

House Education Committee Report on the National Assessment of Education Progress and Alaska System of Academic Progress

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Kelly Manning

Deputy Director, Innovation and Education Excellence

Karen Melin

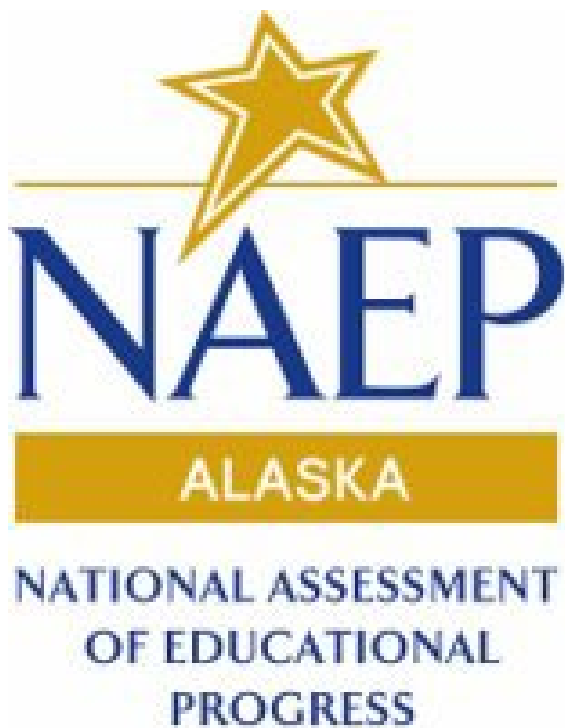
Assessment Director

January 30, 2026



Assessment Coverage Overview

- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
 - Assessment Overview
 - Design Framework
 - Reports and Data
- Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR)
 - Assessment Overview
 - Design Framework
 - Reports and Data



NAEP Assessment Overview

- Administered by National Center of Education Statistics (NCES)
 - Administered every other year
 - Fourth and Eight grade students participate
 - Assessment of math and reading
- NCES uses a statistical sampling process to select schools and then students, states do not control the selection
- Students take either the math or the reading test
 - Approximately 2,500 students take each assessment in Alaska
 - The percentage of Alaska students assessed in each grade in 2024:
 - Grade 4 reading, 18 percent/Grade 4 mathematics, 18 percent
 - Grade 8 reading, 17 percent/Grade 8 mathematics, 17 percent

NAEP Design Framework

- Aligned to frameworks developed by the National Assessment Governing Board
 - What student should know and be able to do
- New Frameworks for 2026 will be administered for the first time. The goals are to maintain trend lines and align with what students presently learn in reading and math
- Results are reported in three Achievement Levels:
 - NAEP Basic
 - NAEP Proficient
 - NAEP Advanced

NAEP Reports and Data

- State Level
 - Average Scale Score
 - Achievement-Level Percentages
 - Results for Student Groups
- Performance Over Time
 - Trend lines track changes in average scores across years
 - Consistent, cross-state comparisons
- National Comparative
 - Trend data are published by NCES as part of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reporting system

NAEP Reading

NAEP State Comparison Grade 4 Reading

STATE COMPARISON

FIGURE | Compare the average score in 2024 NAEP reading to other states/jurisdictions for fourth-grade public school students in Alaska

Compared to Alaska:

