



California's Overall Academic Achievement Lags Far Behind Other States

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)¹, often referred to as the nation's report card, academic outcomes for California's students are not good. In reading, math and science in both 4th and 8th grade, more than 7 out of 10 students have not demonstrated competency in the subject.

In Mathematics:

- Only 29% of California's 4th graders were at or above proficient in 2015 and only 3 states (DC, New Mexico and Alabama) performed as poorly as California's 4th graders.
- Only 27% of California's 8th graders were at or above proficient in 2015 and the state ranked 42nd out of 52 overall in math performance for 8th graders.

In Reading:

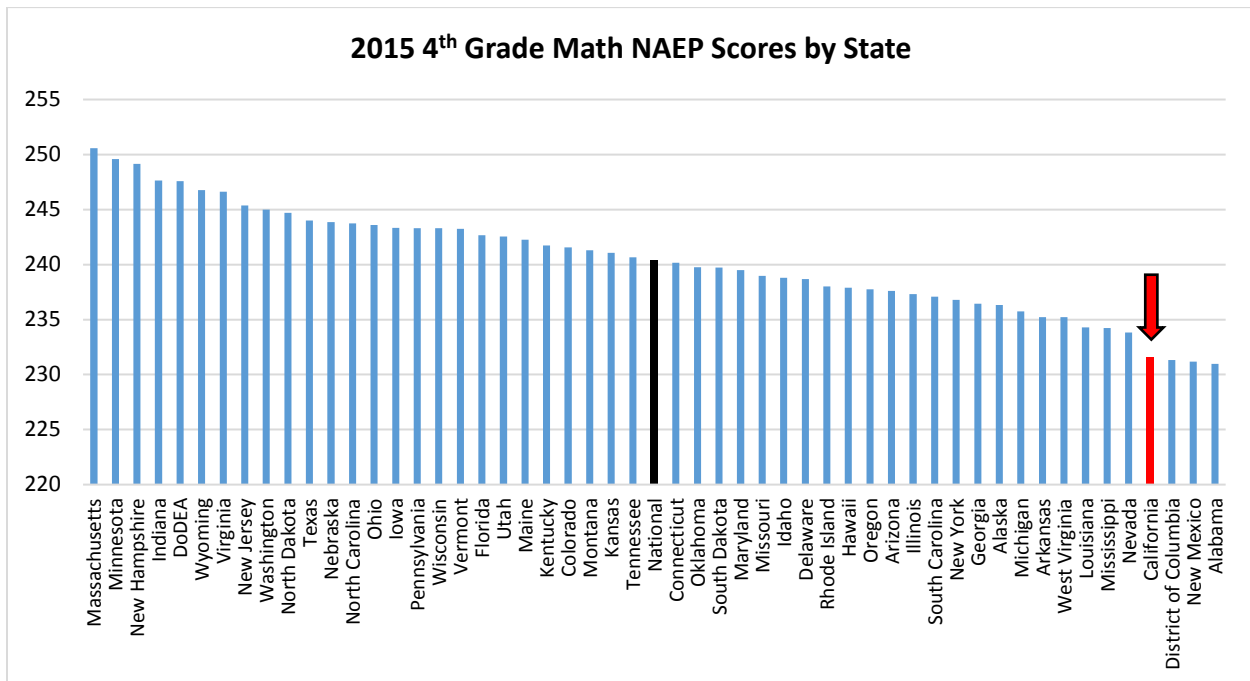
- Only 28% of California's 4th graders were at or above proficient in 2015 and only 1 state (New Mexico) performed worse than California's 4th graders.
- Only 28% of California's 8th graders were at or above proficient in 2015 and only 5 states (Hawaii, Louisiana, New Mexico, Mississippi, and DC) performed worse than California's 8th graders.

In Science

- Only 24% of California's 4th graders were at or above proficient in 2015 and no states performed worse than California.
- Only 24% of California's 8th graders were at or above proficient in 2015 and only two states (Alabama and Mississippi) performed as poorly as California.

