

**QCSD PSSA 2015  
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY**



**OCTOBER 22, 2015  
QCSD ADMINISTRATION**



# What is PSSA and what is the purpose?



**The PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) is a standards-based assessment administered in all Pennsylvania public schools. The content areas are reading, writing, mathematics (grades 3-8) and science (grades 4 and 8).**

# What is the purpose of the PSSA?



- **The PSSA provides information about how students in grades 3-8 are meeting state content standards in reading, writing, mathematics and science. The information is useful to the state, the district, the buildings, parents and teachers for different purposes.**
- **We agree that we as a school district should be held accountable to teach all students to the expectations of the state.**
- **We agree that it is one source of information about a student's performance, and, coupled with district and classroom performance measures, provides important information to the parents and the community about how our students are progressing to College and Career graduation expectations.**

# How do we use the information from PSSA?



- **In July, when the scores arrive, we use the data at both the district and the building levels to determine:**
  - how our students performed the previous school year
  - how our programs are working and
  - areas for revisions to our programs and practices
- **In September, we use students' individual performance scores from the previous spring's PSSAs to determine areas of strength and weaknesses to target specific instructional interventions. We then use other data (NWEA, CDTs, guided reading levels, etc.) to determine continued growth.**

**Why is 2015  
considered a  
baseline year?**

# 2015 PSSA Baseline Scores



- **The 2015 Math and ELA PSSAs are aligned to the more rigorous PA Core Standards. The more difficult tests resulted in lower scores, especially in Math, across the state.**
- **The 2014-15 school year was the first time the Reading and Writing assessment was administered. Previously, a Reading assessment was given in grades 3-8 and a Writing assessment was given in grades 5 and 8. The new combination Reading and Writing assessment is now given in all grades 3-8.**
- **Given that both the Reading/Writing and Mathematics PSSA assessments were new, new cut scores, or the levels at which students are considered advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic, were then established by PDE. This process occurred earlier this summer.**

# Grade 8 Math PSSA vs Algebra I Keystone



Strayer Algebra 1 Keystone Performance							Strayer PSSA Performance For Those Taking Algebra 1						
	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	Total	%P/A		Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	Total	%P/A
6th	1	0	0	0	1	100%	6th	1	0	0	0	1	100%
7th	0	1	0	0	1	100%	7th	1	0	0	0	1	100%
8th	77	7	0	0	84	100%	8th	33	46	4	0	83	95%
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>95%</b>
Milford Algebra 1 Keystone Performance							Milford PSSA Performance For Those Taking Algebra 1						
	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	Total	%P/A		Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic	Total	%P/A
7th	2	0	0	0	2	100%	7th	2	0	0	0	2	100%
8th	44	6	1	0	51	98%	8th	20	28	3	0	51	94%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>94%</b>

2011 - 2015



# QCSD PSSA TRENDS



# Trends



## From 2011 to 2015

- In reading, math and science, in all grades, in almost every area, QSCD scored above the state average, often well above the state average of students scoring proficient/advanced.
- From 2014 to 2015, due to more rigorous assessments, we lost an average of 23.21 percentage points (of students scoring proficient/advanced) in Math and 5.3 percentage points in Reading. At the same time, at the district level, in almost every grade in math and reading, we outdid the state by more percentage points than we did in 2014, often by quite a lot.

# Trends



- In Quakertown, our schools vary by socioeconomic level. On average, from 2011 to 2015, most schools and grade levels with higher SES levels scored better than schools with lower SES levels. However, that was not always the case. Examples include:
  - Neidig Grade 3 Math and Reading in 2011
  - QE Math in 2012
  - TV Grade 4 Reading in 2014
- Between 2011 and 2015, in general, the gap was closing in the reading scores between the middle schools. There has been an increased focus on all students having access to the same programs, resources and experiences. It will be important to continue to assess the impact of this initiative on achievement at both buildings.

# Trends 2011-2015



- Over the 2011-2015 time frame, Pfaff has consistently been the second highest performing of the elementary schools in QCSD.
- For Quakertown Elementary, the scores for 2015 are higher than the scores for 2014 in every category except 5<sup>th</sup> grade math. This is in a difficult year with more rigorous tests and new cut scores in math and reading.
- Over the 2011-2015 time frame, Trumbauersville Elementary School consistently outperformed other Quakertown elementary schools and many local schools in other districts.

# Trends 2011-2015



- Neidig Elementary and Tohickon Valley have shown inconsistent performance over the 2011-2015 time frame. There have been years in which their performances matched other district schools. However, the 2015 scores indicate areas of need in both reading and math.
- For Richland Elementary, over the years, students have shown stronger performance in Math than Reading. The staff concentrated efforts in improving Reading and Writing performance and saw results for 2015 in PVAAS performance in Reading and Math.

# Trends 2011-2015



- Cohort data for Reading was positive for almost all grade levels from 2013 to 2014. Students in grades 3 to 4 increased 15 percentage points, grades 5 to 6 increased by 11 points, grades 6 to 7 by 9 points and 7 to 8 by 25 points.
- Cohort data for math was positive for three grade levels from 2013 to 2014: grades 3 to 4 (1%), grades 4 to 5 (1%), and grades 6 to 7 (10%).

# Trends 2015



## Advanced Scores

- The more rigorous tests for 2015 in Reading and Math resulted in less percentages of students scoring in the advanced range across the board in almost all grades and subjects from 2014 to 2015. There were exceptions:
  - **Grade 3 Math: Pfaff, QE and TR**
  - **Grade 4 ELA: Pfaff**
  - **Grade 4 Math: TR**
  - **Grade 5 ELA: TR**
  - **Grade 5 Math: Pfaff, TR**
  - **Grade 4 Science: All Schools**
  - **Grade 8 Science: Milford**

# 2015 PSSA Analysis



## **STRENGTHS AND NEEDS**

# Strengths and Needs – 2015/2016



- ELA scores for Grades 5 and 6 increased from 2014 to 2015 (2.4% in Gr. 5 and 8% in Gr. 6) which was notable in a year of increased test rigor.
- Curriculum Revisions: In both Math and Reading, curriculum revisions were undertaken based on the increased rigor of the PA Core Standards which resulted in better than expected scores. However, more work is planned.
  - Elementary math pilot (2015-2016)
  - Fidelity of implementation of elementary writing and reading and middle school English courses that reflect higher standards and expectations.



# Strengths and Needs – 2015/2016



- All Quakertown results at each grade level in each school were above state averages for Math, ELA and Science with the exception of IEP students in Grade 3 ELA.
- Math: while scores were lower than in previous years because of changes to the test and cut scores, scores were significantly higher than state averages.
- On average, 33% of our IEP students reached proficiency, while at the state level, approximately 25% of IEP students reached proficiency.
- Both Reading and Math are areas of need for IEP students, especially middle school Mathematics. The new, more rigorous tests are more difficult for our special education students than previous tests, and present increased challenges for special education and regular education teachers and administrators who support them.

2015-2016  
Action Plan for Improvement



**QCSD ADMINISTRATORS  
AND TEACHERS**

# Action Plan for Student Success



- **Building Goals and Action Plans**
  - **Each building principal is setting a three year quantifiable target for improvement and working backwards from that goal to develop an action plan for improvement based on current baseline scores**
- **Data Collection and Analysis**
  - **Improved data collection through purchase of DecisionEd**
  - **Professional development for better use of data analysis to develop action plans for buildings, departments, and individual students to close achievement gaps**

# Action Plan for Student Success



- **Improving Instruction**
  - **New Teacher Academy – revised coaching model**
  - **Math Coach and Math Supervisor for targeted support**
  - **Supervision 2.0 – principal coaching of teachers and teachers’ professional goals**
  - **Supervision of implementation of programs and interventions (ex. Read 180)**
  - **Supervision of process to ensure that each student’s IEP needs are secured for student’s success to standards**

# Action Plan for Student Success



- **Program Implementation**
  - **Elementary RELA and Math Plus and MS Honors/Compacted**
  - **Full Day K**
  - **Middle School Additional Reading Class**
- **Instructional Focus**
  - **Quality Tier I instruction and Tier II Interventions**
  - **Continued work on Text Dependent Analysis Questions at all levels**
  - **Increased use of writing prompts, especially in content area classes**



