

Smarter Results

2014-2015



Dear Colonial community,

In this document we will share with you performance data pertaining to our schools related to the first administration of the Smarter Assessments. We will look at the results for Reading and mathematics in grades 3-8 and grade 11. As you recall, with the Smarter assessment students respond to various types of items including selected response, constructed response, technology enhanced items and a performance task in each subject area. The test is completed entirely on a computer and scored by Smarter Balanced. We just received our results and we have begun to dive into the data. If you have any further questions please contact Dr. Franklin Read at franklin.read@colonial.k12.de.us

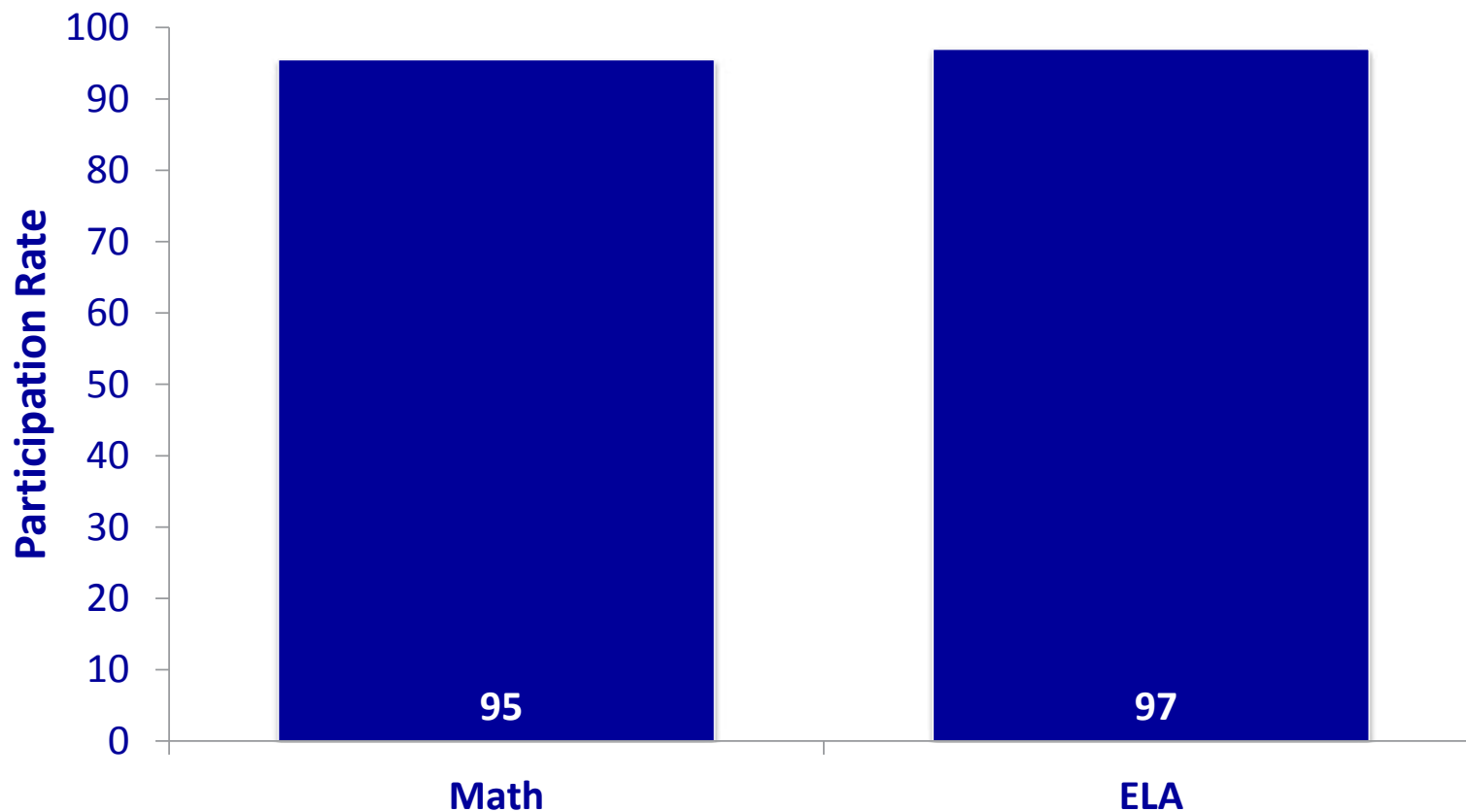
DISTRICT PARTICIPATION RATES

The federal government requires districts to assess a minimum of 95% of eligible students. Delaware met that rate overall, except at the high school level. 90% of the juniors in the State took the reading assessment and 89% took the math assessment.

Met Participation Thresholds



2015 District Participation Rate by Subject



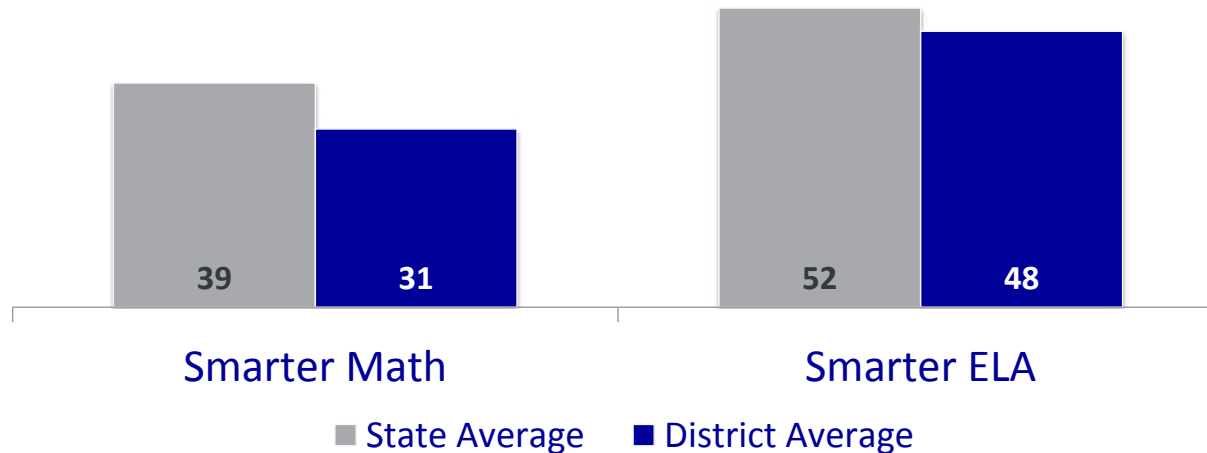
Colonial surpassed Delaware's participation rates at all levels. Overall in the district, 95% of our students took the math assessment and 97% participated in reading.