49 states scored higher

2 states had no significant score difference

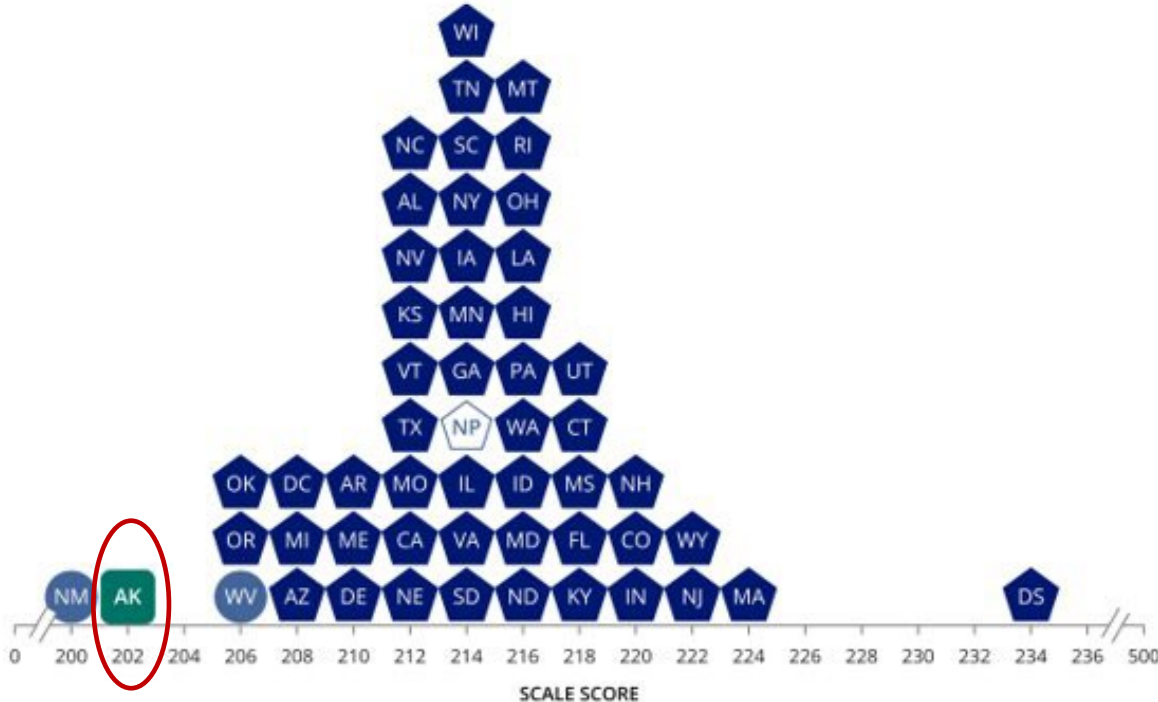
states scored lower

Lowest
201

Nation (public)
214

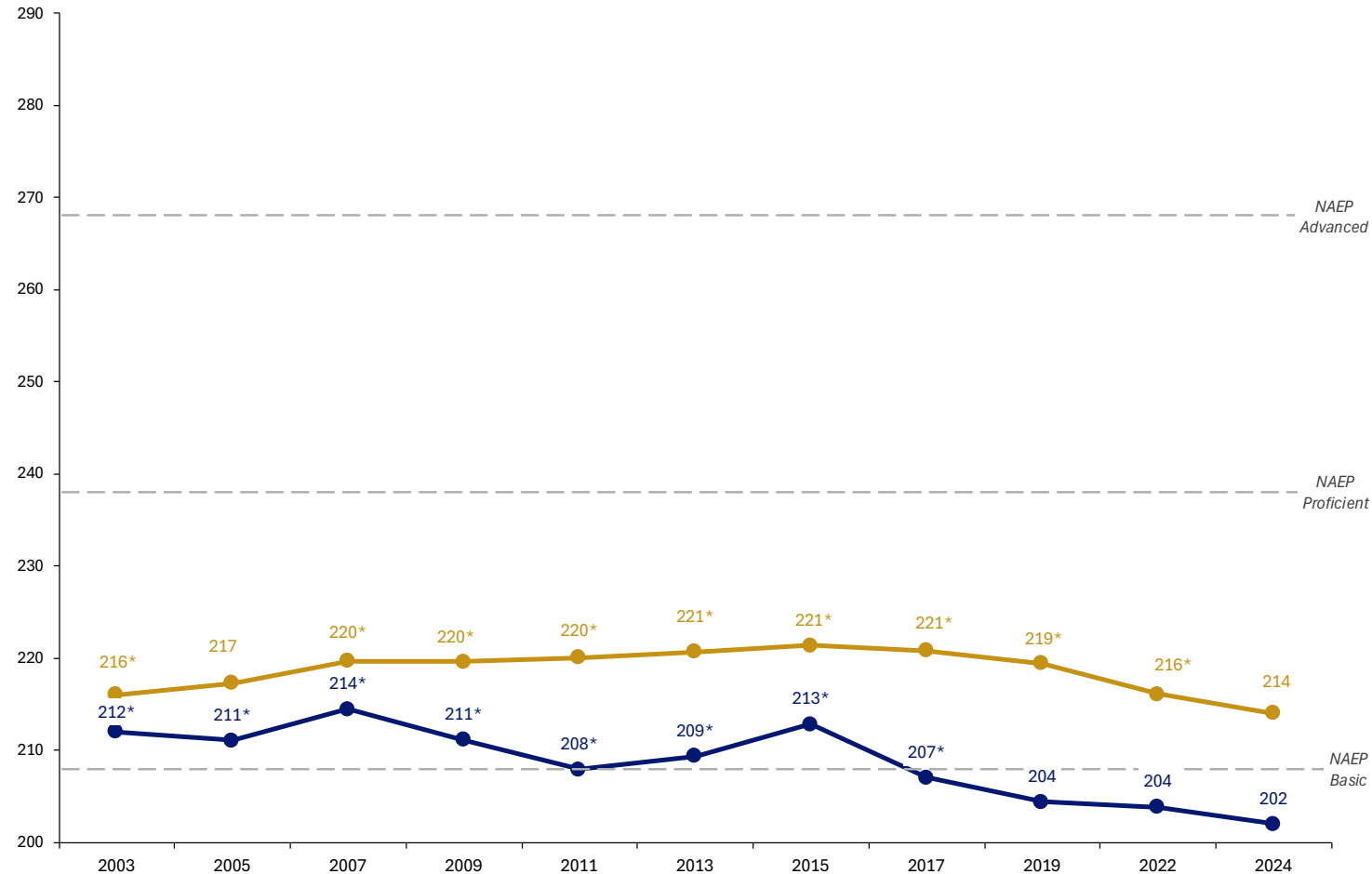
Alaska
202

Highest
234



NAEP National Trend Grade 4 Reading

Graph 1 - NAEP Grade 4 Reading
Trend of NAEP average scale scores for Alaska and National Public



*Significantly different from 2024
Note: The NAEP Grade 4 Reading scale is from 0 to 500

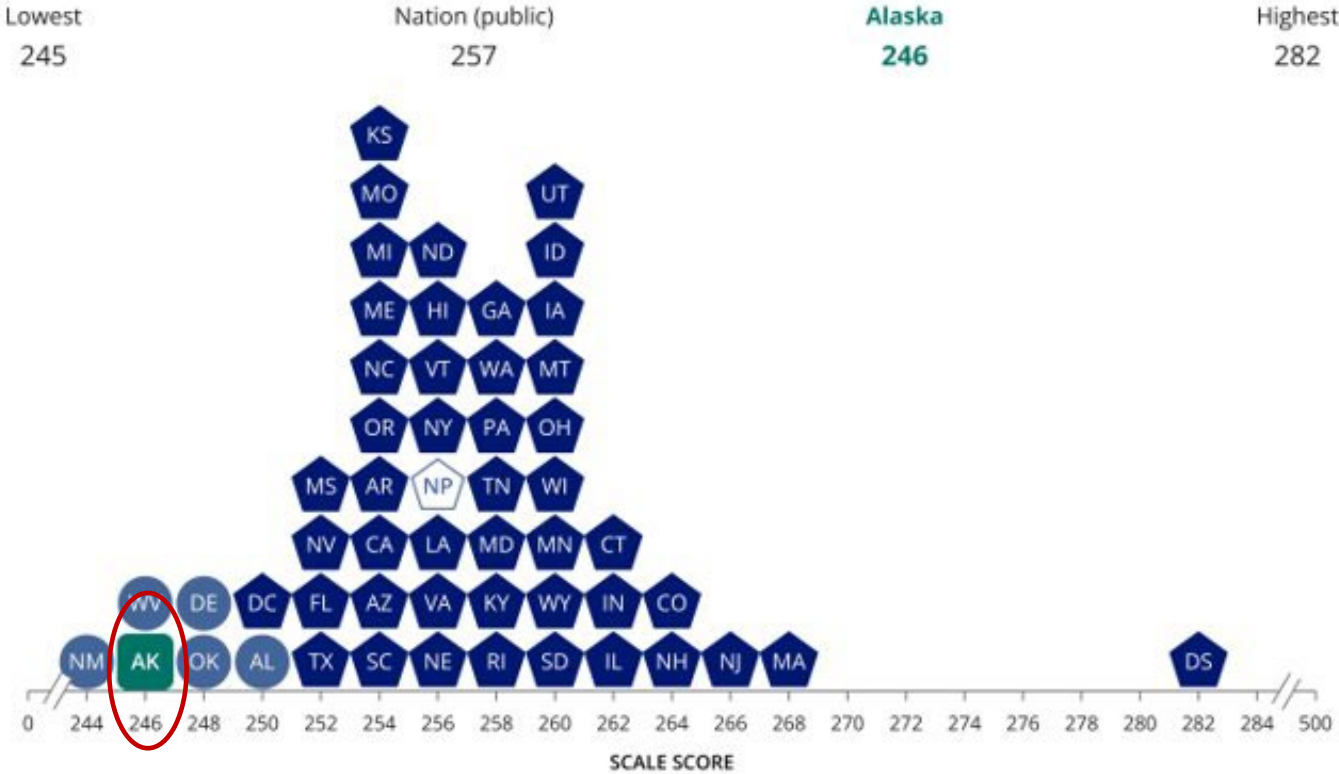
NAEP State Comparison Grade 8 Reading

STATE COMPARISON

FIGURE | Compare the average score in 2024 NAEP reading to other states/jurisdictions for eighth-grade public school students in Alaska

