

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

**Alaska Department of Education and Early Development**

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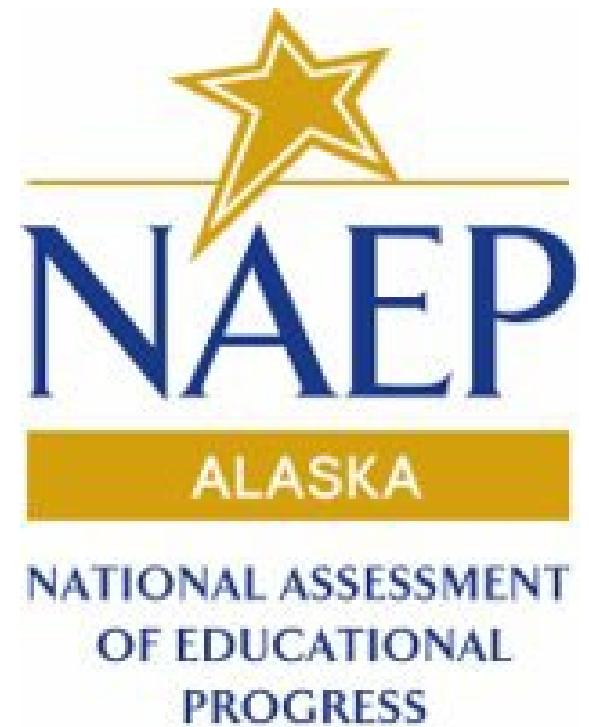
**Assessment Director**