DISTRICT LEVEL SMARTER PROFICIENCY

State & District Performance

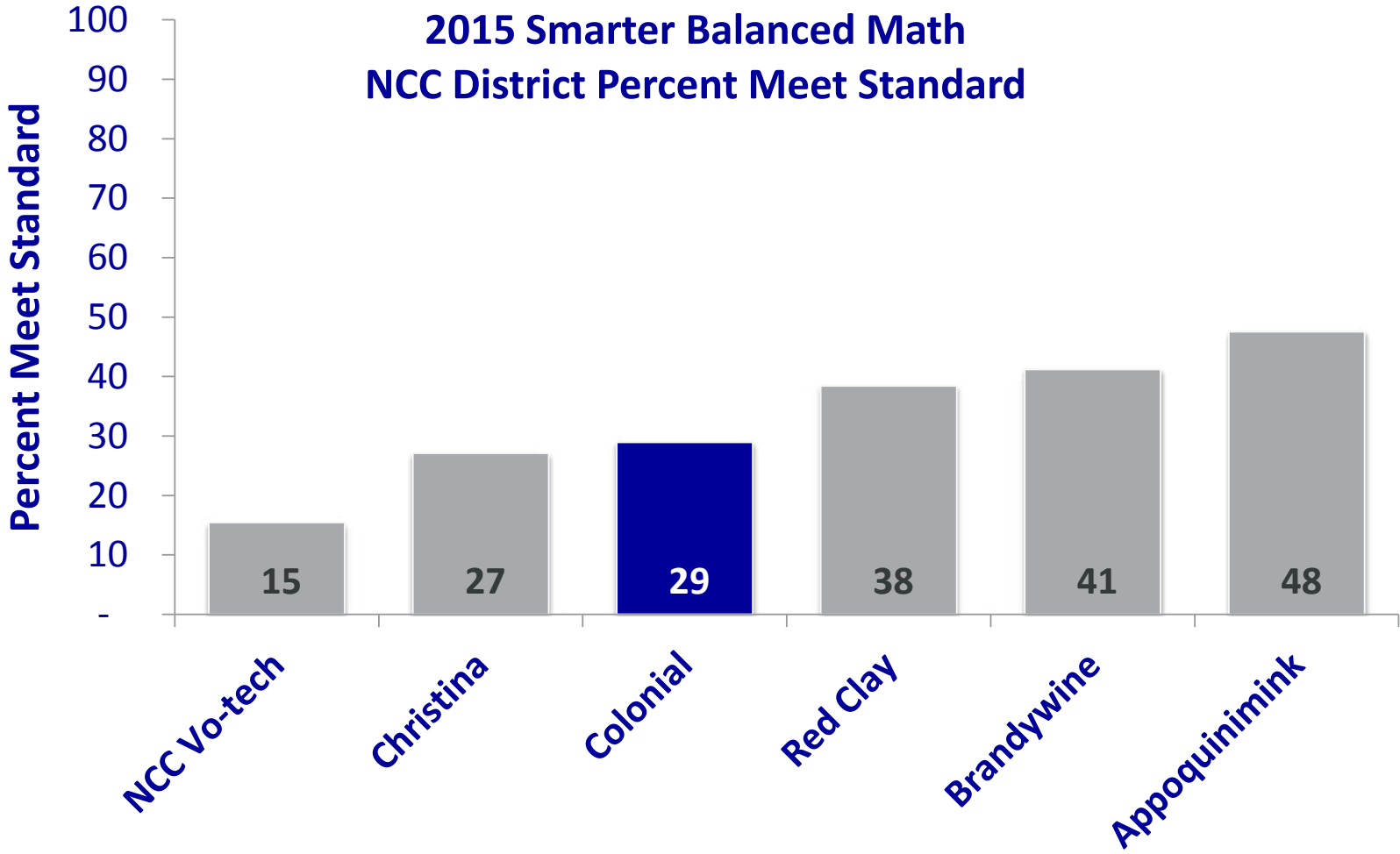


2015 Smarter Balanced State & District Percent Meet Standard



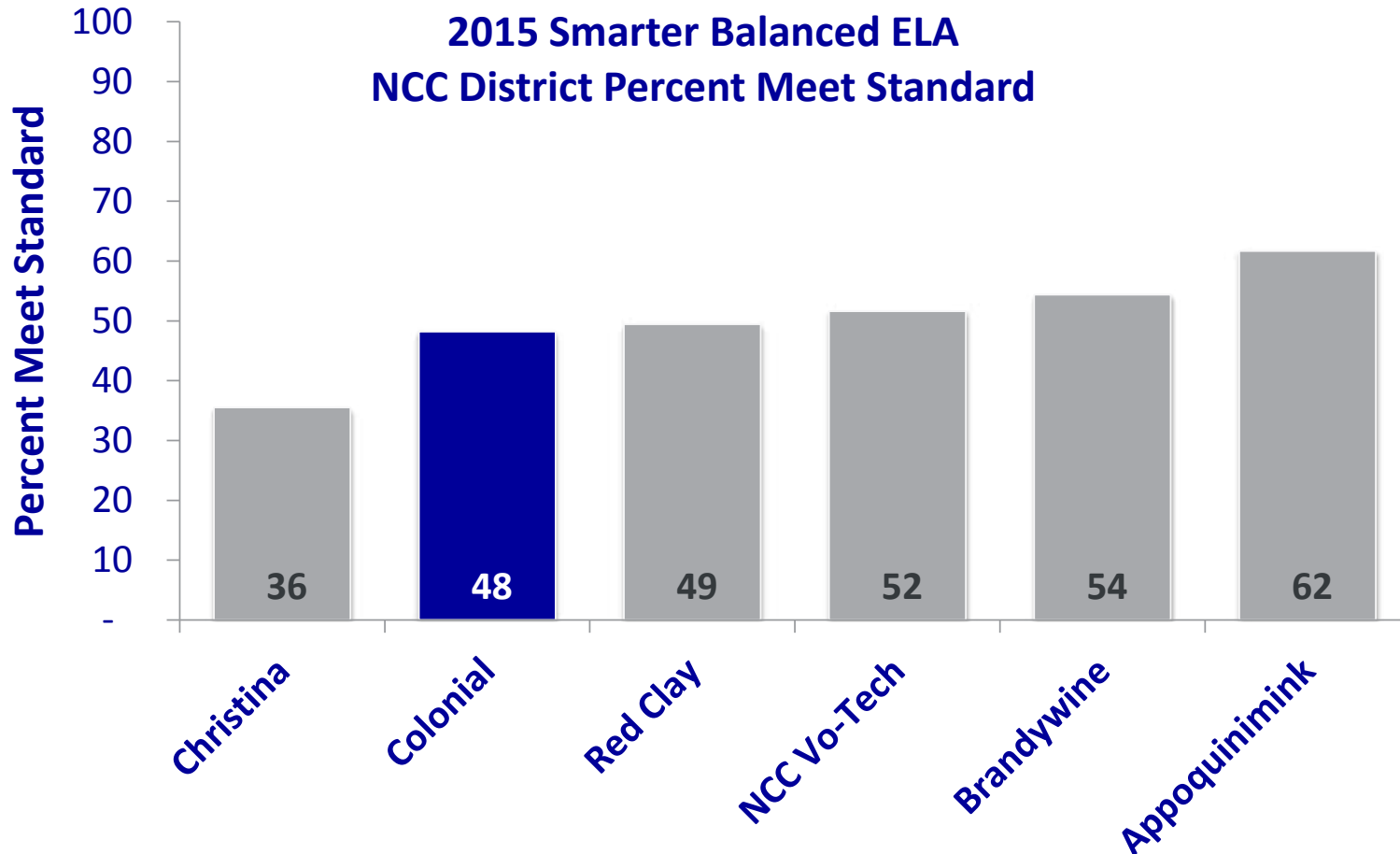
As we prepared for the Smarter assessment, districts throughout the State were told to expect lower scores. Governor Jack Markell stated “the Smarter assessment is harder and different from any of our past state assessments.” His statement was making it clear that we were raising the bar and increasing expectations for our students. This graph shows Colonial’s performance as compared to the State. The results show that although the bar has been raised considerably, students performed better than anticipated. For two years prior to the initial administration of this assessment, field tests predicted scores would be low. In actuality, the scores are better than projected, but also make it clear there is more work to be done. In math, the percentage of students that reached an achievement level of 3 or 4, which demonstrates proficiency was 39% at the State level and 31% in Colonial across all grade levels. In ELA, we were pleased to see a smaller gap between the State and the district. 52% of the students were proficient in the state, while 48% were proficient in Colonial.

Math NCC Proficiency



This slide shows our performance in math as compared to the other public school districts in New Castle County. We ranked 4th out of the 6 districts in the county.

ELA NCC Proficiency

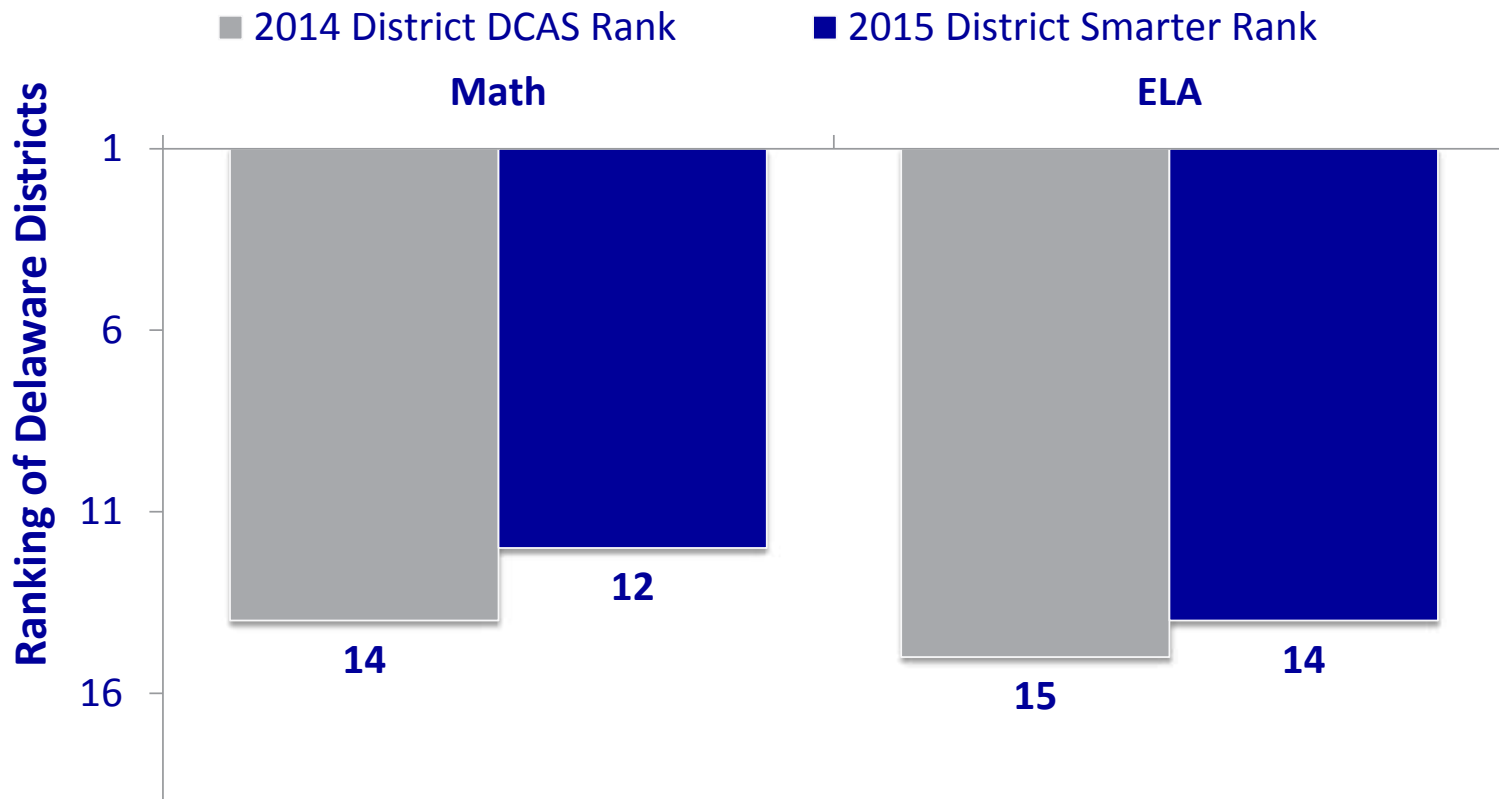


In ELA, our achievement is higher and only one percentage point lower than Red Clay. The scores in ELA for the top 5 districts show a much smaller gap and Colonial is right in that mix.

