

RI NECAP Results for Students in Grade 11 October, 2007 Testing

QUESTION: What percentages of students are proficient or higher on the first administration of NECAP testing at the high school level?

SUPPORTING DATA:

STATEWIDE DATA

	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Writing</u>
2007	61	22	37

ANALYSIS:

- The reading results are consistent with the trend we are seeing across grades 3 through 8
- The writing results are somewhat lower than the performance in grade 8 but they are somewhat higher than our PSAT results from October 2007 (27% of students scored 500 or higher on the PSAT)
- The mathematics results are very low and are very different from the trend in grades 3 through 8. Please see the attached document for further information.

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QUESTION: Are the mathematics results a valid picture of student performance in Rhode Island?

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- The mathematics results, while low, provide an indicator of how students are performing against the mathematics *Grade Span Expectations* (GSE) that have test questions aligned only to grade 9 and 10 content. The GSE have been reviewed by ACHIEVE and thought to be of appropriate rigor.
- Students across all three NECAP states (NH, VT, and RI) had similarly low performance, all under 30% proficient
- Students in RI who took the NECAP tests also took the PSAT in October. While more than 95% of students participated in the NECAP, about 85% took the PSAT. That said, 32% of the students scored 500 or better on the PSAT and 22% of the students scored proficient or higher on the NECAP. The 10 percentage point difference may be explained by knowing that the private school students are added into the PSAT results and that many of the students who did not take the PSAT are students who are lower achieving.
- The last administration of the *New Standards Reference Exam* in mathematics showed that 43.3% of RI students were proficient or higher. However, that number represents three subtests. The NECAP mathematics test is more like two of the three subtests, concepts and problem solving. Many fewer students were proficient on those two subtests, approximately 36%. It should also be noted that this performance is in the last year that test was administered so teachers and students were familiar with item types and format. Approximately 22% of students were proficient or higher in concepts and problem solving when the test was introduced.
- One additional benchmark of performance is the national NAEP testing at grade 12. The most recent performance of all students nationally indicated that about 22% of students were proficient or higher. We know that RI students tend to perform slightly less well than the national average in mathematics on other grades of NAEP mathematics testing.