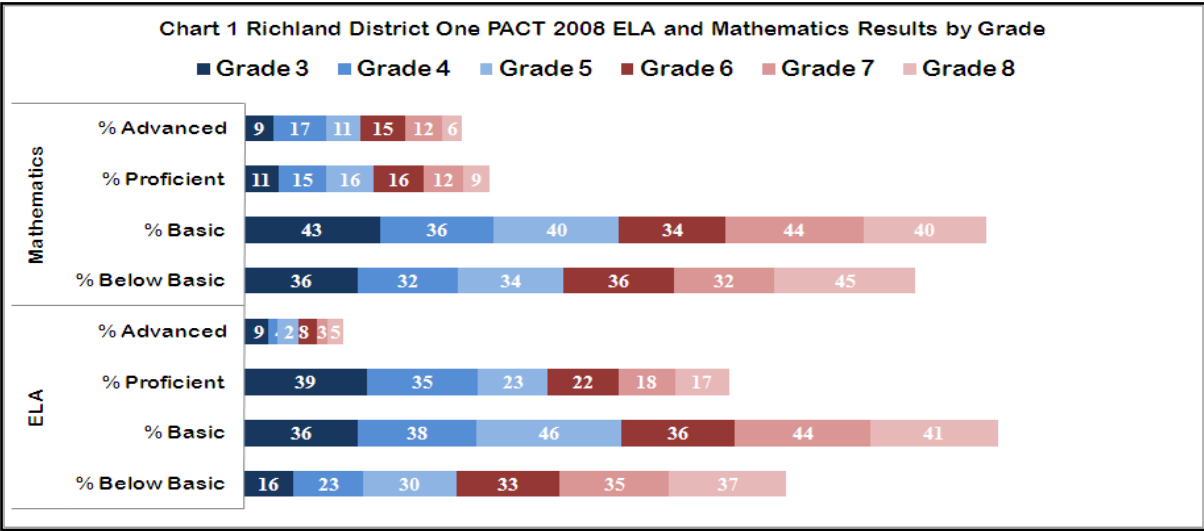


2008 Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT): Quick Facts

Richland District One PACT 2008 Results by Grade

The percentages of students in grades 3 through 8 with 2008 PACT score levels of Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics are presented in Chart 1. The highest percentage of students scoring Proficient and Advanced occurred for 3rd grade students taking the ELA test with 48% (39%+9%). Fourth grade students had the highest percentage scoring Proficient and Advanced in Mathematics with 32% (15%+17%). For the ELA test, the grade showing the largest percentage of students performing Below Basic was 8th grade (37%). In Mathematics, 8th grade students had the highest percentages of students with Below Basic performance (45%) compared with the other grades.

Chart 2 displays the percentages of students by grade and performance level on the Science and Social Studies sections of PACT 2008. More than half of the students in 5th and 6th grade performed at Below Basic level in Science, while nearly half of the students in 5th and 7th performed at Below Basic level in Social Studies (46% and 54%, respectively). The highest percentage of students scoring Proficient and Advanced in Science occurred for 7th grade students with 29% (18%+11%). In Social Studies, 3rd grade students had the fewest students (27%) performing at Below Basic level while 6th grade students had the most students (21%+17%) performing at the Proficient or Advanced level.