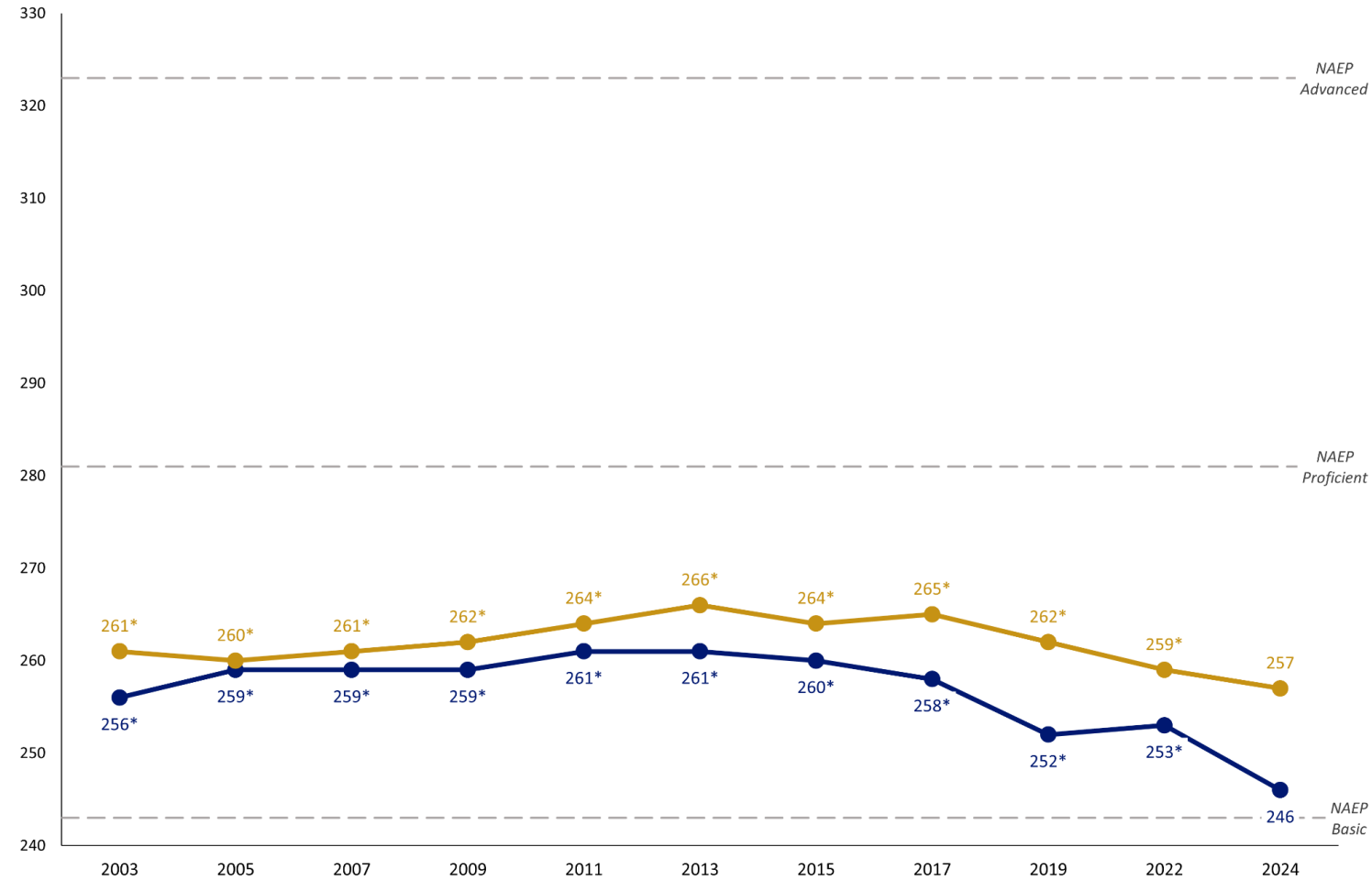
Compared to Alaska:

- 46 states scored higher
- 5 states had no significant score difference
- states scored lower



NAEP National Trend Grade 8 Reading

Graph 1 - NAEP Grade 8 Reading
Trend of NAEP average scale scores for Alaska and National Public



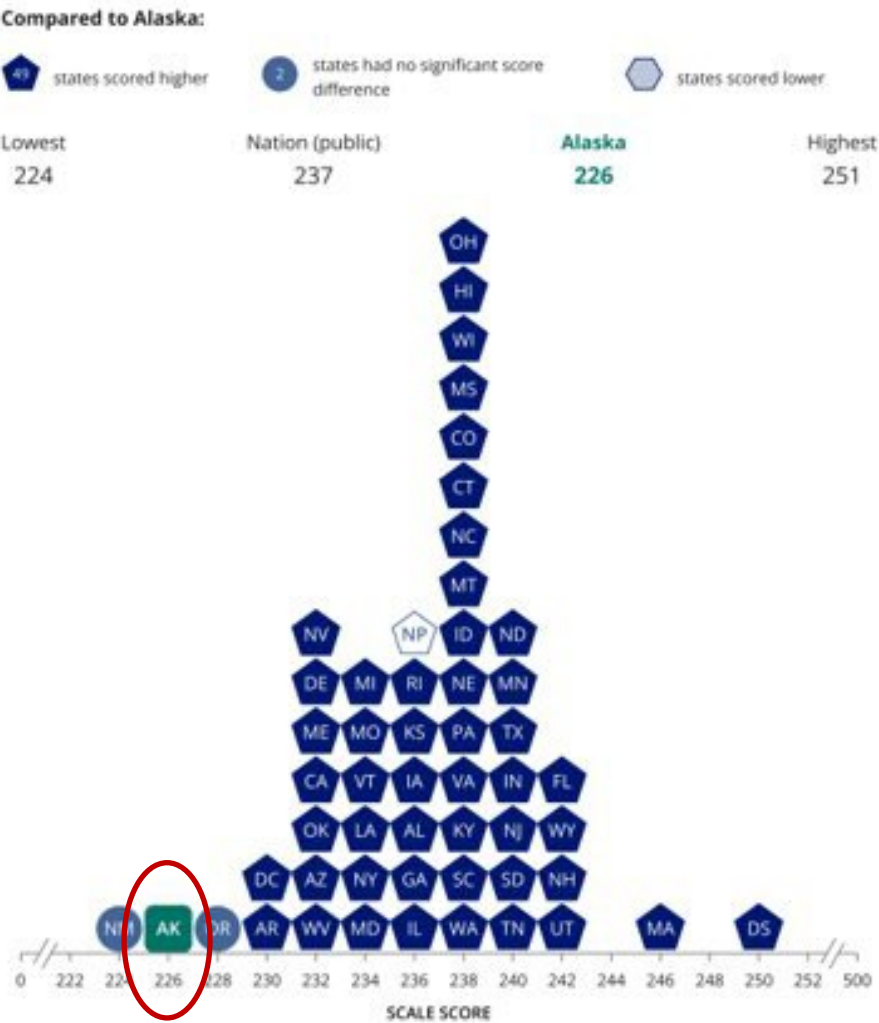
*Significantly different from 2024
Note: The NAEP Grade 8 Reading scale is from 0 to 500

