

## **Reasons to Celebrate the 2019 ELA and Math State Test Results for Academies and Parish Schools within the Diocese of Brooklyn**

The New York State Testing Program results for the students within the Diocese of Brooklyn have been posted and we are extremely proud of the continued success of our students, teachers and principals!

The chart below compares the Diocesan state test results directly to those students tested in the New York State and New York City public schools which show the percent of students who are proficient for their grade level. Proficiency on state tests is defined by any student who scores at Level 3 or Level 4 (meets/exceeds proficiency for grade level respectively).

The 2019 Diocesan results for ELA in Grades 4, 6 and 7 are off the charts against the city and state. We are pleased to report that for the first time in 2019, we tested Grade 7 students in ELA; our seventh graders attained 54.9 percent proficiency. Diocesan seventh graders far surpassed the state by 15.2 percentage points and the city by 12.2 percentage points.

In Grade 7 Math, our results were competitive with 42.4 percent of diocesan students reaching proficiency and scored slightly higher than the city and slightly less than the state. However, our grade 4 students outpaced both the city and state in Math with a diocesan proficiency of 51.3 percent. In Grade 6 Math, we trailed the city and state slightly.

### **2019 NYS ELA and Math Test Results Grades 4, 6 and 7 Comparative Chart**

Percentage of Students Scoring at Levels 3 and 4 (Students who met or exceeded the proficiency standards for their grade):

2019 NYS Testing Program	New York State (includes all Public and Charter Schools in NY State - no Nonpublic Schools data)	New York City ( only NY City Public Schools – no Charter Schools, no Nonpublic Schools data)	Diocese of Brooklyn (Academies and Schools within the Diocese with appropriate grade levels tested)	
Grade 4-ELA	47.7%	49.6%	54.7%	
Grade 6-ELA	47.1%	48.4%	59.8%	
Grade 7-ELA	39.7%	42.7 %	54.9%	
Grade 4-Math	50.4%	49.4%	51.3%	
Grade 6-Math	47.0%	43.9%	43.7%	
Grade 7-Math	43.5%	42.1%	42.4%	

It is important to mention that state testing within the Diocese of Brooklyn is part of our core academic program. The results of state tests help us to gauge how we are progressing with state

standards as a Diocese, as an individual academy or parish school, or as an individual student. The standards that are measured on state tests are rigorous but we believe these standards and tests will help prepare our students for their lives in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by thinking critically and be able to solve multi-step problems.

The State Education Department switched from 3 day to 2 day testing in 2018 which established a new baseline. Therefore, comparisons can only be made with scores in 2019 and the upcoming 2020 scores. The chart below depicts the Diocesan percentage point change from 2018 to 2019. Note: Since we tested Grade 8 in 2018 and Grade 7 in 2019; we can only directly compare Grades 4 and 6.

NYS Tests - Tested in 2018 & 2019	Diocese of Brooklyn – 2018 Proficiency Results	Diocese of Brooklyn – 2019 Proficiency Results	Percentage Point Change
Grade 4 - ELA	56.0%	54.7%	- 1.3
Grade 6 - ELA	62.0%	59.8%	- 2.2
Grade 4 - Math	44.0%	51.3%	+ 7.3
Grade 6 – Math	39.0%	43.7%	+ 4.7

The percentage point change in ELA for Diocesan students was slightly lower but there was not a major shift.

Diocesan students did increase dramatically from 2018 to 2019 on the Grade 4 and Grade 6 Math tests. Although this proficiency rate is not for a matched group of students, but a different group of students, as a Diocese we can see that the changes we have instituted in our math programs are making significant and positive changes.

Our principals and teachers within the Diocese of Brooklyn attend high quality professional development programs and receive numerous resources throughout the school year. Professional development will continue this year and provide opportunities for deeper learning for our educators which will help our students reach their full potential.

Spring 2019 was the second time the state offered operational assessments on computers. The State Education Department remains committed to transitioning to computer based testing in the years ahead as this will help prepare students for the world we live in.

I would like to commend the students, teachers and principal, Mr. Scharbach, for participating in computer based testing on the state tests in Grades 6 and 7 for both ELA and math. St. Francis de Sales Catholic Academy showed us that it is possible to administer state tests on computers when technology is used on a daily basis. This was the second year that this academy successfully implemented the state’s computer based testing program.

In the spring of 2020, we will administer state tests in grades 4, 6 and 7 for ELA and math and science grades 4 and 8.

Beginning in the Spring of 2021, the state will administer new tests measuring Next Generation Learning Standards and will once again have a new baseline established. As soon as more information becomes available about state testing, our academies and parish schools will be ready to prepare our students to tackle these new tests.

Submitted by:

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