

# 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 15 through 19 show how each school compares to averages at the same grade across all schools in the report. All data from grades 3-5 (elementary and K-8 schools) were used to calculate the district 3-5 averages; all data for grades 6-8 (K-8, middle, and 6-12 schools) were used to calculate the 6-8 averages; all data for grades 9-12 (6-12 and high schools) were used to calculate averages for 9-12. Attendance was compared by school configuration (elementary, K-8, middle, 6-12, or high). This year, we have **grouped the information by grade spans** (3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) rather than by configuration so readers can compare schools of different types.

Although this component of the report is based on averages, readers should not conclude that we endorse 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 grade span or grade (for example, 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 grade span or grade
- White students in a school, grade span, or grade compared to averages for white students at that grade span or grade

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- 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 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 in the same grades, not to all students in those grades.

## 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.

This year, we have included **PVAAS indicators for eleventh grade**.

The charts on pages 20 through 22 show an indicator for fourth through eighth and eleventh grades for district schools and charter schools. The indicators show whether cohorts (groups) of students exceeded the growth standard, met the growth standard, or did not meet the growth standard. Information was not available for Propel Northside Charter School and Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School.

*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 the Pennsylvania Department of Education Web site: [www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us). Under “How is my school doing?” click on School Progress.

## Additional information used for school comparisons

### Enrollment gain/loss 2009-12

**Definition:** The percentage of change in enrollment from the 2008-09 school year to the 2011-12 school year. Percentages were calculated by dividing the gain or loss in enrollment by the 2008-09 enrollment number.

**Sources:** PPS and PDE.

### PVAAS

**Sources:** PPS and individual charter schools.

# School comparisons: Grades 9-12 (6-12 and 9-12 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.

For attendance, we compared schools by type (6-12 with 6-12, 9-12 with 9-12). Otherwise, averages include all students in grade 11, whether they attend a high school or a 6-12 school. For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 14.

	2012 PSSA scores												2012 Attendance (all students)	Enrollment gain/loss 2009-12 (all students)
	11th grade — All students		11th grade — Subgroups of students											
	Reading	Math	Low-income		Black		White							
		Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math					
CAPA	▲	▲	▲▲	▲	▲▲	▲▲	▲	▲▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	n/a
MILLIONES	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	▼	n/a
OBAMA	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	n/a
SCI-TECH	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	n/a
WESTINGHOUSE	▼	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	○	○	n/a
ALLDERDICE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲▲	6%
BRASHEAR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	-22%
CARRICK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-16%
PERRY	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-3%
CAREER CONNECTIONS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	0%
CITY HIGH	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	0%
N. URBAN PATHWAYS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	9%



# School comparisons: Grades 6-8 (K-8, middle, and 6-12)

- ▲ 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.

For attendance, we compared schools by type (middle with middle, etc.). Otherwise, averages include all students in grades 6 through 8, whether they attend a K-8, middle, or 6-12 school. For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 14.

	2012 PSSA scores												Enrollment gain/loss 2009-12 (all students)	
	6th through 8th grades (all students)						6th 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	2012 Attendance (all students)	
ARLINGTON	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-20%
BROOKLINE	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-6%
CARMALT	○	▲	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	2%
COLFAX	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	11%
GREENFIELD	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-20%
KING	▼	▼	○	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-31%
MANCHESTER	▼	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○	-1%
MIFFLIN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	13%
MONTESSORI	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○	10%
SUNNYSIDE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-24%
WESTWOOD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-10%
ALLEGHENY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	25%
ARSENAL	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-48%
CLASSICAL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-5%
SCHILLER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	1%
SOUTH BROOK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	12%
SOUTH HILLS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9%
STERRETT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	6%

- K-8 SCHOOL
- MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 6-12 SCHOOL
- CHARTER SCHOOL

# School comparisons: Grades 6-8 (K-8, middle, and 6-12) continued

2012 PSSA scores											
6th through 8th grades — Subgroups of students											
6th through 8th grades (all students)				Low-income				Black		White	
Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
▲	▲	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	n/a	n/a	○	▼
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	▲	○	○
○	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	n/a	n/a	○	○
▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
○	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
○	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

\*6th grade only

K-8 SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
6-12 SCHOOL
CHARTER SCHOOL

# School comparisons: Grades 3-5 (elementary and K-8)

- ▲ 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.

For attendance, we compared schools by type (elementary with elementary, K-8 with K-8). Otherwise, averages include all students in grades 3 through 5, whether they attend an elementary or a K-8 school. For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 14.

	2012 PSSA scores												Enrollment gain/loss 2009-12 (all students)		
	3rd through 5th grades (all students)						3rd through 5th grades — Subgroups of students								
	Low-income		Black		White		Low-income		Black		White				
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2012 Attendance (all students)		
ALLEGHENY	○	○	▲	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	2%
ARSENAL	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	-25%
BANKSVILLE	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	18%
BEECHWOOD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	3%
CONCORD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	44%
DILWORTH	▲	○	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	21%
FAISON	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	▼	○	n/a
FULTON	○	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	9%
GRANDVIEW	▼	▼	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-9%
LIBERTY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-5
LINCOLN	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
LINDEN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0%
MILLER	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-22%
MINADEO	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-19%
MORROW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-3%
PHILLIPS	▲	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	8%
ROOSEVELT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-15%
SPRING HILL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	4%
WEIL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
WEST LIBERTY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0%
WHITTIER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0%
WOOLSLAIR	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	3%

Enrollment comparisons aren't available for Faison, Lincoln, and Weil, because they changed configuration (K-8 to K-5).