2011-2015  
PSSA Reading and Math



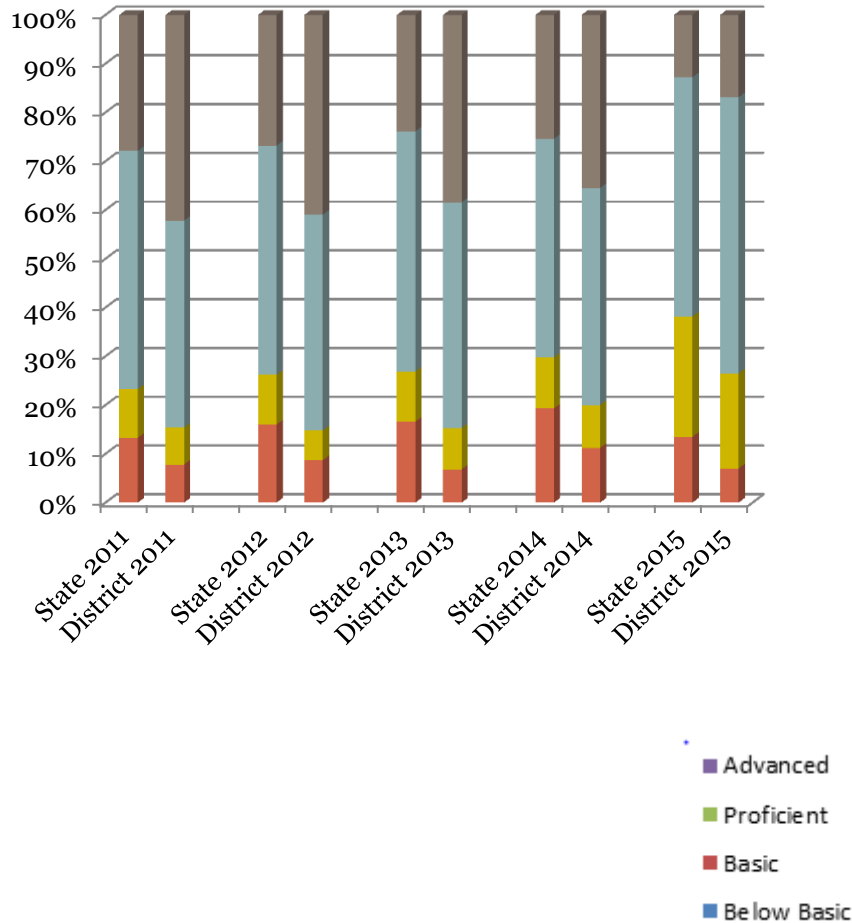
**STATE AND DISTRICT  
COMPARISONS**

# State & District Comparison Grade 3

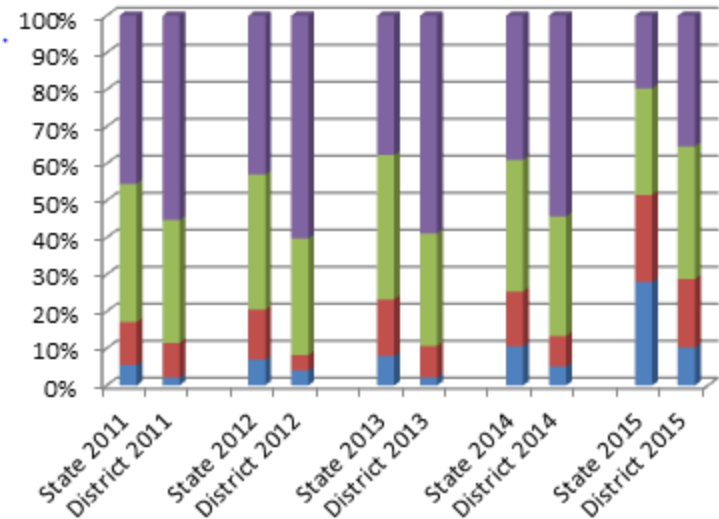
## 2011-2015



### Reading



### Math



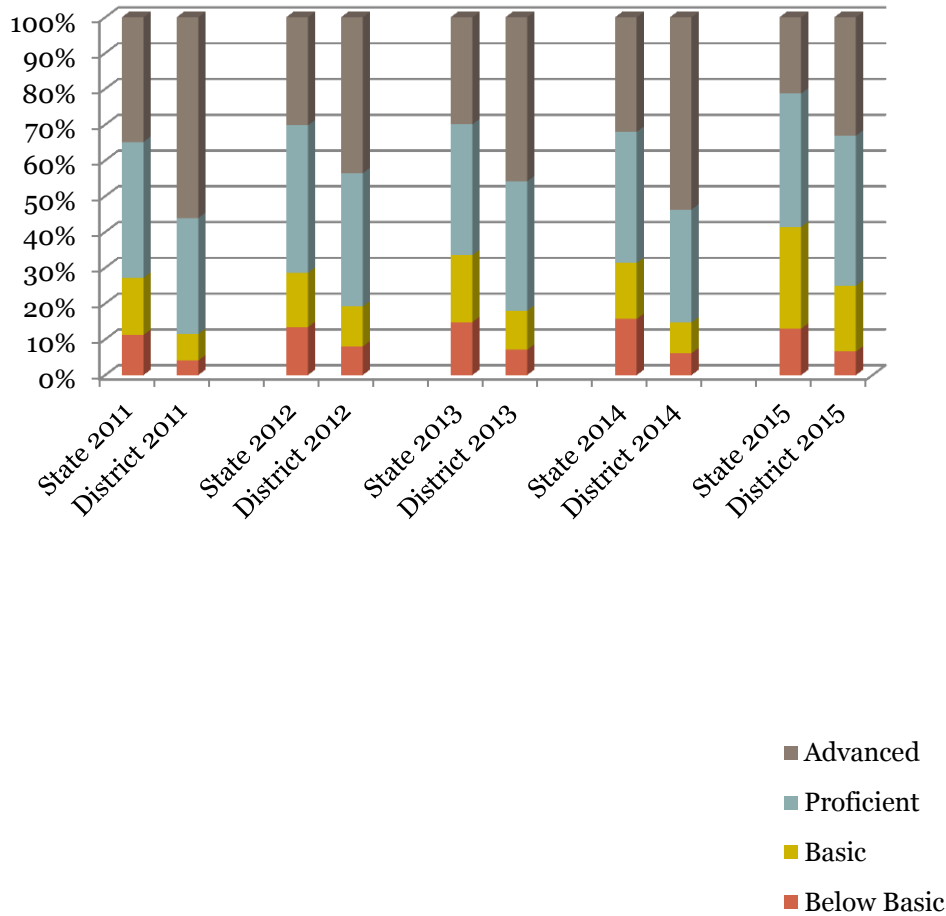


# State & District Comparison Grade 4

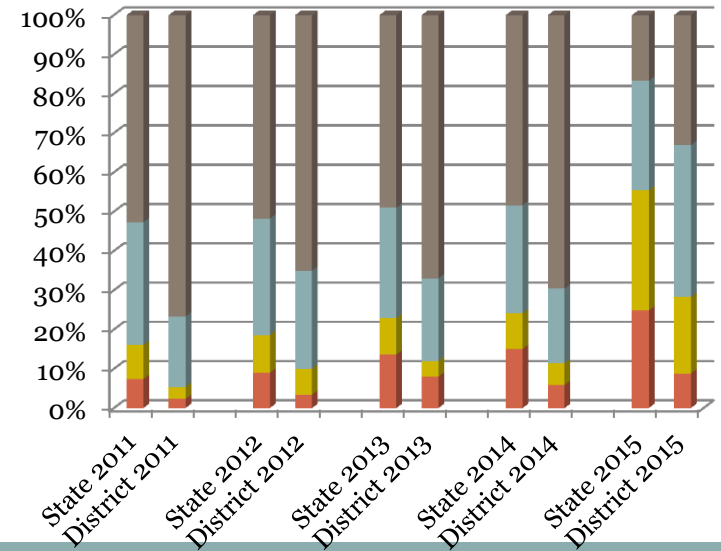
## 2011-2015



### Reading



### Math

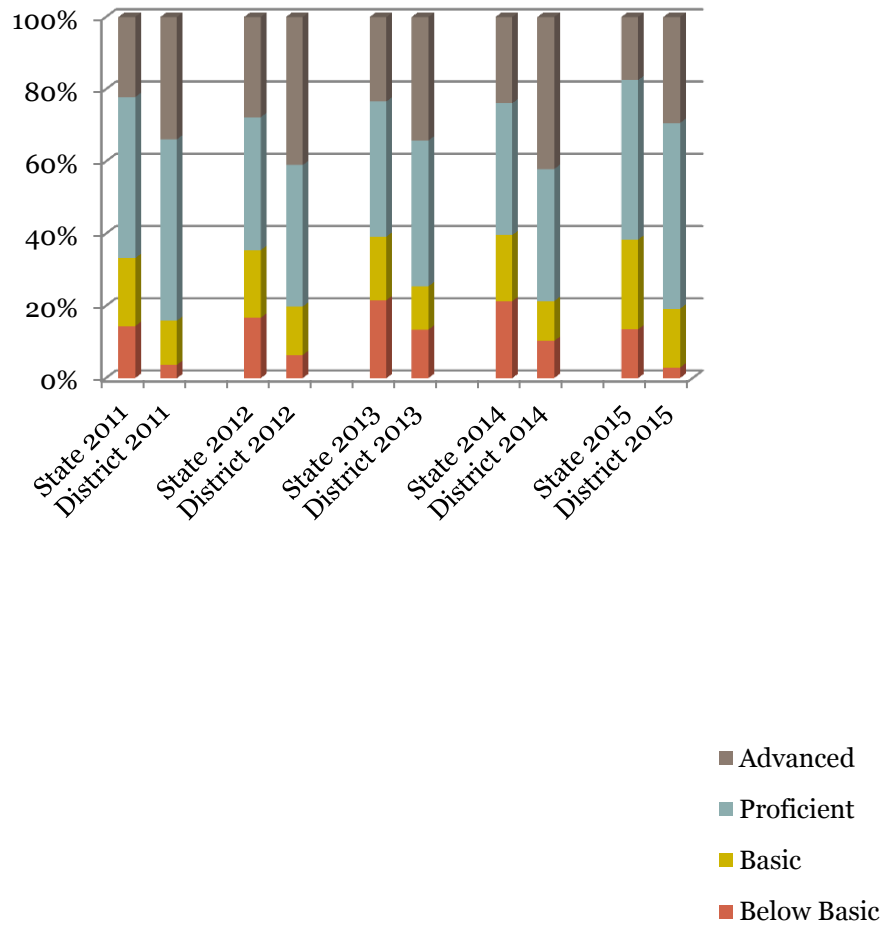


# State & District Comparison Grade 5

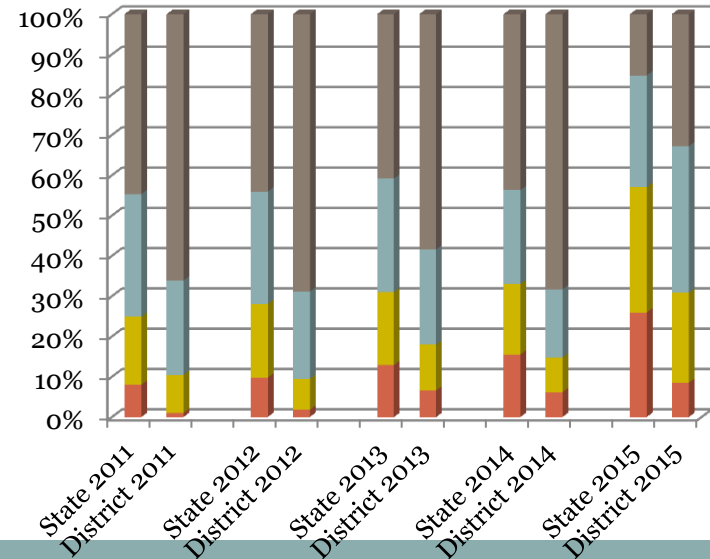
## 2011-2015



### Reading



### Math

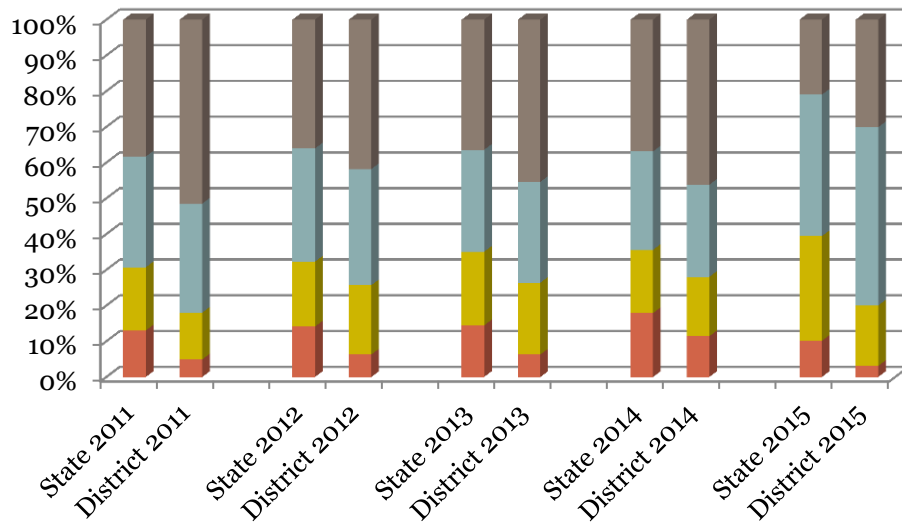


# State & District Comparison Grade 6

## 2011-2015

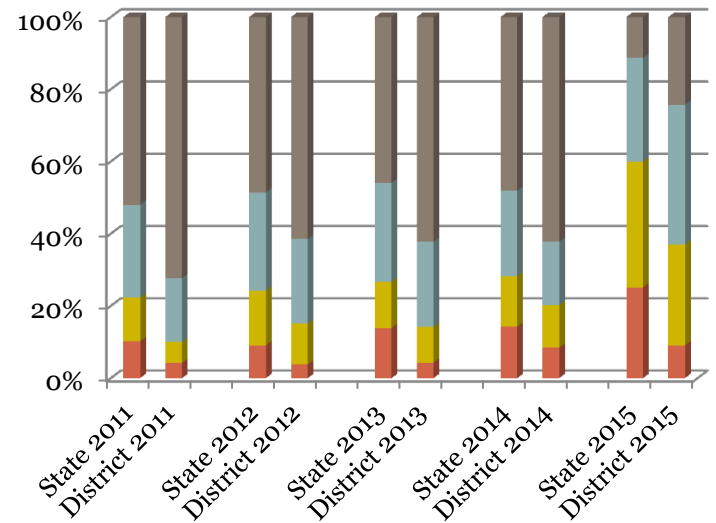


### Reading



- Advanced
- Proficient
- Basic
- Below Basic

### Math

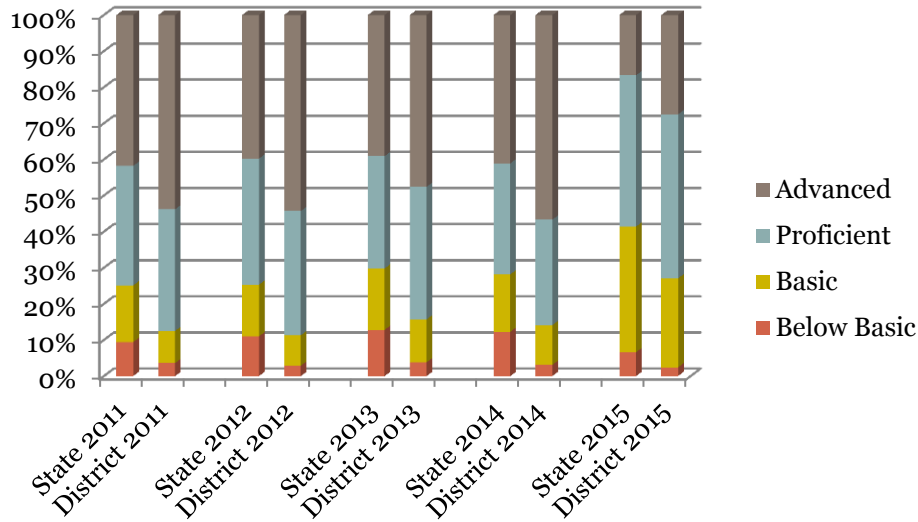


# State & District Comparison Grade 7

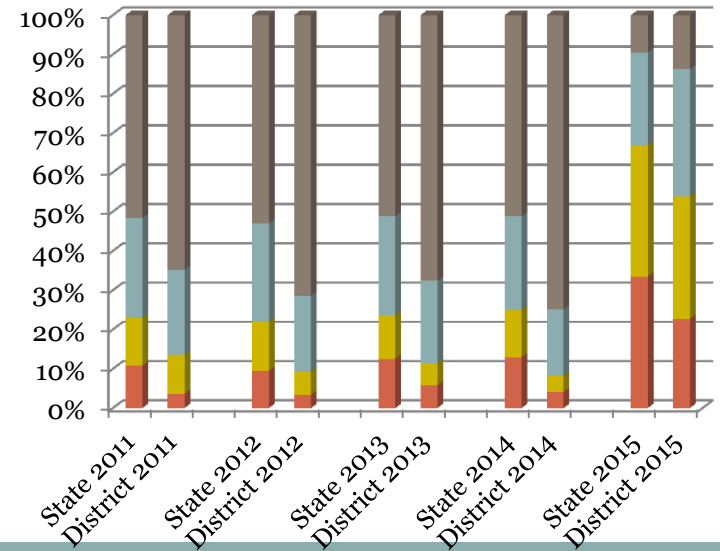
## 2011-2015



### Reading



### Math



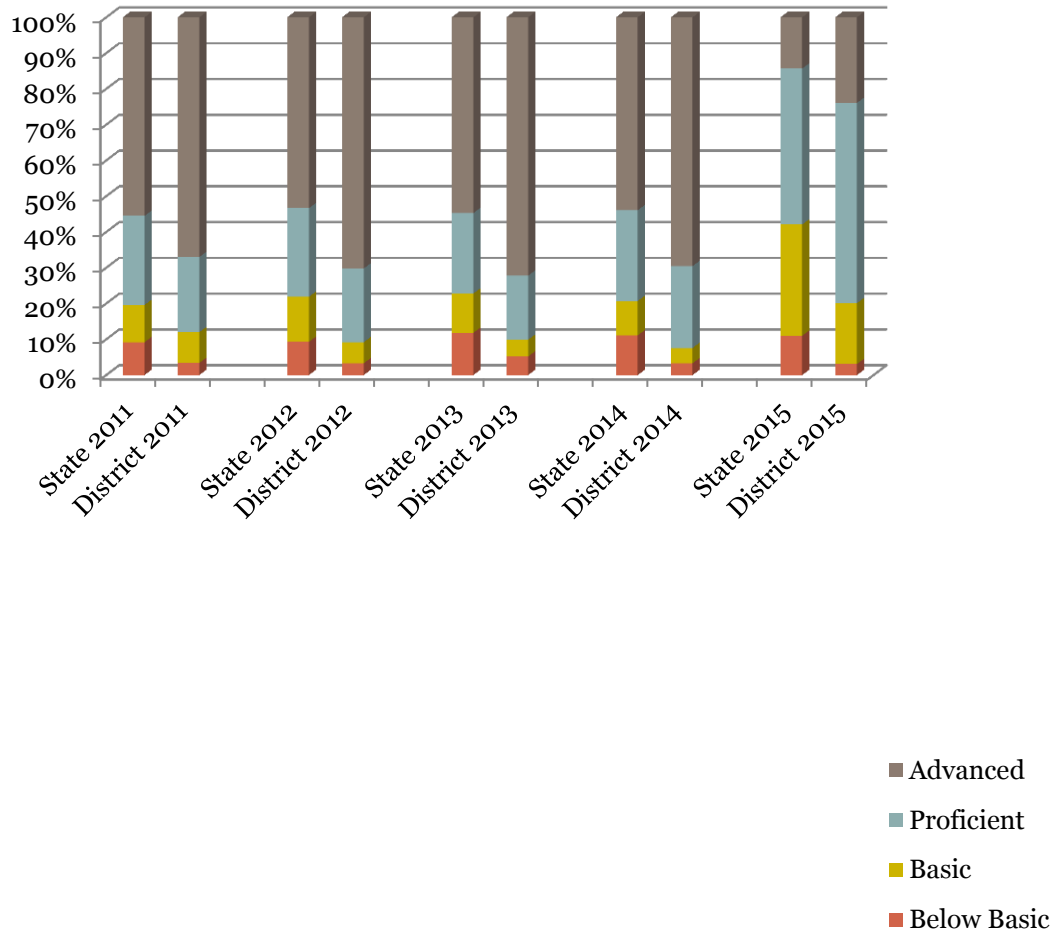
- Advanced
- Proficient
- Basic
- Below Basic

