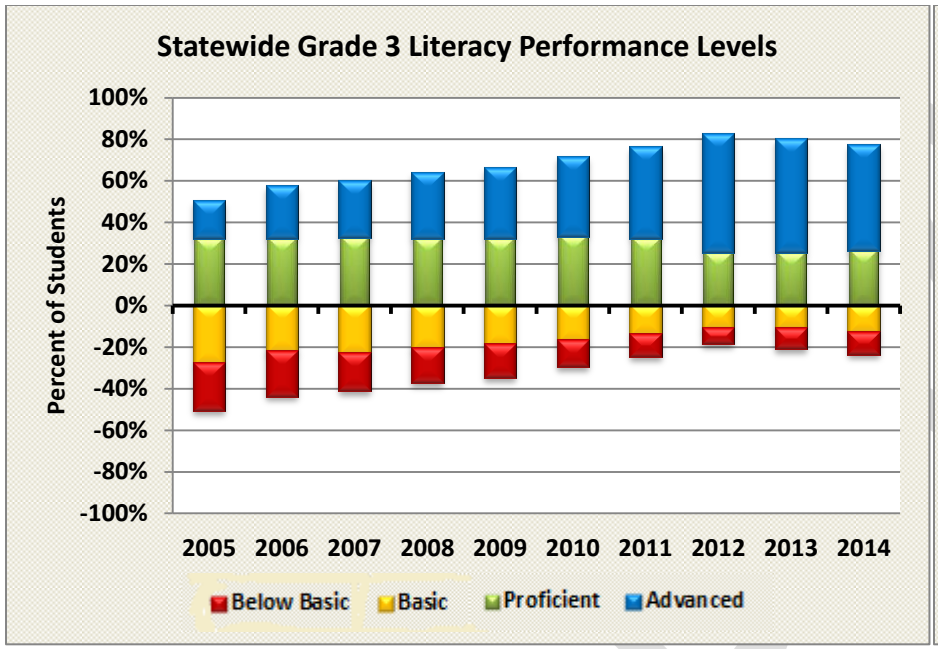
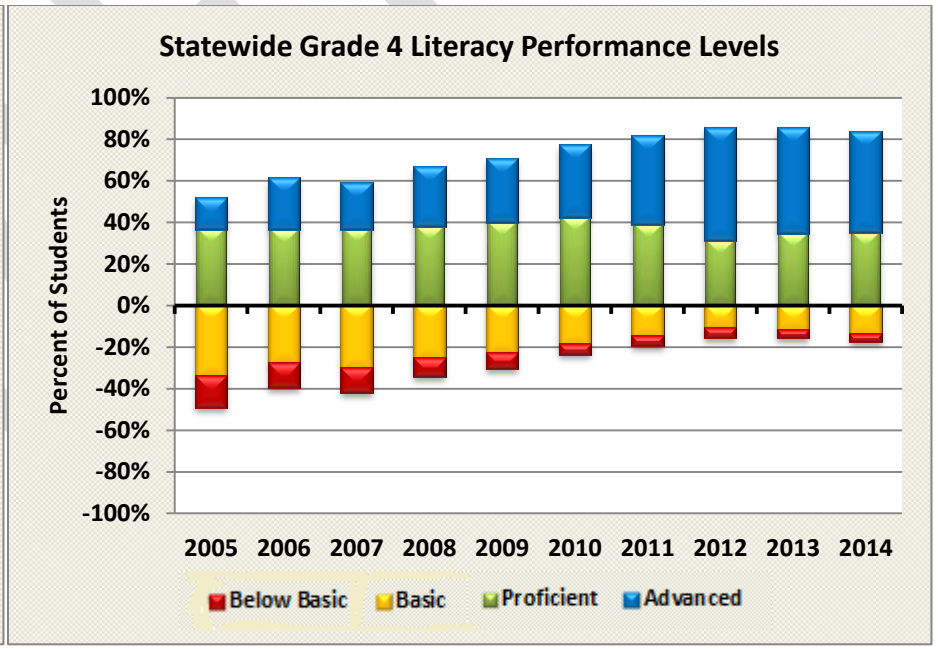
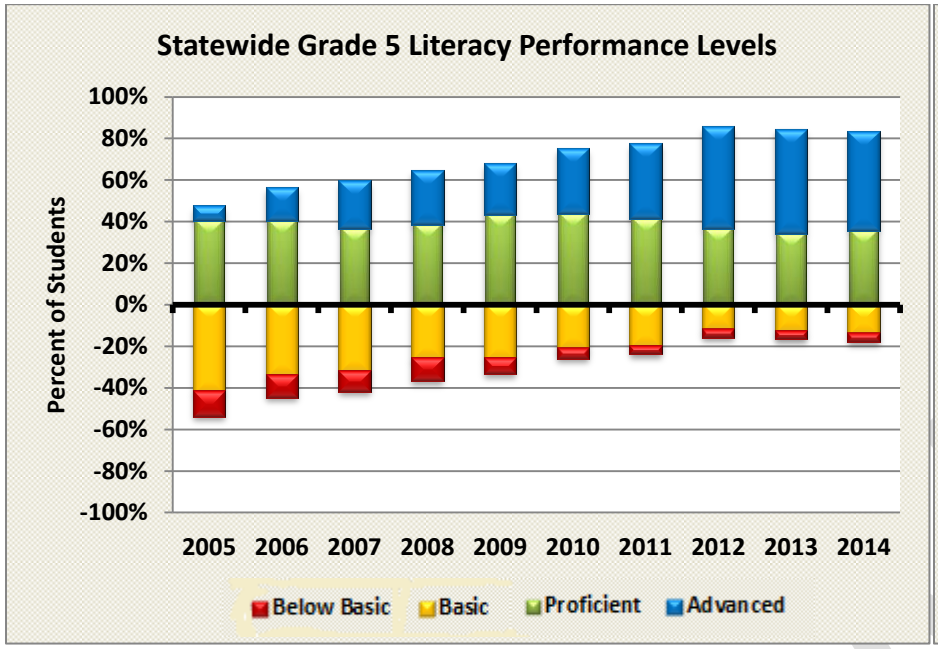
Multi-year Patterns in Performance Trends for Arkansas Assessments