**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

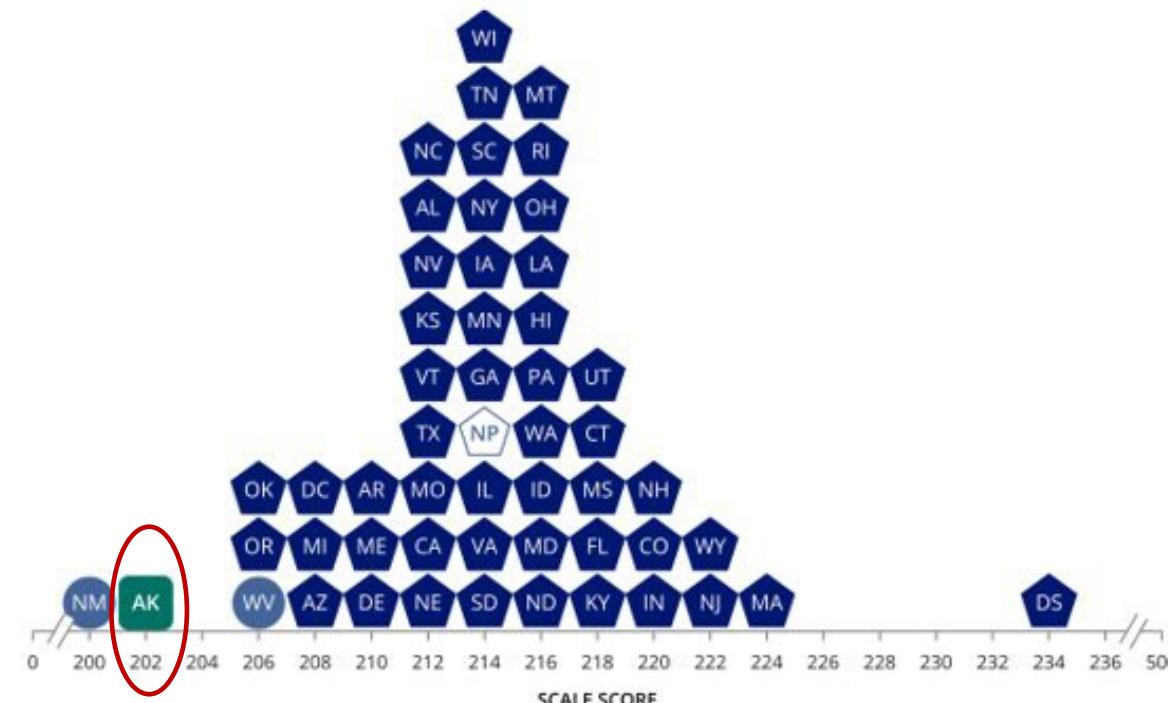
states scored lower

Lowest  
201

Nation (public)  
214

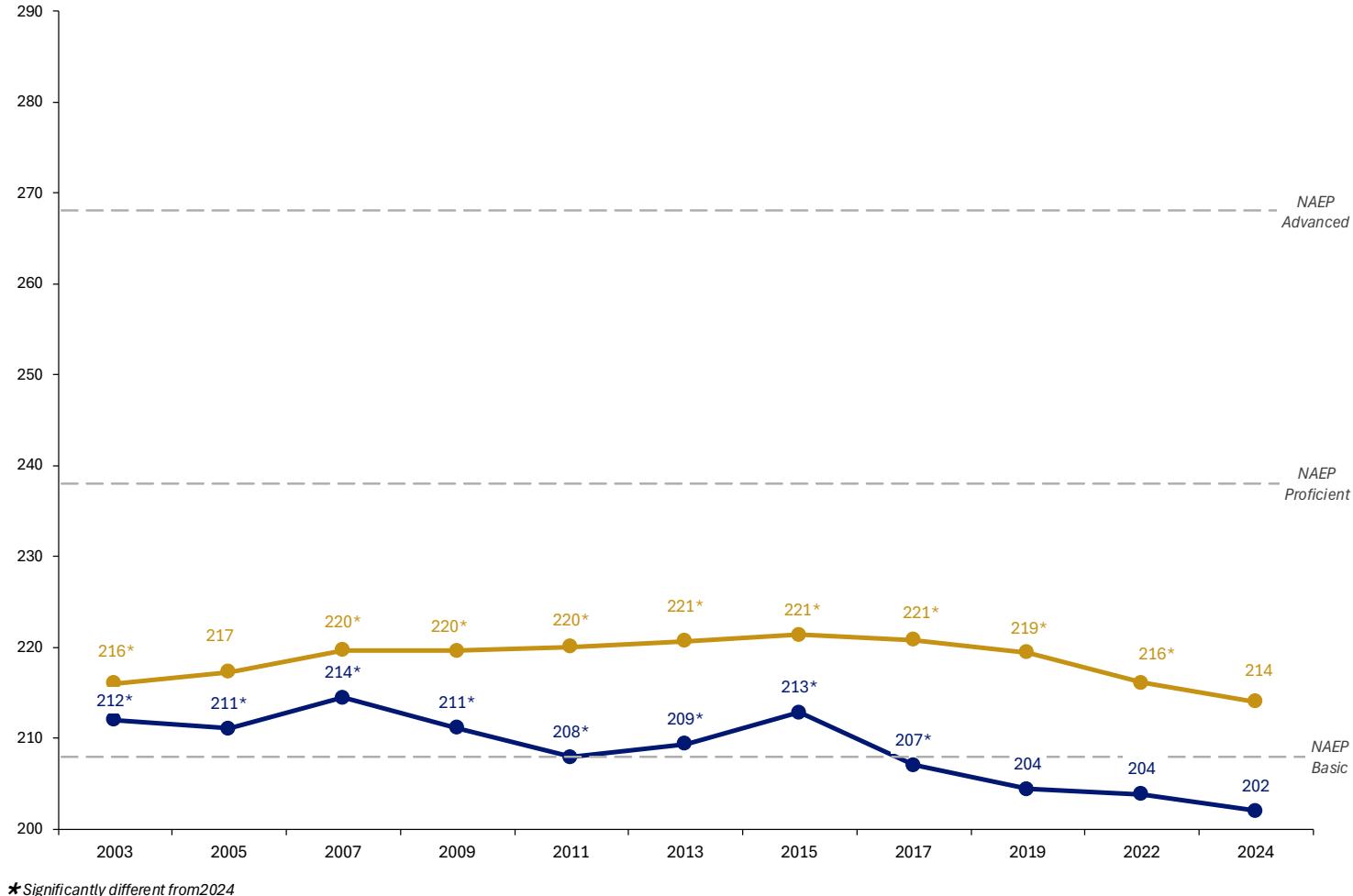
Alaska  
202

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



# 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

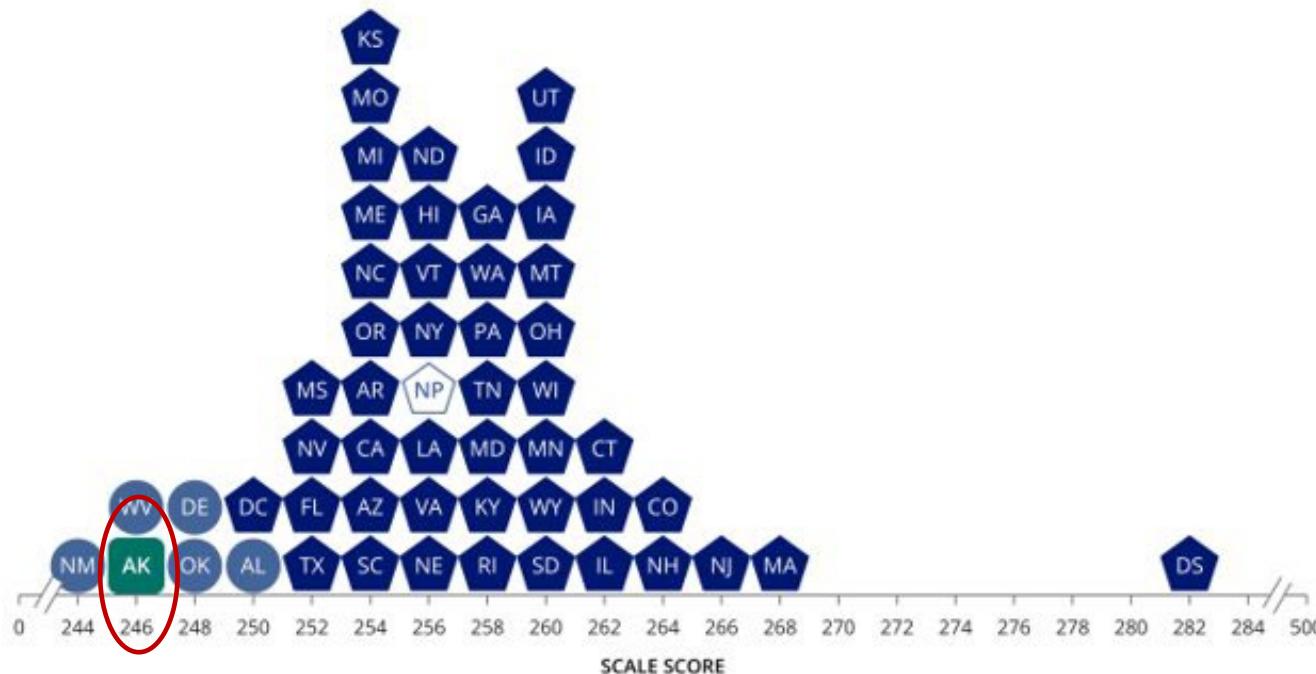