District Rank Improvements

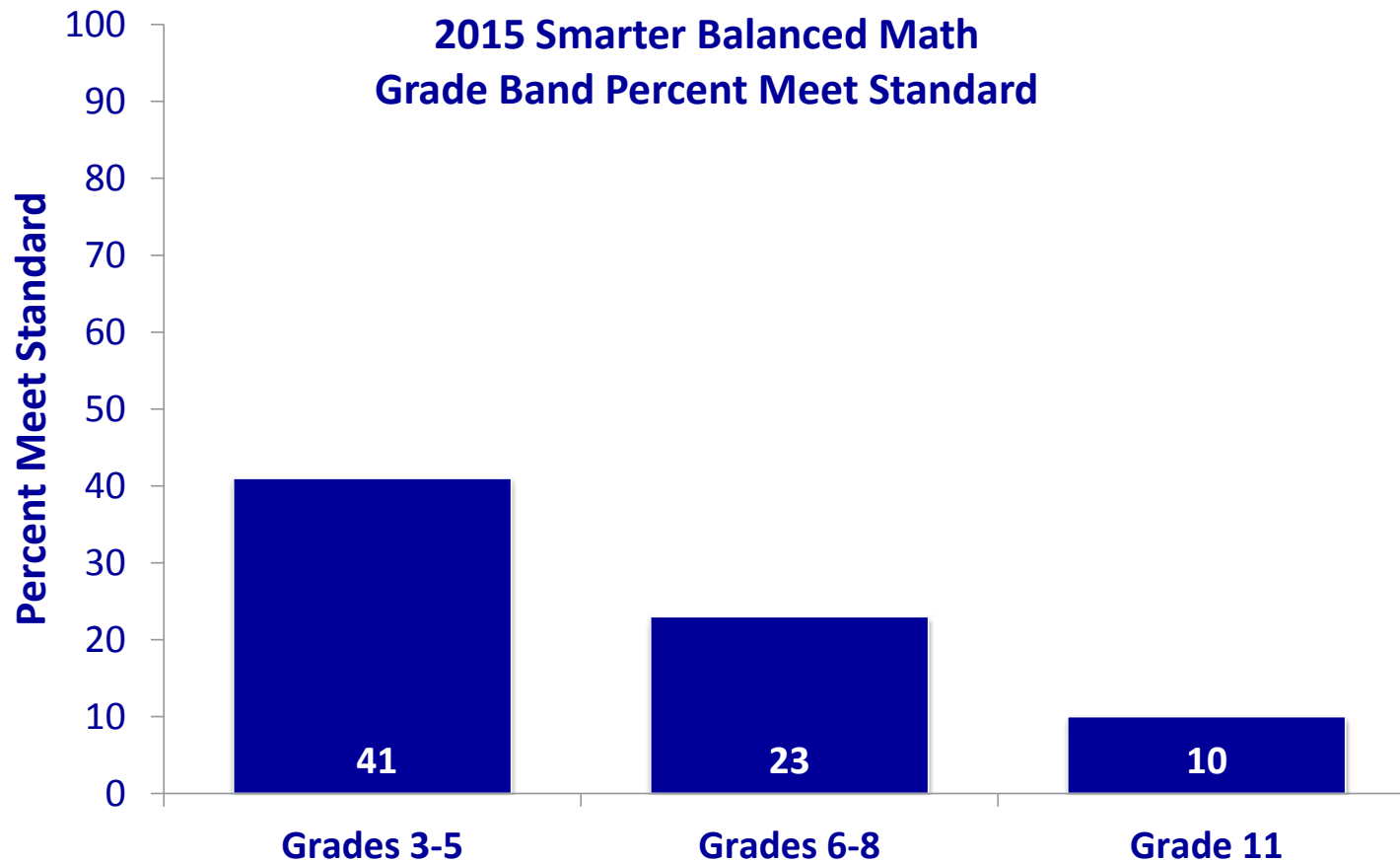


2014 to 2015 District Rank Comparison



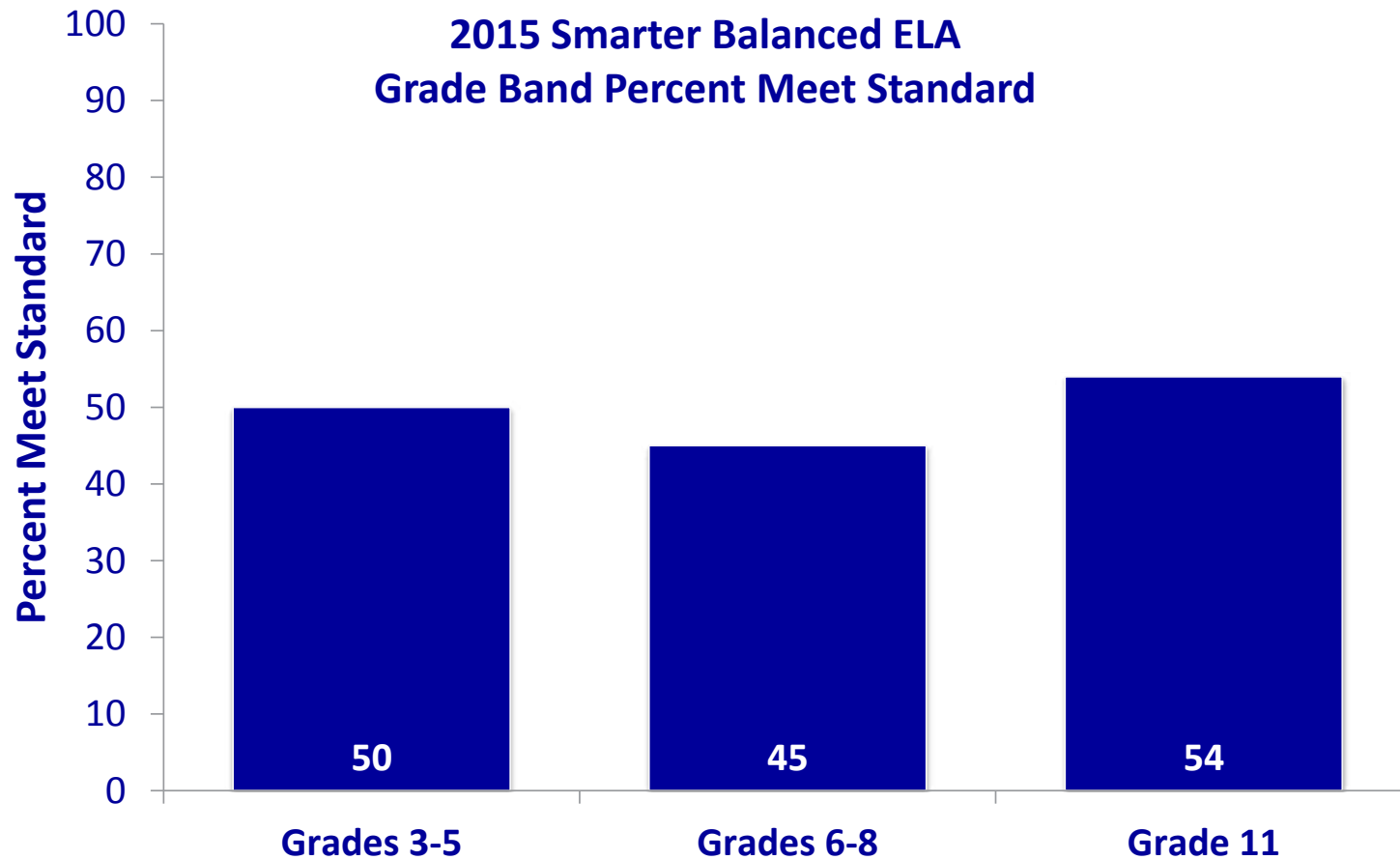
There are 19 public school districts in the State of Delaware. Although this graph compares our ranking in 2014 vs. 2015 and is looking at 2 different tests – that is, DCAS and Smarter – it is significant to point out that the district improved its' ranking in both math and ELA this year. In math, Colonial was 14th in the State in 2014 and 12th this year. In ELA, Colonial moved up one position from 15th to 14th.

Math Grade Band Performance



This bar graph breaks down our scores in math by grade level. Elementary schools had the strongest showing in math where 41% of students were proficient. The scores dropped significantly in the secondary schools. Of course, we are disappointed by the results in our secondary buildings. It is important to note that the data shows this is not only a Colonial problem, but also evident across the State and the nation.

ELA Grade Band Performance



In ELA, we see much more consistent results across grade levels. 50% of our grade 3-5 students earned an achievement level of 3 or 4 and we were pleased that our juniors at Wm. Penn and Wallin combined exceeded the State average at 54%.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Math Elementary Performance



School	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Carrie Downie	29	44	28
Castle Hills	33	41	34
Eisenberg	34	27	21
New Castle	38	35	46
Pleasantville	53	42	32
Southern	52	40	41
Wilbur	51	56	43
Wilmington Manor	46	41	44

In grade 3 math, Pleasantville had the highest level of achievement at 53%. Grade 4 results show Wilbur at 56% proficient and New Castle Elementary 5th graders were 46% proficient. Seven of the eight elementary schools had a least one grade that was above state average.

Math Secondary Performance



School	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
George Read	20	25	22	-
Gunning Bedford	22	37	25	-
McCullough	13	18	18	-
William Penn	-	-	-	10

At the secondary level in math, Gunning Bedford outperformed their counterparts at each grade level. Only 10% of Wm. Penn juniors were proficient.

ELA Elementary Performance



School	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Carrie Downie	35	50	40
Castle Hills	38	48	48
Eisenberg	33	32	43
New Castle	53	39	44
Pleasantville	59	49	52
Southern	51	48	53
Wilbur	53	70	64
Wilmington Manor	35	47	61

At the elementary level in ELA achievement levels are higher. The highest percentage in grade 3 was 59% at Pleasantville and 70% in grade 4 and 64% in grade 5 at Wilbur.