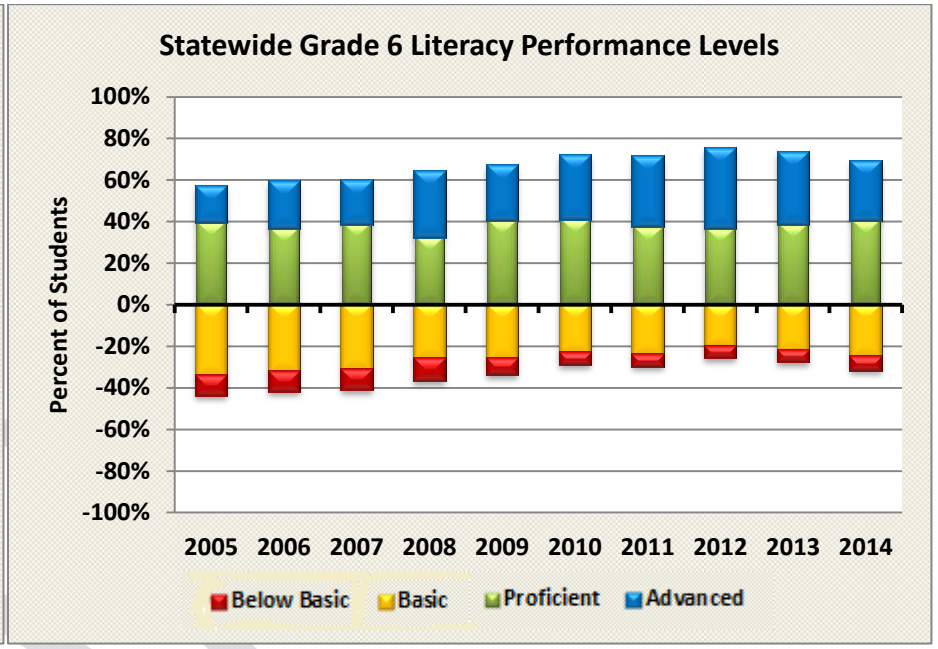
The figures below illustrate literacy performance trends for Grades 3 through 8 on the Arkansas Benchmark Exam (ABE). The ABE was rescaled and standard-setting for performance levels was completed in 2005. Relatively steady increases in students achieving Proficient or Advanced scores (green and blue) are evident from 2005 through 2010. For 2011 through 2014, the steady gains seen in earlier years for literacy performance were followed by relatively smaller year-to-year changes (increases and decreases) in the percentage of students scoring Proficient or Advanced. In 2011, the percentage of students scoring above the Proficient cut increased for Grades 3 and 4 and remained level or decreased slightly for Grades 5 through 8. The percentage of students scoring above the Proficient cut score peaked in 2012 then declined again in 2013 and 2014 for most grades.