NAEP Math

NAEP State Comparison Grade 4 Math

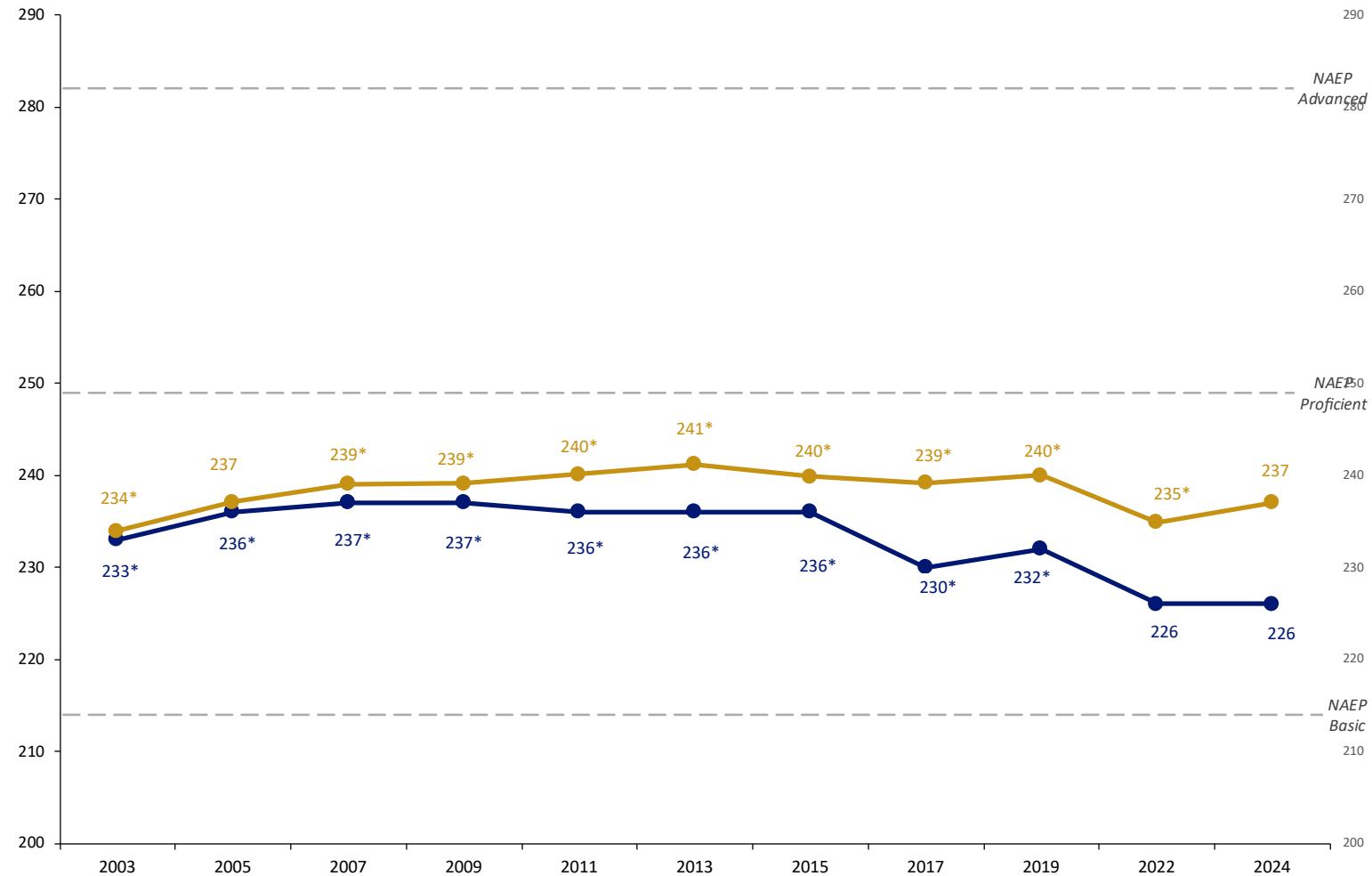
STATE COMPARISON

FIGURE | Compare the average score in 2024 NAEP mathematics to other states/jurisdictions for fourth-grade public school students in Alaska



NAEP National Trend Grade 4 Math

Graph 1 - NAEP Grade 4 Mathematics
Trend of NAEP average scale scores for Alaska and National Public



* Significantly different from 2024
Note: The NAEP Grade 4 Mathematics scale is from 0 to 500

NAEP Results State Comparison Grade 8 Math

STATE COMPARISON

FIGURE | Compare the average score in 2024 NAEP mathematics to other states/jurisdictions for eighth-grade public school students in Alaska

Compared to Alaska:

40 states scored higher

10 states had no significant score difference

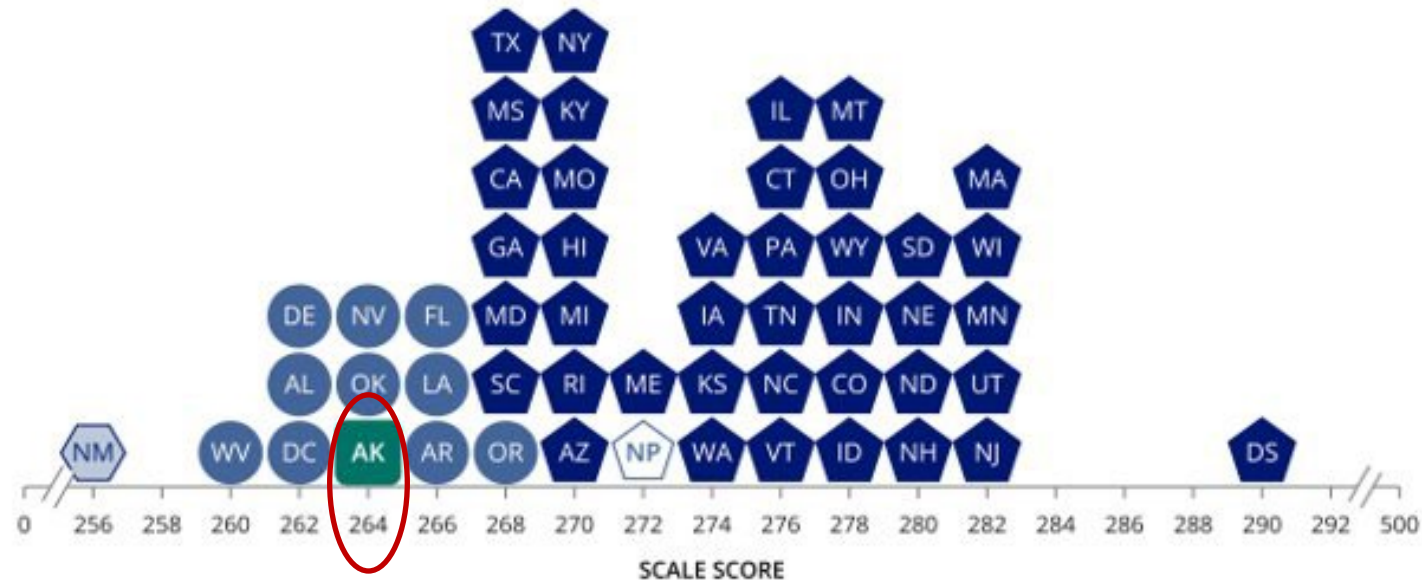
1 states scored lower

Lowest
256

Nation (public)
272

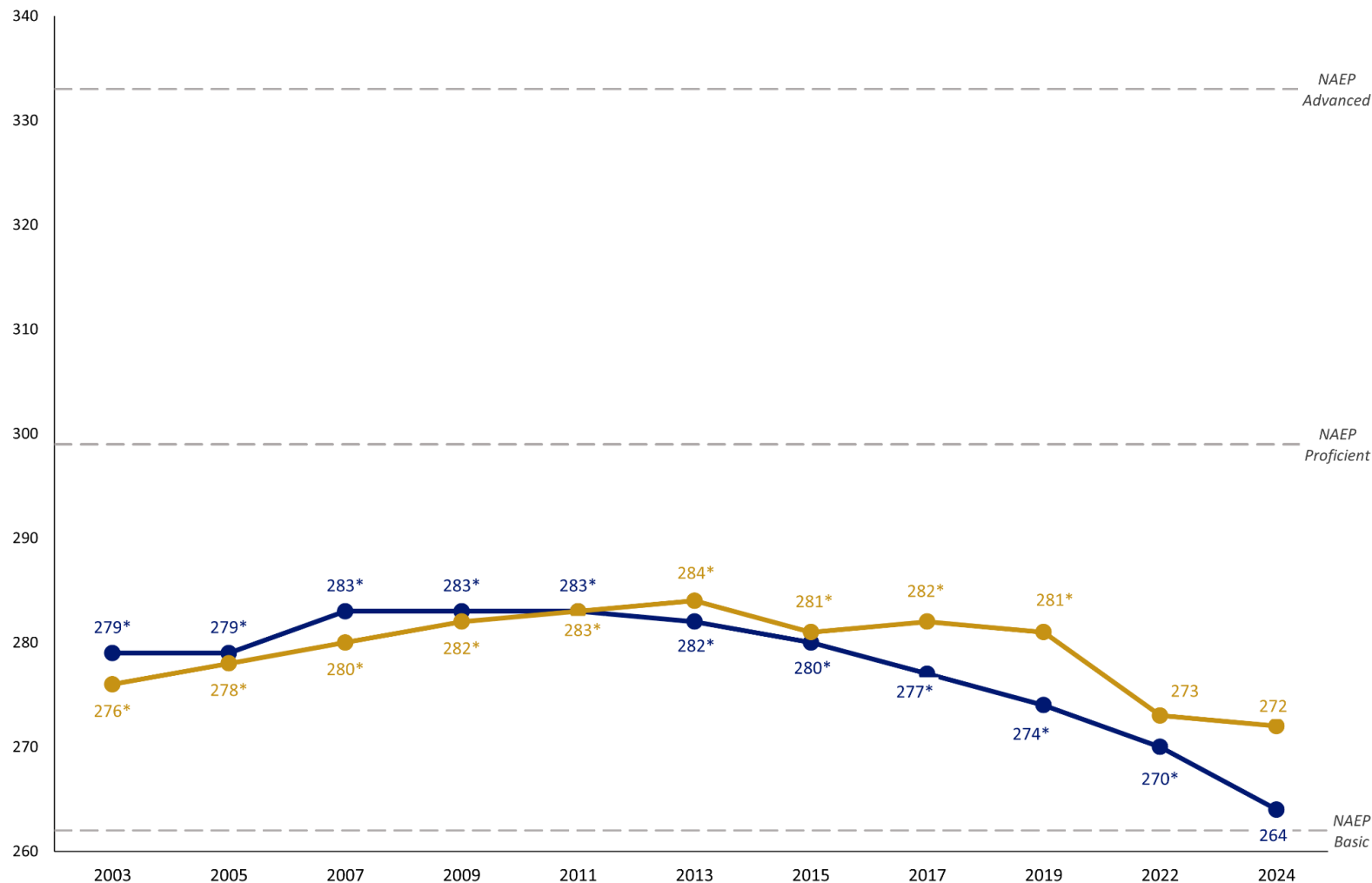
Alaska
264

Highest
291



NAEP Results National Trend Comparison Grade 8 Math

Graph 1 - NAEP Grade 8 Mathematics
Trend of NAEP average scale scores for Alaska and National Public