ELA Secondary Performance

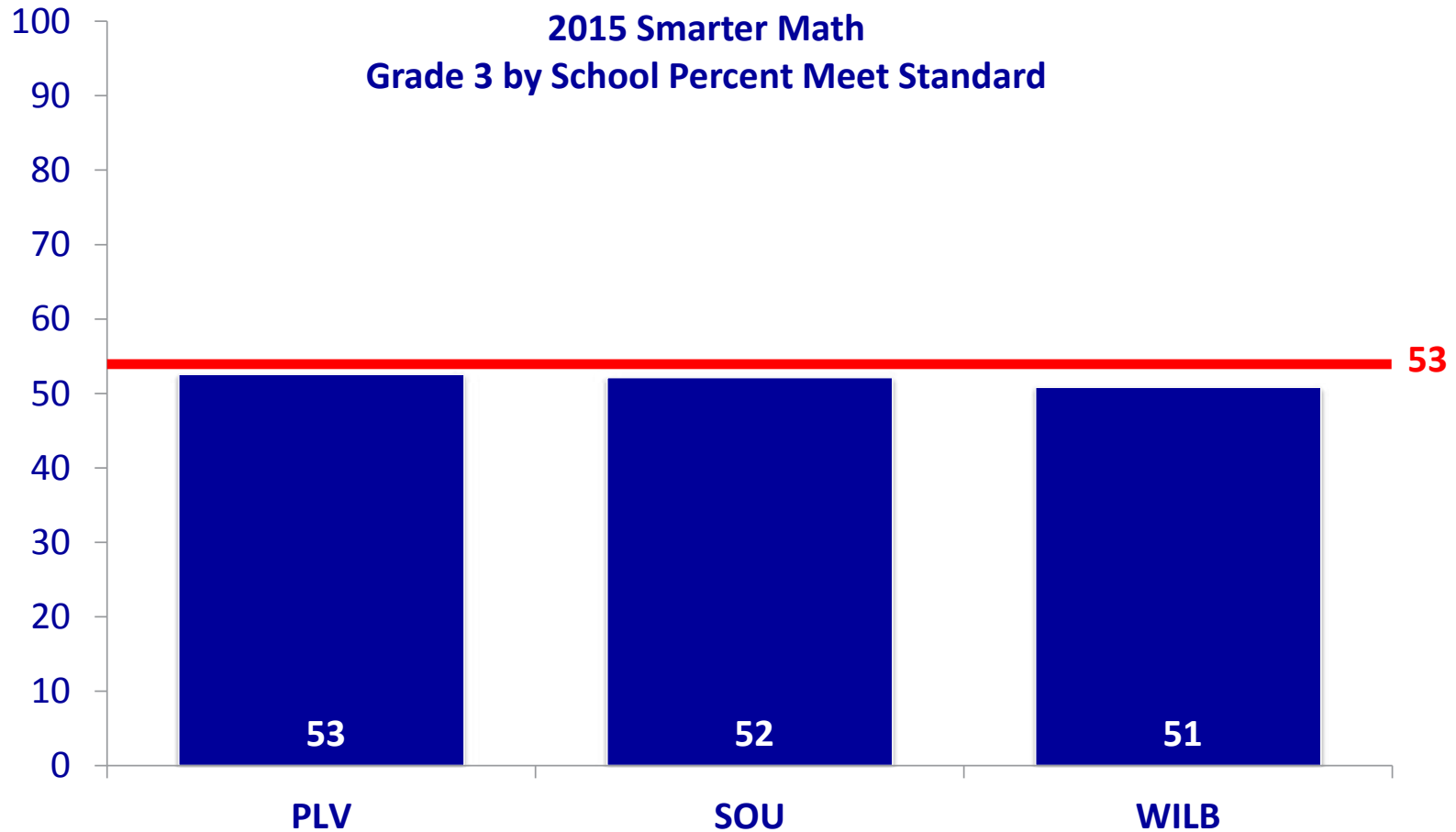
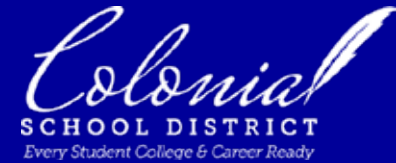


School	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
George Read	51	57	47	-
Gunning Bedford	49	54	44	-
McCullough	36	31	32	-
William Penn	-	-	-	55

At the secondary level in ELA, George Read distinguished themselves by having the highest score at each grade level among the middle schools ranging from 47% to 57%. Wm. Penn also has shown significant achievement with 55% proficient. When Wallin students are separated from the Wm. Penn students, Penn's percentage of proficiency actually increased another percentage point.

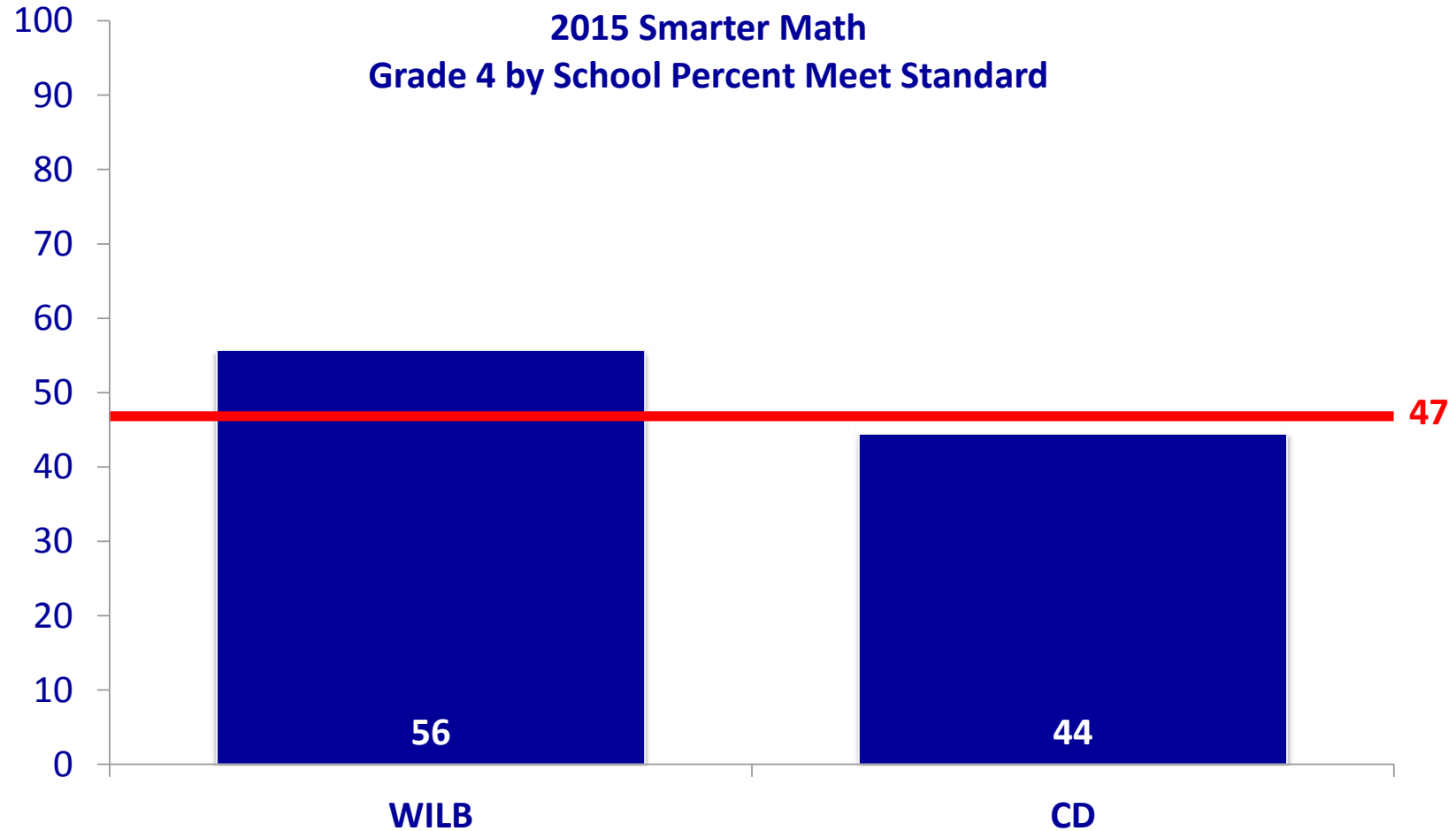
MATH HIGHLIGHTS

Math Grade 3 by School



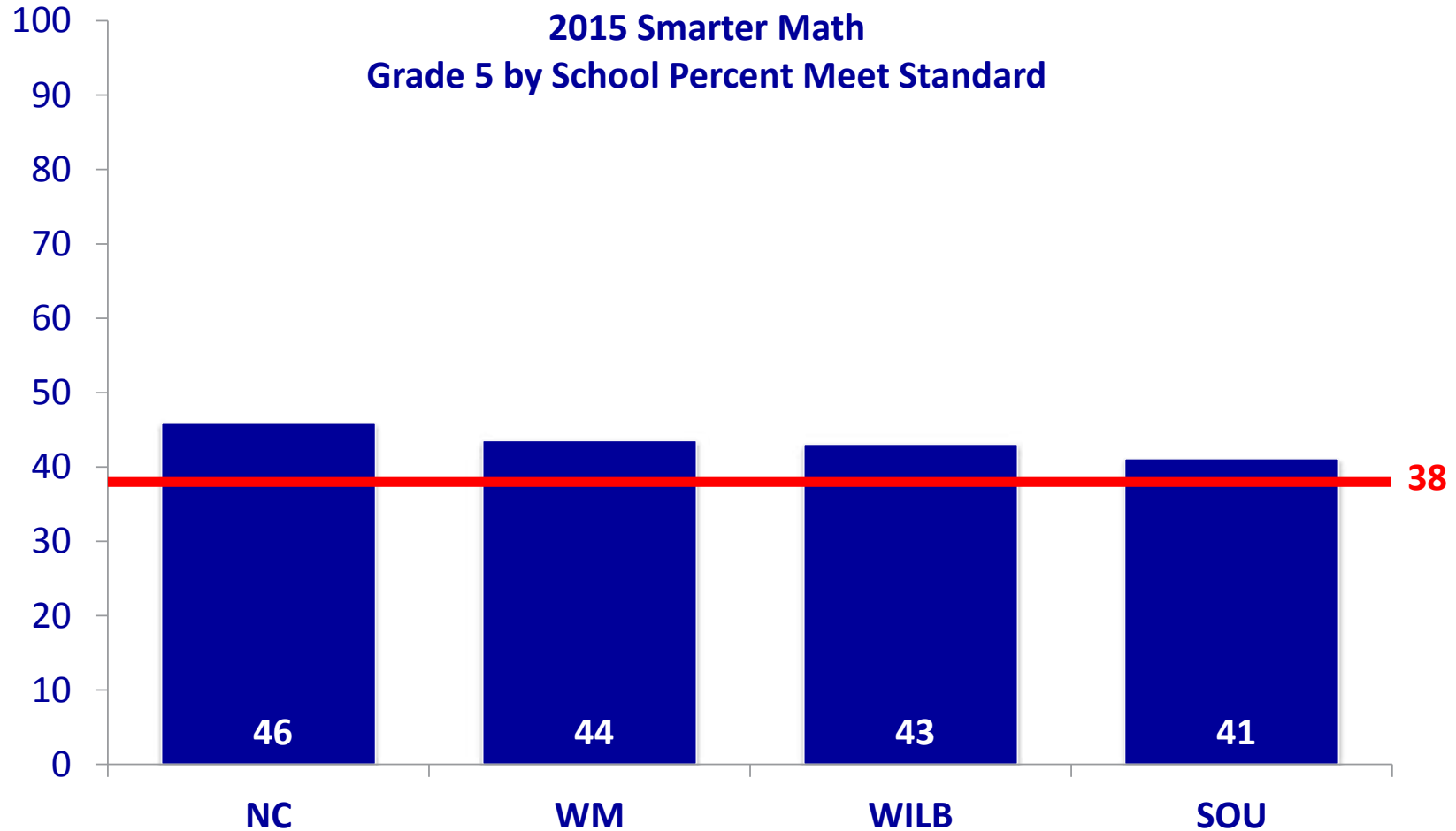
On the next several slides, you will notice a red line across the graph with a number. This line represents the state average at that grade level. For example, on this graph in grade 3 math, 3 of our elementary schools either met state average or just missed it by 1 or 2 percentage points. Those schools were Pleasantville, Southern and Wilbur.