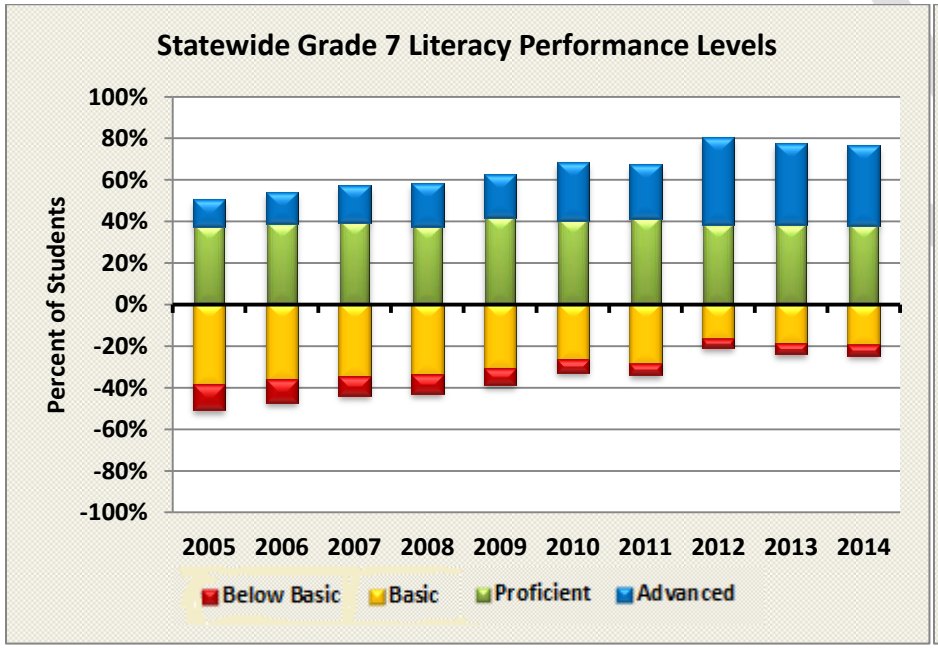
Among Proficient students, the percentage scoring Advanced increased noticeably in all grades from 2005 through 2012. Along with these increases, many fewer students scored Basic or Below Basic (yellow and red). As expected, the rate of improvement from year to year slowed in recent years as more than two thirds of all students achieved grade level proficiency.