★ Significantly different from 2024
Note: The NAEP Grade 8 Mathematics scale is from 0 to 500





AK STAR Assessment Overview

- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) provides the computer-adaptive platform to administer AK STAR
- Alaska's required assessment is administered each year to students in grades three through nine in Math and English Language Arts (ELA)
- 68,100 students were assessed in the spring of 2025
- Integrates Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) spring assessment, eliminating a testing session
- Aligned to Alaska's Mathematics and English/Language Arts Standards

AK STAR Design Framework

- Alaska Educators participated in the item review to select appropriate assessment questions
- Alaska Educators participated in the standard setting process to set “cut-scores” for achievement levels
- Results are Reported in Four Achievement Levels:
 - Advanced
 - Proficient
 - Approaching Proficient
 - Needs Support

AK STAR Standard Setting

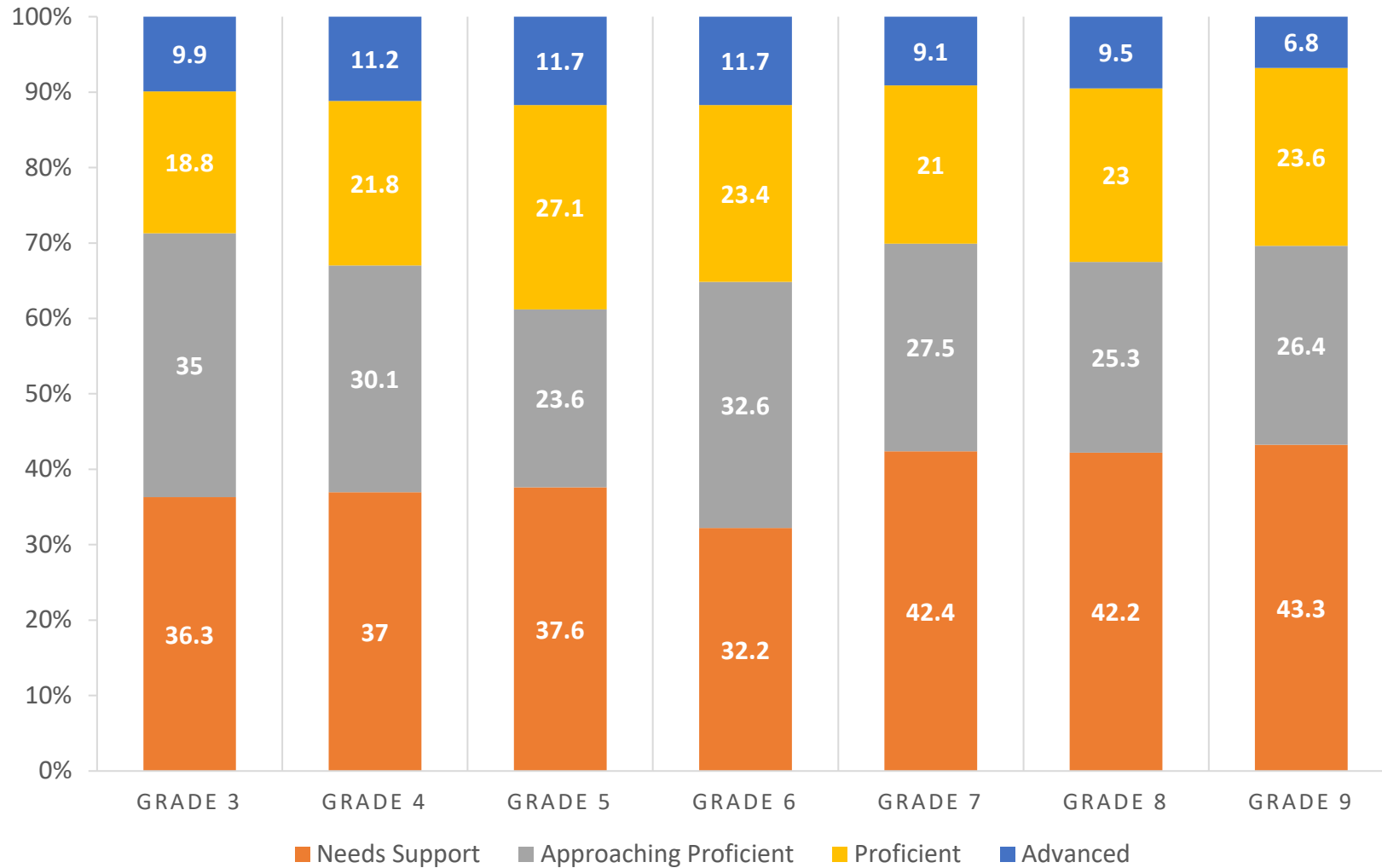
- Alaska educators gathered in summer of 2022
 - Worked collaboratively in groups to set cut-scores for each achievement level
 - Reviewed items and compared each item to Alaska's Standards in ELA and Mathematics
- DEED and NWEA conducted a validation study in summer of 2023 to review cut scores set in 2022
 - Conducted a policy review with education leaders to evaluate proposed final cut scores prior to finalization
 - Process slowed report timelines for 2023 and 2024

AK STAR Reports and Data

- Individual Student Reports
 - Achievement level
 - MAP Growth Rasch Unit (RIT) and growth metrics
 - Comparisons with school, district, and state
 - Instructional area performance related to Alaska Content Standards
- District and School Summary Reports
 - Percentages of students in each achievement level
 - Comparison to district and state
- District Data File
 - Individual student results, designed to be used to integrate into pre-existing district data platforms
- State Reports
 - Percentage of students in proficient/not proficient
 - Participation rate