states scored lower

Lowest  
245

Nation (public)  
257

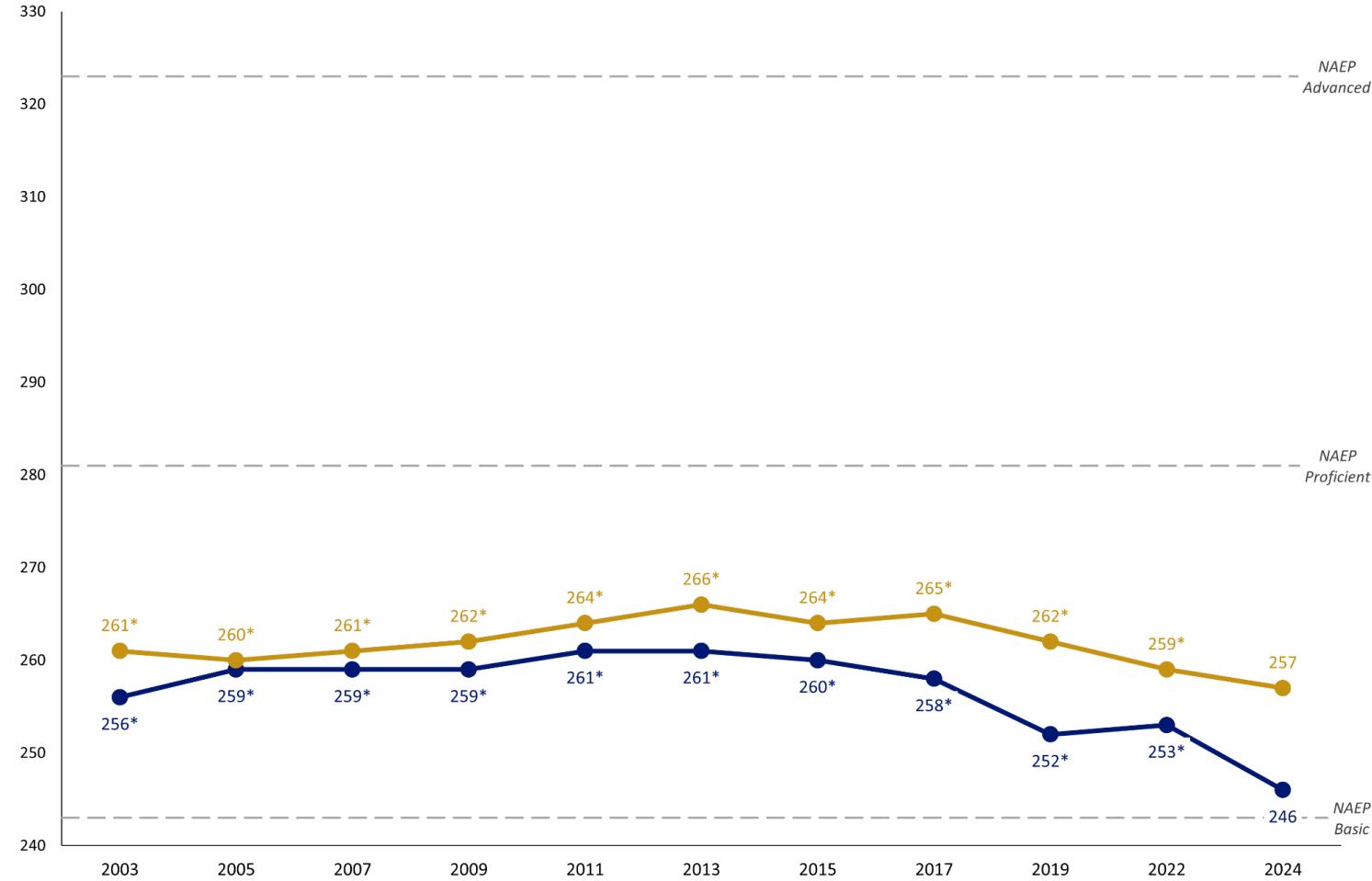
Alaska  
246

Highest  
282



# 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

Compared to Alaska:

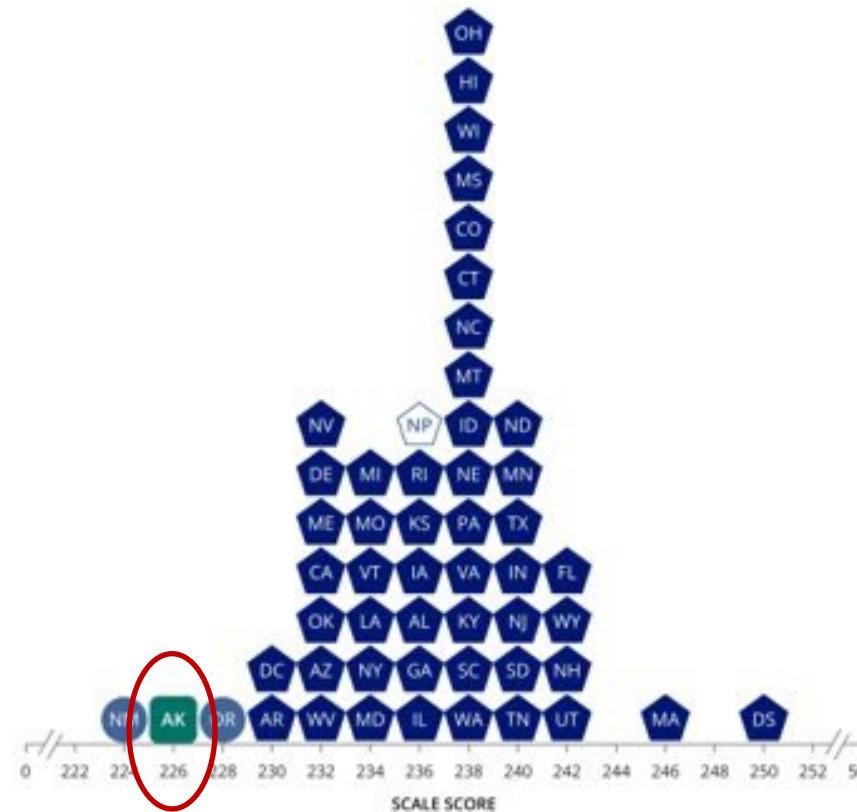
19 states scored higher  
2 states had no significant score difference  
11 states scored lower