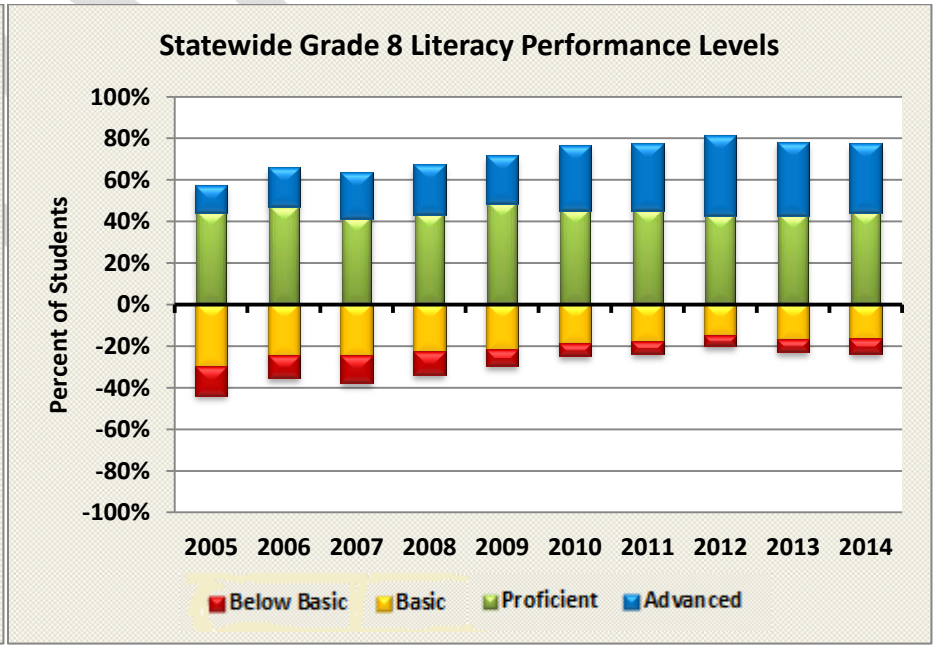





Statewide Grade 5 Literacy Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced

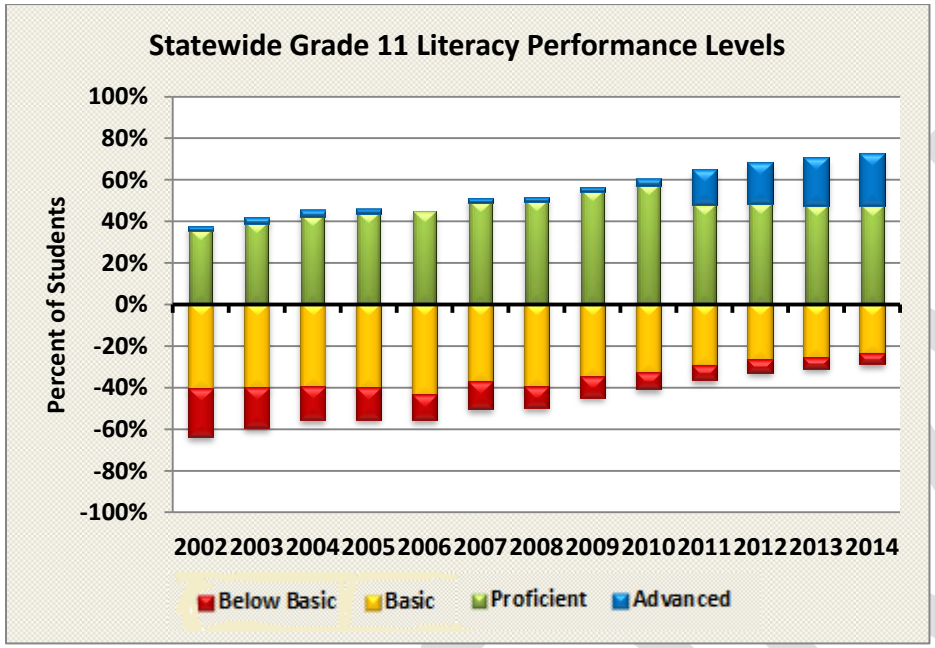

Statewide Grade 6 Literacy Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced


Statewide Grade 7 Literacy Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced


Statewide Grade 8 Literacy Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced

Grade 11 literacy scores reflect a lengthy, gradual improvement trend. Proficiency was just under 40% in 2002, compared to 72% in 2014. The decline in Basic and Below Basic scoring students is a notable positive trend. The increases in the percentage of students scoring Advanced from 2011 to 2013 are notable.

Note: The increase in the percentage of students Advanced from 2010 to 2011 is due to a change in the cut score for Advanced. The percentage of students Advanced prior to 2011 cannot be compared to the percentages in 2011 through 2013.