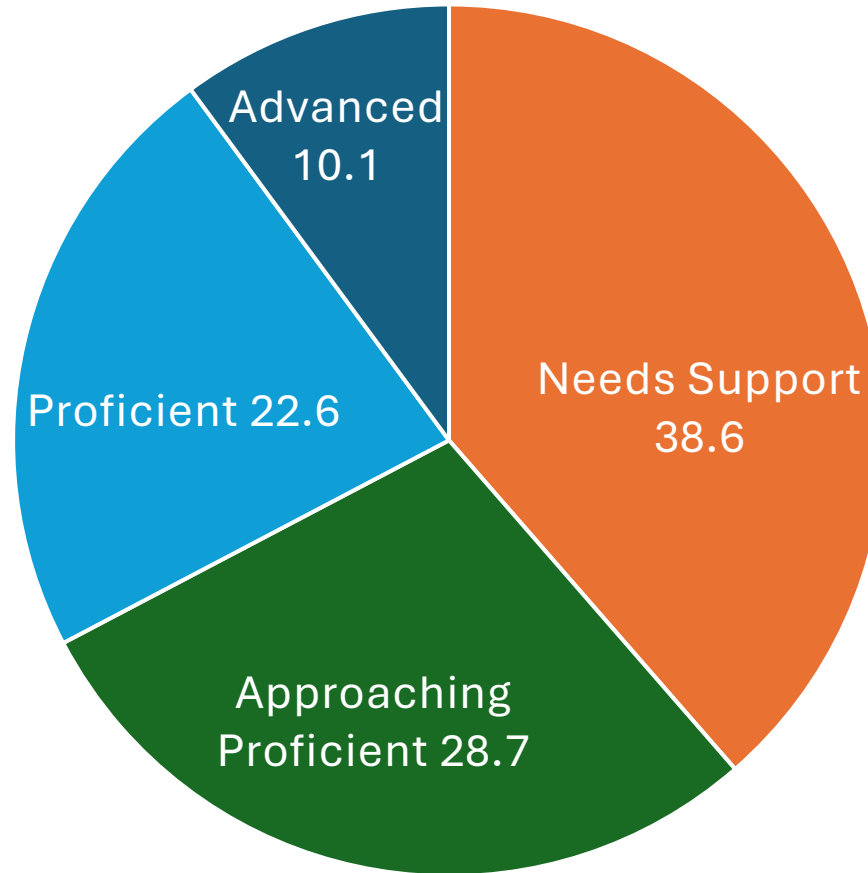
AK STAR English Language Arts

AK STAR English Language Arts 2025 Achievement Level Percentages Grade 3-9



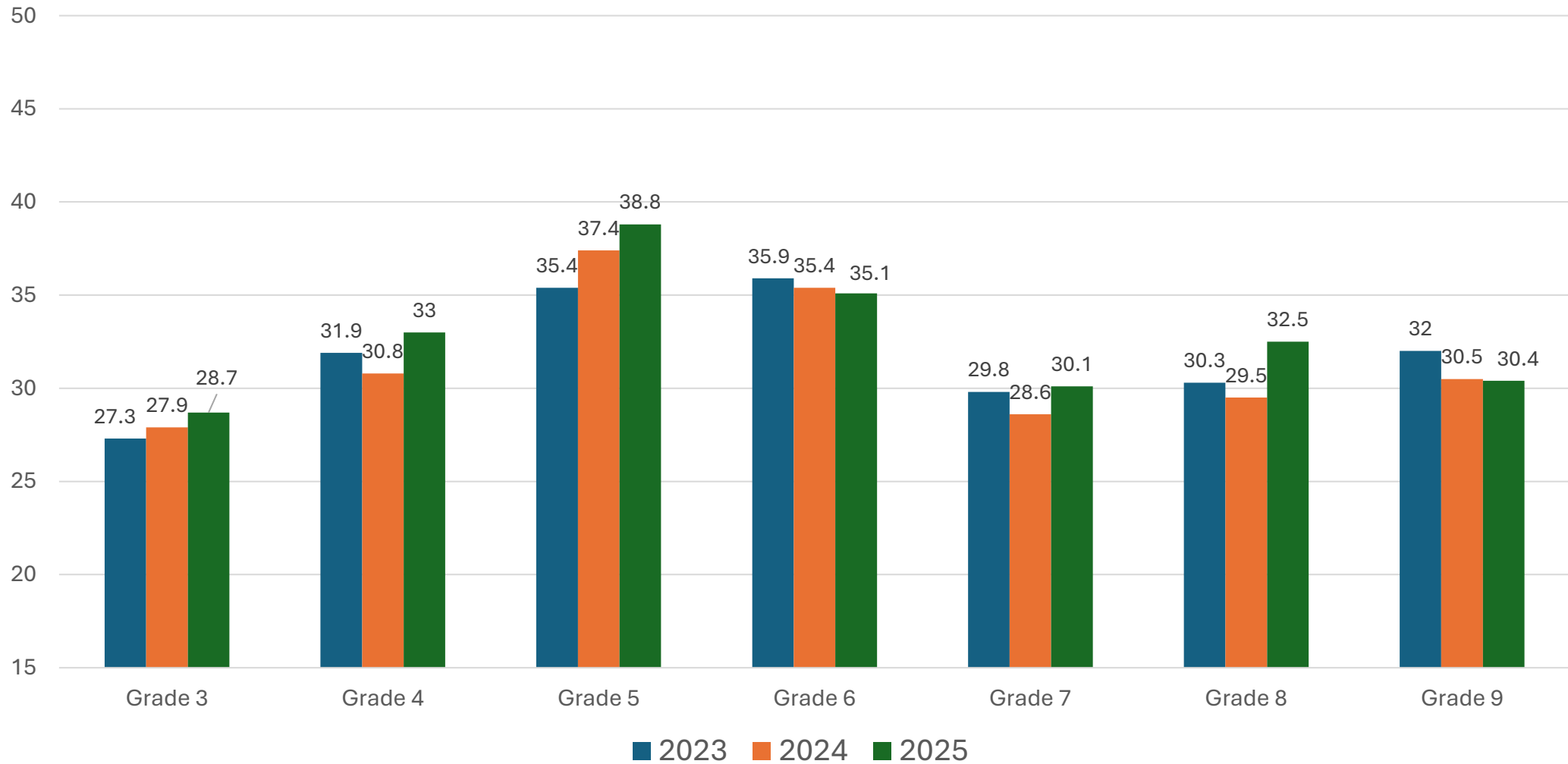
* Due to rounding rules, columns may not equal 100.

2025 AK STAR English Language Arts Statewide Achievement Level Percentages



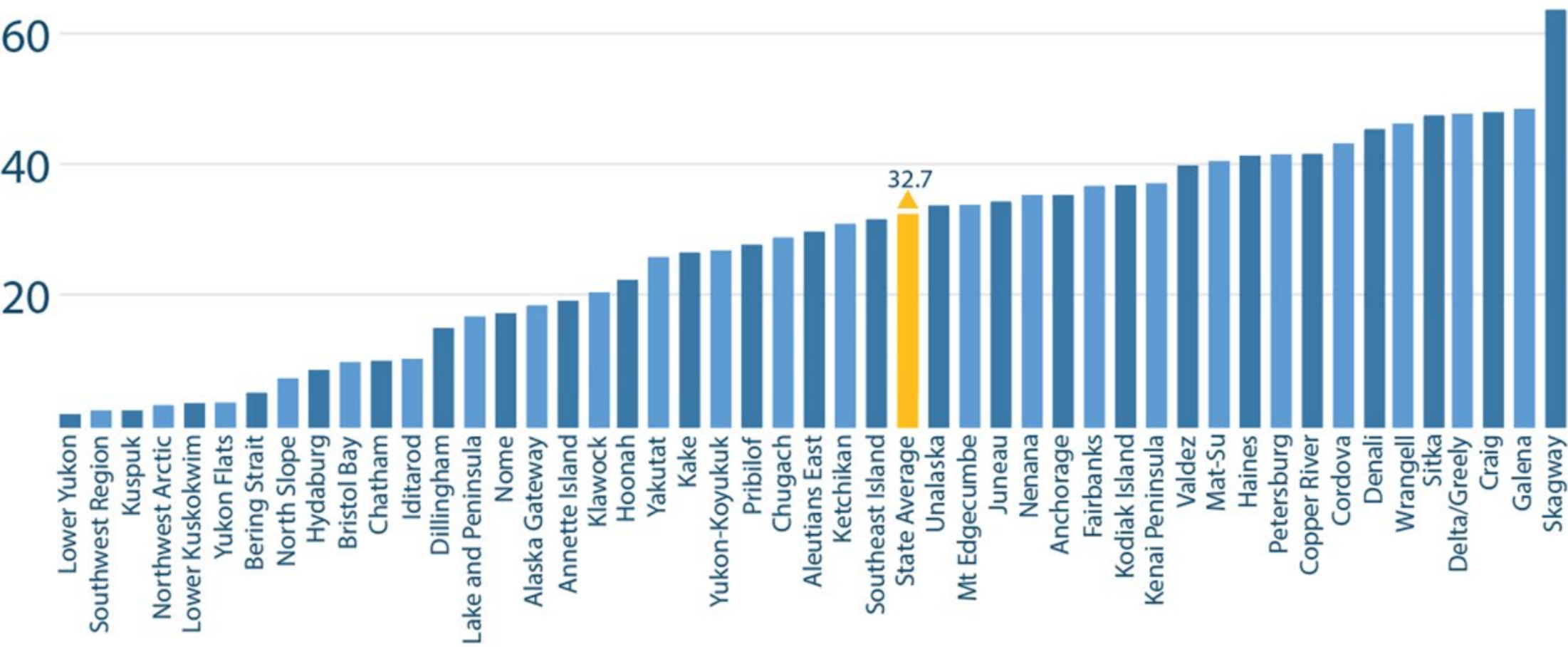
Needs Support Approaching Proficient Proficient Advanced

