

'The Set': How "College Ready" are Delaware Students? A Tale of Two Tests.

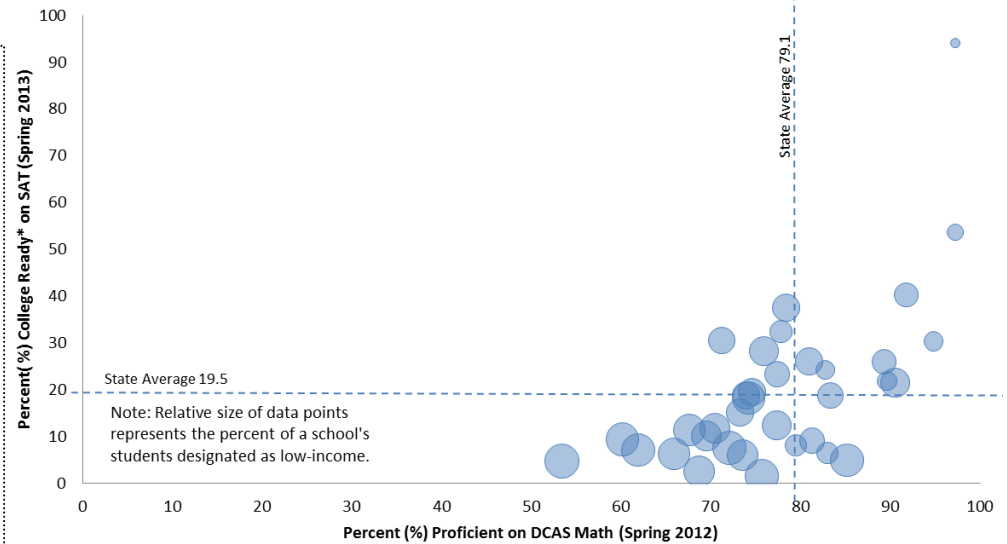
Monthly Data Briefs from the Delaware Dept. of Education's Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Unit (TLEU)

This year in Delaware, close to 8,000 11th grade students took the school-day SAT, now funded by DOE and administered statewide to every 11th grader. According to College Board, an SAT score of 1550 (out of 2400) is an indicator of college-readiness. This "set" analyzes 11th grade students' scores on the SAT in 2013 and compares them with the same students' scores on the 10th grade Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS) in spring 2012, considering the relationship between DCAS proficiency and college readiness.

School's Share of Students Meeting DCAS Proficiency and Achieving College-Ready Benchmark on the SAT

- In Figure 1, each bubble represents a high school. Its location on the chart indicates the share of the school's 11th grade students who were proficient on the DCAS Math in 10th grade in relation to the percent of its students meeting the 1550 benchmark on the SAT. The size of each school's bubble corresponds to the percent of its students designated as low-income.
- From the chart we can see that while most Delaware high schools have large proportions of their students scoring proficient on DCAS Math in 10th grade, only a small number of schools have students meeting the SAT College-Ready Benchmark. Statewide, only 19.5% of 11th graders are "college ready" according to the SAT's benchmark score of 1550. 79% of 11th graders scored "proficient" (Performance Level 3 or 4) on their math DCAS in 10th grade.
- We see that schools with greater shares of low-income students are less likely to have students meeting the college-ready benchmark and DCAS proficiency. However, this is not the case across-the-board.
- Although not presented in Figure 1, 69% of low-income students were proficient on the 10th grade DCAS in math, but only 7.6% of low-income students met the college-ready benchmark on the SAT.

Figure 1: School's Share of Students Meeting College-Ready Benchmark by School's Share Meeting DCAS Proficiency



*College Ready Benchmark on the SAT is a score of 1550 or better out of 2400 total.

Figure 2: Percent of Students scoring at or above College-Ready Benchmark on the SAT by DCAS Math Performance Level

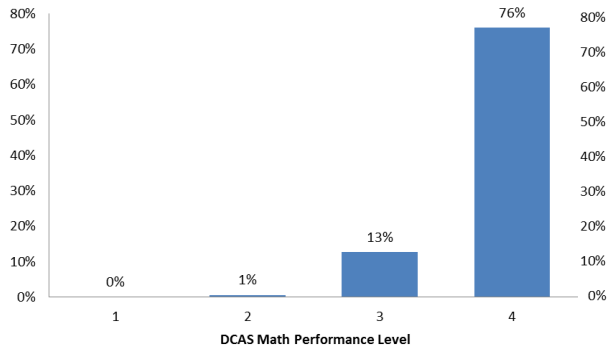
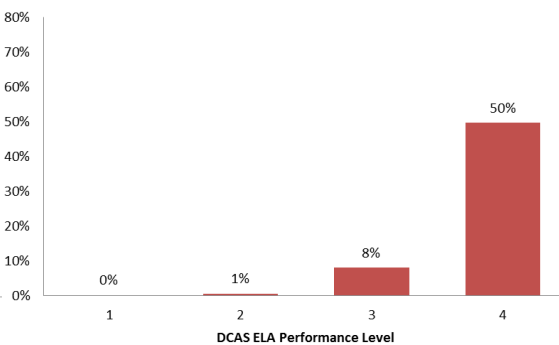


Figure 3: Percent of Students scoring at or above College-Ready Benchmark on the SAT by DCAS English Language Arts Performance Level



Shares of Students in each DCAS Performance Level Meeting College-Ready Benchmarks on Math and Reading SAT

- Figures 2 and 3 present the share of students in each 10th grade DCAS Performance Level (PL) that meets the SAT benchmark for college-readiness in each section (SAT score of 500 out of 800 in math or reading).
- Students not meeting DCAS proficiency in either subject area overwhelmingly did not meet the SAT benchmark for the corresponding SAT section (in both math and reading).
- However, of the students scoring at PL3 ("Proficient"), only 13% and 8% (in 10th grade DCAS math and ELA, respectively) achieved the college-ready benchmark of 500 on the corresponding SAT test sections. Even among those who scored "Advanced" on the DCAS (PL4), not all achieved the college-ready benchmark on the SAT (only 76% of students in math, and only 50% in reading).