

2016 PSSA Mathematics Results

	Total number	% Below Basic	%Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Advanced/Proficient
3rd grade	124642	24.6	21	28.1	26.3	54.4
4th grade	123651	27.6	25.9	26.7	19.9	46.6
5th grade	122776	28	27.6	25.9	18.5	44.4
6th grade	125088	30.1	28.8	24.2	16.9	41.1
7th grade	124781	34.9	28.1	23.7	13.3	37.0
8th grade	123003	40.2	28.6	20.8	10.5	31.2

2016 PSSA English Language Arts Results

	Total number	% Below Basic	%Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Advanced/Proficient
3rd grade	124507	13.6	25.5	45.7	15.2	60.9
4th grade	123308	12.2	29.1	34.0	24.7	58.7
5th grade	122662	14.1	24.4	45.3	16.2	61.5
6th grade	125047	8.6	29.8	38.9	22.7	61.7
7th grade	124784	5.0	33.5	43.3	18.2	61.5
8th grade	123100	11.3	30.4	40.9	17.5	58.4

2016 PSSA Science Results

	Total number	% Below Basic	%Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Advanced/Proficient
3rd grade	NA					NA
4th grade	123527	11.6	12.1	36.7	39.5	76.2
5th grade	NA					NA
6th grade	NA					NA
7th grade	NA					NA
8th grade	122782	25.5	16.8	30.4	27.3	57.7

2016 Keystone Results

	Total number	% Below Basic	%Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Advanced/Proficient
Algebra I	123525	8.4	23.3	47.6	20.6	68.2
Literature	123292	6.2	17.0	66.8	10.0	76.8
Biology	122834	14.6	19.7	38.6	27.1	65.7

Talking Points:

- 2016 was the second year the PA Core Standards were assessed by the PSSA.
- Statewide results indicate that student performance improved or remained steady in nearly every category of testing in Math and English Language Arts.
- Proficiency in math grew in every grade level representing significant growth in math year over year for the first time since 2011.
- While the percentage of students scoring at grade level or above (proficient or advanced) grew, the statewide results indicate there is still more to do to help the students scoring in the basic or below basic levels.
- Transitioning to the PA Core can be challenging for schools. The newer, more rigorous standards may require changes to alignment of curriculum, new resources, like textbooks, and updated professional development for educators, all requiring time and funding.
- Student performance on the PSSA underscores the importance of providing adequate resourcing to all schools in order to overcome the challenges of adopting new standards to ensure each student has access to the tools needed to learn and be prepared for the 21st century work force.
- While the transition to the PA Core is ongoing, the 2016 statewide data reinforces the notion that the longer students are educated using the new standards, the better they will perform on the assessment. (For example, the 2016 third graders performed better in Math 2015's cohort of third graders, because they began using the PA Core at an earlier age.)