¹ The [National Assessment of Educational Progress \(NAEP\)](#), first administered in 1969, is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. NAEP is a congressionally mandated project administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

California Fares Poorly in Student Achievement Overall



California's Low Performance is Even Worse When You Look at Subgroups of Students

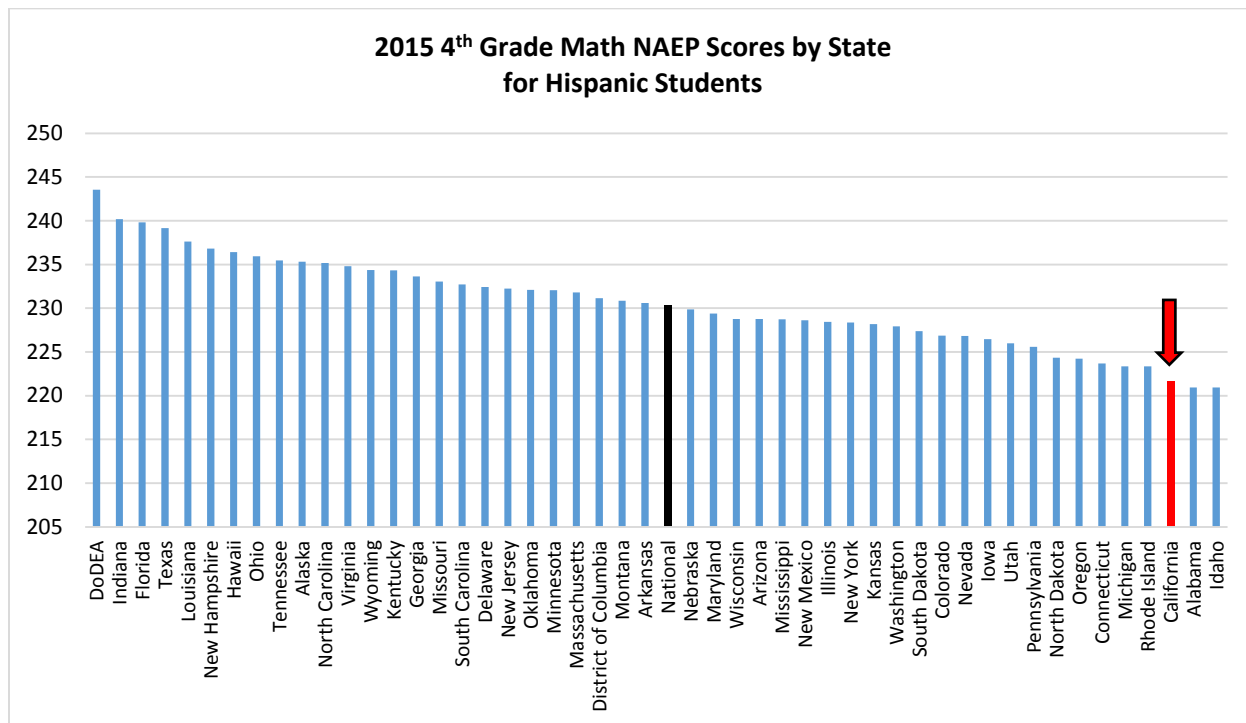
According to NAEP, in 2015 California was last (51 out of 51) for 4th grade math scores for students eligible for free and reduced price lunch (FRPM). Here are the rest of the comparisons:

- 45th out of 51 for 8th grade math for FRPM eligible;
- 49th out of 51 for 4th grade reading for FRPM eligible;
- 45th out of 51 for 8th grade reading for FRPM eligible;
- 46th out of 46 for 4th grade science for FRPM eligible; and
- 45th out of 46 for 8th grade science for FRPM eligible.

