

# Comparison charts

The following pages contain two kinds of charts. The first set of charts (“**School comparisons**”) illustrates how each district school and charter school compares to district 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 118 through 121 show how each school compares to averages at the same grade or level. For elementary, K-8, and middle schools, there were 9 points of comparison; for high schools, there were 17. (Pittsburgh Millionnes 6-12 was not included because it has no PSSA test data.)

Please note: “Seniors planning to attend college” is self-reported data. Some students didn’t respond.

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, a grade span, or a grade compared to averages for all students at that level (elementary, K-8...), grade span, or grade (all third through fifth graders, or all high school seniors...)
- Black students in a school, grade span, or grade compared to averages for black students at that level, grade span, or grade
- White students in a school, grade span, or grade compared to averages for white students at that level, grade span, or grade
- Low-income students (eligible for free/reduced-price lunch) in a school, grade span, or grade compared to averages for low-income students at that level, grade span, or 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 students in a school with 100% low-income students is still a comparison of those students to averages for low-income students at that level, not to all students at that level.

## PVAAS

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) is a measure of growth in PSSA achievement, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). PVAAS reports whether or not each grade 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 grades made progress, no matter where their starting points were.

PDE calculates PVAAS information differently for high schools. That information is not included in this report.

The charts on pages 122 through 124 show an indicator for fourth through eighth grades in the district’s elementary, K-8, and middle schools; and in charter schools with relevant grade levels. (The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park and Pittsburgh Millionnes 6-12 have no PVAAS data.) 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](http://www.pde.state.pa.us), then Pre K-12 schools, then Assessment, then PA Value-Added Assessment System, or call 717-606-1911.

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# School comparisons: Elementary 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]

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 an elementary or a K-8 school. The charter school was compared to the district average.  
 For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 117.

	2009 PSSA scores												Attendance	
	3rd through 5th grades All students				3rd through 5th grades — Subgroups of students									
	Low-income		Black		White									
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2009 Attendance	
ALLEGHENY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
ARSENAL	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
BANKSVILLE	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
BEECHWOOD	○	○	▲	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CONCORD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
DILWORTH	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
FORT PITT	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○	○
FULTON	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
GRANDVIEW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
LIBERTY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LINDEN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MINADEO	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MORROW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
NORTHVIEW	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
PHILLIPS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
ROOSEVELT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SPRING HILL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WEST LIBERTY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WHITTIER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WOOLSLAIR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
URBAN L. CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

▼ 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)

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. Charter schools were compared to the district average.

For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 117.

	2009 PSSA scores												Attendance	
	3rd through 8th grades All students						3rd through 8th grades – Subgroups of students							
	Low-income		Black		White		Low-income		Black		White			
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2009 Attendance	
ARLINGTON	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▼
BROOKLINE	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CARMALT	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
COLFAX	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
FAISON	▼	▼	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○
GREENFIELD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
KING	▼	▼	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LINCOLN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MANCHESTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MIFFLIN	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MILLER	▲	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MONTESSORI	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MURRAY	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SCHAEFFER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
STEVENS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SUNNYSIDE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
VANN	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WEIL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WESTWOOD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FRICK ENV. CHARTER*	▲	n/a	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲ 3
MANCHESTER AC. CHARTER	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲

▲ 3 Greater than three standard deviations above the district average

\*3rd grade PSSA data only



# School comparisons: High 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)

	2009 PSSA scores										2009 Attendance	
	11th grade — All students					11th grade — Subgroups of students						
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Overall	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Overall		
ALLDERDICE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
BRASHEAR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CAPA	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
CARRICK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LANGLEY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
OLIVER	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼
PEABODY	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	○
PERRY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SCHENLEY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WESTINGHOUSE	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	○
CAREER CON. CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
CITY CHARTER	▲	○	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
NORTHSIDE URB. PATH. CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a

	2009 SAT					2008 Seniors planning to attend college					
	SAT Critical Reading	SAT Math	Percent taking test	Overall		Black male	Black female	White male	White female		
					Black male	Black female	White male	White female			
ALLDERDICE	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
BRASHEAR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CAPA	▲	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	▲	○	○	○
CARRICK	○	○	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○
LANGLEY	○	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
OLIVER	▼	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	n/a	○	○	○
PEABODY	○	○	○	○	▼	○	○	n/a	○	○	○
PERRY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SCHENLEY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WESTINGHOUSE	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CAREER CON. CHARTER	○	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○
CITY CHARTER	n/a	n/a	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
NORTHSIDE URB. PATH. CHARTER	▼	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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.

Charter schools were compared to the district average.

For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 1.17.

- ▲ 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

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 117.

*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 elementary school and the Urban League of Pittsburgh Charter School.

	Elementary schools 2009			
	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	▲	▼	▲	▼
Urban Lg. Charter	▼	▲	▲	▲
<b>District average</b>	▲	▲	▲	▲

- ▲ 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

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 117.

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 and Manchester Academic Charter School. No data were available for the Environmental Charter School at Frick Park.

- ▲ 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 2009										
	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	▲	◆	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼
Manchester Ac. Charter	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
<b>District average</b>	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲

\* 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

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 117.

The chart below shows an indicator for sixth through eighth grades in each district middle school and for seventh and eighth grades in Northside Urban Pathways Charter School (no sixth grade data were available).

-  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 2009						
	Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Allegheny						
Arsenal						
Classical						
Frick						
Rogers						
Rooney						
Schiller						
South Brook						
South Hills						
Sterrett						
Northside Urb. Path. Charter	n/a	n/a				
<b>District average</b>						

\* 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