AK STAR ELA Three Year Trend – ELA Percent of Students Above Proficient



2025 AK STAR District Level Student Achievement Results

English/Language Arts



Districts not displayed due to sample size: Aleutian Region, Kashunmamiut, Pelican, Saint Mary's, Yupiit

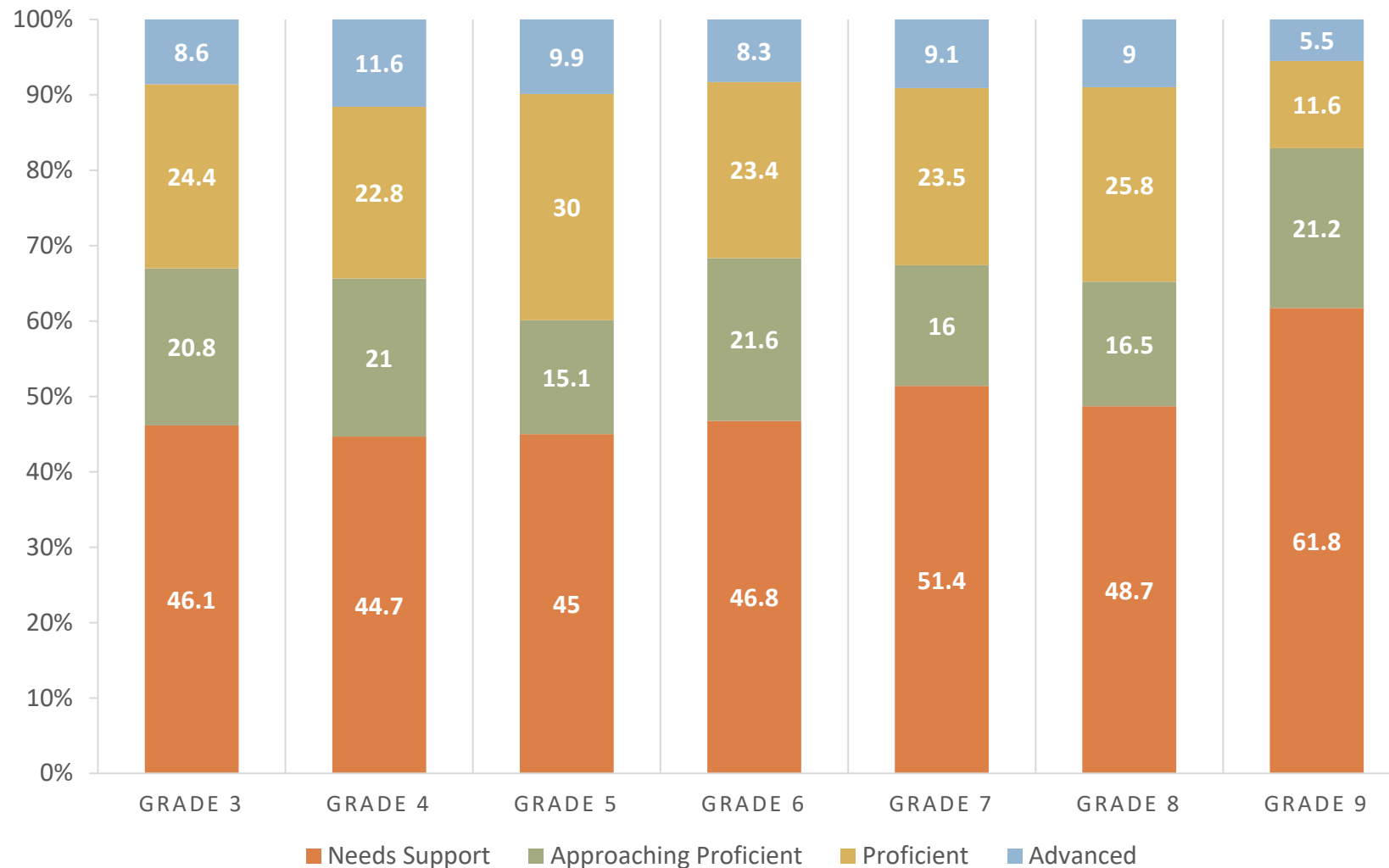
Source: Data from the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) spring 2025 assessment administration provided by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA).

Reference: SBOE Report to Legislature, page 33.