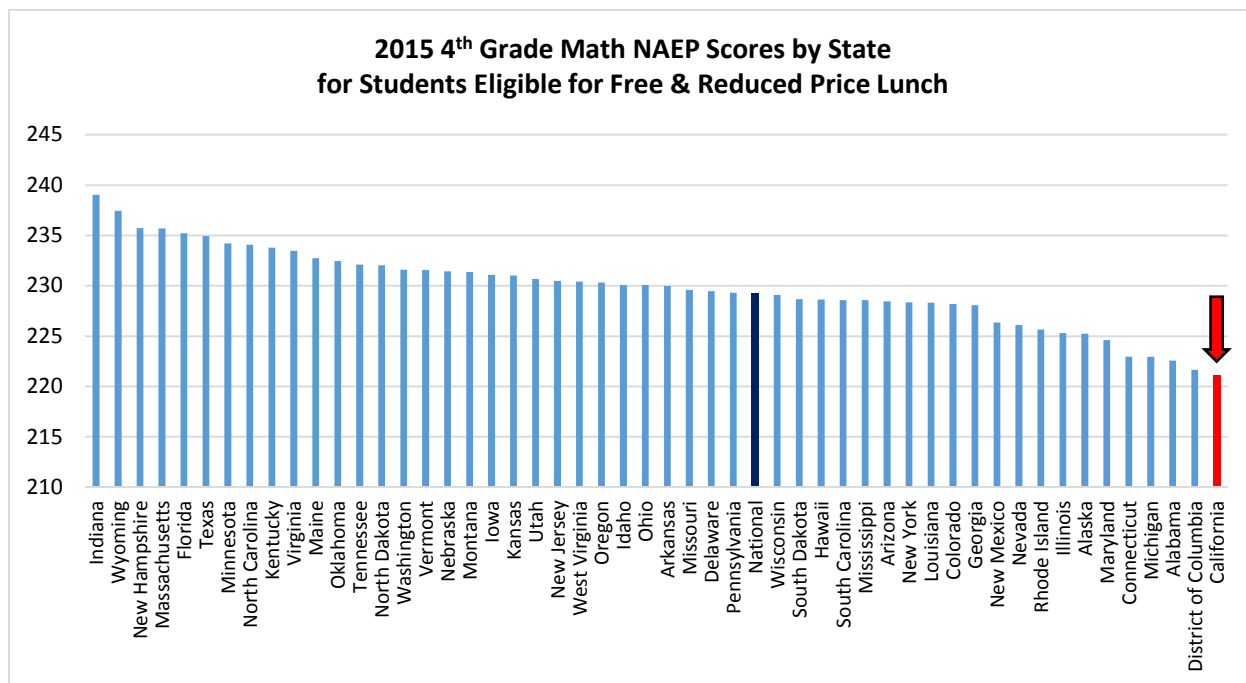
For Hispanic students, California is:

- 47th out of 49 in 4th grade math for Hispanic students;
- 45th out of 49 for 8th grade math for Hispanic students;
- 46th out of 49 for 4th grade reading for Hispanic students; and
- 47th out of 48 for 8th grade reading for Hispanic students.

