



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAIN CONTACT

Superintendent Leighangela Brady, (619) 336-7705

lbrady@nsd.us

STATE TESTING SHOWS NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS MAKING GAINS

Progress in grades 3 and 6 outpaces percentage point increases statewide

NATIONAL CITY — State standardized assessment results released today (Oct. 2) by the California Department of Education show National School District student performance gains in English language arts and math, and remarkable percentage point increases seen at the grade 3 and 6 levels.

The California Assessment of Student Progress and Performance (CAASPP) shows the overall number of district students who meet or exceed the state standard in English language arts is up 1.49 percent from 2017. In math, the number of district students who meet or exceed the state standard increased 1.9 percent over last year.

Statewide, in all tested grades, scores went up 1.32 percent in English language arts and 1.09 percent in math. The CAASPP is a key measure of how well students are mastering the state's challenging academic standards in the two subjects. Students who meet or exceed the state standard are considered to be proficient.

Most notably, however, the National School District is seeing remarkable gains in grade 3, which shows district learners who have experienced Common Core academic standards-aligned instruction since kindergarten are making significant improvements; and also in grade 6, where the student gain in English language arts is substantially more than that of state peers.

“There is no doubt that the gains we are seeing are attributed to our teachers’ committed focus on standards, as opposed to a reliance on packaged curriculum,” said Superintendent Leighangela Brady, Ed.D.

“In nurturing a culture of ‘whatever it takes,’ high expectations throughout the district have thrived,” said Dr. Brady, who has served as superintendent since 2016. “Our increases over the past two years demonstrate our work is paying off.”

In English language arts, the results of the CAASPP — better known as the Smarter Balanced tests — show the district’s third graders gained 5.17 percentage points this year. In math, the percentage point gain is even greater, with scores up 7.9 percent from 2017.

Statewide, there was a 4.32 percentage change in English language arts scores for third graders. In math, the percentage change was 2.06 percent. According to the California Department of

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1500 ‘N’ Avenue • National City, CA 91950 • (619) 336-7500 • Fax (619) 336-7505 • <http://nsd.us>

Creating Successful Learners... Now

Education, students in grades 3 and 4 made the biggest gains this year. !

Grade 3 Gains	English Language Arts	Math
National School District	5.17%	7.9%
California	4.32%	2.06%

Among the district's sixth graders, the number of students who meet or exceed the state standard in English language arts increased 2.71 percent this year, compared to the state average of 0.81 percent. In math, the number of sixth graders to meet or exceed the state standard went up 3.34 percent. The state change in grade 6 is 1.02 percent.

Grade 6 Gains	English Language Arts	Math
National School District	2.71%	3.34%
California	0.81%	1.02%

Furthermore, since the CAASPP was implemented in 2015, the overall score of district students who meet or exceed the state standard in English language arts has increased 6 percent. In math, the score has gone up nearly 9 percent.

And while results show a persistent achievement gap affecting English-language learners, students from low-income backgrounds and some ethnic groups, including Hispanics, when compared to other students throughout our region and the state, incremental gains show the district is narrowing the gap.

The National School District serves about 5,200 students in kindergarten through 6th grade. The student body is mostly Hispanic: 56 percent are English language learners, and 84 percent come from economically disadvantaged households.

Nearly 43 percent of district students meet or exceed the state standard in English language arts. The state average is about 50 percent for all grades tested. And in math, nearly 33 percent of district students meet or exceed the state standard, compared to about 39 percent across the state in all grades tested.

In San Diego County, the overall number of students who meet or exceed the state standard in all grades tested are 56.25 percent in English language arts and 44.28 percent in math.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson expressed optimism with continued progress made by students and emphasized much work still needs to be done.

"We're encouraged by what we see, especially since these tests are more rigorous than previous paper and pencil tests. However, we need to make sure all students continue to make progress," he said. "We must continue our work to narrow achievement gaps as we raise the bar for our students, and better prepare for them for 21st century college and careers."

More than 3 million students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 sat for the 2018 exams, which were administered in the spring. The computer-based tests, which use California's challenging academic standards and ask students to write clearly, think critically and solve complex problems.