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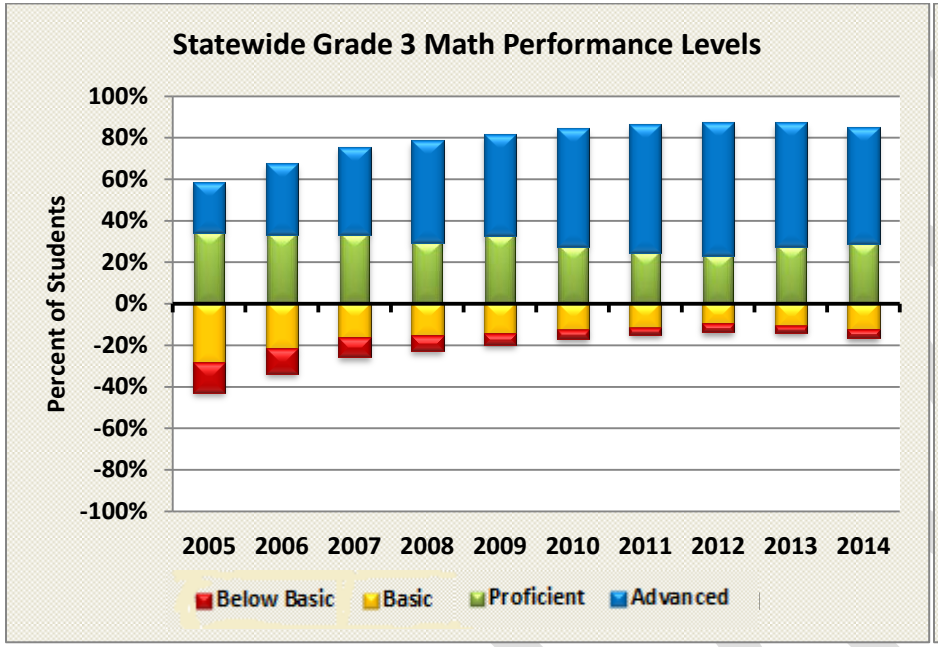
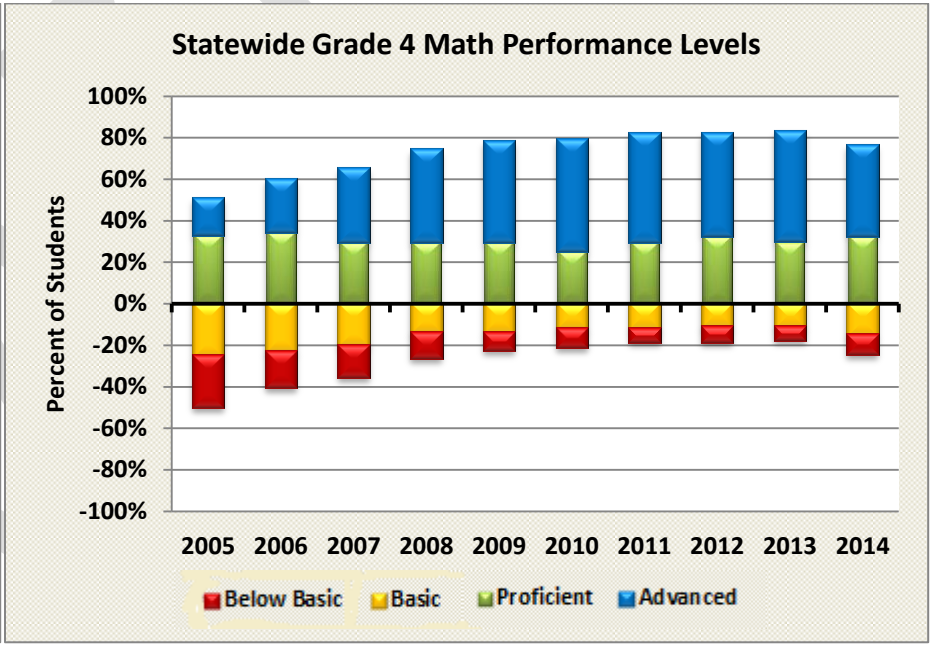
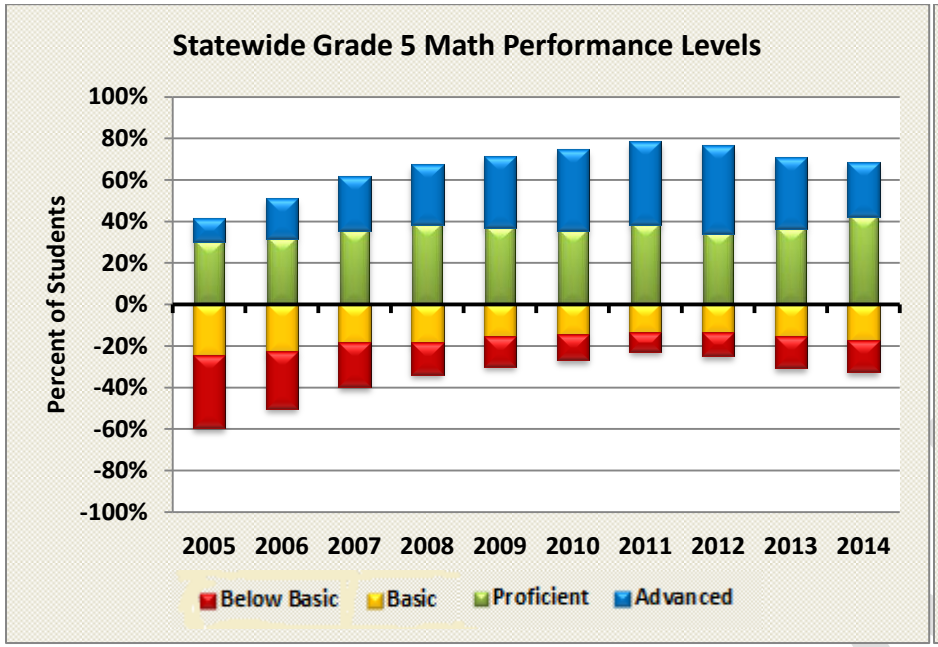
The figures below illustrate math performance trends for Grades 3 through 8 on the Arkansas Benchmark Exam (ABE). Relatively steady large increases in students achieving Proficient or Advanced scores (green and blue) are evident from 2005 through 2009 across all grades. For 2010 through 2014, the steady gains seen in earlier years for math performance were followed by relatively smaller year-to-year changes (increases and decreases) in the percentage of students scoring Proficient or Advanced and these changes varied more among the grade levels.