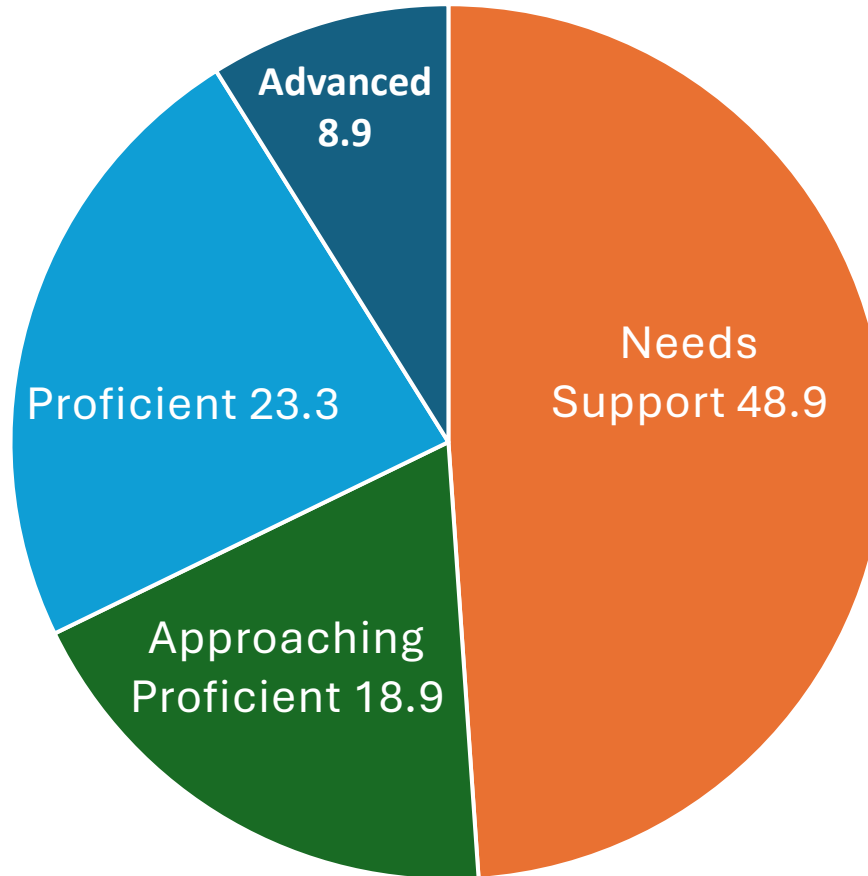
AK STAR Math

AK STAR Mathematics

2025 Achievement Level Percentages Grade 3-9

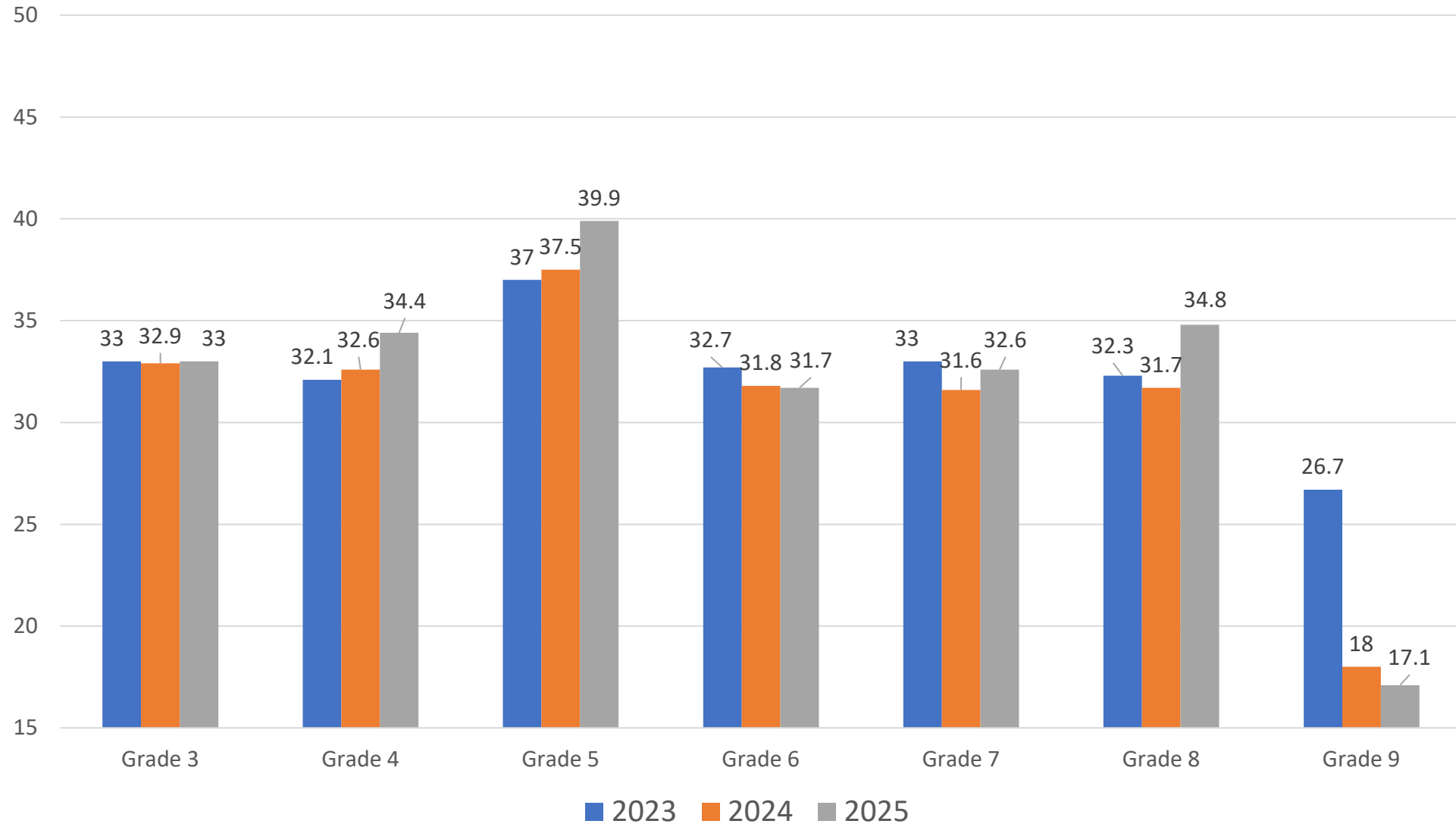


2025 AK STAR Mathematics Statewide Achievement Level Percentages



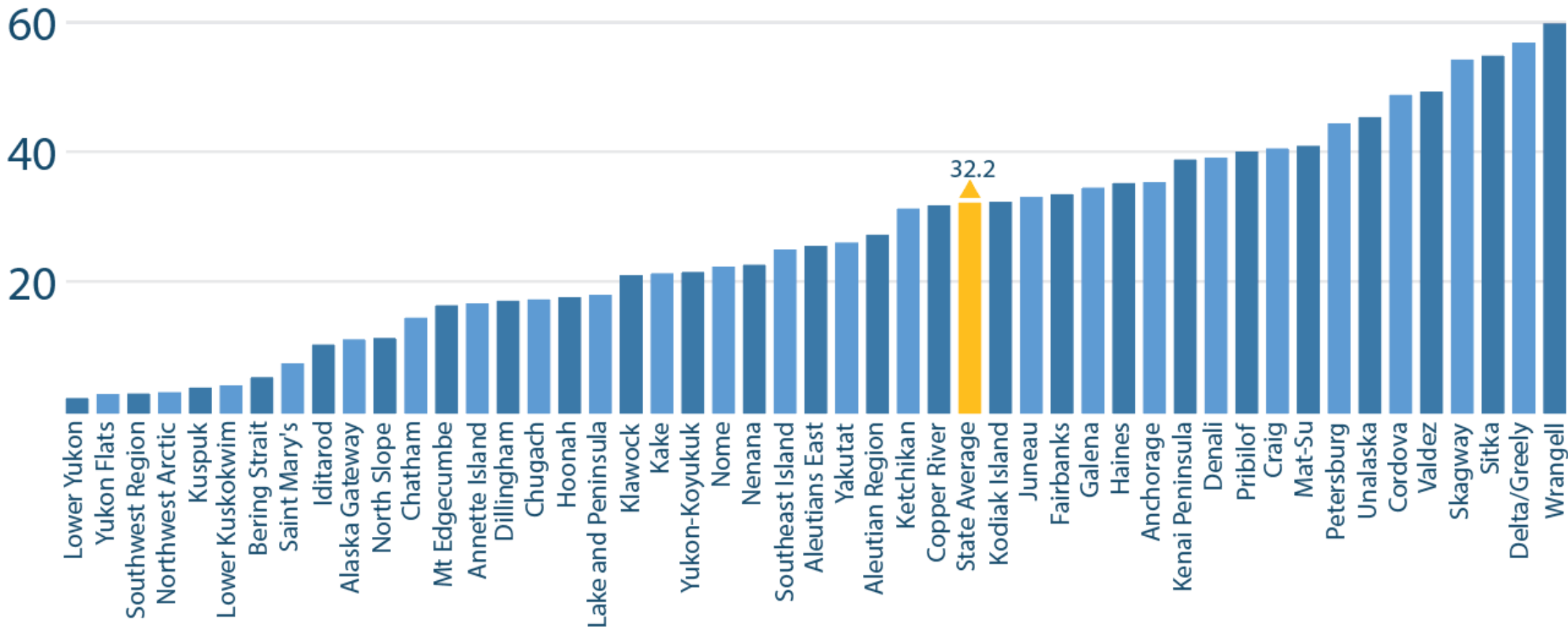
■ Needs Support ■ Approaching Proficient ■ Proficient ■ Advanced

AK STAR Math Three Year Trend – Percent of Students Above Proficient



2025 AK STAR District Level Student Achievement Results

Mathematics



Districts not displayed due to sample size: Bristol Bay, Hydaburg, Kashunmamiut, Pelican, Yupiit

Source: Data from the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) spring 2025 assessment administration provided by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA).

Reference: SBOE Report to Legislature, page 33.



Questions

Contact Information

Karen Melin

Administrator for Standards and Assessments

karen.melin@alaska.gov

(907) 465-8684

Kelly Manning

Deputy Director

kelly.manning@alaska.gov

(907) 465-8431