Lowest  
224

Nation (public)  
237

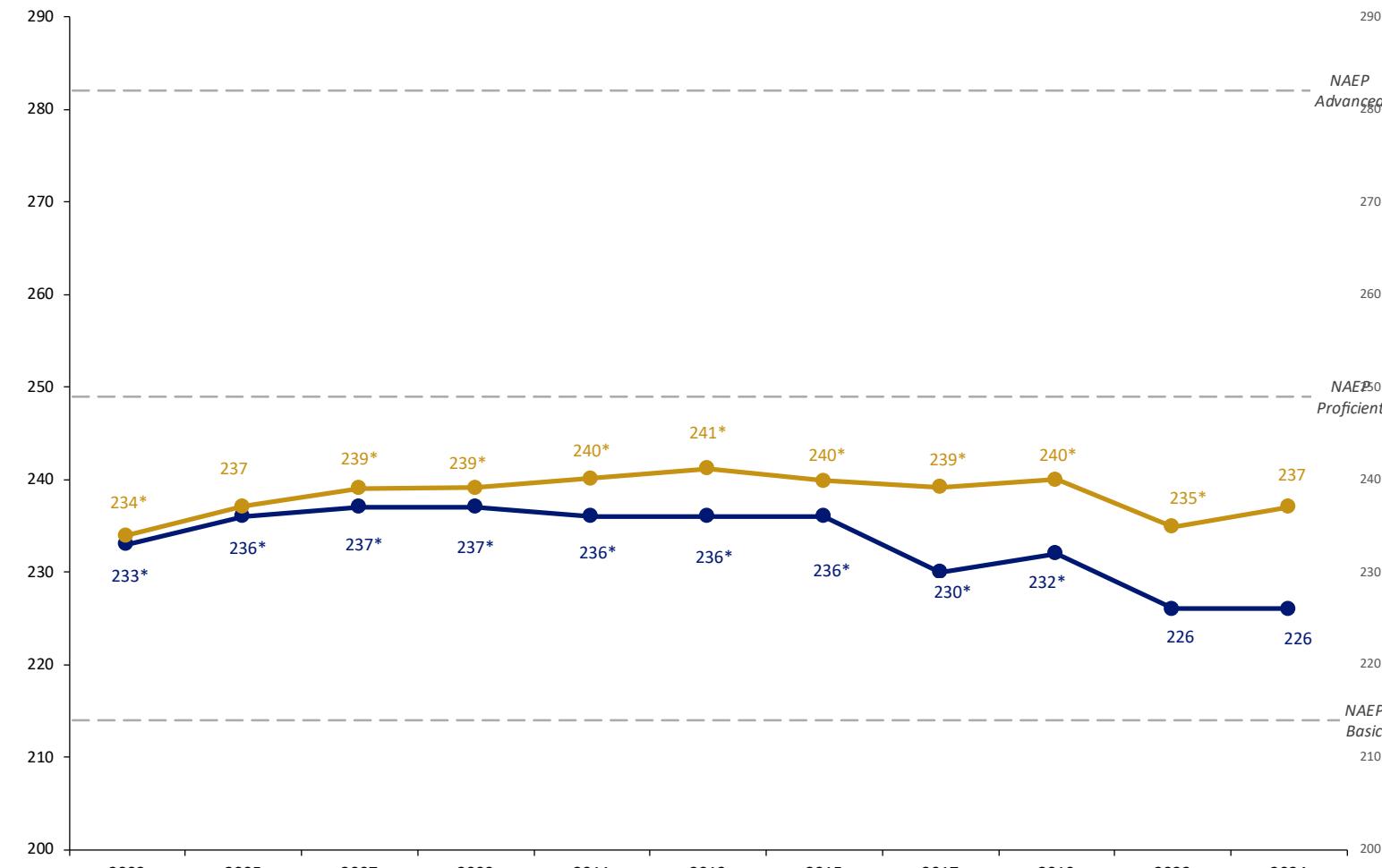
Alaska  
226

Highest  
251



# 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

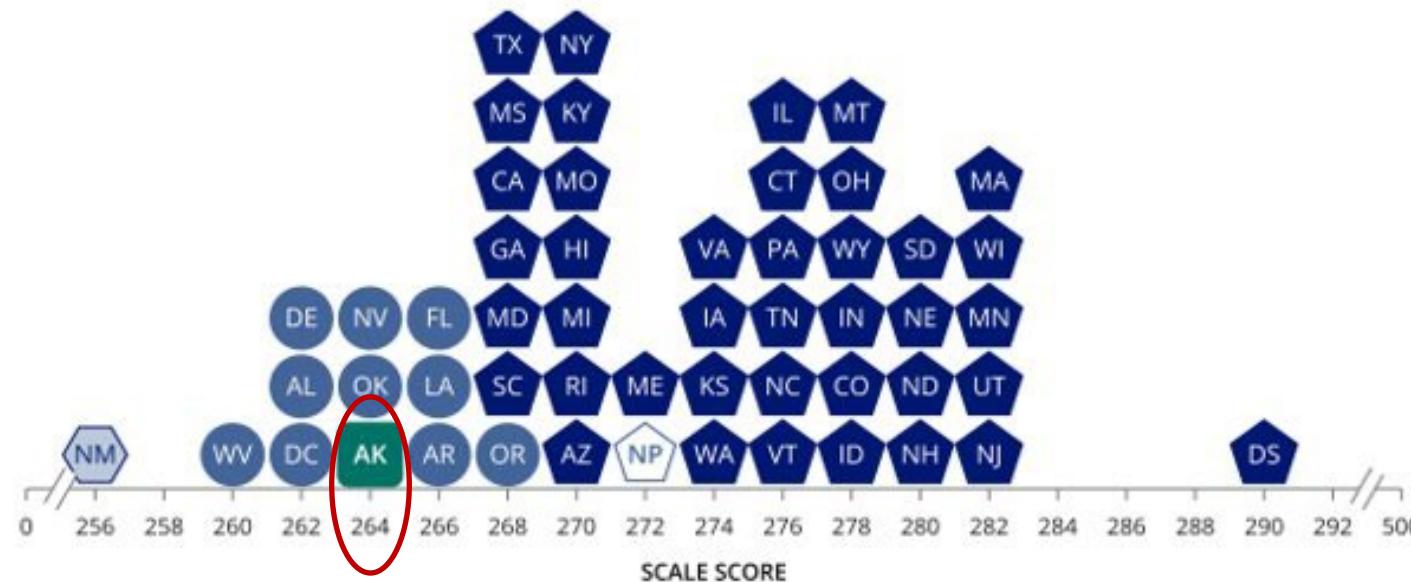
1 state scored lower

Lowest  
256

Nation (public)  
272

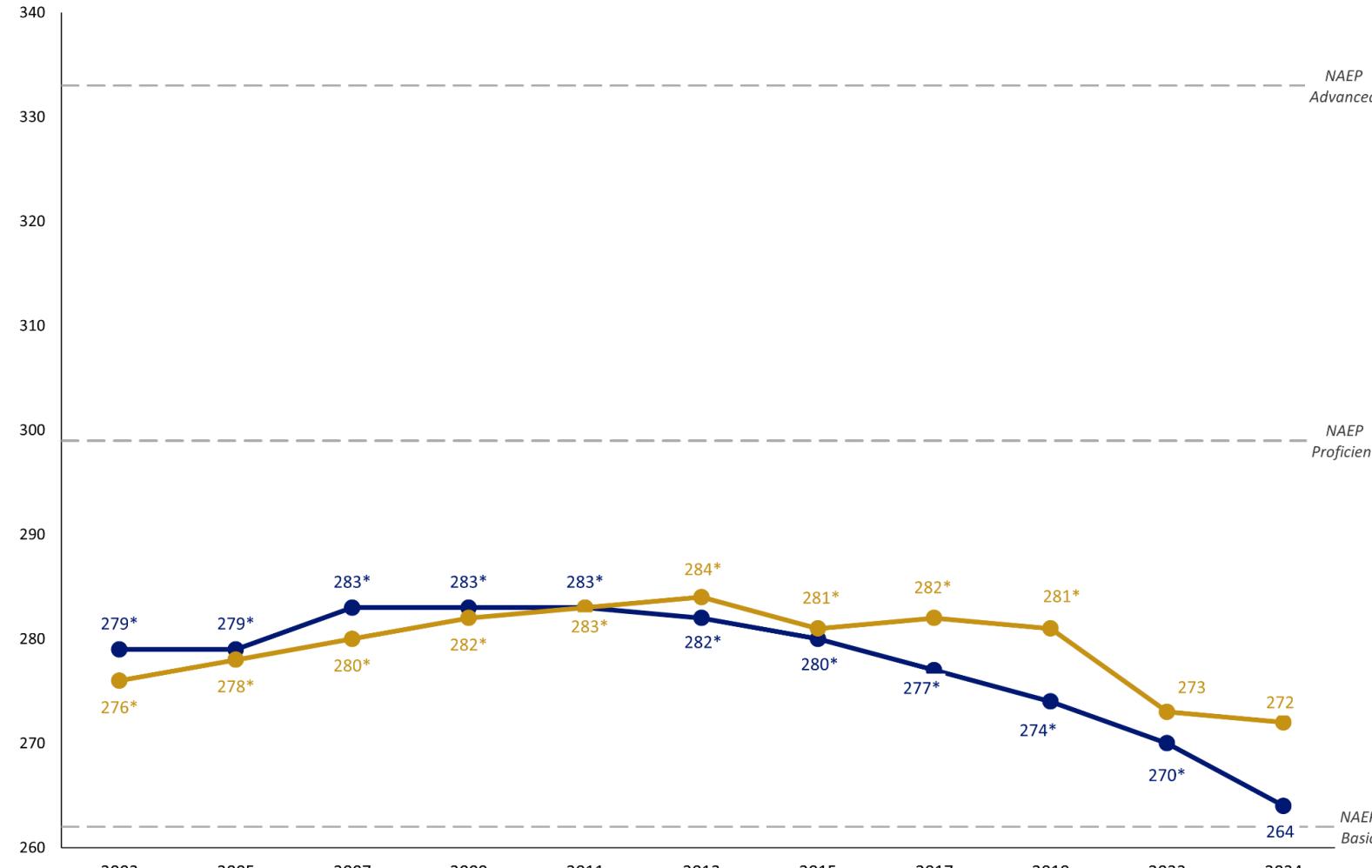