Math Grade 4 by School



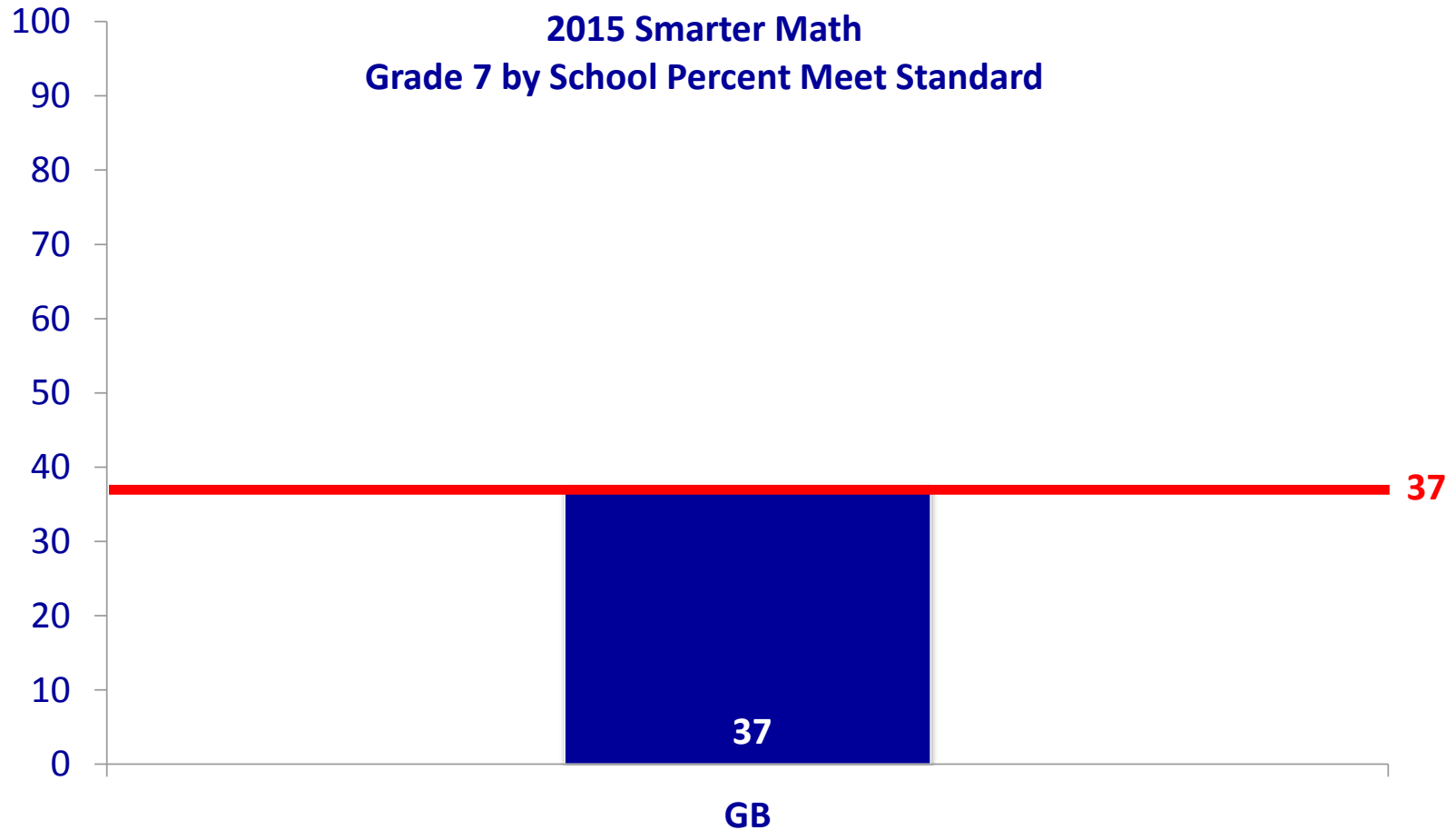
In grade 4 math, Wilbur exceeded the state average by 4 points and Carrie Downie was 3 points from state average.

Math Grade 5 by School



In grade 5 math, New Castle, Wilmington Manor, Wilbur and Southern all exceeded the state average by 3-8 percentage points.

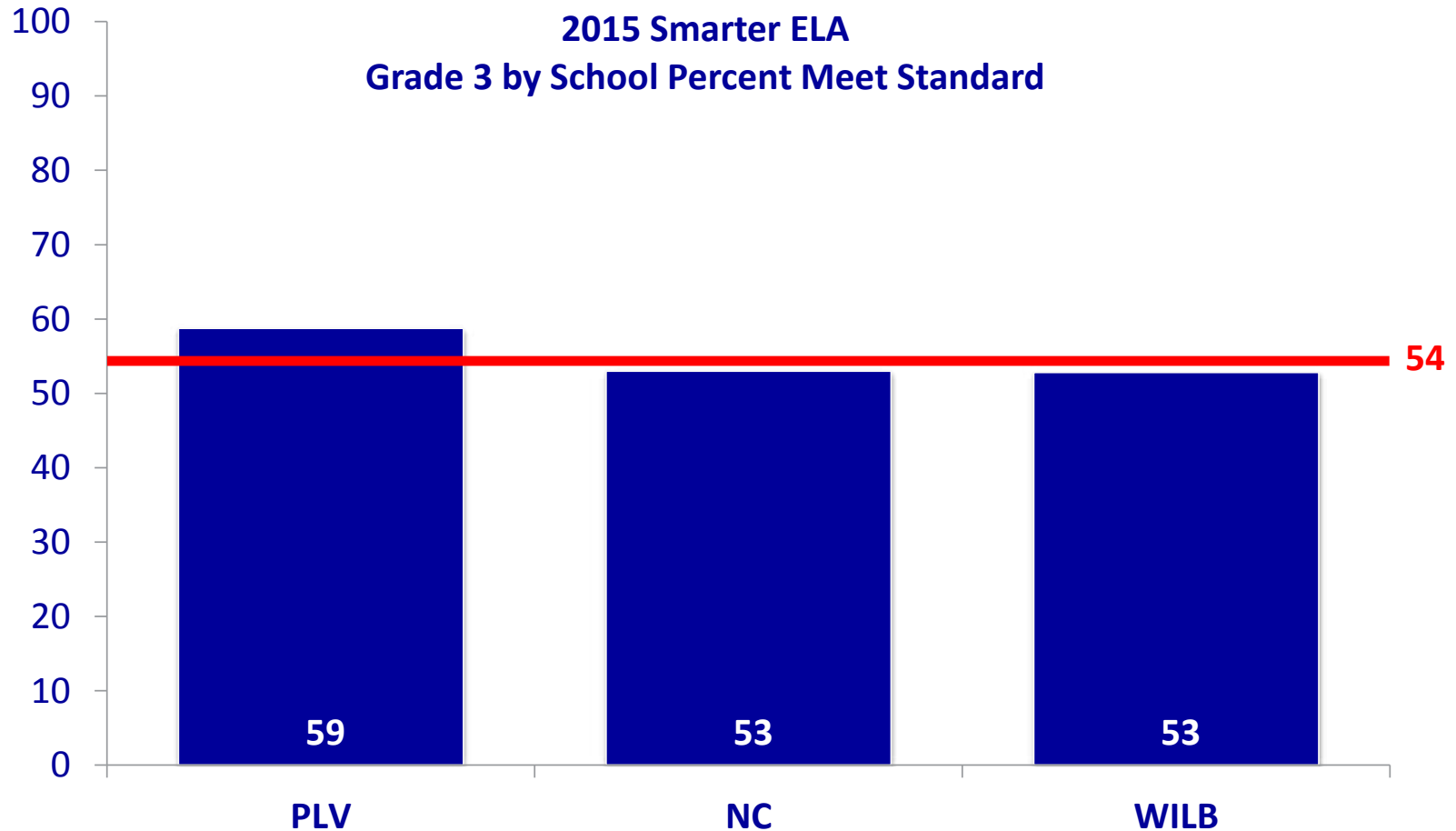
Math Grade 7 by School



And in grade 7, Gunning Bedford met the state average.