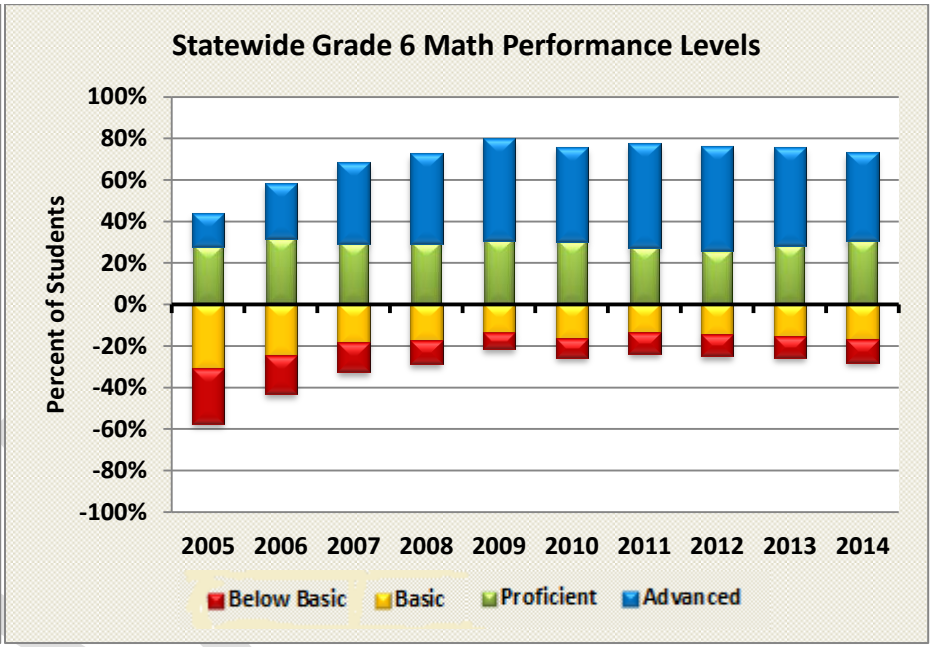
Among Proficient students, the percentage scoring Advanced increased noticeably in all grades from 2005 through 2011/2012 depending on grade level. The decrease in the percentage of students scoring Advanced from 2013 to 2014 is similar across all the grades.