# State & District Comparison Grade 8

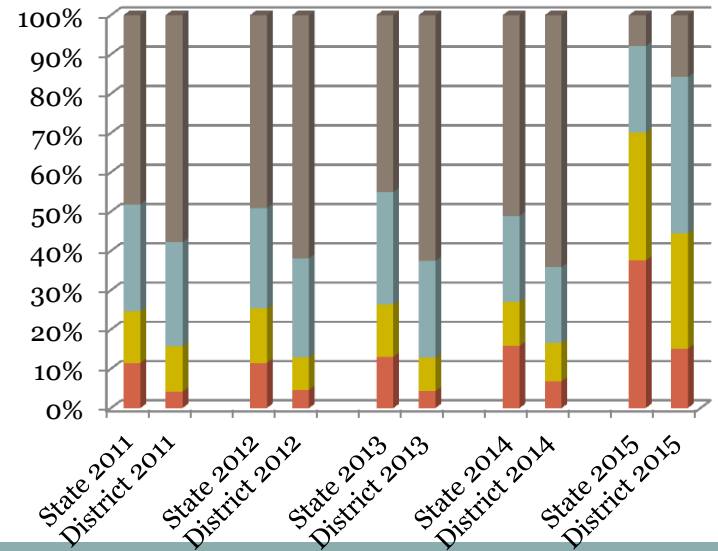
## 2011-2015



### Reading



### Math



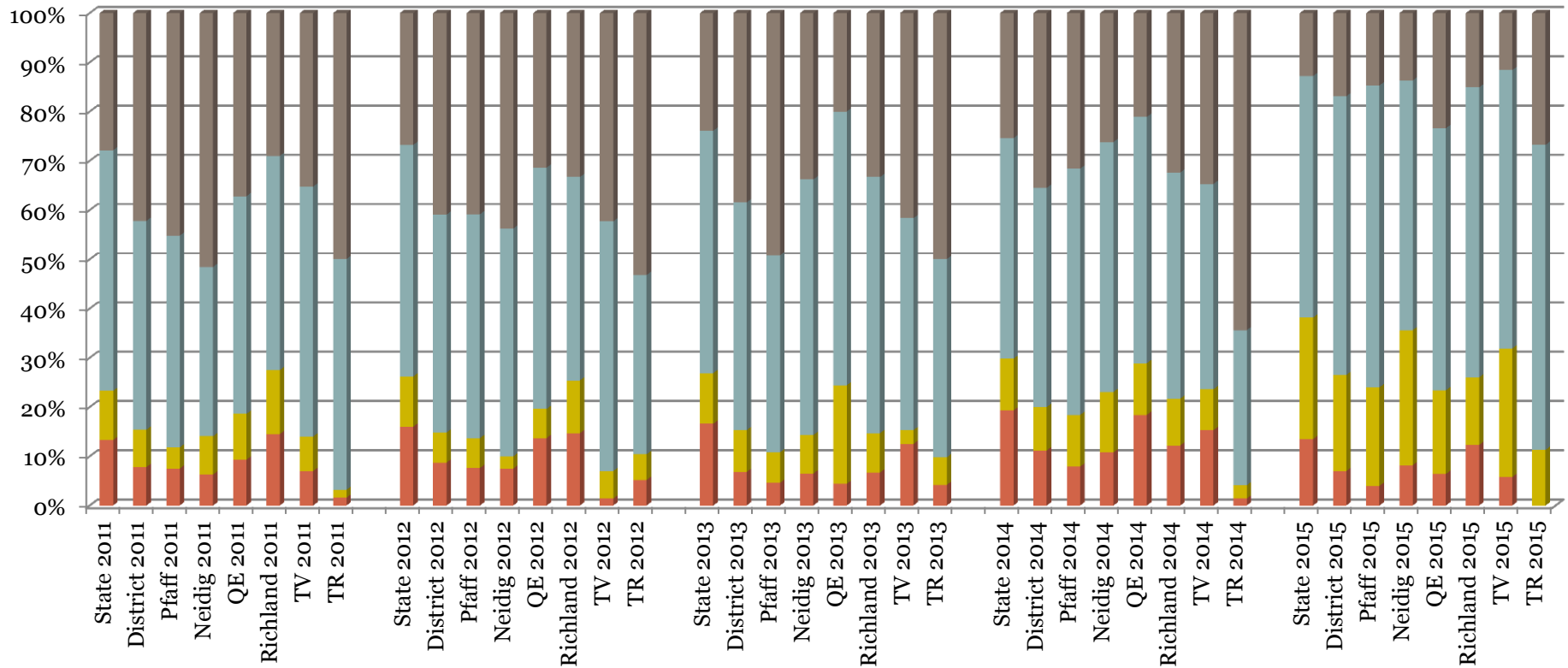
# 2011 – 2015 PSSA Building Results



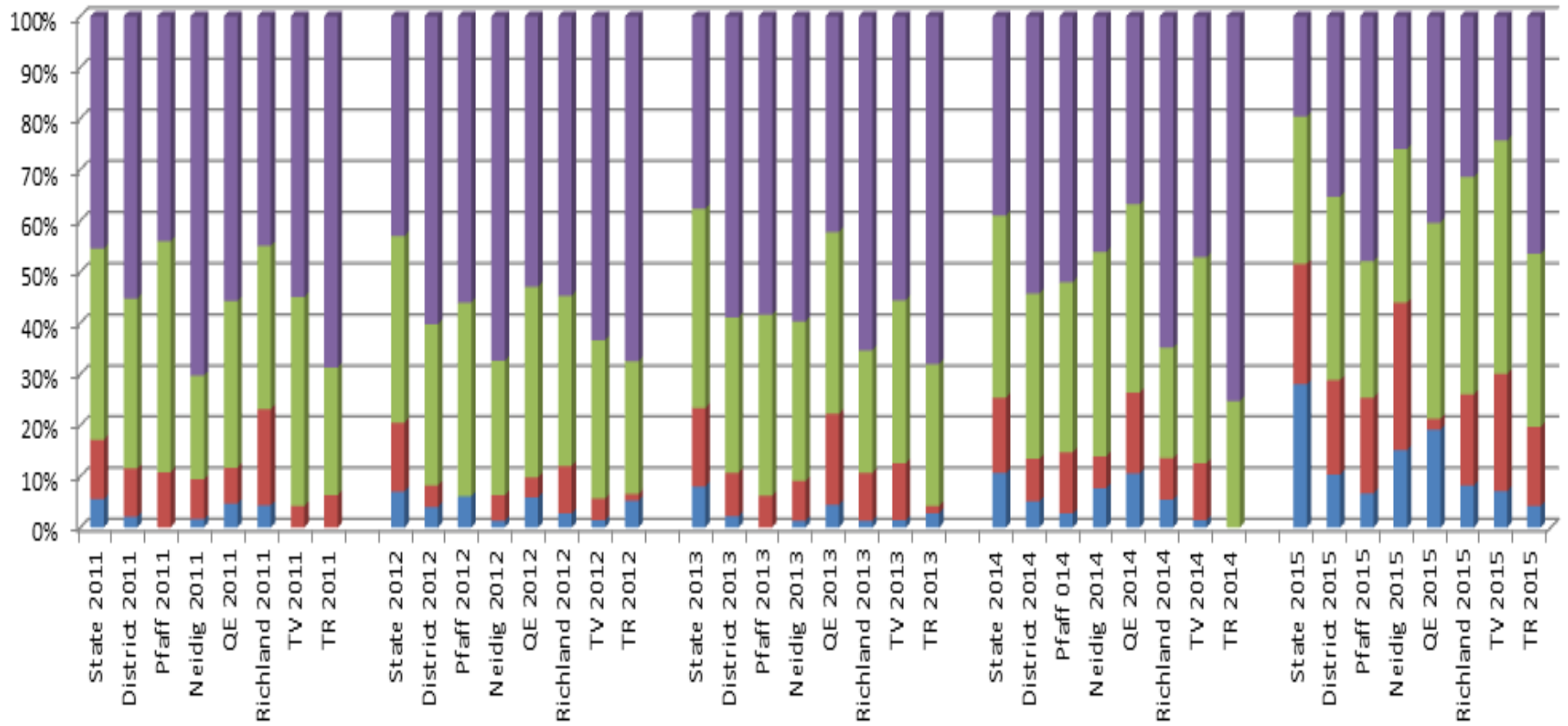
**READING AND MATH  
GRAPHS**

**GRADES 3-8**

# QCSD Grade 3 Reading 2011-2015

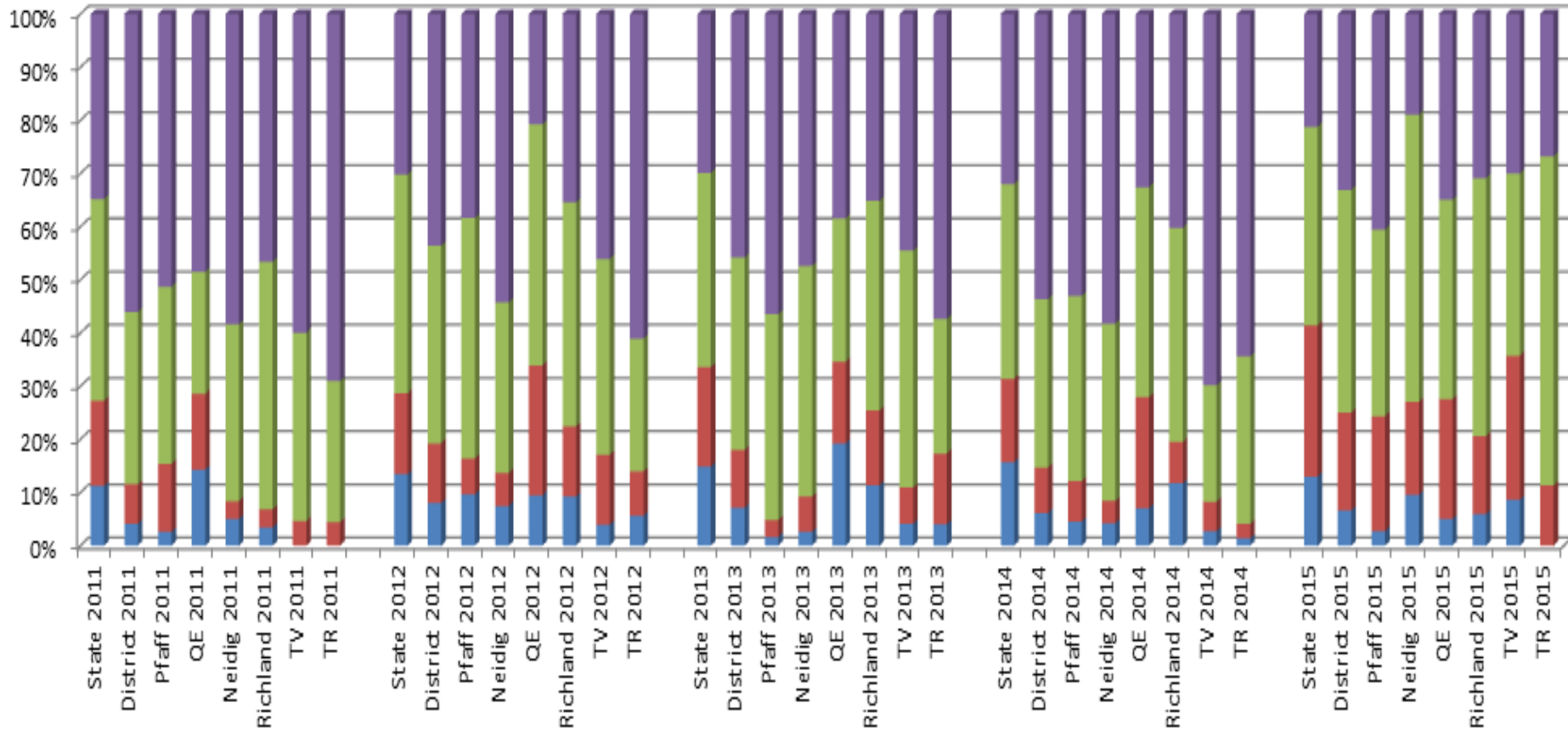


# QCSD Grade 3 Math 2011-2015

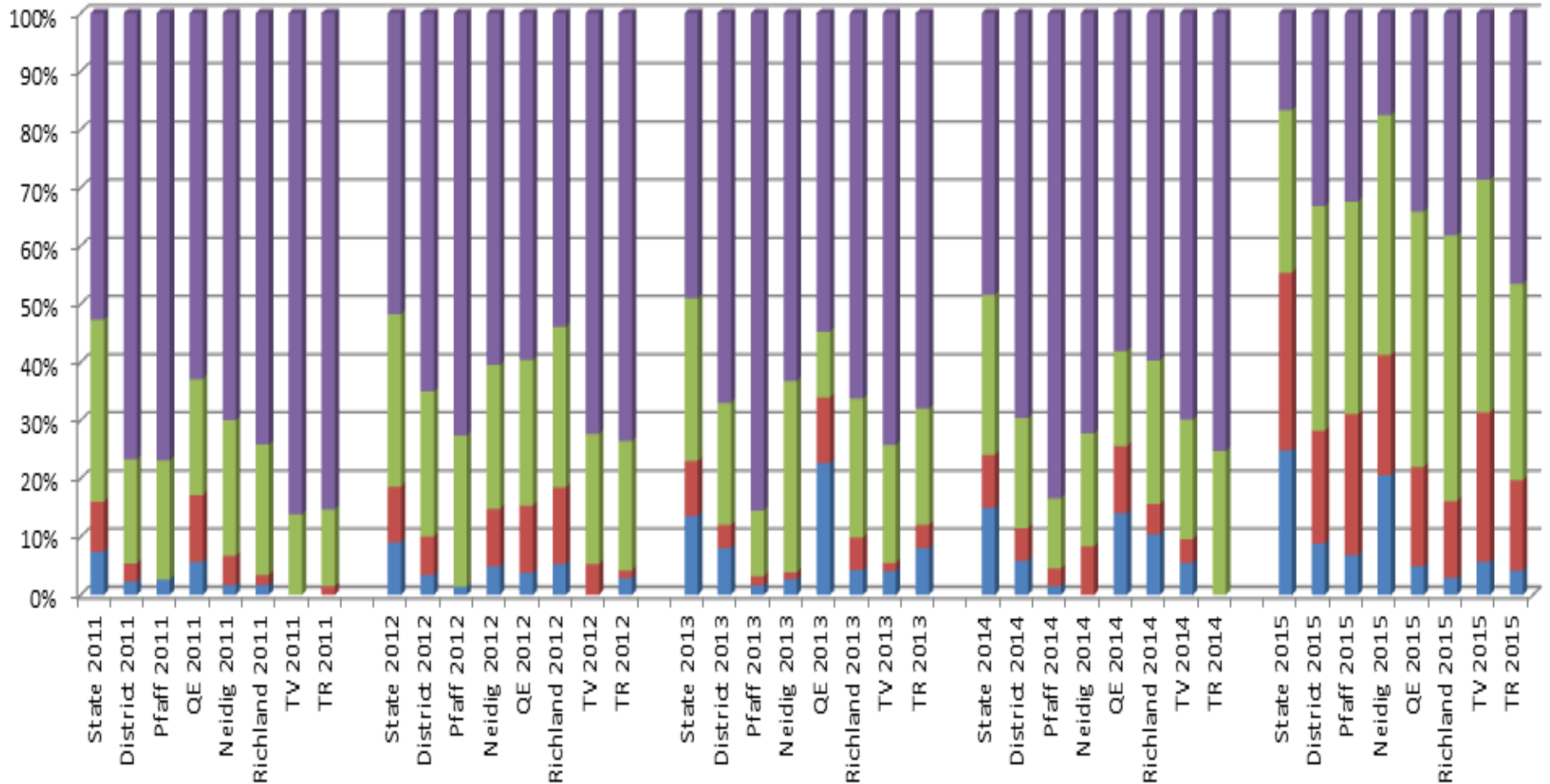