Performance is Worse When the Comparison is Limited to Hispanic Students



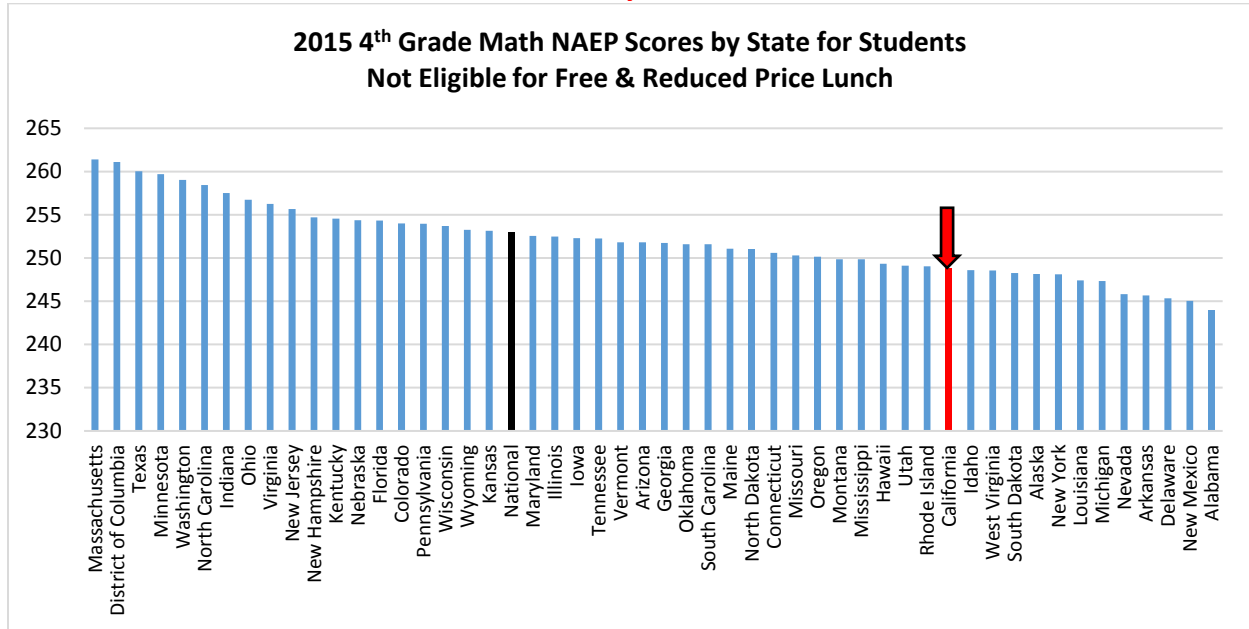
And Low-Income Students*



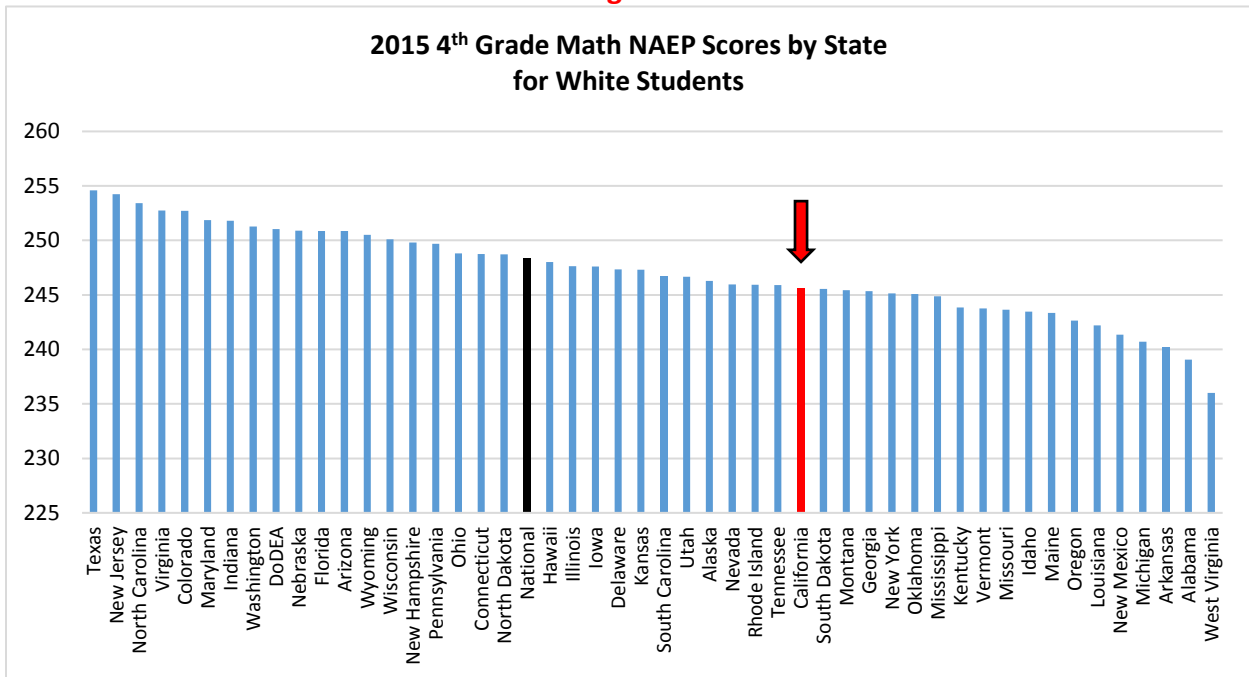
*Defined as the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals

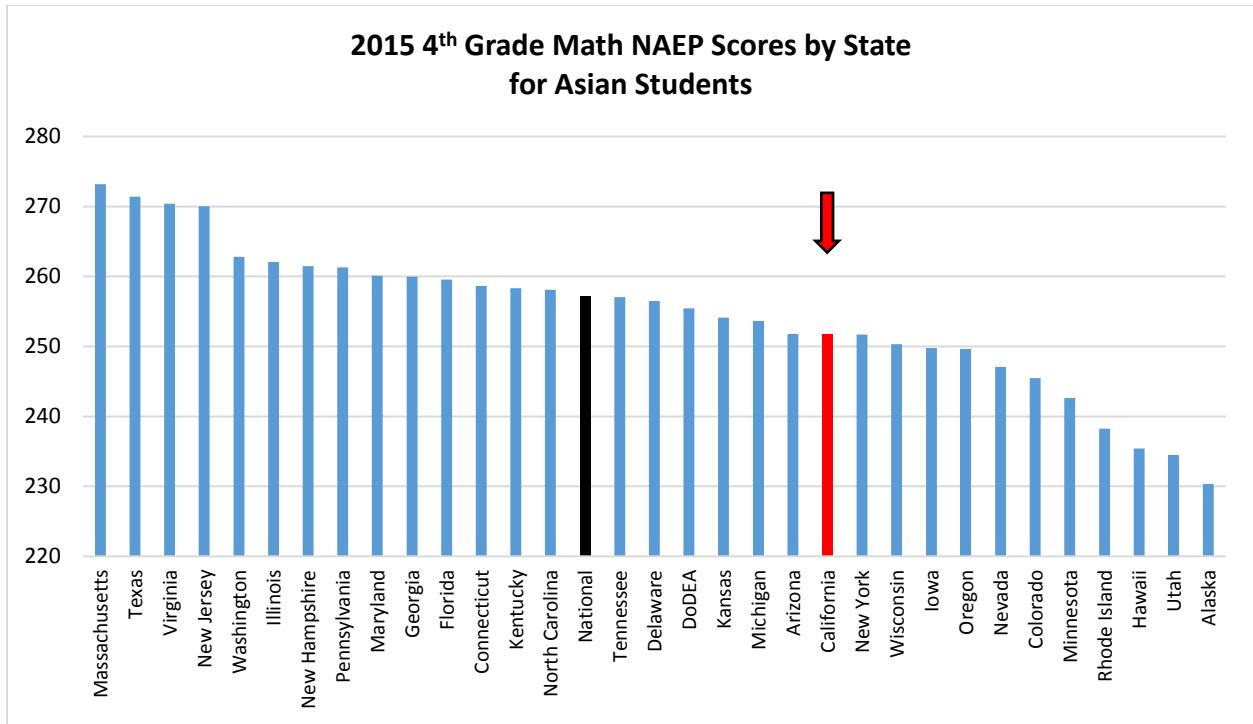
But it is not just disadvantaged students who California has failed. Even students who aren't low-income fare poorly compared to their peers in many other states. White and Asian student performance stacks up poorly, as well.

Even our Non-Low Income Students Fare Poorly



California's White and Asian Students Also Lag behind Other States





You can find state report cards on California's performance on the NAEP below.

<https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/stt2015/pdf/2016009CA4.pdf>