Alaska  
264

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

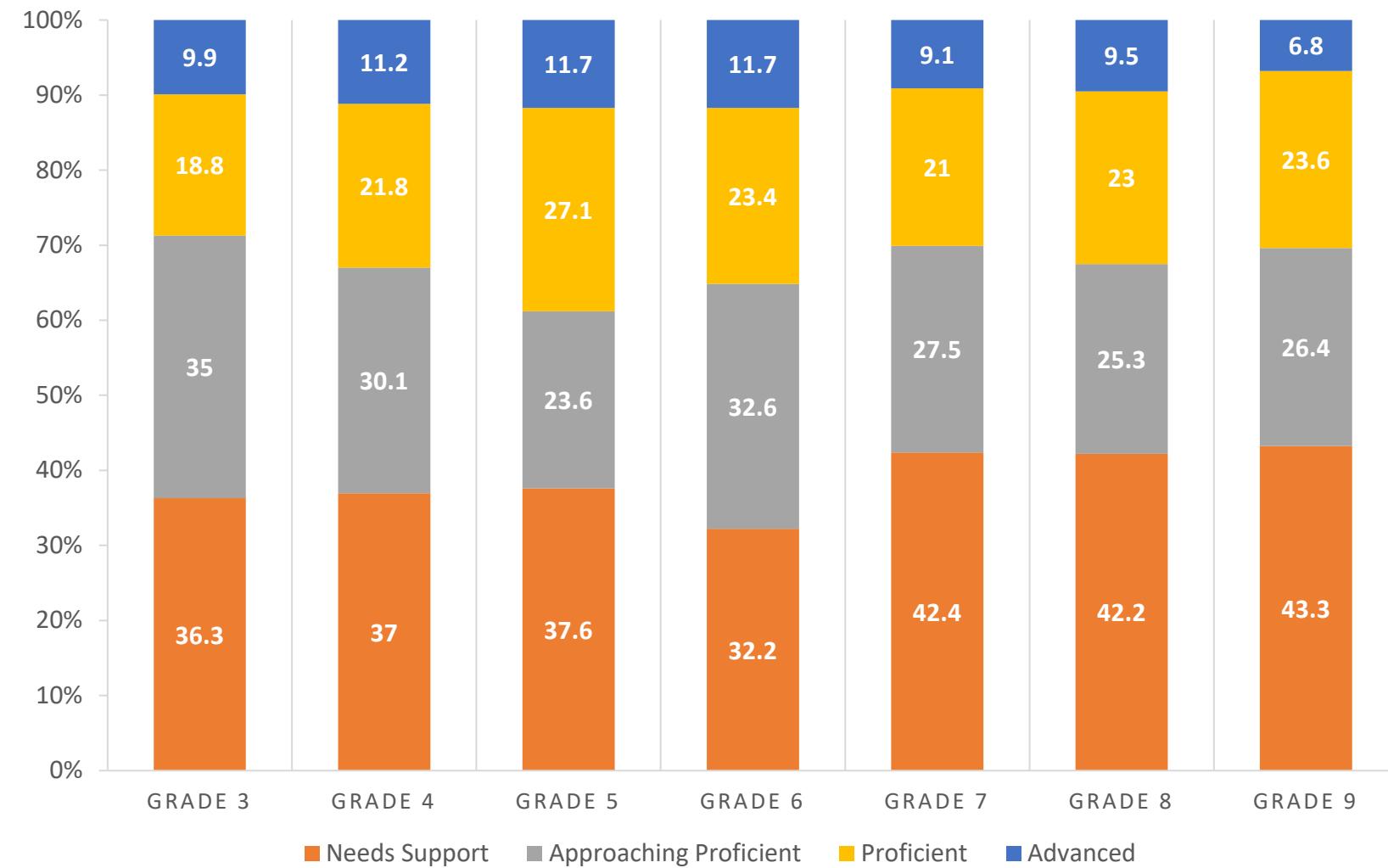
# AK STAR Reports and Data

- 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

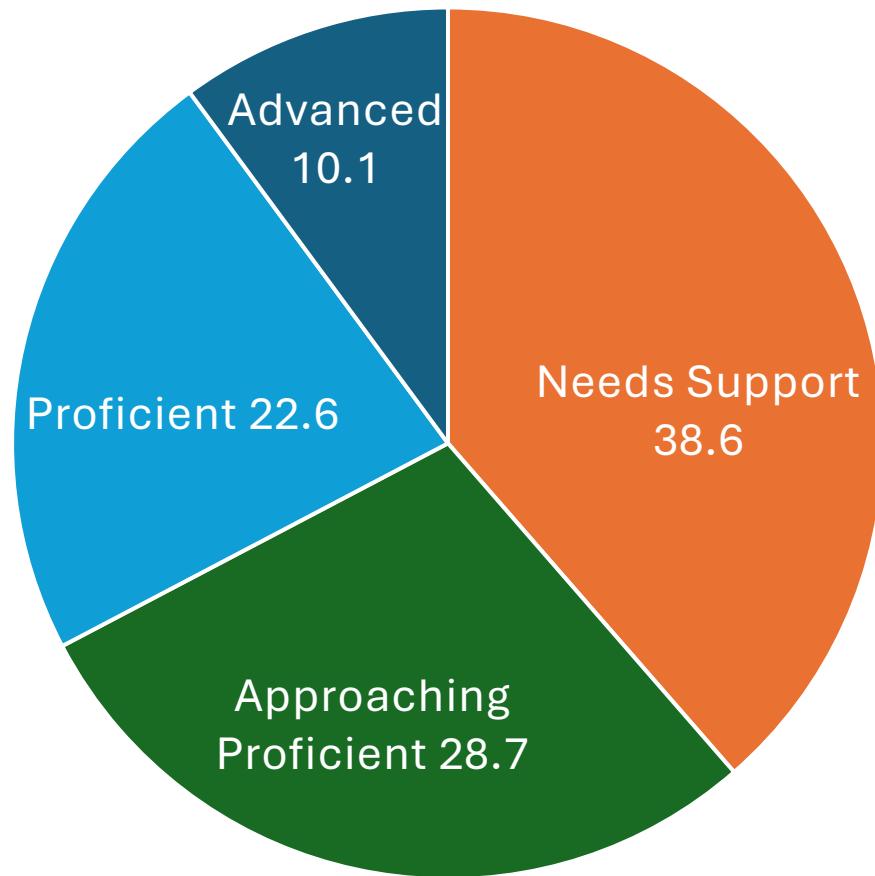
# AK STAR English Language Arts

## 2025 Achievement Level