a school met the state’s standard for growth: at least a year’s worth of growth in scores for a year’s worth of schooling. Other measures in this report compare PSSA scores to a standard of proficiency—whether students’ scores fell into the “Advanced” or “Proficient” ranges, or whether their scores

are below the standard in the “Basic” or “Below Basic” ranges. By contrast, PVAAS estimates whether or not selected grade levels made progress, no matter where their starting points were.

The charts on pages 114 through 116 show an indicator for fourth through eighth grades in the district’s elementary, K-8, and middle schools. (Charter schools receive PVAAS information from PDE but it was not available for this report.) The indicators show whether cohorts (groups) of students met the growth standard, made less growth than the standard, made even less growth, or made little growth. *Note:* PVAAS analyzes more than one year of data. Therefore, there are no PVAAS reports for third grade, the first year students take the PSSA.

For more information about PVAAS, go to www.pde.state.pa.us, then Pre K-12 schools, then Assessment, then PA Value-Added Assessment System, or call PDE at 717-606-1911.

Additional information used for comparison charts

Change in SAT scores

Definition: Increase or decrease in SAT scores, 2005-08.

Source: PDE.

Student race/ethnicity, family income status

Definition: Race/ethnicity reflects PPS definitions (see “Student race/ethnicity” on page 106). Test information for students in the “other” category was not reported by PDE for most Pittsburgh district and charter schools due to their small numbers, and so was not used for comparisons in this report. “Low-income students” refers to students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

Source: PDE.

See pages 106 and 107 for other definitions and sources.

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School comparisons: K-8 schools

- Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations below the district average
- n/a Not applicable or not available (some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported). K-8 schools do not have "change" data because most are new.

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

Averages include all students at that grade level, whether they attend a K-8, elementary, or middle school.

For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 108.

2008 PSSA scores												
	3rd grade All students		5th grade All students		5th grade – Subgroups of students							
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Low-income		Black		White			
ARLINGTON												
BROOKLINE							n/a					
CARMALT												
COLFAX												
FAISON												
GREENFIELD												
KING												
LINCOLN												
MANCHESTER												
MIFFLIN												
MILLER												
MONTESSORI												
MURRAY												
SCHAEFFER												
STEVENS												
SUNNYSIDE												
VANN												
WEIL												
WESTWOOD												

3 Greater than three standard deviations below the district average

School comparisons: K-8 schools

- ▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- ▲▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- ▼ Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- ▼▼ Greater than two standard deviations below the district average

n/a Not applicable or not available (some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported). K-8 schools do not have “change” data because most are new.

The “standard deviation” is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

Averages include all students at that grade level, whether they attend a K-8, elementary, or middle school.

For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 108.

	2008 PSSA scores										Attendance (All grades)	
	8th grade All students		8th grade – Subgroups of students				2008 Attendance					
	Reading	Math	Low-income	Black	White	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2008 Attendance		
ARLINGTON	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
BROOKLINE	○	○	▲	n/a	○	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○
CARMALT	○	▲	▲	○	▲	○	▲	▲	○	○	○	○
COLFAX	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FAISON	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	n/a	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○
GREENFIELD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
KING	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	▲
LINCOLN	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○
MANCHESTER	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
MIFFLIN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MILLER	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MONTESSORI	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
MURRAY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
SCHAEFFER	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
STEVENS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
SUNNYSIDE	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
VANN	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WEIL	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
WESTWOOD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

School comparisons: Middle schools

- Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations below the district average

n/a Not applicable or not available [some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported]. New schools do not have "change" data.

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

Averages include all students at that grade level, whether they attend a middle or K-8 school.

For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 108.

	2008 PSSA scores												Attendance
	All students (8th grade)						Subgroups of students (8th grade)						
	05-08 Change		Math		05-08 Change		Low-income		Black		White		
Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2008 Attendance	
ALLEGHENY	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	▲	○	○	○
ARSENAL	▼	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○
CLASSICAL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FRICK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
ROGERS	▲	○	○	○	○	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○
ROONEY	▼	n/a	○	○	○	○	▼	▼	▼	○	○	○	○
SCHILLER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SOUTH BROOK	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○
SOUTH HILLS	○	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
STERRETT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

▲ Greater than three standard deviations below the district average

School comparisons: High schools

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 108.

- ▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- ▲▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- ▼ Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- ▼▼ Greater than two standard deviations below the district average
- n/a Not applicable or not available [some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported]

	2008 PSSA scores												Attendance		
	All students [11th grade]				Subgroups of students [11th grade]										
	Reading	05-08 Change	Math	05-08 Change	Reading	Low-income	Math	Black	Reading	Math	White	Reading		Math	2008 Attendance
ALLDERDICE	○	○	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
BRASHEAR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CAPA	▲▲	▲	▲▲	▲	▲ 3	▲ 3	▲ 3	▲ 3	▲ 3	○	○	○	○	○	○
CARRICK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LANGLEY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
OLIVER	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
PEABODY	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
PERRY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SCHENLEY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WESTINGHOUSE	○	▲▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

	2008 SAT						2007 College-bound seniors					
	SAT Reading	05-08 Change	SAT Math	05-08 Change	Percent taking test	Overall	Black male	Black female	White male	White female		
	ALLDERDICE	▲	○	▲	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	
BRASHEAR	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
CAPA	▲	▲	○	▲	▲▲	○	▼	○	○	○		
CARRICK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
LANGLEY	○	○	○	▲▲	○	○	○	○	○	○		
OLIVER	▼	○	▼	○	○	▼	○	○	○	n/a		
PEABODY*	▼	▲	▼	○	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
PERRY	○	▲	○	○	○	▼	○	○	○	▲ 3		
SCHENLEY	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
WESTINGHOUSE	▼	○	▼	○	○	▼	▼	▼	n/a	n/a		

* No college-bound senior data were available.