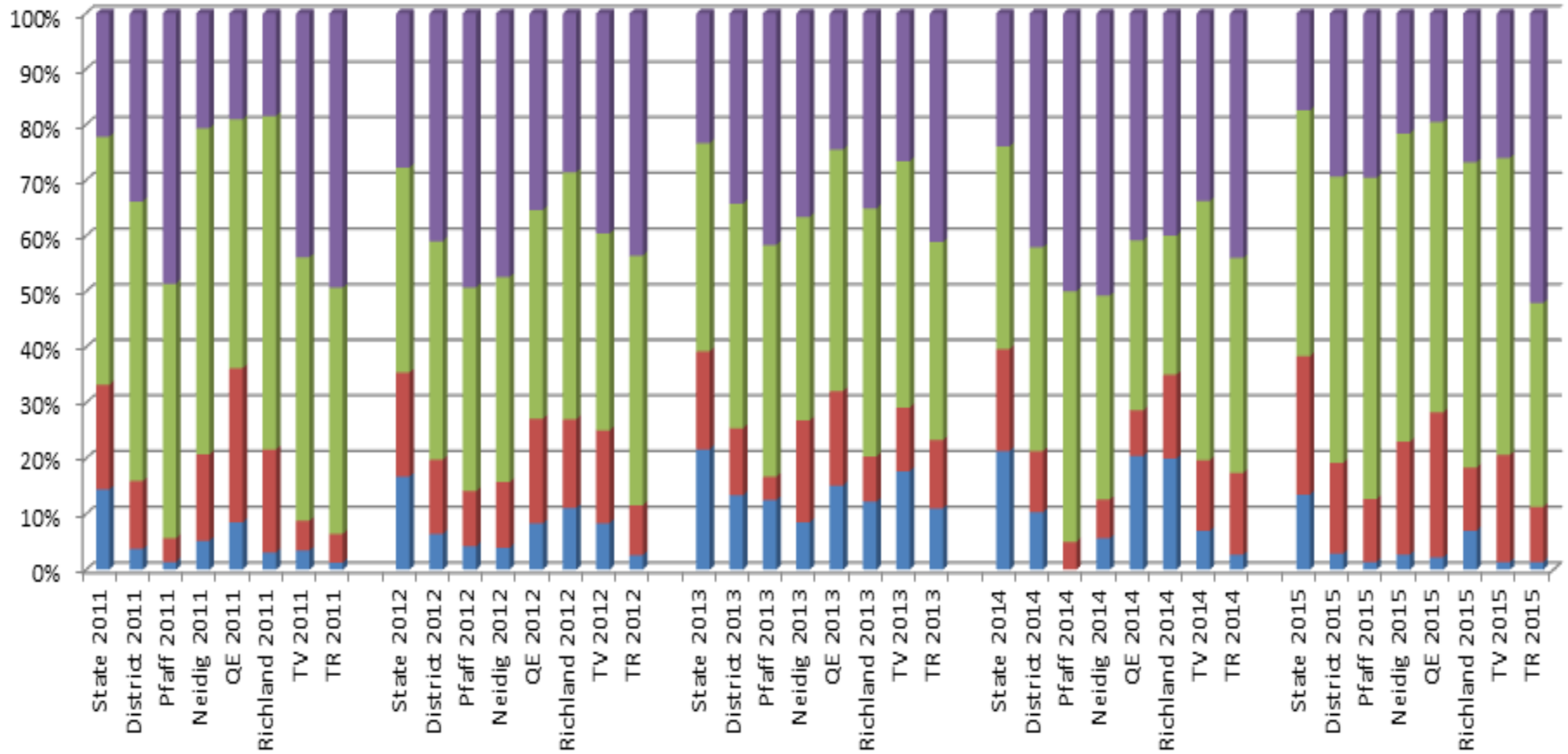
# QCSD Grade 4 Reading 2011-2015



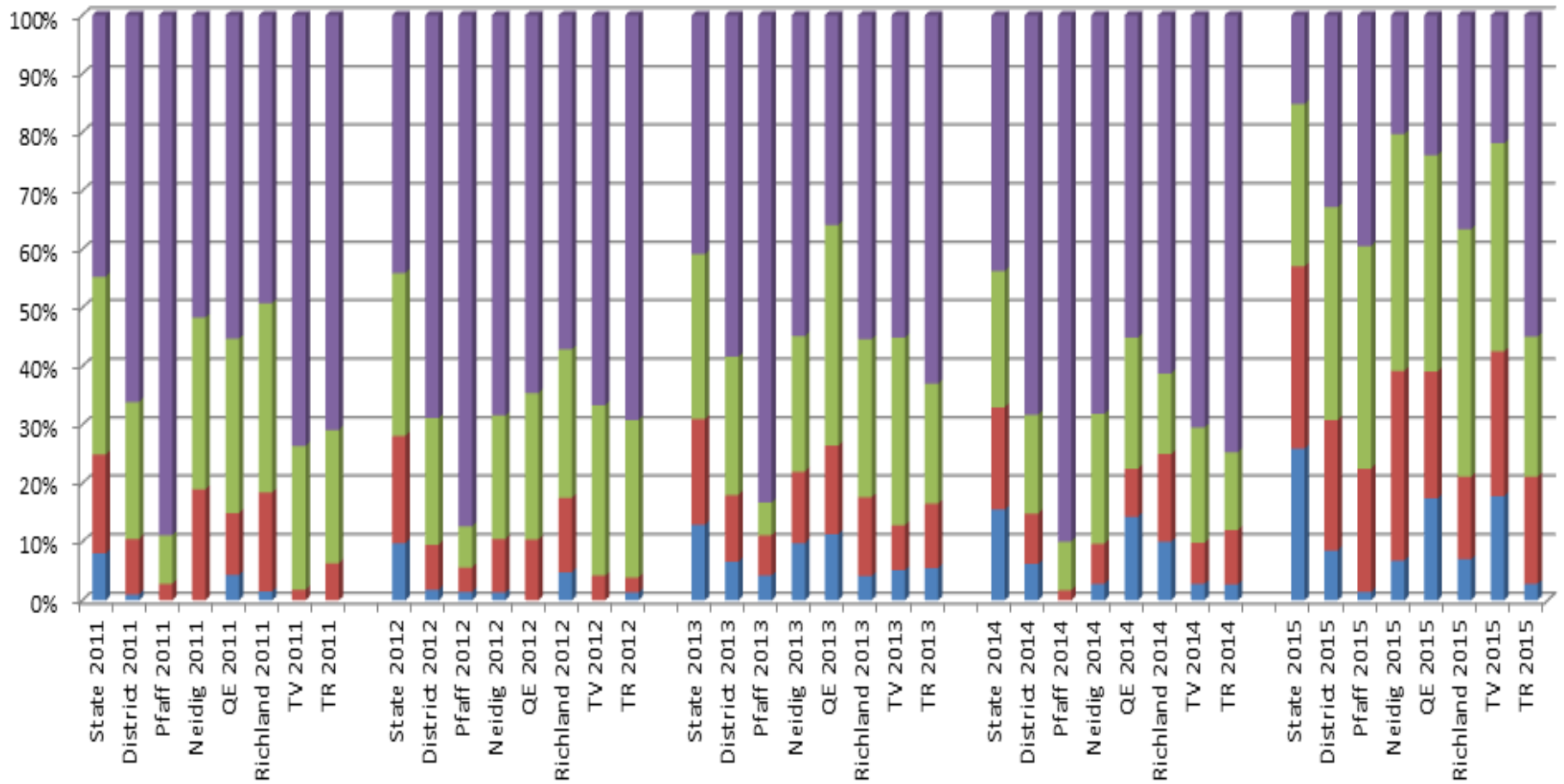
# QCSD Grade 4 Math 2011-2015



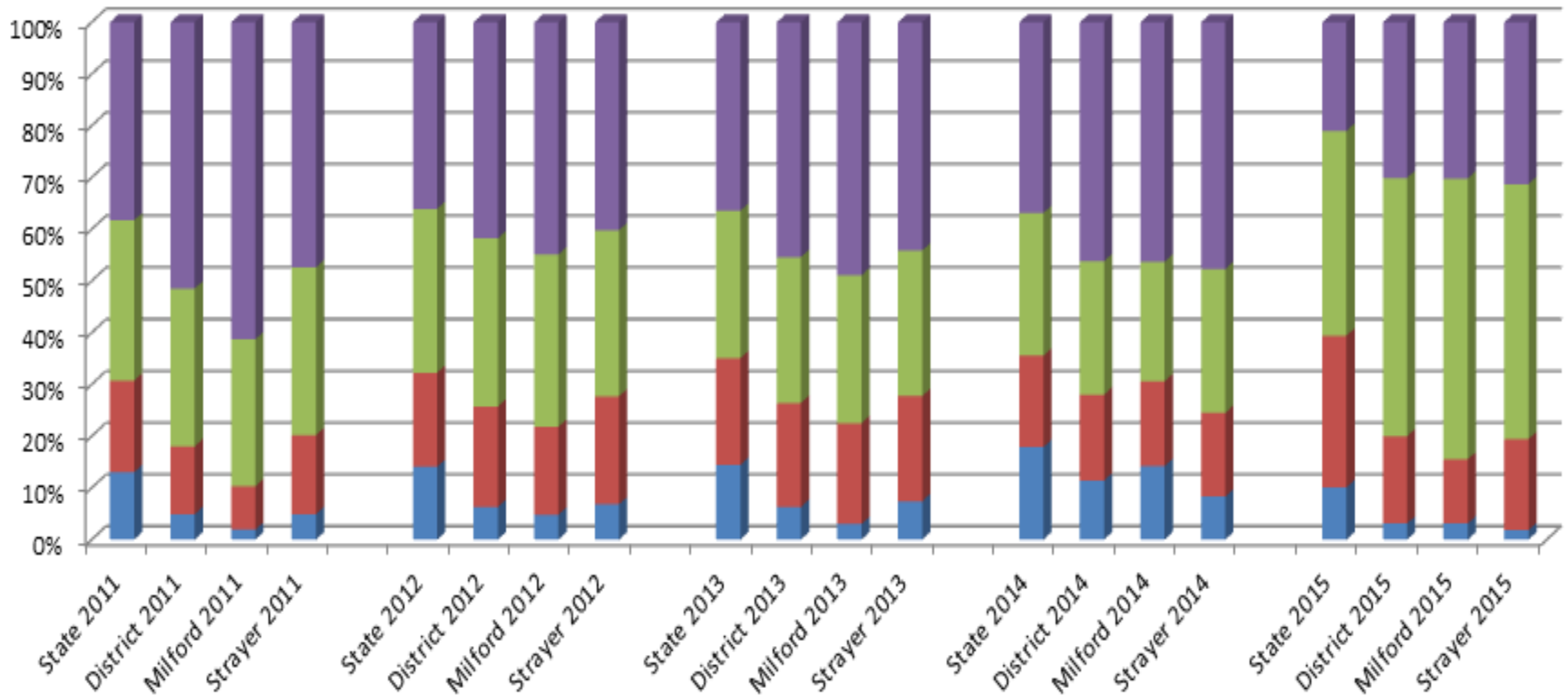
# QCSD Grade 5 Reading 2011-2015



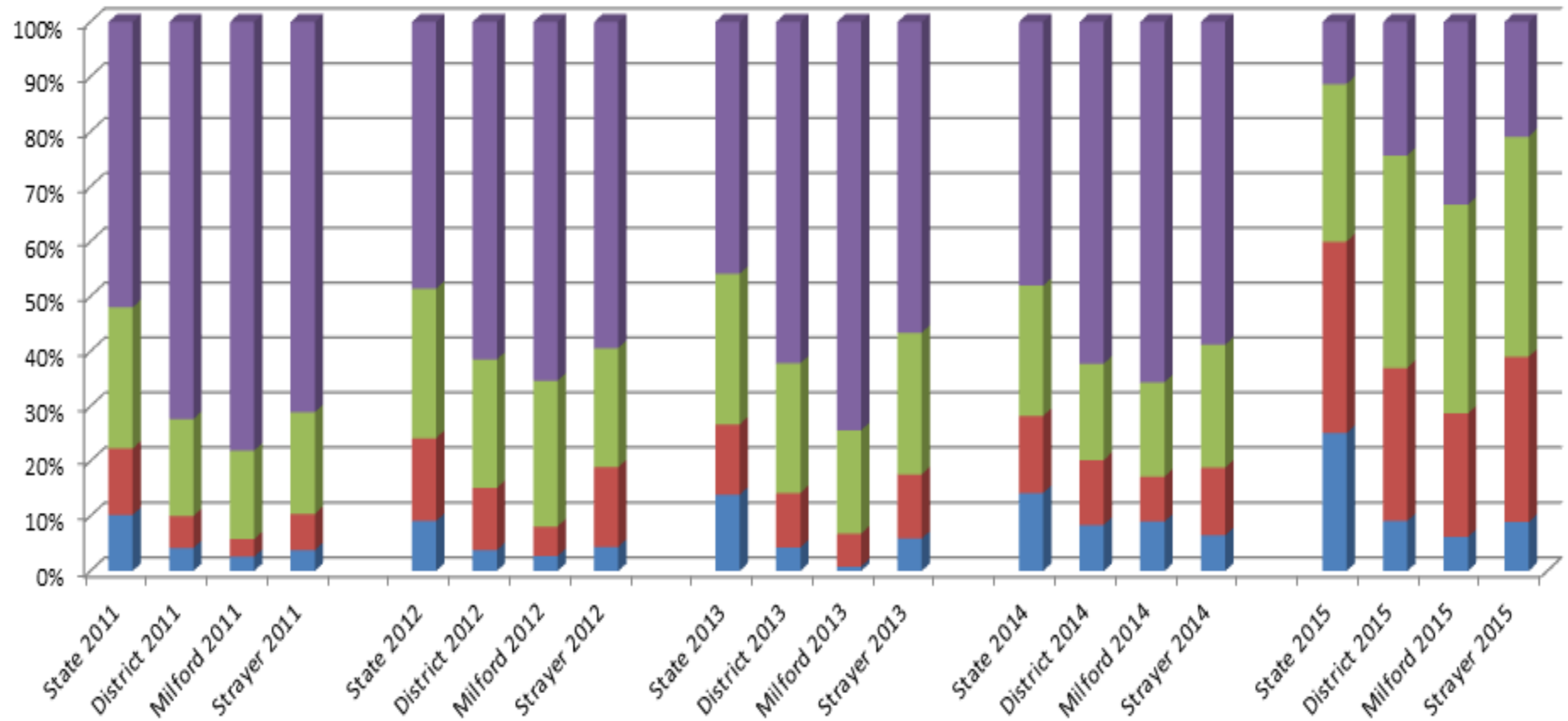
# QCSD Grade 5 Math 2011-2015



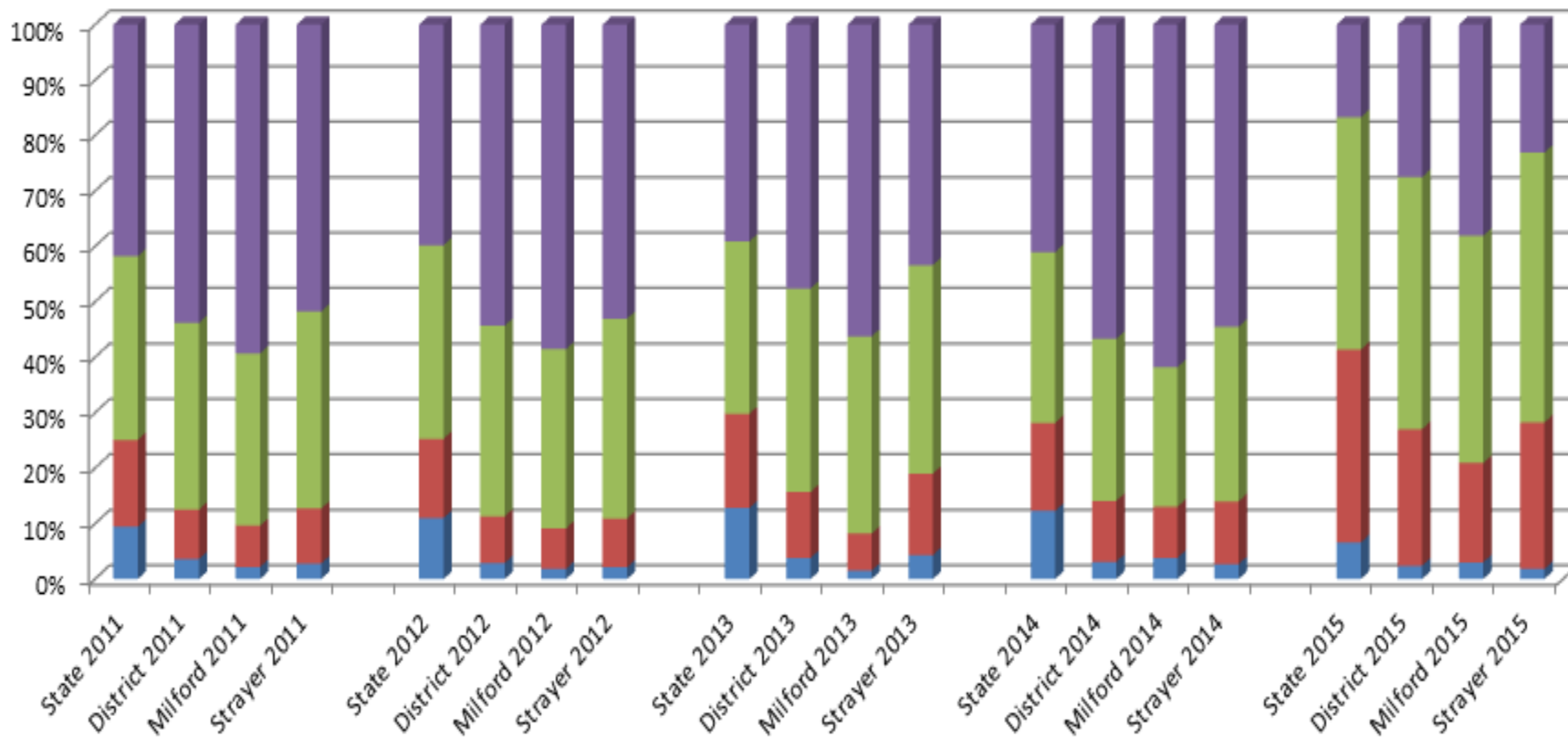