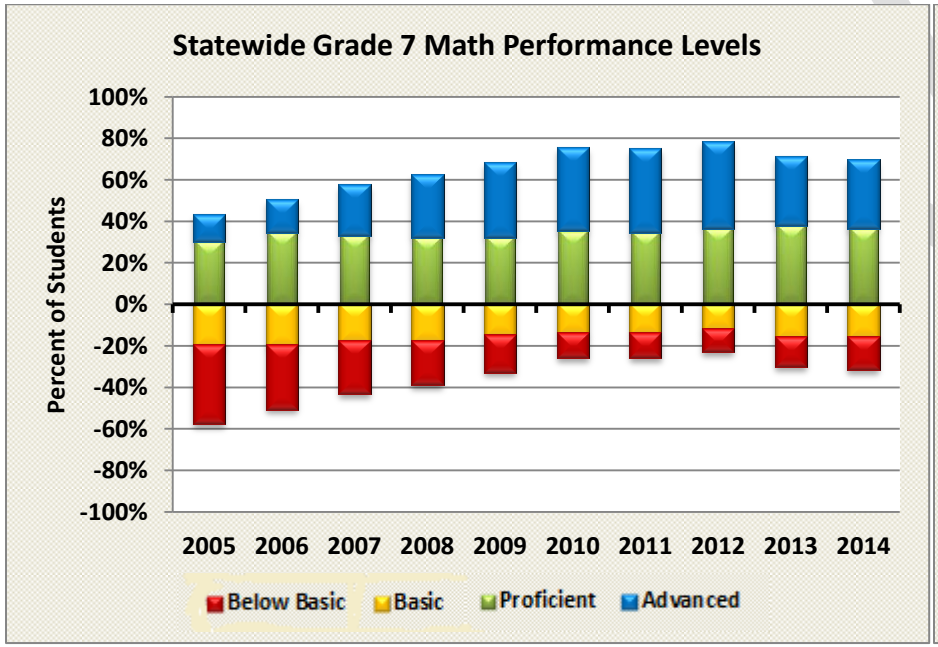
As expected, the rate of improvement from year to year slowed in recent years as more than two thirds of all students achieved grade level proficiency.