Percentages Grade 3-9



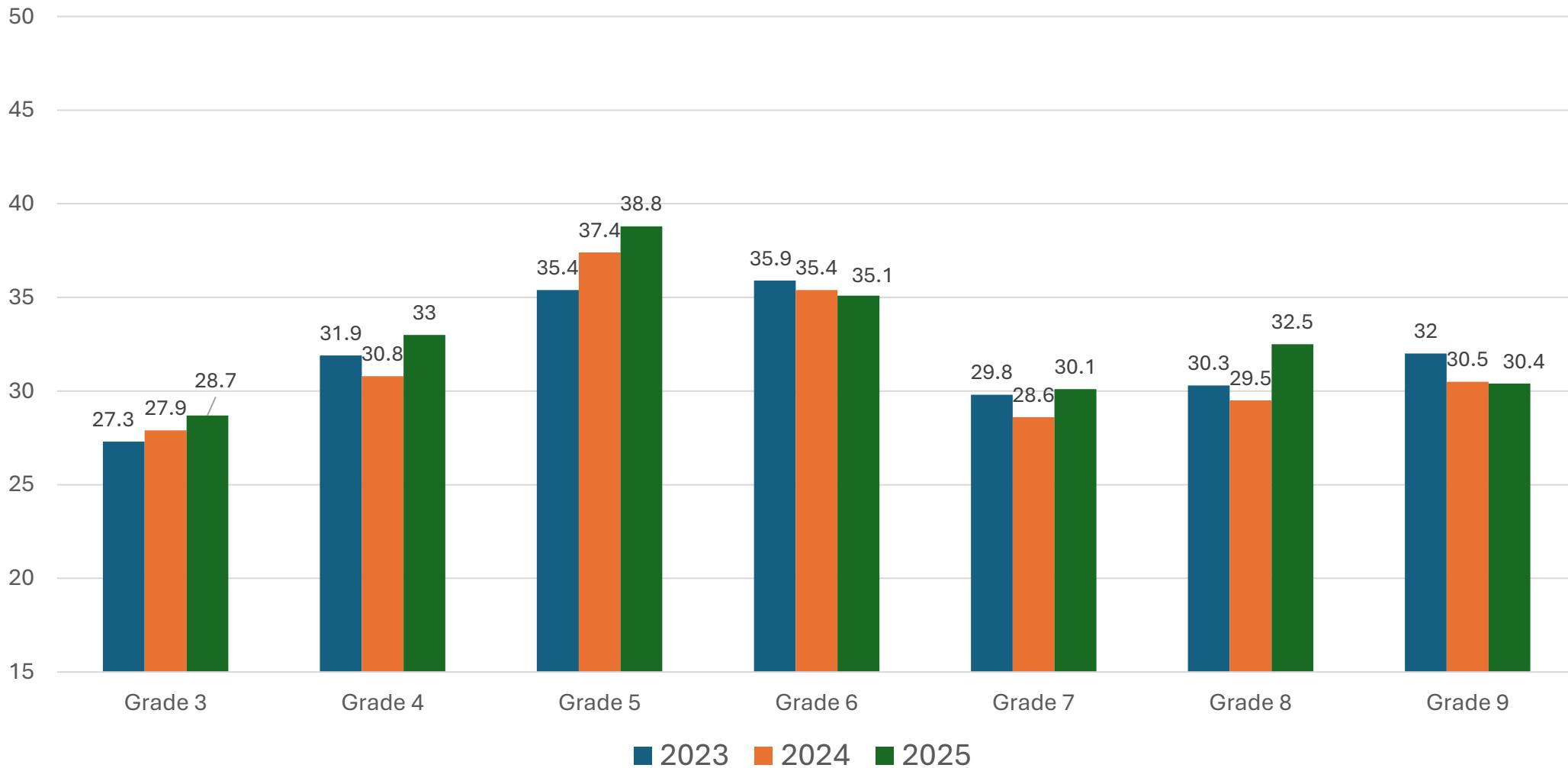
\* Due to rounding rules, columns may not equal 100.

# 2025 AK STAR English Language Arts Statewide Achievement Level Percentages



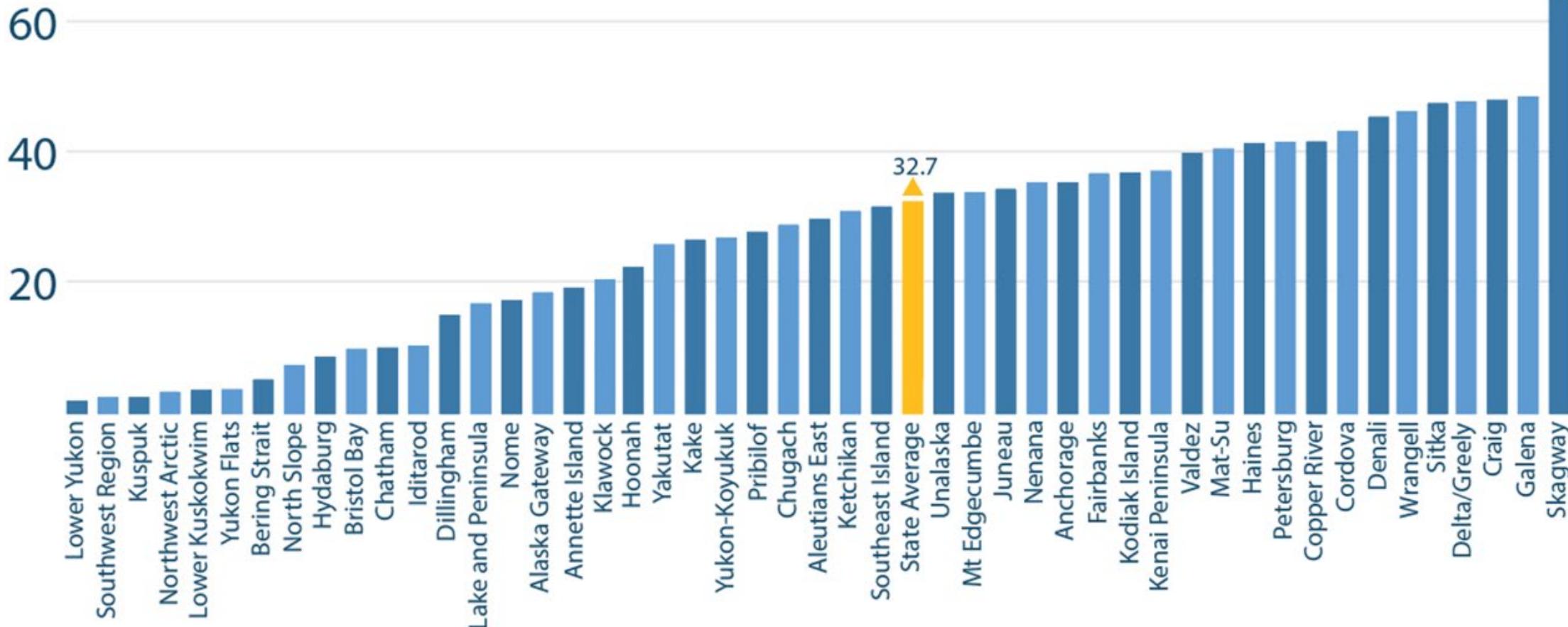
■ Needs Support ■ Approaching Proficient ■ Proficient ■ Advanced