# QCSD Grade 6 Reading 2011-2015



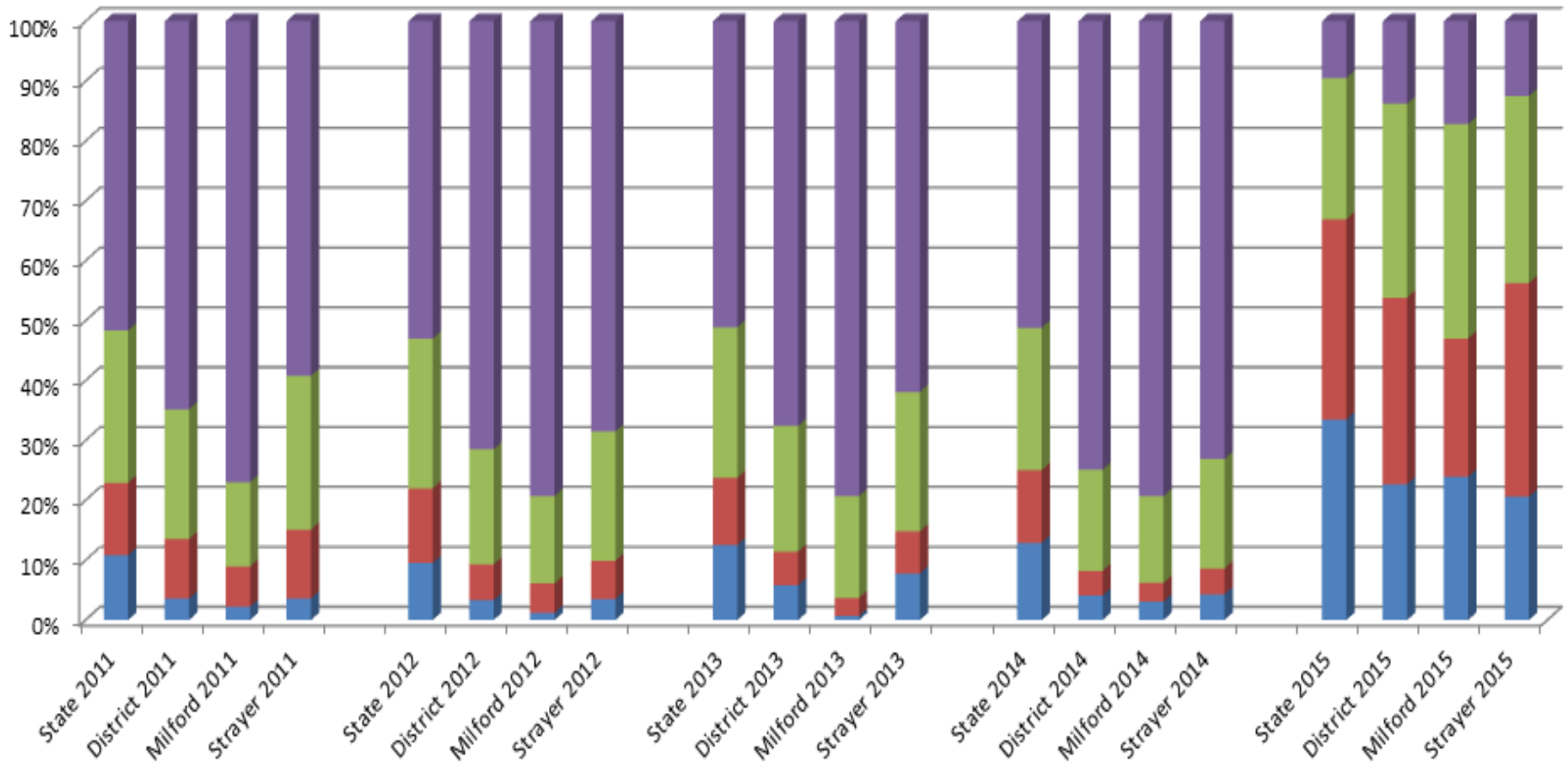
# QCSD Grade 6 Math 2011-2015



# QCSD Grade 7 Reading 2011-2015

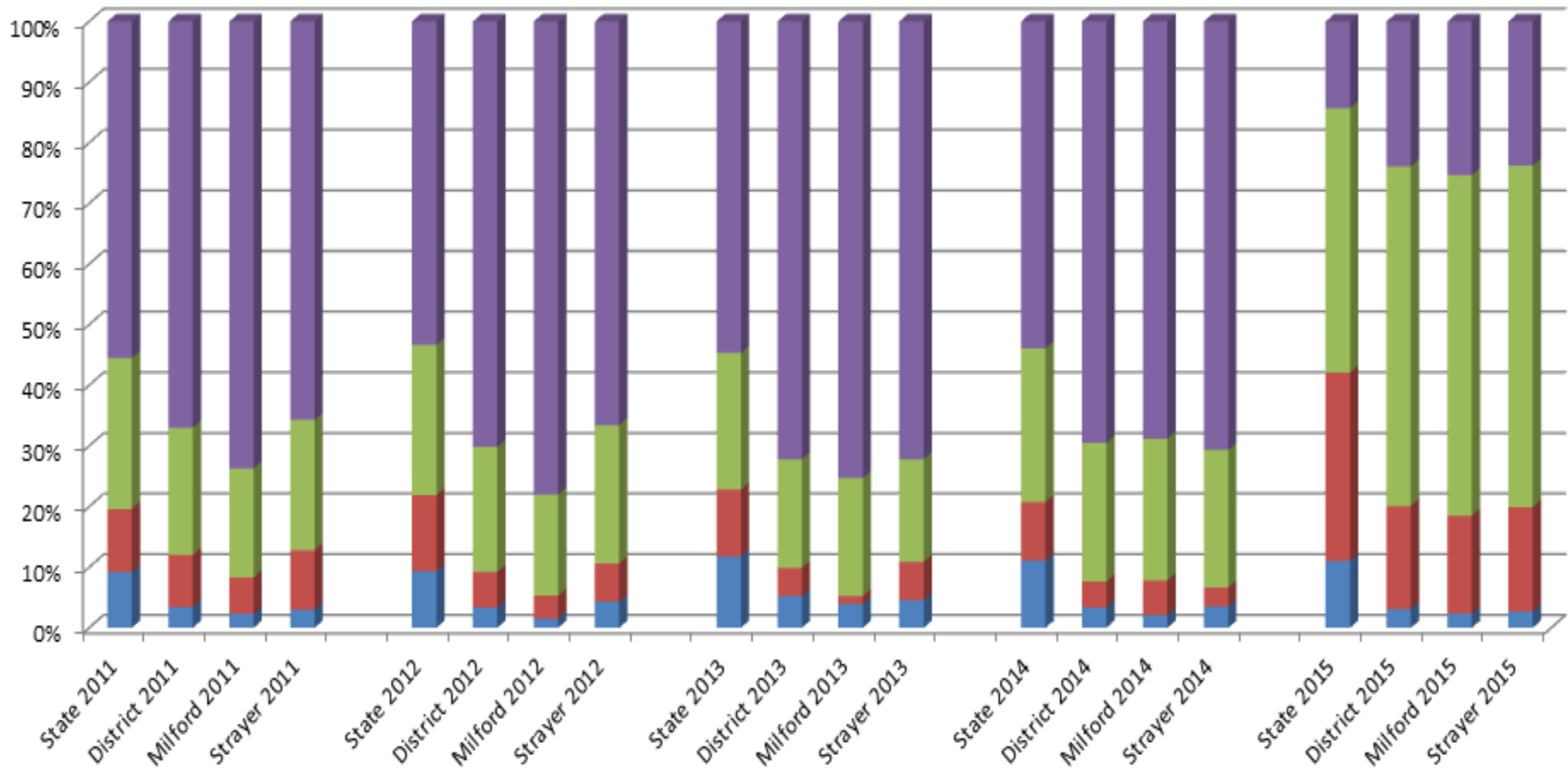


# QCSD Grade 7 Math 2011-2015

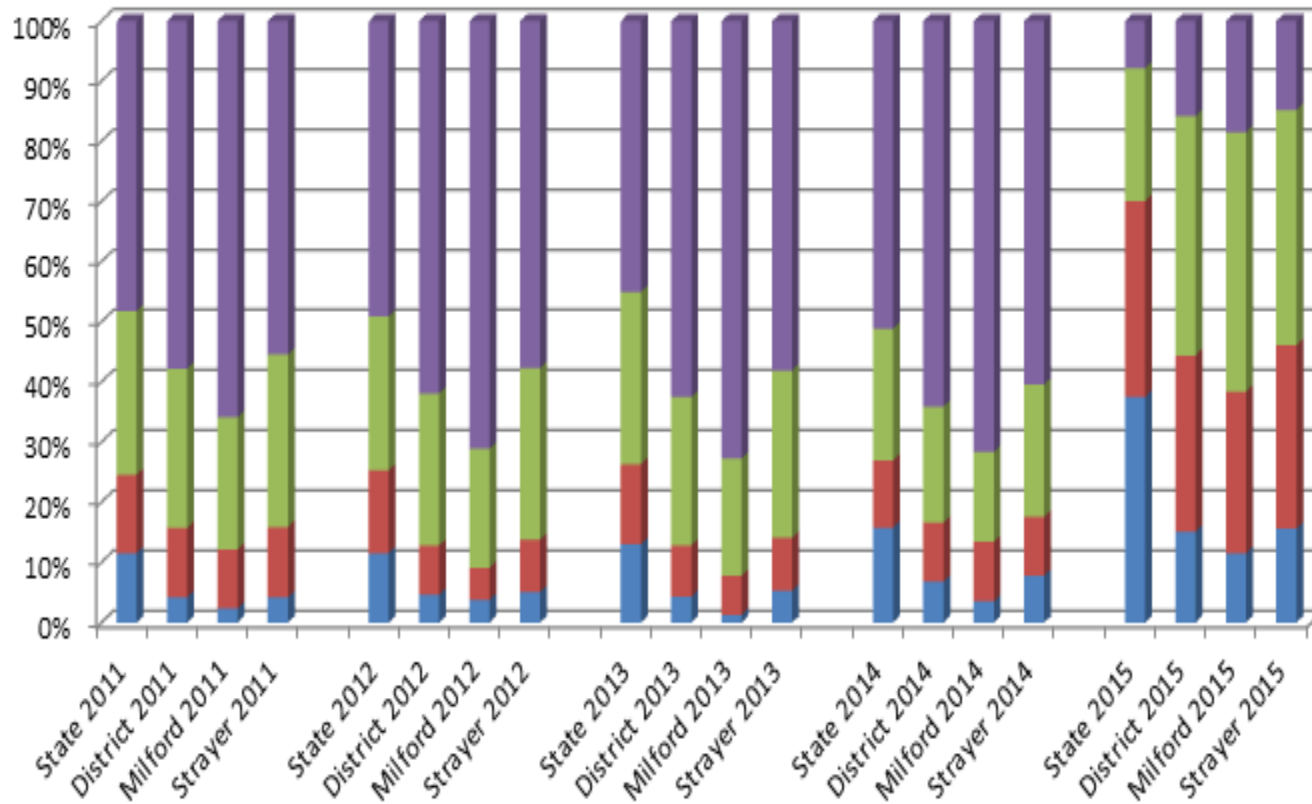




# QCSD Grade 8 Reading 2011-2015



# QCSD Grade 8 Math 2011-2015



# 2011-2015 PSSA Science Results

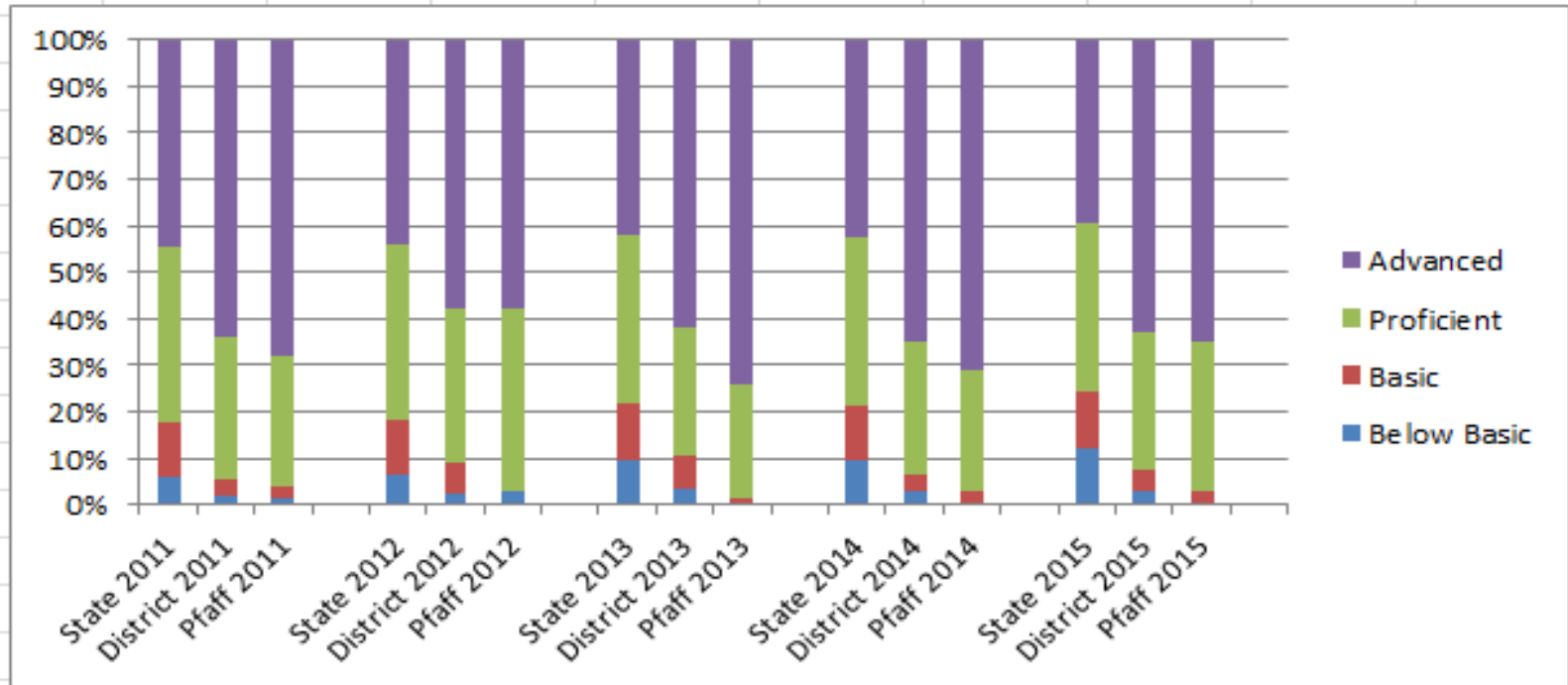


**GRADES 4 AND 8 BY  
BUILDING**

# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – Pfaff Elementary



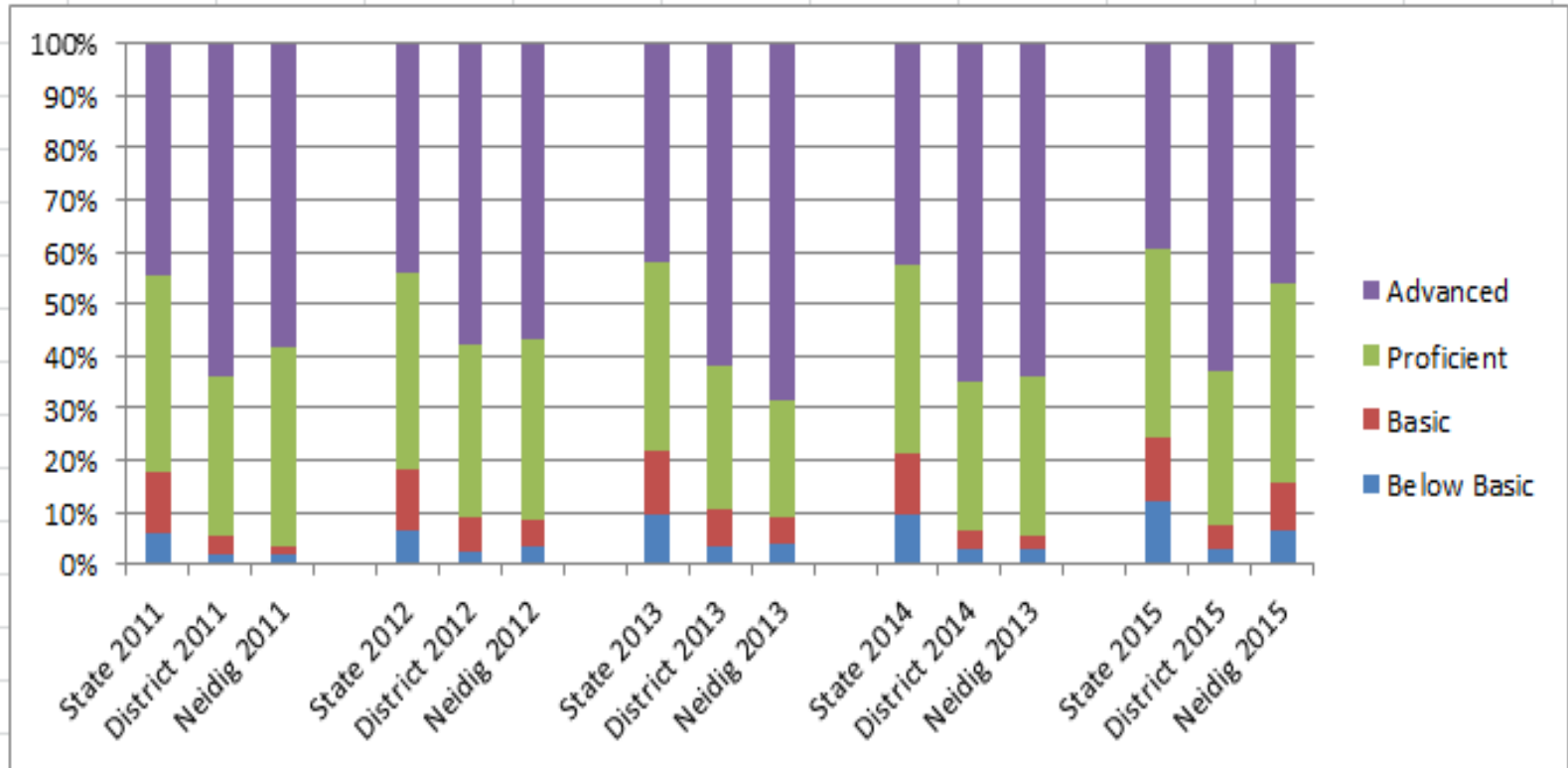
Grade 4 Pfaff Science



# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – Neidig Elementary



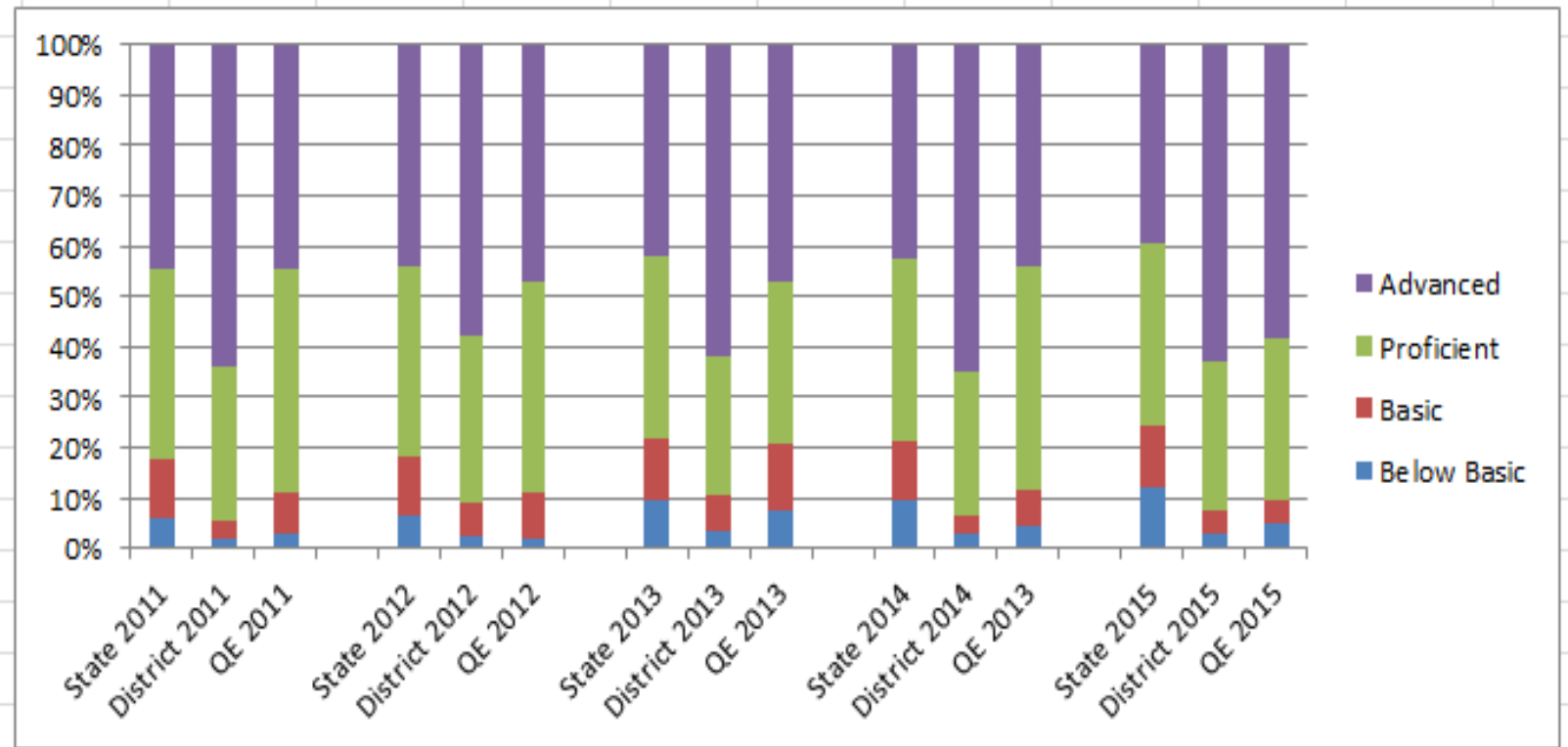
Grade 4 Neidig Science



# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – Quakertown Elementary



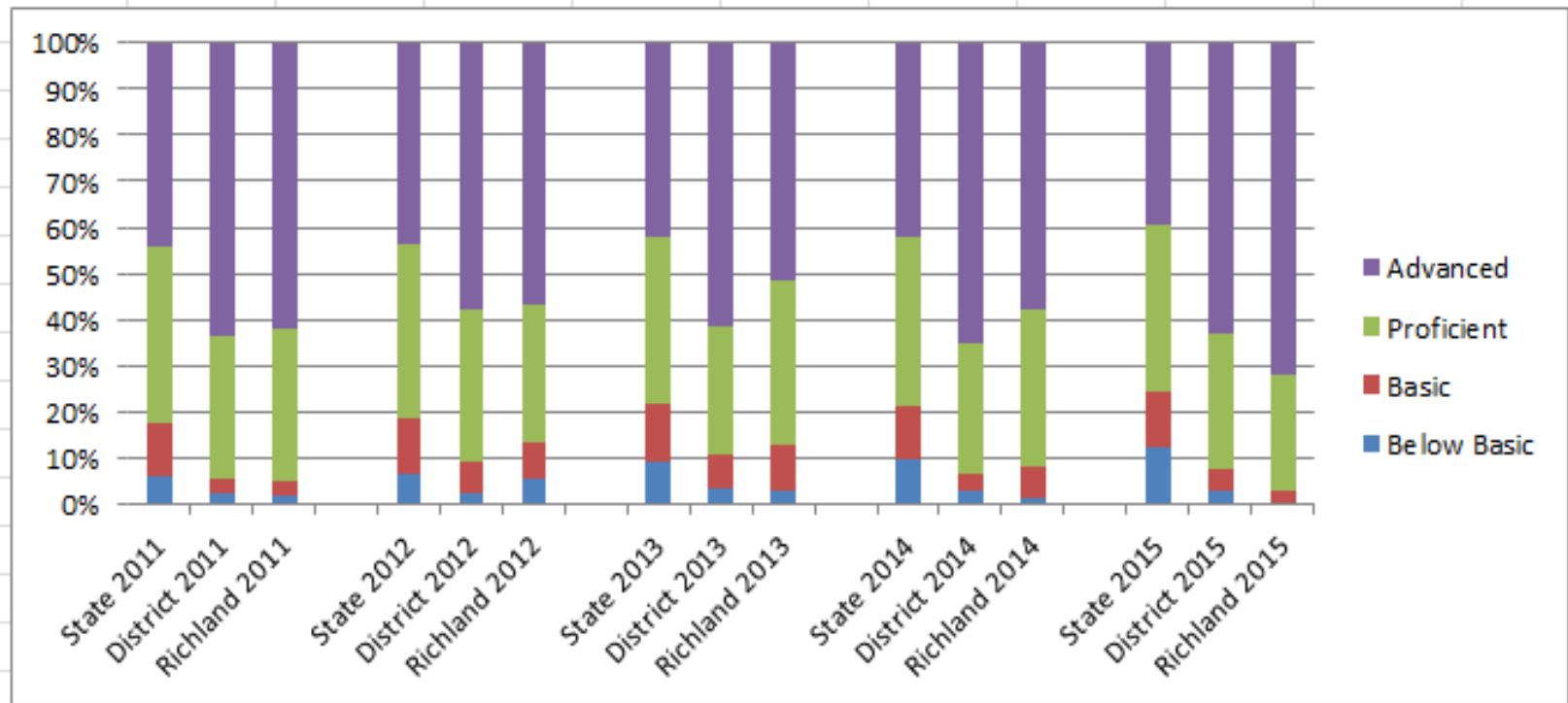