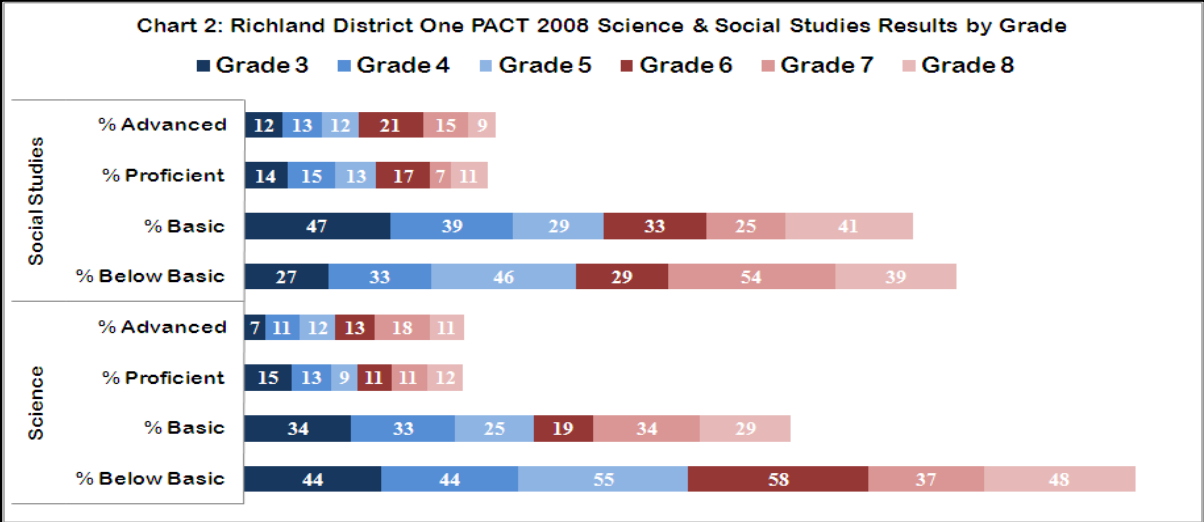


Keeping in the Know... Testing Overview

In Spring 2008, Richland District One participated in the administration of South Carolina's Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT). The tests were given statewide to all students in grades 3 through 8. PACT has historically assessed student achievement on a number of objectives in the subjects of English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics but additionally assessed students in Science and Social Studies since Spring 2003.

PACT assessments are **criterion-referenced tests**, meaning that student scores are compared to external criteria known as standards. PACT standards were set based on the judgments of South Carolina teachers and curriculum experts. In each subject tested, students are placed into one of four score categories known as performance levels including Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. District and state test results are reported in terms of the percentage of students who scored at each performance level. The general definitions of the performance levels are described below.

- Below Basic** – Minimum expectations for student performance have not been met. The student is not prepared for work at the next grade.
- Basic** – Minimum expectations for student performance have been met. The student is minimally prepared for work at the next grade.
- Proficient** – Expectations for student performance have been met. The student is well prepared for work at the next grade.
- Advanced** – Expectations for student performance have been exceeded. The student is very well prepared for work at the next grade.



2007-2008 Percent Basic and Above Differences in Four Subject Areas for Richland District One and State by Grade

Because PACT is only used in South Carolina, national comparisons are not available. Table 1 provides a comparison of the differences in percentages of students performing at levels of Basic and above for PACT 2007 and 2008 ELA, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies tests between Richland District One and the state of South Carolina.

In terms of the 24 categories (four areas X six grades tested) that PACT assessed, Richland One made improvements over 2007 in 12 categories, maintained the same levels as in 2007 in 2 categories, and performed less well for 10 categories when compared to 2007. The state of South Carolina exceeded its 2007 performance in 14 categories, maintained the same level as in 2007 for 4 categories, and performed less well for 6 categories when compared to 2007.

Richland District One's gains matched or exceeded the state's gains in 9 of 24 categories (38%). Detailed reports of individual school test scores are available at the South Carolina Department of Education's website at <http://ed.sc.gov/topics/assessment/scores/pact/2008/>.

2007-2008 Percent Basic and Above Results in Four Subject Areas by Grade

The percentages of students in grades 3 through 8 who performed at the Basic level or above for PACT 2006 through 2008 as well as the differences between the most recent two years are presented for English Language Arts (ELA) in Chart 1, Mathematics in Chart 2, Science in Chart 3 and Social Studies in Chart 4. In ELA, 5th and 8th grade showed a decrease (-3% and -1%, respectively) compared to 2006, while 6th grade showed the largest increase (+9%). In 2008, there was little change across grades in mathematics with only 7th and 8th grade changing more than 1% either way with an increase of 5% and 2%, respectively. In both Science and Social Studies, gains were seen in all grades, compared to 2006, including double-digit increases in 3rd and 7th grade Science (+10% and +17%, respectively) and 6th grade Social Studies (14%).

While all grades made improvements in the Science and Social Studies areas, compared to 2006, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th grade students also made improvements in ELA while 5th, 7th, and 8th grade students also made improvements in Math. Students in 7th grade made improvements in all 4 areas. For 2008, grade 3 had the most students performing Basic and above in ELA (85%) and Social Studies (73%), 4th and 7th grade students tied in having the most students in Math (68%) and grade 7 students in Science (63%). The poorest performance in ELA and Math occurred for grade 8 (63% and 55%, respectively), grade 6 in Science (43%) and grade 7 in Social Studies (47%).

Table 1: Differences in PACT 2007-08 Percentages Scoring Basic and Above for RCD1 and State in Four Subject Areas

Grade	ELA		Mathematics	
	District	State	District	State
3	3	1	-1	-1
4	-1	-2	-1	1
5	0	0	1	0
6	4	4	-1	-2
7	6	3	5	1
8	-1	0	2	2
Grade	Science		Social Studies	
	District	State	District	State
3	6	7	-5	-1
4	3	5	4	3
5	-1	1	0	3
6	-1	-3	3	1
7	7	5	-4	-1
8	-2	0	1	3

*Note 1: Including students who took the tests regardless of their length of enrollment