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- K-8 SCHOOL
- CHARTER SCHOOL

# School comparisons: Grades 3-5 (elementary and K-8) continued

2012 PSSA scores												
	3rd through 5th grades (all students)				3rd through 5th grades — Subgroups of students						2012 Attendance (all students)	Enrollment gain/loss 2009-12 (all students)
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Low-income		Black		White			
					Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math		
ARLINGTON	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-20%
BROOKLINE	○	▲	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-6%
CARMALT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	2%
COLFAX	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	11%
GREENFIELD	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-20%
KING	▼	▼	○	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	○	▼	▼	-31%
MANCHESTER	▼	▼	▼	▼	○	▼	○	▼	n/a	n/a	▼	-1%
MIFFLIN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▼	○	13%
MONTESSORI	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	▲	n/a	n/a	▲	10%
SUNNYSIDE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-24%
WESTWOOD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▼	○	-10%
ENVIRONMENTAL	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	73%
MANCHESTER CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	22%
PROPEL NORTHSIDE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	n/a
URBAN LEAGUE	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	n/a
URBAN PATHWAYS	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	n/a	n/a	○	9%

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

K-8 SCHOOL

CHARTER SCHOOL

# 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 14.

*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 Greater Pittsburgh Charter School. No data were available for Propel Northside Charter School or Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School.

	Elementary schools 2012			
	Grade 4		Grade 5	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
ALLEGHENY	▼	▲	▲	▼
ARSENAL	●	▲	●	▼
BANKSVILLE	●	●	●	▲
BEECHWOOD	●	▼	●	▼
CONCORD	▼	●	▼	●
DILWORTH	▲	▼	▲	●
FAISON	●	▼	▼	▼
FULTON	▲	▲	●	▼
GRANDVIEW	▼	▼	▼	▼
LIBERTY	●	▼	▼	▲
LINCOLN	▲	▼	▼	▼
LINDEN	▲	●	▼	▼
MILLER	▼	▼	●	▼
MINADEO	●	●	▲	▼
MORROW	▼	▼	▼	●
PHILLIPS	●	●	▼	▼
ROOSEVELT	▲	▼	▼	▼
SPRING HILL	▼	▼	▲	▼
WEIL	●	●	●	▼
WEST LIBERTY	▼	●	▼	▼
WHITTIER	▼	▲	●	●
WOOLSLAIR	▼	●	▲	▲
URBAN LEAGUE	▼	▼	▼	▼
<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE</b>	▼	▼	▼	▼

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) exceeded the state's standard: they made more than a year's worth of growth.
- Students in this cohort met the state's standard: they made a year's worth of growth.
- ▼ Students in this cohort did not meet the state's standard: they made less than a year's worth of growth.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CHARTER SCHOOL

# 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 14.

*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, the Environmental Charter School at Frick Park, and Manchester Academic Charter School.

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) exceeded the state’s standard: they made more than a year’s worth of growth.
- Students in this cohort met the state’s standard: they made a year’s worth of growth.
- ▼ Students in this cohort did not meet the state’s standard: they made less than a year’s worth of growth.

K-8 schools 2012										
	Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
ARLINGTON	●	▲	▲	▼	●	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
BROOKLINE	▲	▲	▼	▲	▼	▼	●	▲	▲	▼
CARMALT	▼	▼	▼	▼	▲	●	▲	▲	▲	●
COLFAX	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼
GREENFIELD	▼	▼	●	▼	▲	▼	●	●	●	▲
KING	▼	▼	▲	●	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼
MANCHESTER	▼	▼	●	▼	▼	▼	●	▲	▲	▲
MIFFLIN	▼	▲	●	▼	●	●	●	▼	▲	▼
MONTESSORI	●	●	●	▼	▼	●	▲	▲	●	▼
SUNNYSIDE	●	●	▼	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼
WESTWOOD	●	▼	●	▼	●	●	▲	▲	●	▼
ENVIRONMENTAL	●	▲	●	▼	▲	▲	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
MANCHESTER CHARTER	●	●	●	▼	▼	▼	▲	●	▲	▼
<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE</b>	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▲	●	▲	▼

K-8 SCHOOL  
 CHARTER SCHOOL



# 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 14.

The chart below shows an indicator for grades six through eight and 11 in each district school and charter school.

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) exceeded the state's standard: they made more than a year's worth of growth.
- Students in this cohort met the state's standard: they made a year's worth of growth.
- ▼ Students in this cohort did not meet the state's standard: they made less than a year's worth of growth.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
6-12 SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL
CHARTER SCHOOL

### Middle, 6-12, and 9-12 schools 2012

	Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8		Grade 11	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
ALLEGHENY	▼	▲	●	▼	▲	▼		
ARSENAL	▼	●	▲	▲	▲	▲		
CLASSICAL	▼	▼	●	▲	●	▼		
SCHILLER	▼	●	▼	▲	▲	▼		
SOUTH BROOK	▼	●	▲	●	▲	●		
SOUTH HILLS	●	▲	▲	▲	▲	●		
STERRETT	●	●	▲	●	▲	▲		
CAPA	▲	▲	▲	▼	●	▼	▲	▲
MILLIONES	▼	▼	●	●	▼	▼	▼	▼
OBAMA	▼	▼	●	▼	▲	▼	▲	▲
SCI-TECH	n/a	n/a	●	▼	▲	▼	▲	●
WESTINGHOUSE	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	●	▼
ALLDERDICE							●	▼
BRASHEAR							▼	▼
CARRICK							▼	▼
PERRY							▼	▼
N. URBAN PATHWAYS	●	▲	▲	●	▲	▼	●	▲
CAREER CONNECTIONS							▼	●
CITY CHARTER							▲	▲
DISTRICT AVERAGE	▼	▼	▲	●	▲	▼	▼	▼