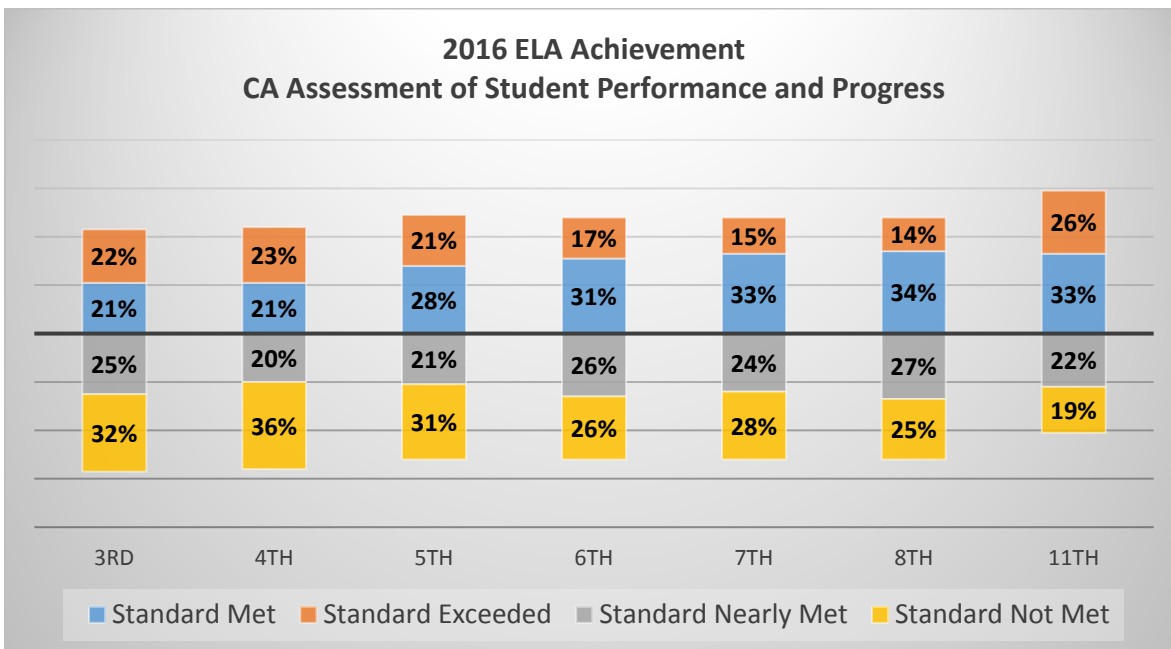
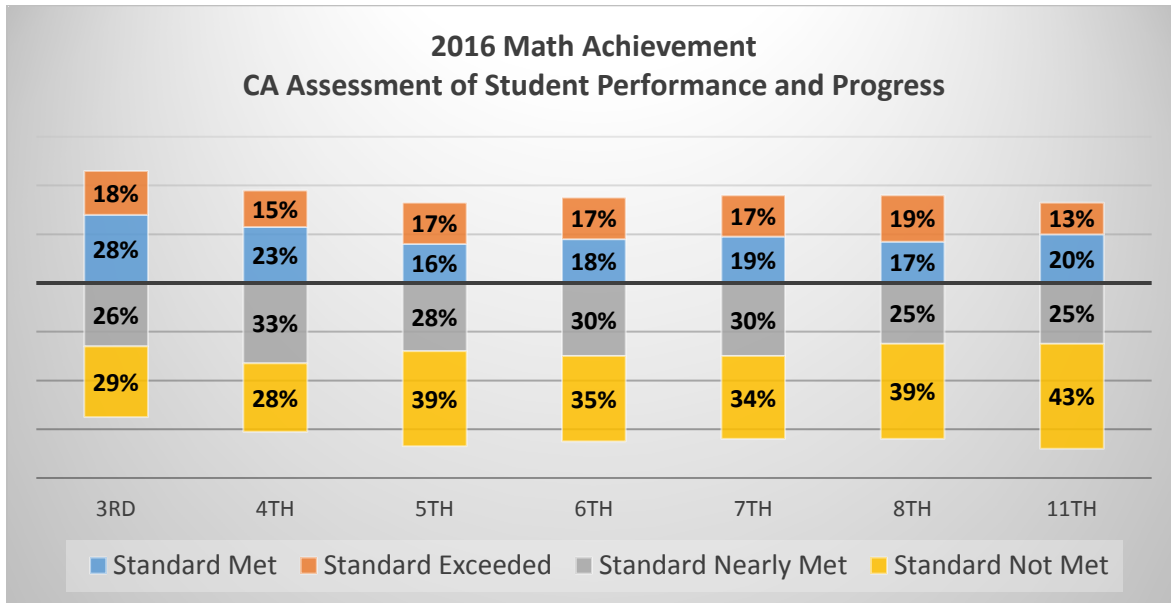
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California's Students' Performance on the State Assessment Raise Additional Concerns