Grade 4 QE Science



# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – Richland Elementary



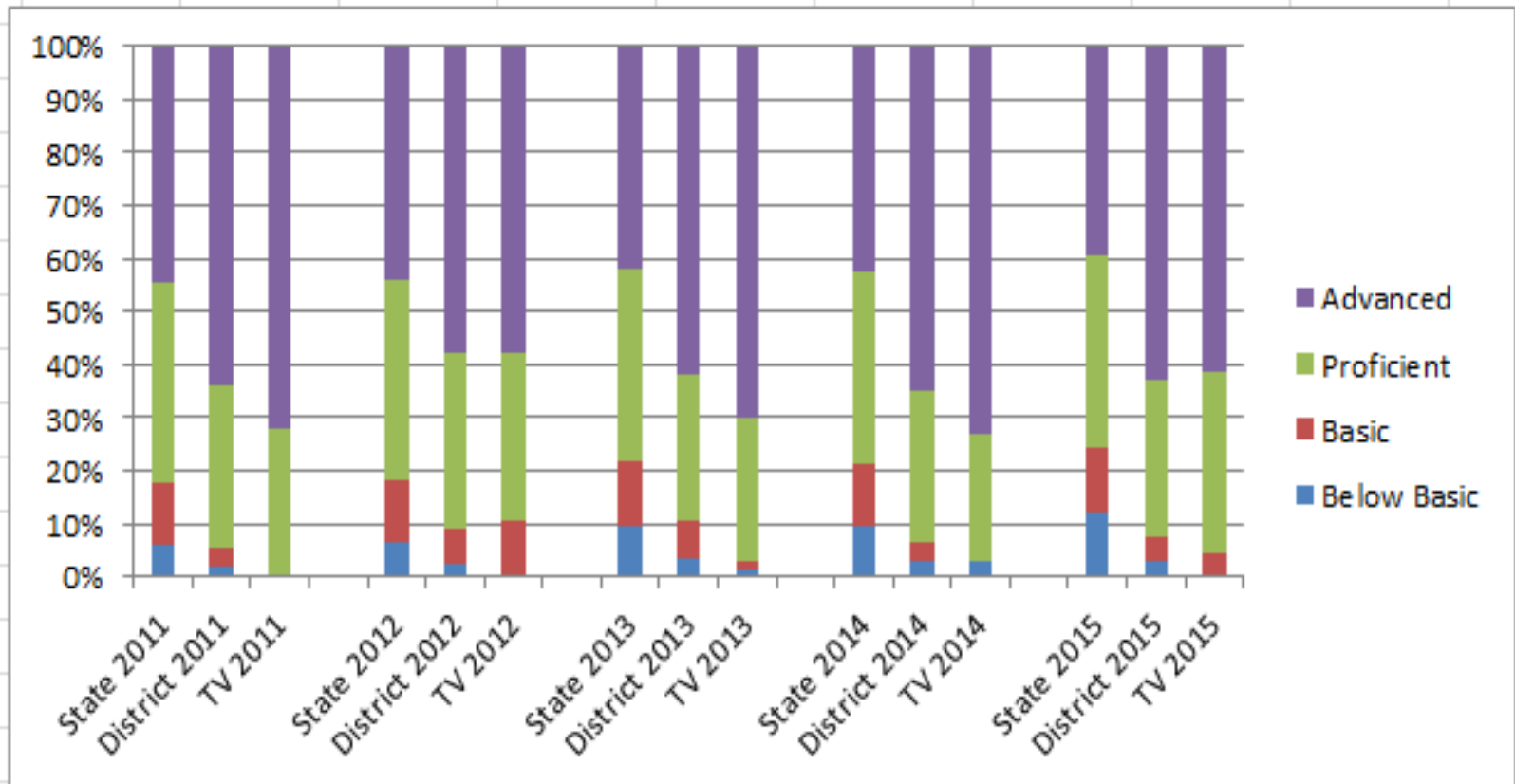
Grade 4 Richland Science



# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – TV Elementary



Grade 4 TV Science

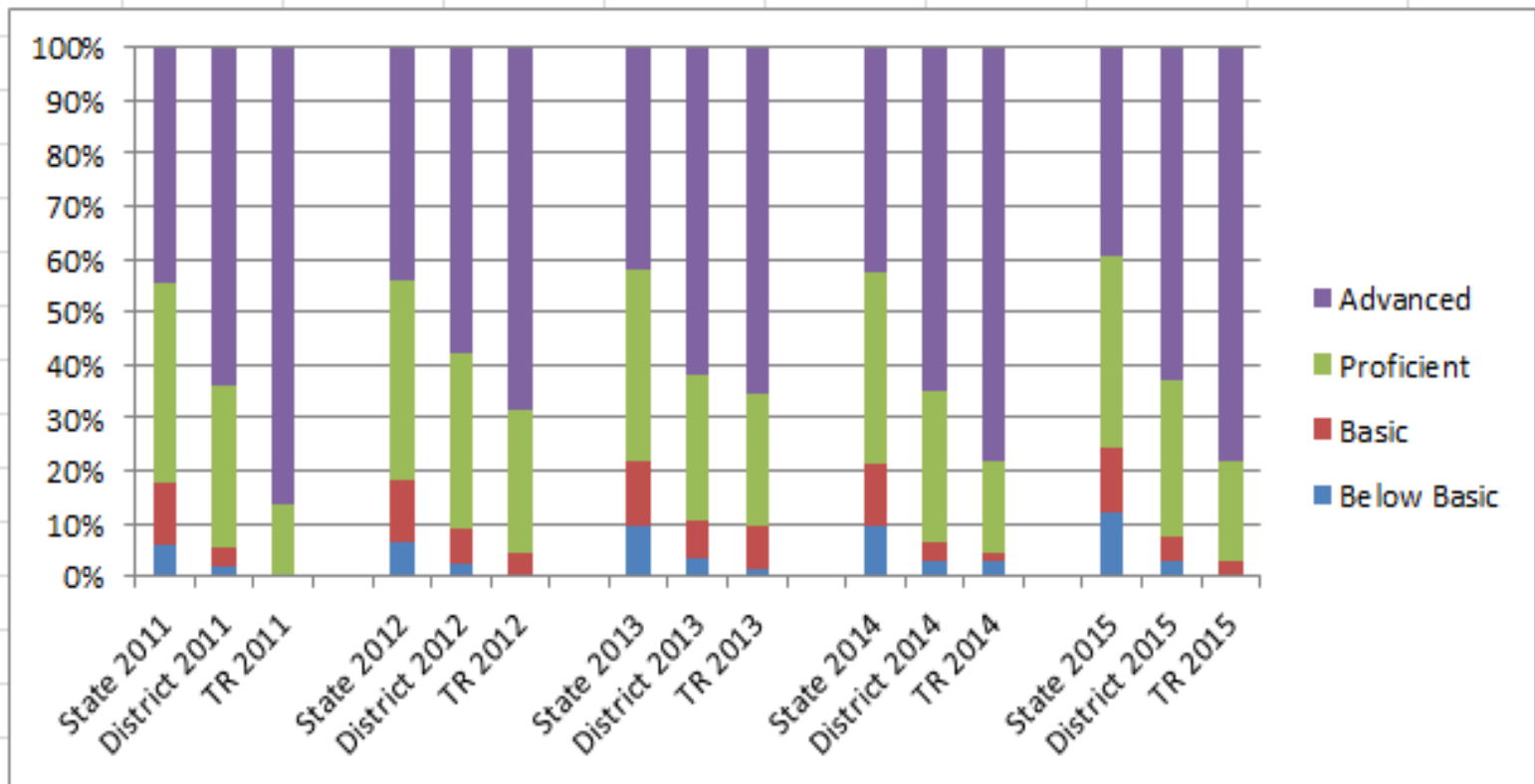




# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – Trumbauersville Elementary