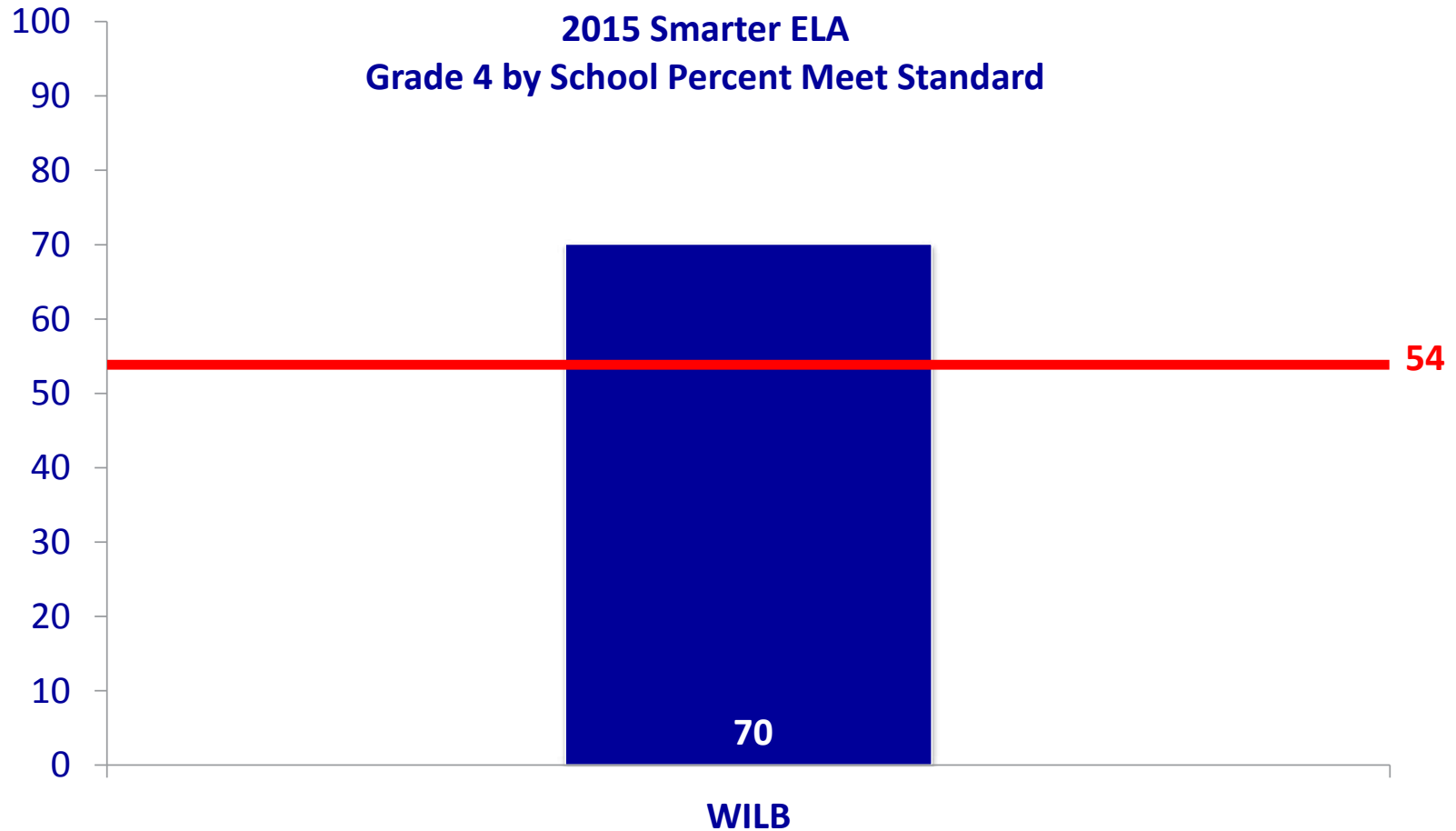
ELA HIGHLIGHTS

ELA Grade 3 by School



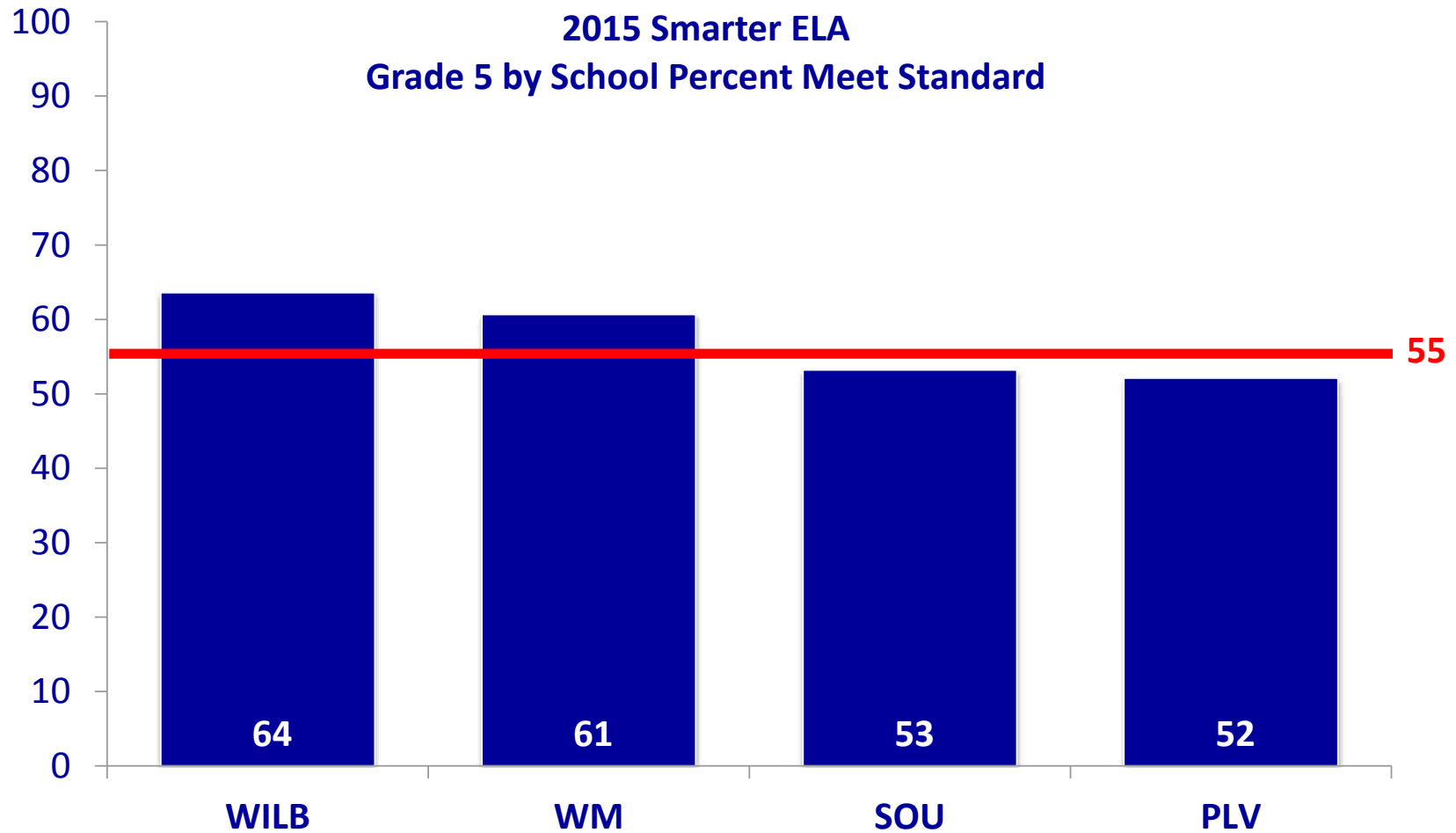
In grade 3 ELA the state average was 54 percent. Pleasantville exceeded the state average by 5 points, while New Castle and Wilbur were one point from meeting that benchmark.

ELA Grade 4 by School



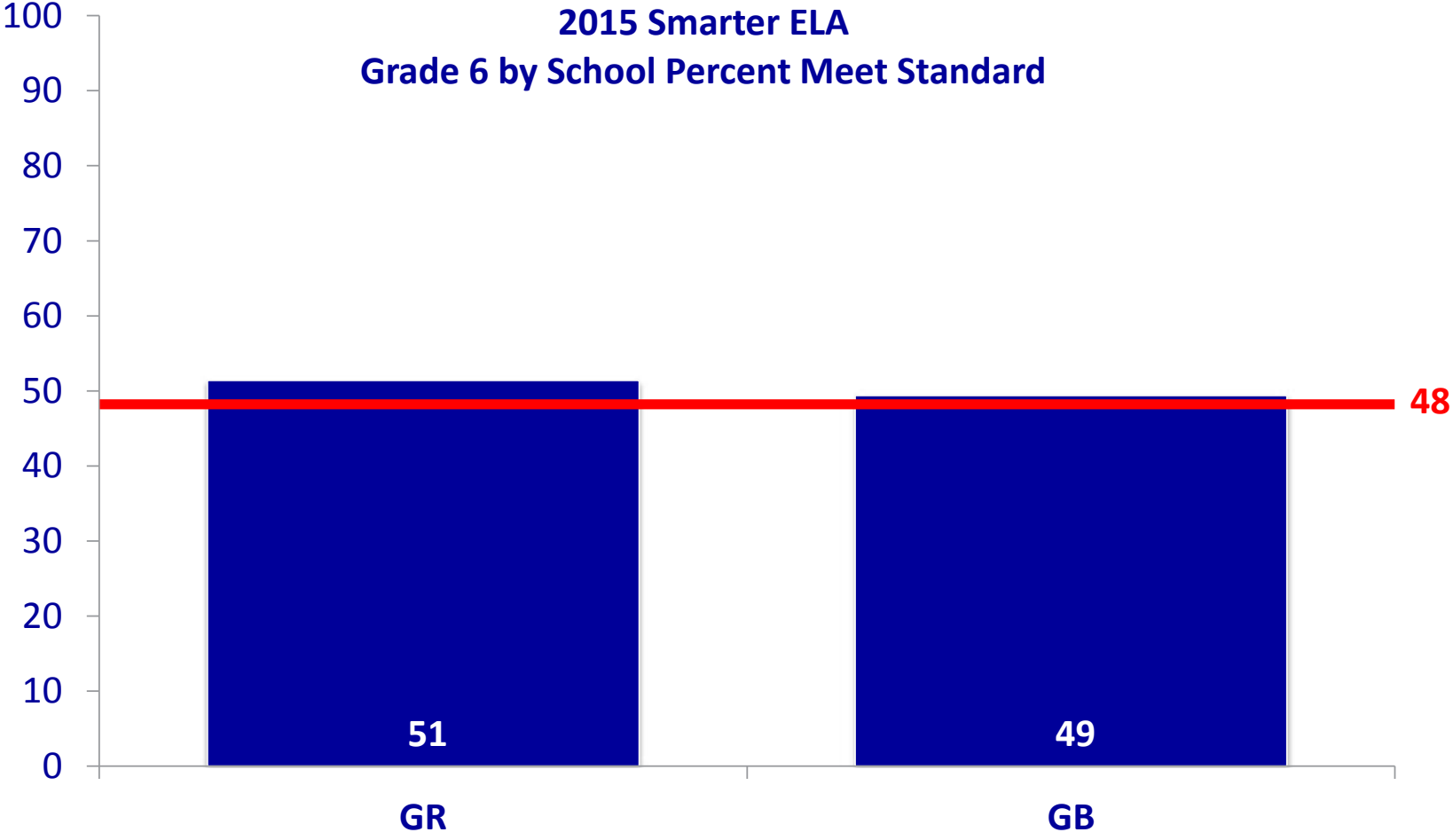
In grade 4 ELA, Wilbur Elementary exceeded the state average by 16 points. The state average was 54% and Wilbur was 70 percent.