# 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*

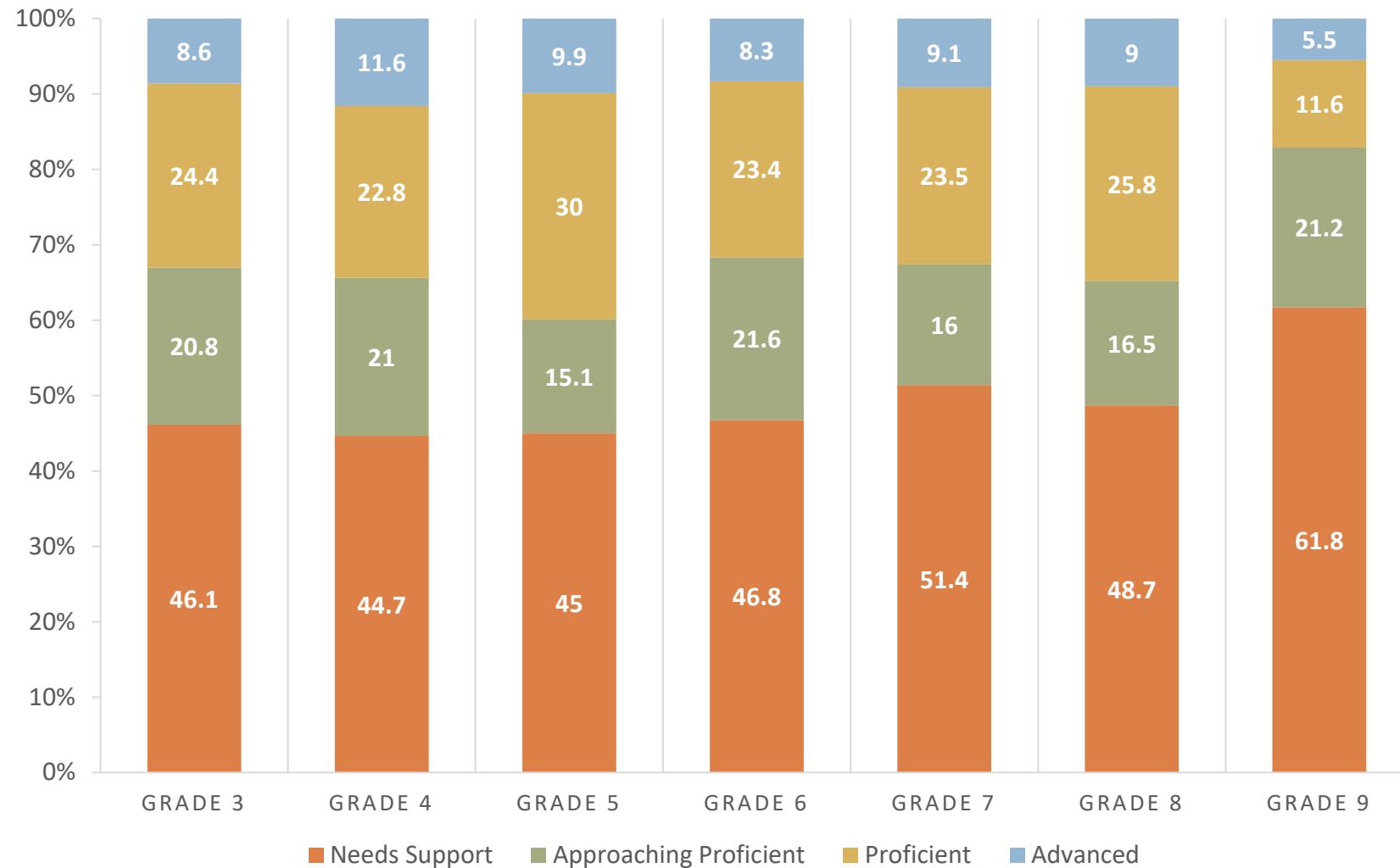
*Source: Data from the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) spring 2025 assessment administration provided by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA).*

