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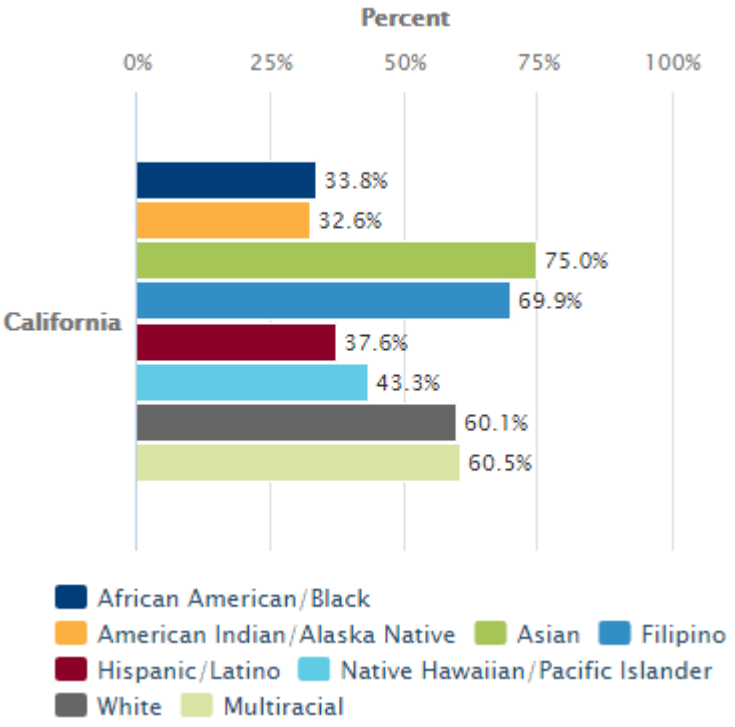
Reading Proficiency in California

Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in English Language Arts (CAASPP): 2021

Locations	Percent
California	49.0%
Alameda County	63.8%
Contra Costa County	52.2%
Fresno County	38.1%
Kern County	39.9%
Los Angeles County	48.0%
Orange County	61.0%
Riverside County	39.0%
Sacramento County	51.0%
San Bernardino County	42.4%
San Diego County	50.2%
Santa Clara County	68.7%

Data Source: California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).

Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in English Language Arts (CAASPP), by Race/Ethnicity: 2021



Definition: Percentage of public school students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 scoring in the *standard met* or *standard exceeded* achievement level on the CAASPP Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment for English language arts/literacy (ELA), by race/ethnicity (e.g., in 2021, 37.6% of Hispanic/Latino students in California met or exceeded their grade-level standard in ELA).
Data Source: California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).

What It Is

On kidsdata.org, reading proficiency is measured by the percentage of public school students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 who meet or exceed their grade-level standard on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment for English language arts/literacy (ELA). These data are available by grade level for counties and school districts, and, for counties only, by English language fluency, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

Why This Topic Is Important

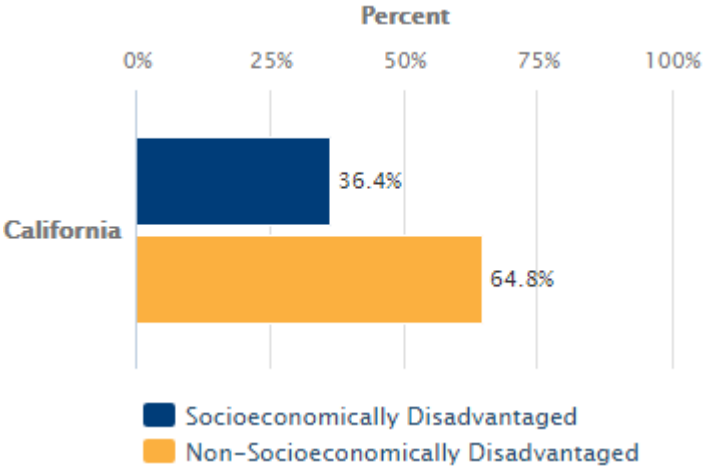
Students proficient in reading are more likely to graduate from high school, go to college, and have better employment and income prospects in adulthood than students with limited reading abilities, who often struggle to keep up across multiple subjects, including math and science. Children who are behind in the early grades often stay behind, making high-quality early childhood education experiences critical, particularly for low-income children, who tend to have fewer early learning opportunities and enter kindergarten at a disadvantage compared with higher-income students. State and national data show persistent disparities in reading skills by student socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, disability status, and English proficiency. In California, student reading scores consistently rank below the national average, even though U.S. and California scores generally have improved since the 1990s.

How Children Are Faring

In 2021, 40% of California 3rd graders, 50% of 7th graders, and 59% of 11th graders who took the CAASPP Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment for English language arts/literacy (ELA) met or exceeded their grade-level standard. Overall, fewer than half (49%) of students across all grades tested scored at or above their grade-level ELA standard, with percentages ranging from 29% to 69% across counties and from less than 15% to more than 95% across school districts with data.

Statewide results show wide variation in reading proficiency by English language fluency, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. In 2021, 36% of socioeconomically disadvantaged students in California scored at or above their grade-level standard for ELA, compared with 65% of their non-disadvantaged peers. Among racial and ethnic groups with data, ELA proficiency rates were 60% or higher for Asian, Filipino, white, and multiracial students, and lower than 45% for African American/black,

Students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Standard in English Language Arts (CAASPP), by Socioeconomic Status: 2021



Definition: Percentage of public school students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11 scoring in the *standard met* or *standard exceeded* achievement level on the CAASPP Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment for English language arts/literacy (ELA), by socioeconomic status (e.g., in 2021, 36.4% of socioeconomically disadvantaged students in California met or exceeded their grade-level standard in ELA).
Data Source: California Dept. of Education, Test Results for California's Assessments (Feb. 2022).

American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander groups.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
https://m.kidsdata.org/topic/25/reading-proficiency/summary