ELA Grade 5 by School



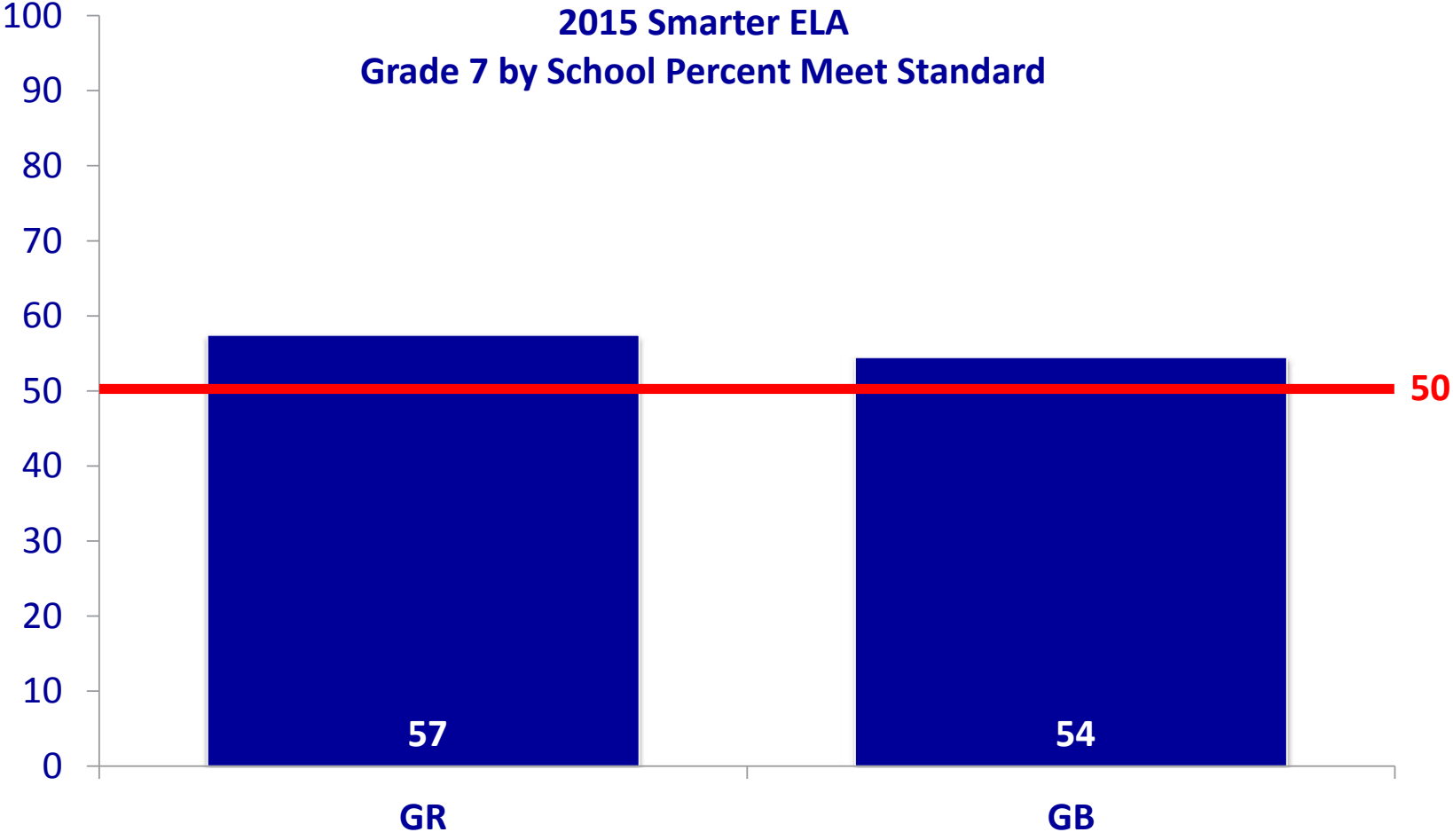
The state average in grade 5 ELA was 55%, which Wilbur and Wilmington Manor exceeded by 9 and 6 points respectively.

ELA Grade 6 by School



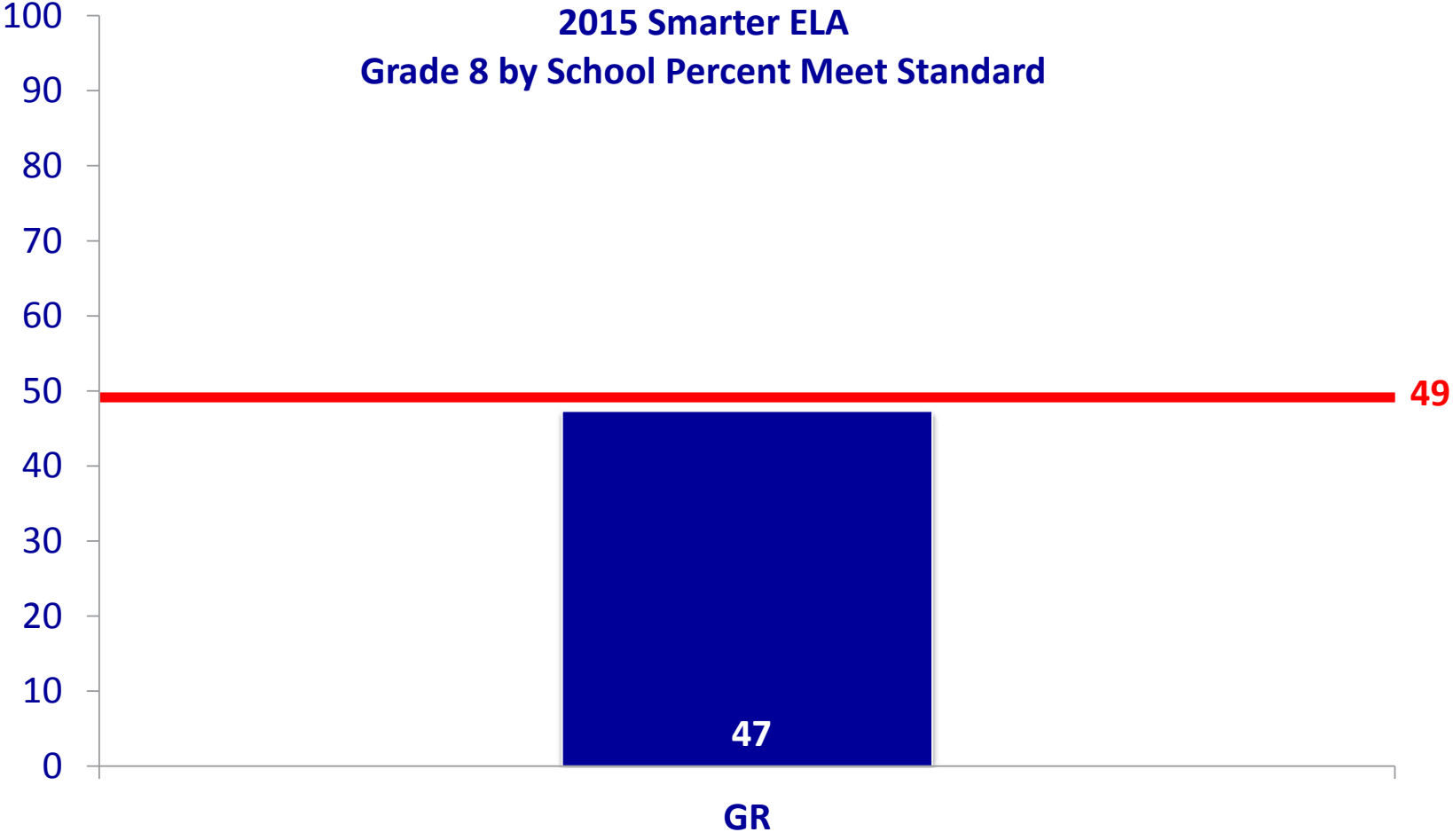
George Read and Gunning Bedford both surpassed the state average in grade 6 ELA.

