Question: What is statewide science performance compared with NECAP assessment results in reading, writing, and mathematics?

Answer: Proficiency levels in science are uniformly lower than for reading, writing, and mathematics, usually by large margins.

Percent of Students Proficient by Subject Area
NECAP Assessments (2007-08)

	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11	All Schools**
Science	36	18	17	24
Reading	64	61	61	65
Writing	53*	41	37	48
Mathematics	54	48	22	54

*Grade 5

** All Schools = All tested grades. For reading and mathematics, the percent in this column is not the aggregate of grades 4, 8, and 11. The tested grades for reading and mathematics are 3 through 8 plus 11.

Question: How does student performance in science in Rhode Island compare with New Hampshire?

Answer: Science proficiency is lower in Rhode Island than in New Hampshire. (Vermont results will be released on September 24th.)

Percent of Students Proficient in Science by State and Grade
May 2008 NECAP Assessment

	Rhode Island	New Hampshire	Vermont
Grade 4	36	51	
Grade 8	18	26	
Grade 11	17	22	

Question: How does science proficiency vary across urban, urban ring, and suburban communities?

Answer: Students in urban school districts have extremely low levels of science proficiency. A level where half of the students reach proficiency is attained only for the elementary schools in the suburban category.

Percent of Students Proficient in Science
May 2008 NECAP Assessment

Urban Classification Of School Districts	Grade 4	Grade 8	Grade 11	All Three Grades
Urban	13	3	6	7
Urban Ring	41	15	13	23
Suburban	49	30	24	34
State Total	36	18	17	24

Note: Urban communities include Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket; Urban Ring communities include Cranston, East Providence, Johnston, Newport, North Providence, Warwick, and West Warwick.

Question: How does science proficiency vary across student groups?

Answer: Statewide, about 1 in 4 students is proficient in science, but this ratio drops to below 1 in 10 students for Black, Hispanic, ELL, and low-income students and for students with disabilities.

Student Group	Percent of Students Proficient in Science (May 2008)
American Indian	14
Asian	25
Black	8
Hispanic	6
White	30
Students with Disabilities	8
English Language Learners (ELLs)	4
Low-Income Families	8
Males	24
Females	24
All Students	24

Question: How do science, mathematics, and reading performances compare if viewed across the full range of achievement levels?

Answer: Excellent performance (proficiency with distinction) does occur for reading at elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools, and there is a group of excellent performers in mathematics at elementary and middle schools. Mathematics excellence is rare at the high-school level, and excellence rarely occurs for science at any grade. Conversely, the lowest achievement level reported (substantially below proficient) has variations. Notable is the variation at grade 11 where the lowest achievement level is not common for reading (14%), is high for science (39%), and is very high for mathematics (51%).

Percent of Students in Each Achievement Level
Across Content Areas (2007-08)

Percent of Students by Achievement Level

Grade 4	Proficient With Distinction	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Substantially Below Proficient	Total
Science	1	35	42	22	100
Math	12	42	25	21	100
Reading	16	48	21	15	100
Grade 8					
Science	0	18	43	38	100
Math	11	37	25	27	100
Reading	13	48	24	15	100
Grade 11					
Science	1	16	44	39	100
Math	1	21	27	51	100
Reading	16	45	24	14	100

Addition of percent values may differ from 100 due to rounding.