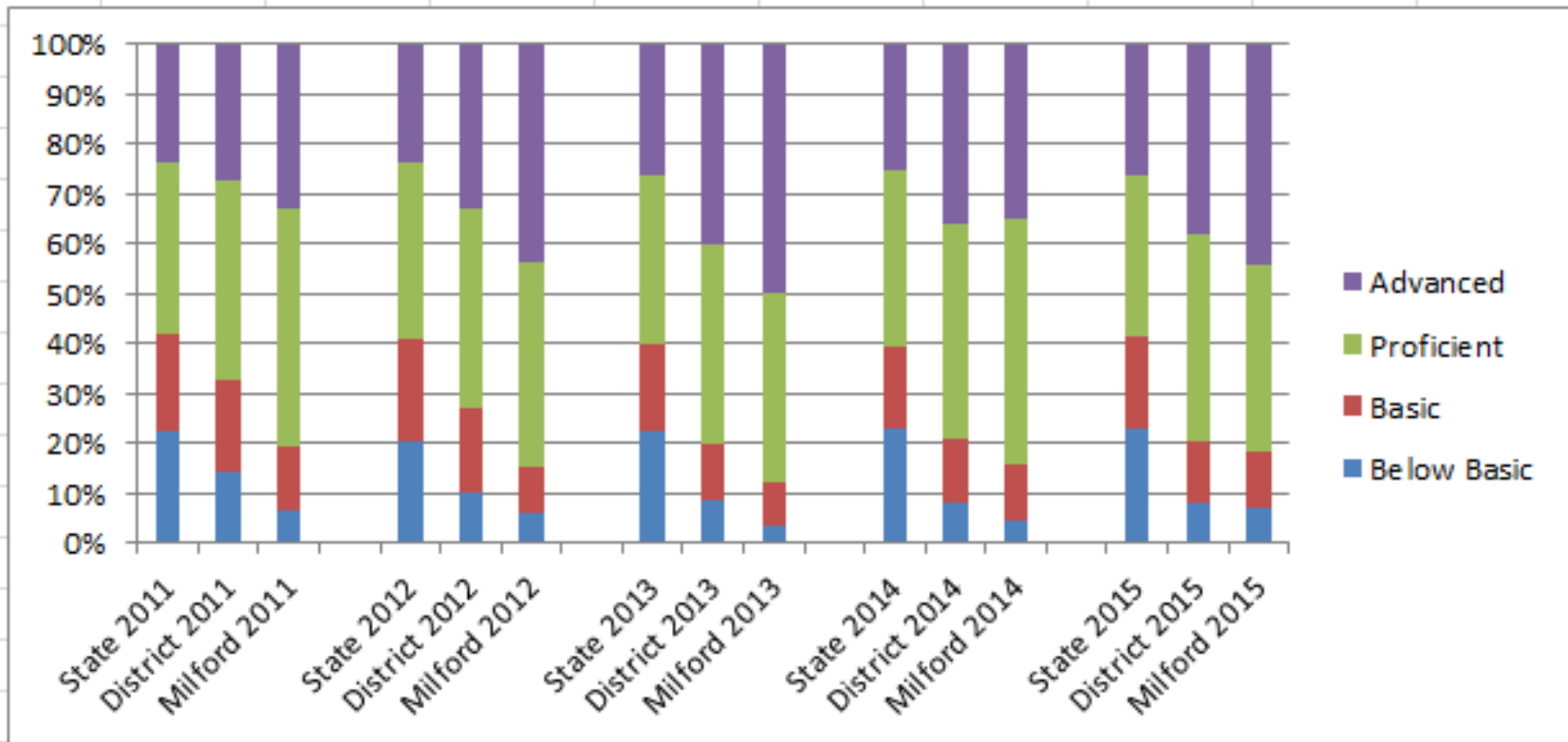
Grade 4 TR Science



# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – Milford Grade 8



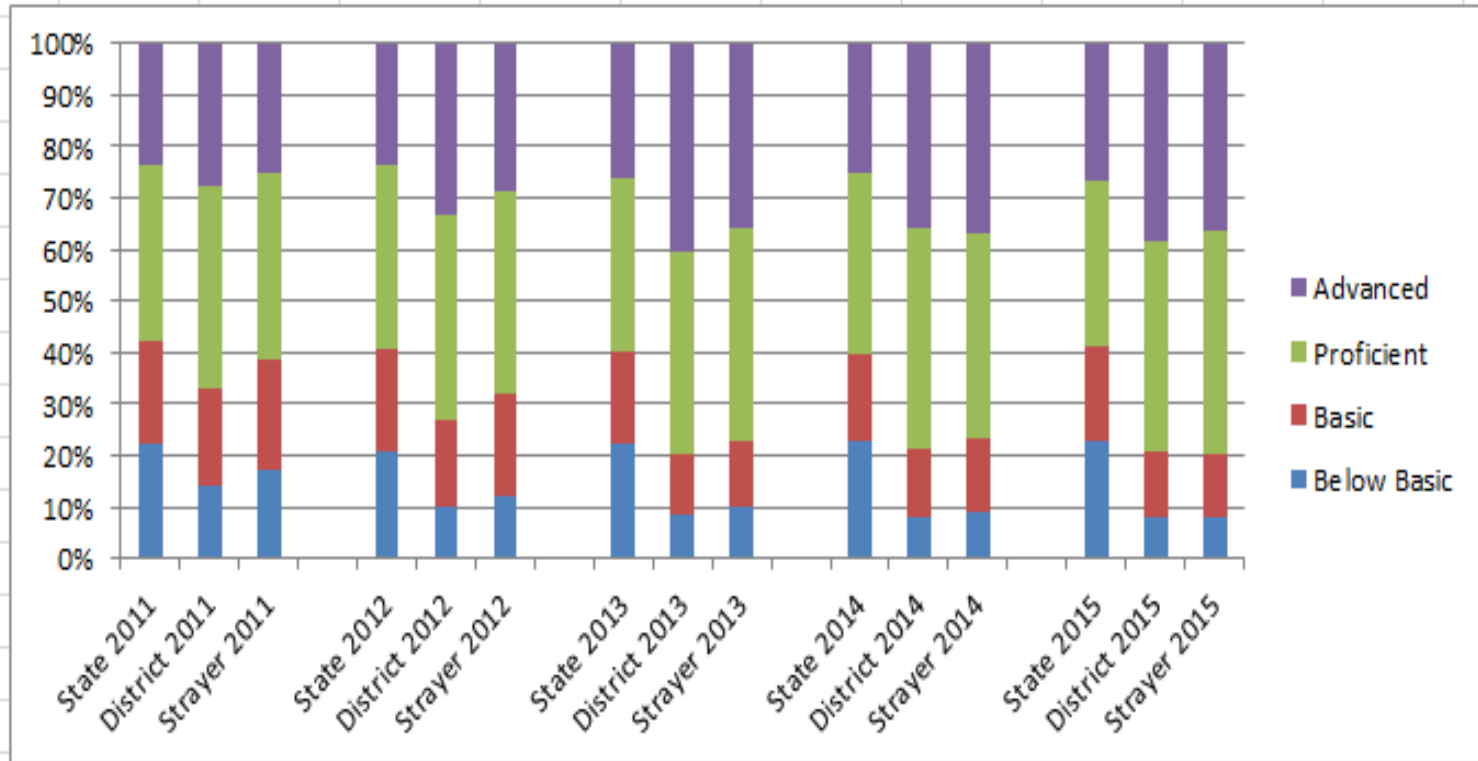
Grade 8 Science Milford



# 2011 - 2015 PSSA Science – Strayer Grade 8



Grade 8 Science Strayer



# 2015 PSSA Special Education Results



**QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# Grade 3 IEP Students



Grade 3 ELA	% Proficient	% Advanced	Total % P/A
State	23.9	3.6	27.5
District	21.7	3.3	25.0

Grade 3 Math	% Proficient	% Advanced	Total % P/A
State	15.1	7.8	22.9
District	28.3	8.3	36.6

Red numbers indicate percentages lower than state average.

# Grade 4 IEP Students



<b>Gr.4 ELA</b>	<b>% Prof.</b>	<b>% Adv.</b>	<b>Total</b>
State	17.5	5.0	22.5
District	22.5	10.6	33.3

<b>Gr. 4 Math</b>	<b>% Prof.</b>	<b>% Adv.</b>	<b>Total</b>
State	12.5	5.5	18.0
District	18.2	18.2	36.4

<b>Gr. 4 Sci.</b>	<b>% Prof.</b>	<b>% Adv.</b>	<b>Total</b>
State	33.3	17.2	50.5
District	40.3	35.8	76.1

# Grade 5 IEP Students



<b>Grade 5 ELA</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	18.7	3.4	22.1
District	33.3	4.8	38.1

<b>Grade 5 Math</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	10.1	3.9	14.0
District	23.8	11.1	34.9

# Grade 6 IEP Students



<b>Grade 6 ELA</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	16.1	3.4	19.5
District	27.9	7.4	35.3

<b>Grade 6 Math</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	8.3	2.0	10.3
District	16.2	2.9	19.1



# Grade 7 IEP Students



<b>Grade 7 ELA</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	14.6	2.0	16.6
District	21.7	1.4	23.1

<b>Grade 7 Math</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	5.1	1.5	6.6
District	7.2	0	7.2

# Grade 8 IEP Students



<b>Grade 8 ELA</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	14.2	1.3	15.5
District	25.5	0	25.5

<b>Grade 8 Math</b>	<b>% Proficient</b>	<b>% Advanced</b>	<b>Total % P/A</b>
State	4.0	1.0	4.0
District	13.0	0	13.0

# 2015 PSSA Math and Reading



## **LOCAL SCHOOL COMPARISONS READING AND MATH**

# Selected Local Schools Grade 3 ELA 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Bedminster/Pennridge	92.3
2	Trumbauersville/QT	88.8
3	Grasse/Pennridge	87.5
4	Springfield/Palisades	85.4
5	Durham/Nock/Palisades	85.2
6	Sellersville/Pennridge	83.6
7	Tinicum/Palisades	83.3
8	Diebler/Pennridge	82.1
9	Seylar/Pennridge	79.7

Place	School/District	Score
10	Quakertown ES	76.6
11	Pfaff ES/QT	76.4
12	West Rockhill/Pennridge	74.3
13	Richland/QT	73.2
14	Tohickon Valley/QT	68.1
15	Guth ES/Pennridge	67.9
16	Neidig ES/QT	64.4
17	New Hope Solebury ES	58.3

# Selected Local Schools Grade 3 Math 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Tinicum/Palisades	80.5
2	Trumbauersville/QT	80.3
3	Quakertown ES	78.7
4	Pfaff ES/QT	77.8
5	Springfield ES/Palisades	75.6
6	Bedminster/Pennridge	75.6
7	Diebler/Pennridge	74.6
8	Richland/QT	73.2
9	Sellersville/Pennridge	71.3

Place	School/District	Score
10	Seylar/Pennridge	71.3
11	Tohickon Valley/QT	70.0
12	New Hope Solebury ES	68.8
13	Grasse ES/Pennridge	63.9
14	Druham/Nock/Palisades	59.2
15	Guth ES/Pennridge	58.3
16	West Rockhill/Pennridge	57.5
17	Neidig/QT	56.1

# Selected Local Schools Grade 4 ELA 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Trumbauersville/QT	92.8
2	Diebler/Pennridge	87.1
3	Durham/Nock/Palisades	86.7
4	Bedminster/Pennridge	86.6
5	Richland/QT	78.8
6	Grasse/Pennridge	77.6
7	Pfaff/QT	77.5
8	Guth/Pennridge	76.0
9	Springfield/Palisades	75.1

Place	School/District	Score
10	Neidig/QT	73.0
11	West Rockhill/Pennridge	73.0
12	Tinicum/Palisades	72.9
13	Quakertown ES	72.5
14	Sellersville ES/Pennridge	72.2
15	Seylar ES/Pennridge	70.7
16	Tohickon Valley/QT	64.3
17	New Hope solebury ES	60.2

# Selected Local Schools Grade 4 Math 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Trumbauersville/QT	84.0
2	Richland/QT	83.3
3	Tinicum/Palisades	81.0
4	Quakertown ES	78.0
5	Diebler ES/Pennridge	73.1
6	Springfield ES/Palisades	71.9
7	Guth ES/Pennridge	69.3
8	Pfaff ES/QT	69.0
9	Tohickon Valley/QT	68.6

Place	School/District	Score
10	New Hope Solebury ES	67.8
11	Bedminster/Pennridge	67.4
12	Durham Nock/Palisades	66.7
13	Grasse ES/Pennridge	66.3
14	West Rockhill/Pennridge	64.1
15	Neidig ES/QT	58.8
16	Sellersville/Pennridge	55.5
17	Seylar Es/Pennridge	52.4

# Selected Local Schools Grade 5 ELA 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Bedminster/Pennridge	93.5
2	Durham Nock/Palisades	90.9
3	West Rockhill/Pennridge	90.4
4	Trumbauersville/QT	88.7
5	Pfaff/QT	87.1
6	Sellersville/Pennridge	87.0
7	Diebler/Pennridge	85.0
8	Grasse/Pennridge	83.7
9	Richland/QT	81.1

Place	School/District	Score
10	Tohickon Valley/QT	79.4
11	Seylar ES/QT	78.7
12	Guth ES/Sellersville	78.1
13	Neidig ES/QT	77.0
14	Springfield ES/Palisades	75.0
15	Tinicum ES/Palisades	75.0
16	Quakertown ES	71.8
17	New Hope Solebury ES	60.2



# Selected Local Schools Grade 5 Math 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Richland/QT	79.1
2	TrumbauersvilleQT	78.8
3	Pfaff/QT	77.1
4	Bedminster/Pennridge	75.0
5	Sellersville/Pennridge	69.4
6	Tinicum/Palisades	69.3
7	Grasse/Pennridge	67.5
8	West Rockhill/Pennridge	67.1
9	New Hope Solebury Es	61.7

Place	School/District	Score
10	Quakertown ES	60.9
11	Neidig ES/QT	60.8
12	Springfield ES/Palisdaes	58.3
13	Diebler ES/Pennridge	58.1
14	Tohickon Valley/QT	57.5
15	Seylar/Pennridge	56.2
16	Guth ES/Pennridge	56.1
17	Druham Nock/Palisades	54.6

# Selected Local Schools Grade 6 ELA 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Milford/Quakertown	84.5
2	New Hope Solebury	84.5
3	Pennridge North	83.3
4	Strayer/Quakertown	80.6
5	Pennridge Central	79
6	Pennridge South	74.5
7	Palisades MS	73.3
8	Klinger/Centennial	68.2

# Selected Local Schools Grade 6 Math 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Milford/Quakertown	70.4
2	New Hope Solebury	63.6
3	Pennridge North	56.4
4	Strayer	61
5	Pennridge Central	59.5
6	Pennridge South	58.6
7	Palisades MS	47.9
8	Klinger MS Centennial	40.1

# Selected Local Schools Grade 7 ELA 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Pennridge Central	81.0
2	Pennridge North	80.7
3	New Hope Solebury	80.1
4	Palisades MS	79.3
5	Milford	78.4
6	Strayer	71.8
7	Pennridge South	70.9
8	Klinger/Centennial	68.3

# Selected Local Schools Grade 7 Math 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	New Hope Solebury	54.6
2	Milford	52.3
3	Pennridge North	47.7
4	Palisades	41.5
5	Strayer	43.8
6	Pennridge Central	41.5
7	Pennridge South	34,5
8	Klinger MS Centennial	34,4

# Selected Local Schools Grade 8 ELA 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Pennridge North	82.1
2	Milford/Quakertown	81.4
3	Strayer/Quakertown	80.1
4	Pennridge Central	79.1
5	Palisades MS	74.7
6	New Hope Solebury	72.9
7	Pennridge South	67.2
8	Klinger MS/Centennial	53.0

# Selected Local Schools Grade 8 Math 2015



Place	School/District	Score
1	Milford	62
2	New Hope Solebury	57.6
3	Strayer	53.9
4	Pennridge Central	49.3
5	Pennridge South	37.7
6	Pennridge North	43.3
7	Palisades	43
8	Klinger MS/Centennial	26.6