▲ 3 Greater than three standard deviations above the district average

▼ 3 Greater than three standard deviations below the district average

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS):

A growth measure

For fourth through eighth grades, PVAAS estimates whether or not each grade level in a school met the state’s standard for growth in PSSA scores: at least a year’s worth of growth for a year’s schooling. For more information, see page 108.

Note: PVAAS analyzes more than one year of PSSA data. Therefore, there are no PVAAS reports for third grade, the first year students take the PSSA.

The chart below shows an indicator for fourth and fifth grades in each district school.

	Elementary schools 2008			
	Grade 4		Grade 5	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Allegheny	▲	▲	▲	▼
Arsenal	▲	▲	▲	▲
Banksville	▼	▲	▲	▲
Beechwood	▼	▼	▲	▲
Concord	▲	▲	▼	▲
Dilworth	▼	▼	▲	▲
Fort Pitt	▲	▲	▲	▲
Fulton	▲	▲	▲	▲
Grandview	▼	▲	▼	▲
Liberty	▲	▲	▲	▲
Linden	▲	▲	▲	▲
Minadeo	▼	▲	▲	▼
Morrow	▲	▲	▲	▲
Northview	▼	▲	▲	▲
Phillips	▼	▲	▼	▲
Roosevelt	▲	▲	▲	▲
Spring Hill	▼	▼	▼	▲
West Liberty	▲	▲	▼	▼
Whittier	▲	▲	▲	▲
Woolslair	▼	▼	▲	▲
District average	▲	▲	▲	▲

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) met the state’s standard: they made at least a year’s worth of growth.*
- ▼ Students in this cohort grew less than the standard: they made less than a year’s worth of growth.**
- ▼ Students in this cohort made even less growth.***
- ▼ Students in this cohort made little growth.****

* Estimated mean Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) gain equal to or greater than the growth standard

** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by 1 standard error or less

*** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by more than 1 standard error but not more than 2 standard errors

**** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by more than 2 standard errors

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS):

A growth measure

For fourth through eighth grades, PVAAS estimates whether or not each grade level in a school met the state's standard for growth in PSSA scores: at least a year's worth of growth for a year's schooling. For more information, see page 108.

Note: PVAAS analyzes more than one year of PSSA data. Therefore, there are no PVAAS reports for third grade, the first year students take the PSSA.

The chart below shows an indicator for fourth through eighth grades in each district K-8 school.

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) met the state's standard: they made at least a year's worth of growth.*
- ▼ Students in this cohort grew less than the standard: they made less than a year's worth of growth.**
- ▼ Students in this cohort made even less growth.***
- ▼ Students in this cohort made little growth.****

K-8 schools 2008										
	Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Arlington	▲	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Brookline	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Carmalt	▼	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Colfax	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲	▼
Faison	▼	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Greenfield	▼	▲	▼	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲
King	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Lincoln	▼	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Manchester	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲	▼	▲	▲
Mifflin	▼	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Miller	▼	▲	▼	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲
Montessori	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▼	▼	▼
Murray	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲
Schaeffer	▲	▲	▼	▼	▼	▲	▲	▼	▲	▼
Stevens	▼	▼	▼	▼	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲
Sunnyside	▲	▼	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Vann	▼	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
Weil	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲
Westwood	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
District average	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲

* Estimated mean Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) gain equal to or greater than the growth standard

** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by 1 standard error or less





*** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by more than 1 standard error but not more than 2 standard errors



































































**** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by more than 2 standard errors

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS): A growth measure

For fourth through eighth grades, PVAAS estimates whether or not each grade level in a school met the state's standard for growth in PSSA scores: at least a year's worth of growth for a year's schooling. For more information, see page 108.

The chart below shows an indicator for sixth through eighth grades in each district middle school.

-  Students in this cohort (group) met the state's standard: they made at least a year's worth of growth.*
-  Students in this cohort grew less than the standard: they made less than a year's worth of growth.**
-  Students in this cohort made even less growth.***
-  Students in this cohort made little growth.****

Middle schools 2008						
	Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Allegheny						
Arsenal						
Classical						
Frick						
Rogers						
Rooney						
Schiller						
South Brook						
South Hills						
Sterrett						
District average						

* Estimated mean Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE) gain equal to or greater than the growth standard

** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by 1 standard error or less

*** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by more than 1 standard error but not more than 2 standard errors

**** Estimated mean NCE gain below the growth standard by more than 2 standard errors