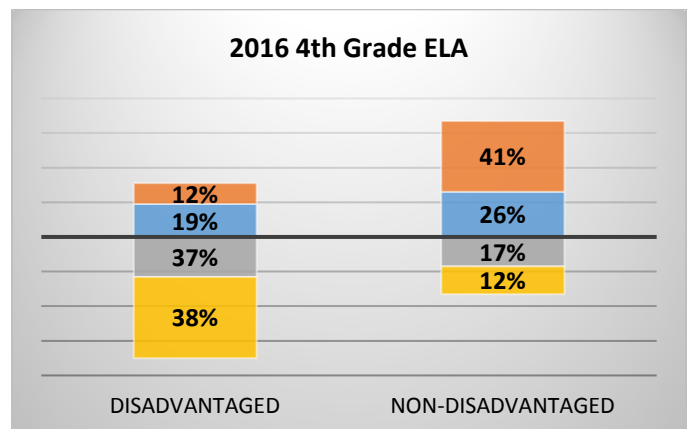
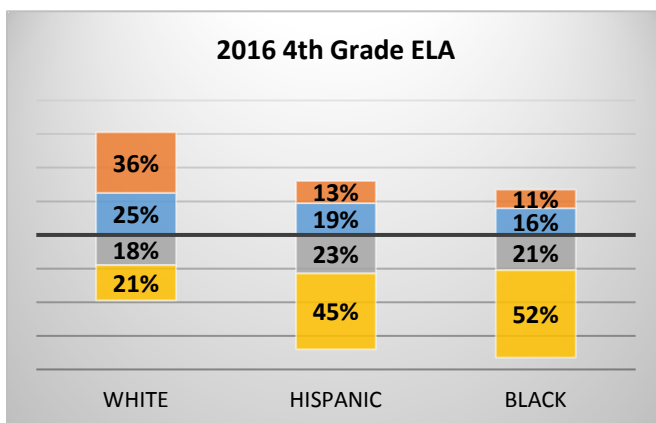
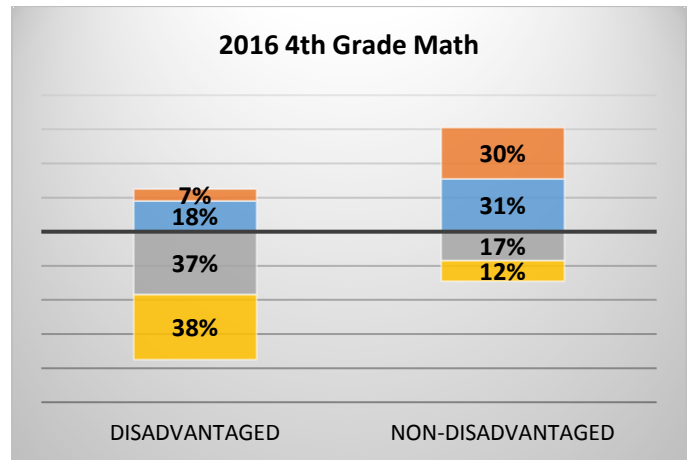
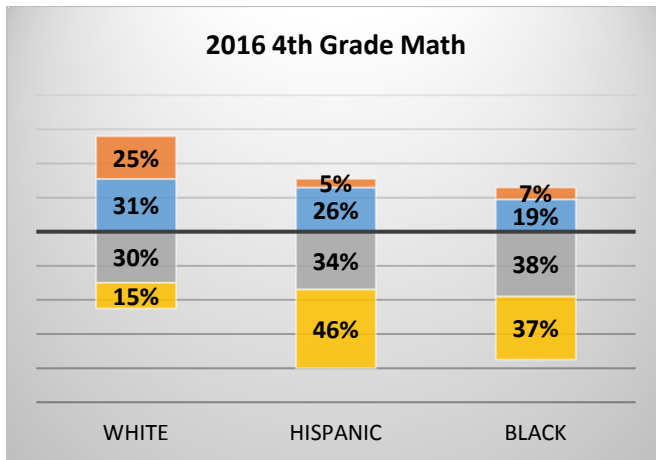
And it is not just the national assessment that demonstrates how California students are underperforming. On the first two years of the new Smarter Balanced² assessments of English Language Arts, in almost all grades, more than half of California's students have not met standards. And in math it is even worse, with around 6 to 7 out of 10 students not meeting standards.



² The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress ([CAASPP](#)) System was established in 2014. For the 2015-16 school year (the most recent year for which we have results), CAASPP included Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics in grades three through eight and eleven, and the California Standards Test in Science in grades five, eight, and ten.

Achievement Gaps Reflected in California State Assessments

While overall academic performance on state assessments is disappointing, the truly alarming results illustrate that the appalling gaps between disadvantaged students and students of color with their more advantaged peers remain and are unacceptable.



■ Standard Exceeded
 ■ Standard Met
 ■ Standard Nearly Met
 ■ Standard Not Met

Other Useful Resources on California's Alarming Achievement Gaps:

- [Equity Alert: Student Achievement in California: 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment \(SBAC\) Results](#) (The Education Trust-West, 2016)
- [California Smarter Balanced Assessment \(SBAC\), Analysis of 2015-16 Results](#) (The Education-Trust-West, 2016)
- [Educational Opportunity Monitoring Project: Racial and Ethnic Achievement Gaps](#) (Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University)
- [Is California's investment in needy students paying off? Few signs yet that achievement gap is closing](#) by Jessica Calefati (CALmatters, June 18, 2017)