*Reference: SBOE Report to Legislature, page 33.*

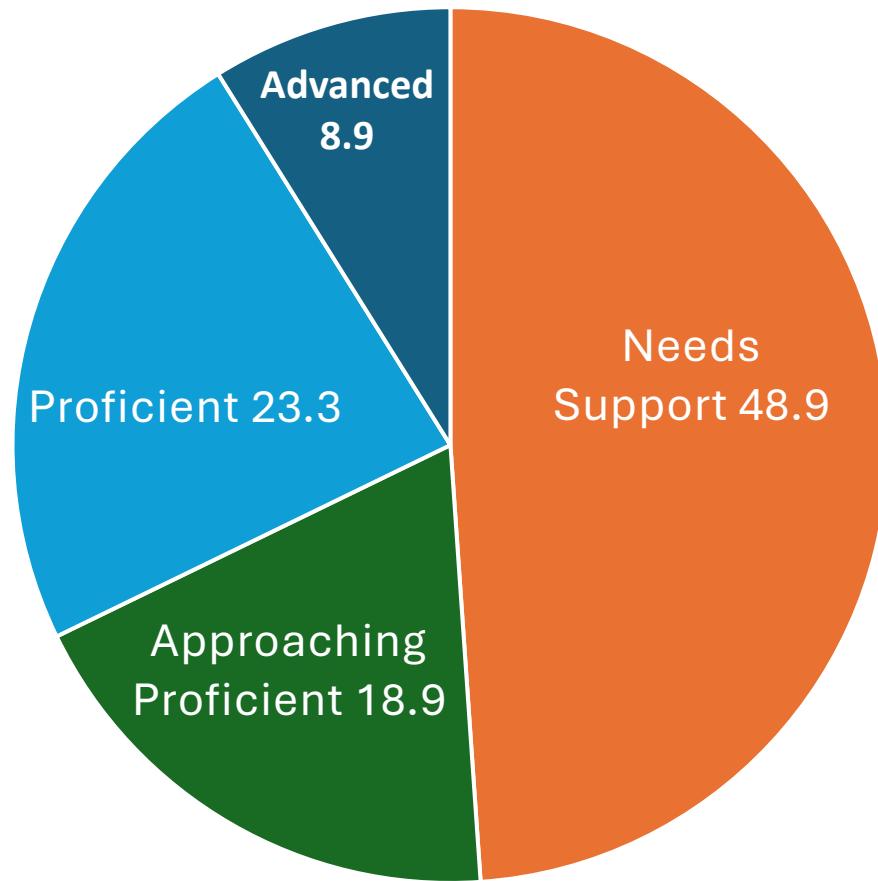
# AK STAR Math

# AK STAR Mathematics

## 2025 Achievement Level Percentages Grade 3-9

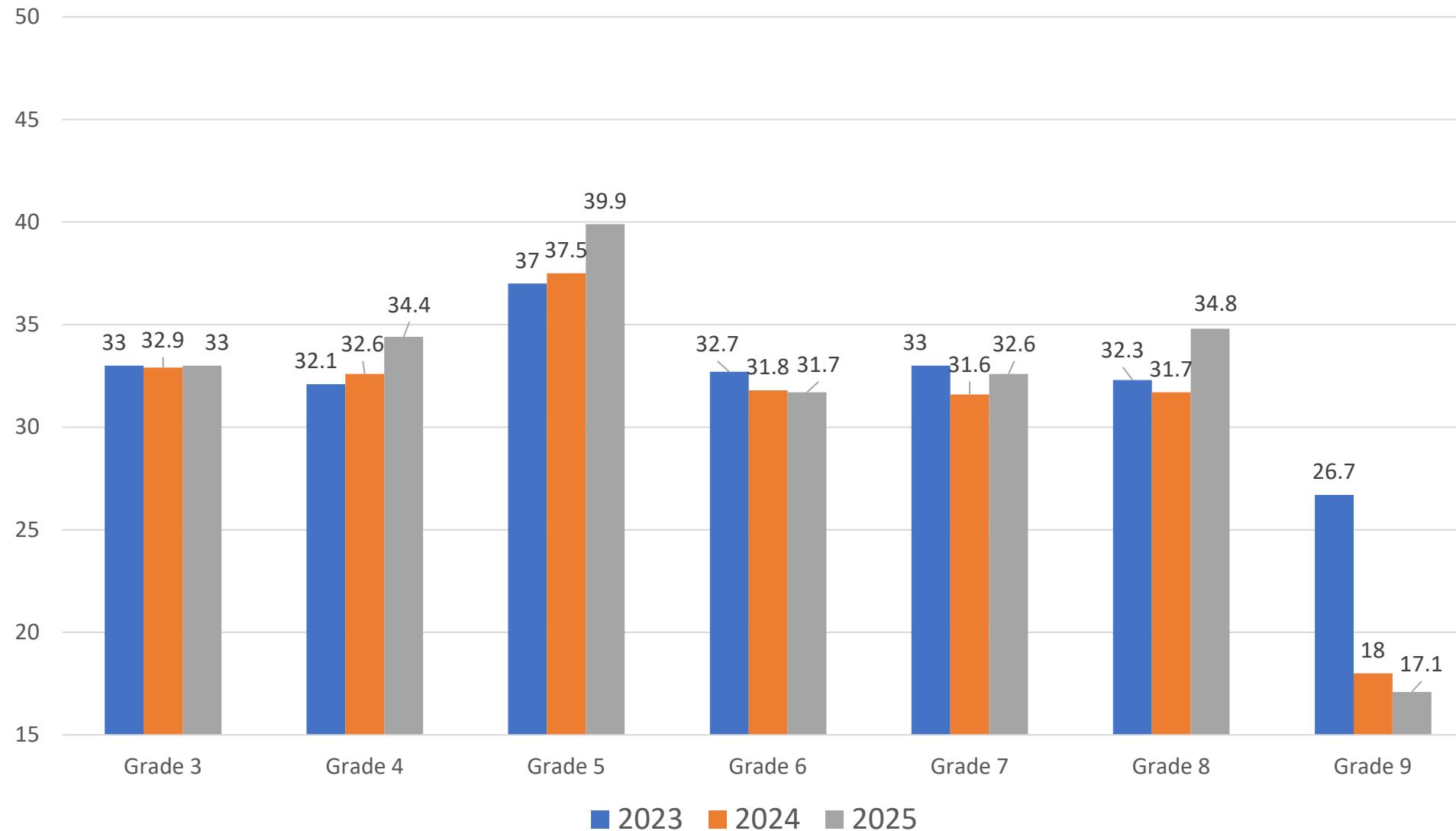


# 2025 AK STAR Mathematics Statewide Achievement Level Percentages



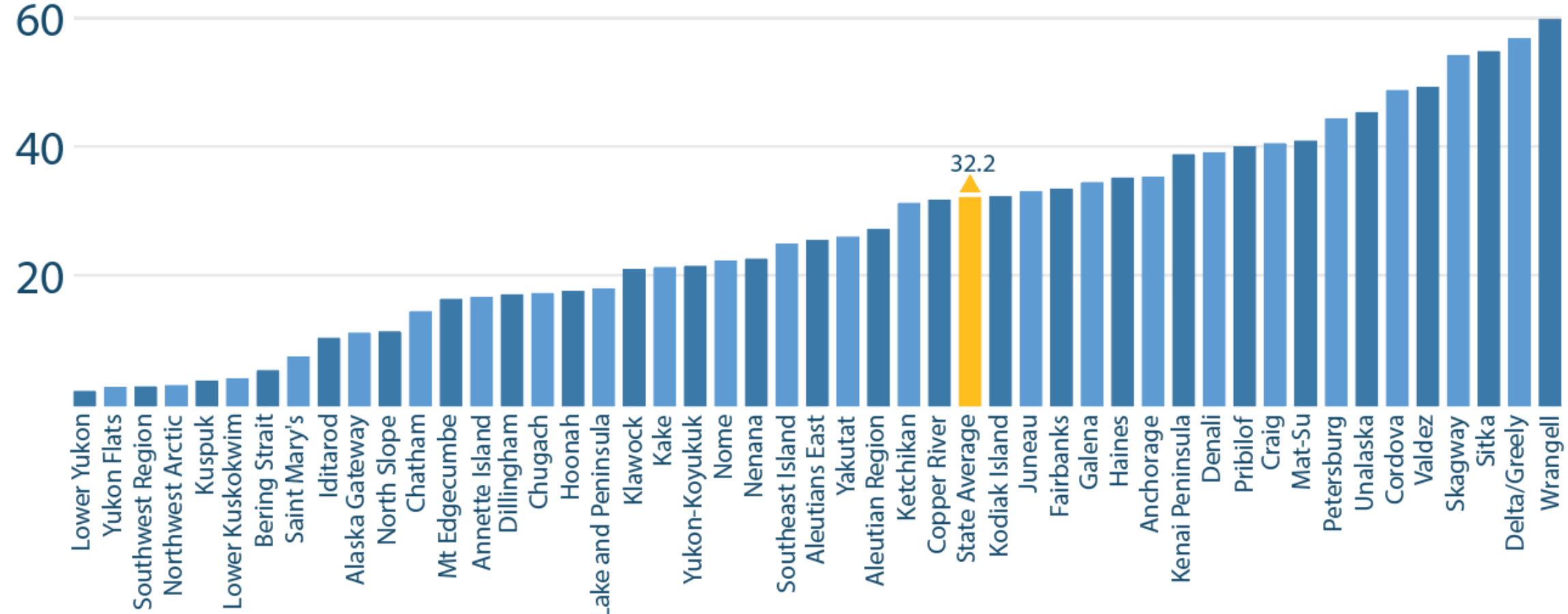
■ Needs Support ■ Approaching Proficient ■ Proficient ■ Advanced

# 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

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