ELA Grade 7 by School



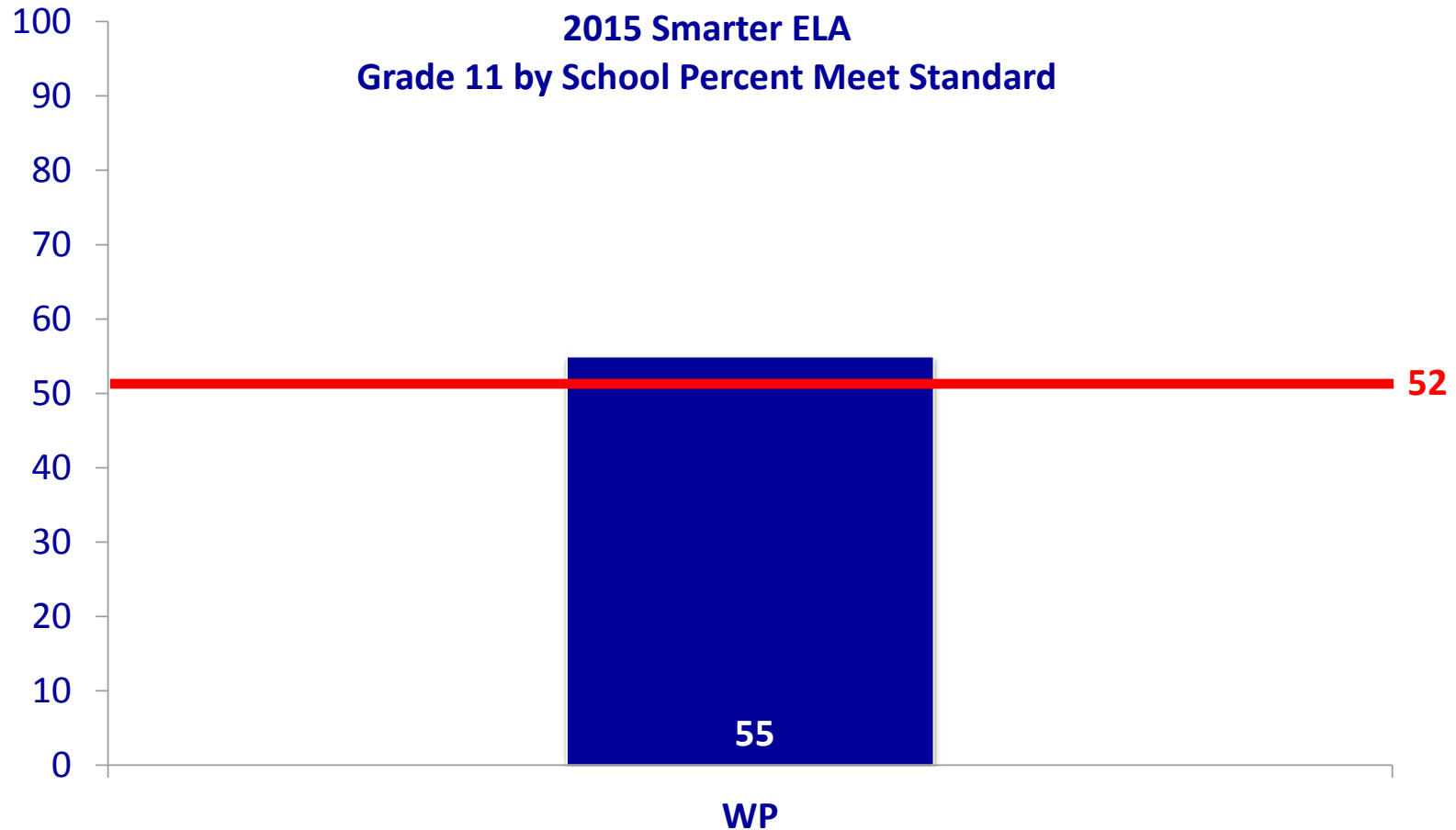
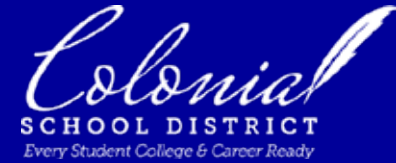
They also exceeded the state average in grade 7 ELA by 4 to 7 percentage points.

ELA Grade 8 by School



George Read was two points from state average in grade 8.

ELA Grade 11 by School



As the Smarter assessment moves through the grades, the expectations and the rigor are dramatically increased. We are pleased to see that at Wm. Penn our juniors performed well in ELA and even surpassed the state average for high school students by 3 percentage points.

NCC ELA High School Rank



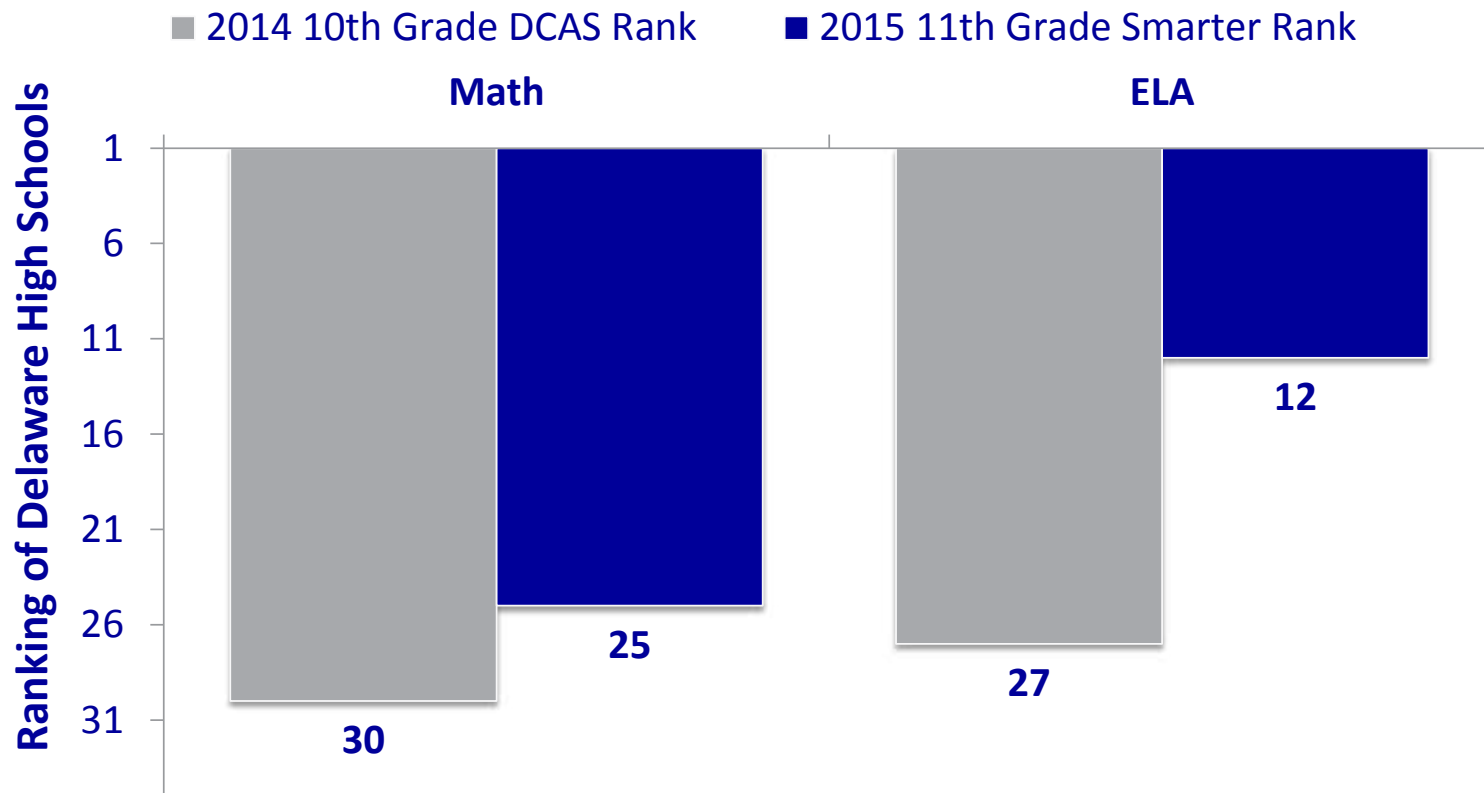
School	Percent Meet Standard
Middletown High	75
Calloway School of the Arts	70
Mount Pleasant High	66
Concord High	62
St. Georges HS of Tech	57
William Penn High School	55
Delcastle Tech High	55
Howard HS of Tech	54
Appoquinimink High	50
Brandywine High	48
Dickinson High	40
A I duPont High	39
Hodgson Vo-Tech High	39
Christiana High	39
Newark High	38
Conrad Schools of Science	34
Glasgow High	30
McKean High	25

When you look at Wm. Penn's ELA results, it is significant to note where they stand as compared to other high school in the county. Wm. Penn ranked 6th as compared to the 18 public high schools in the county.

WP Rank Improvements



2014 to 2015 High School Rank Comparison



Over the last few years, we have spent considerable time and effort to transform Wm. Penn and we are seeing movement as evidenced by our ranking among high schools in the state. Out of 35 high schools, Wm. Penn moved up 5 positions in Math. In ELA, we were 27th in 2014 and this year our ranking was 12th. Clearly, this is a significant step in the right direction.

Next Steps

So, what are the next steps as we begin this new school year? First, as more data becomes available, we will dig deeper into that data to look at disaggregated groups and individual student scores to better inform our decisions with regard to curriculum and how we work with our students.

Second, we will continue to improve our curriculum units and assessments to ensure they are aligned with the Common Core. This includes blending our units to incorporate both face-to-face and virtual learning opportunities and to personalize units so individual student's needs are being met. Third, we will continue to identify resources to meet the needs of teachers for planning their instruction.

Fourth, as we identify areas of need based on the data, we will plan and deliver professional development to better meet teacher needs.

Finally, we are investigating and will take action to address the problem in secondary mathematics. Last year a committee of middle school and high school teachers met throughout the year to review several curriculum programs. This year we will pilot programs and these committees will reconvene to make decisions on how to proceed to better meet the needs of students with our math curriculum.

In summary, this was the first administration of our new state assessment and we have learned a lot over the past year. Our plan is to continue the hard work we have been doing and continue to move our students in a positive direction.