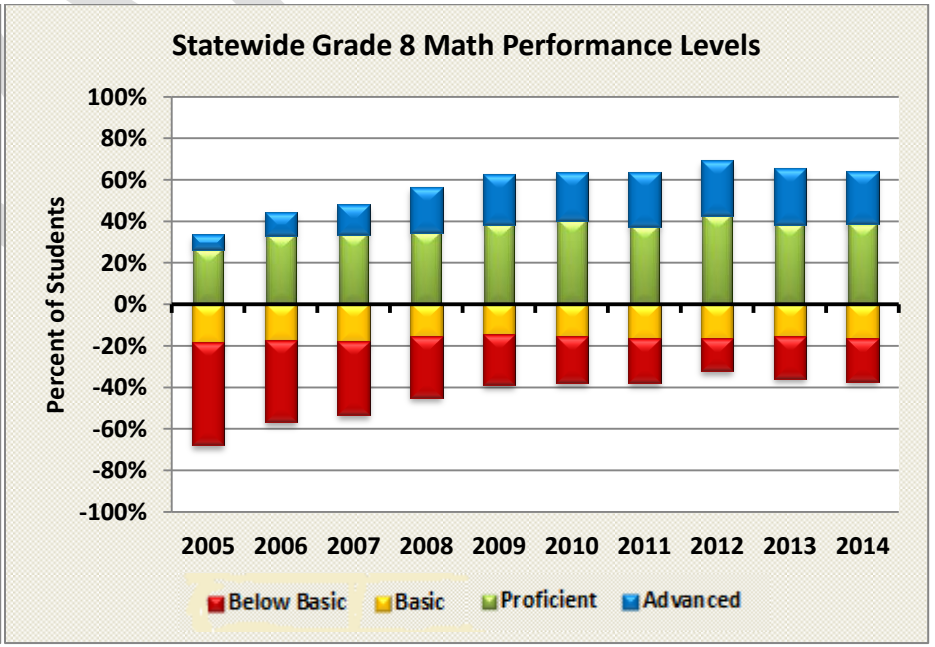


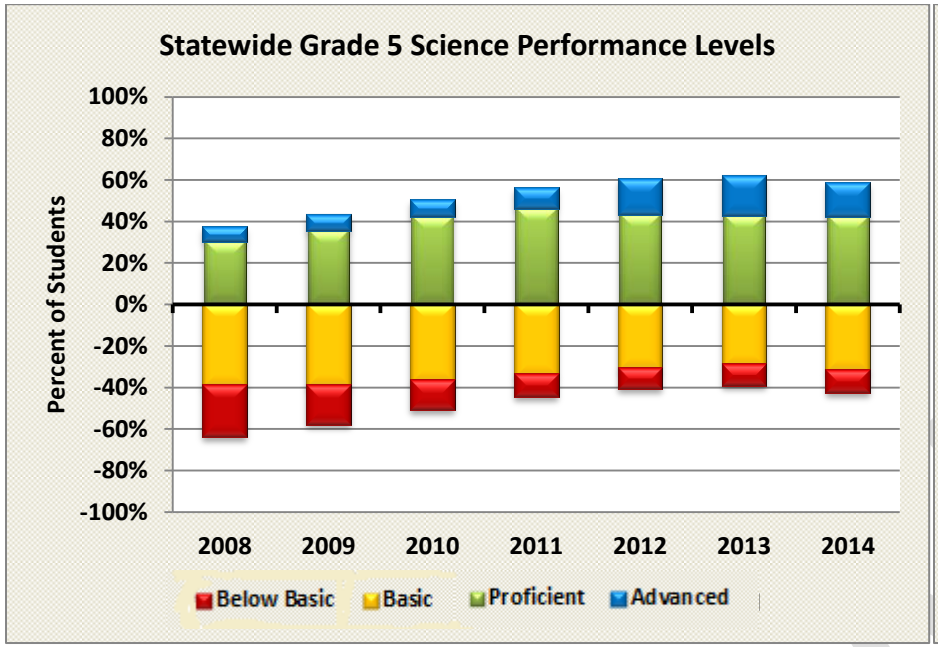


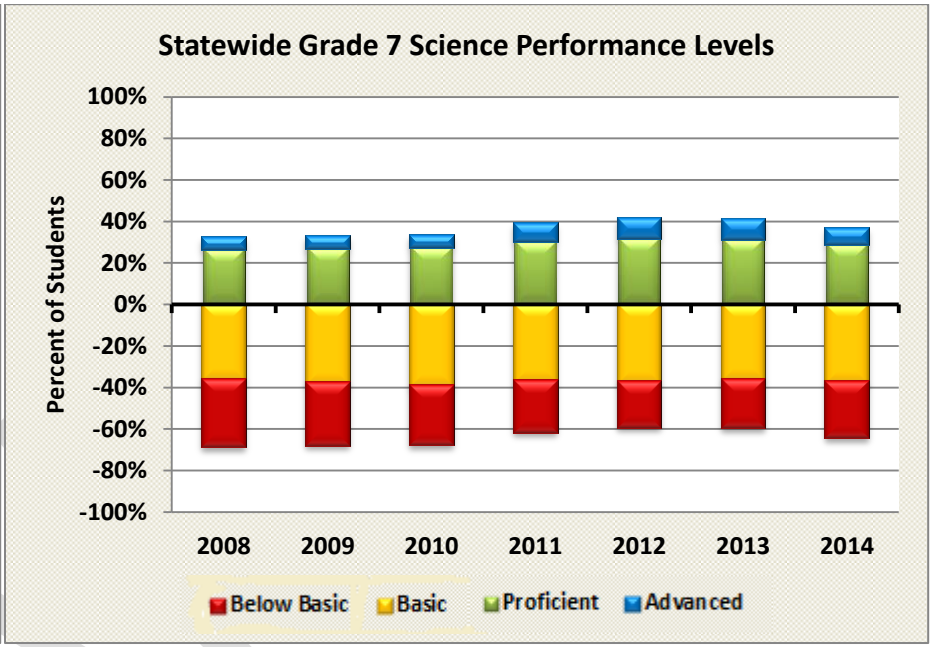

Statewide Grade 5 Math Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced


Statewide Grade 6 Math Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced


Statewide Grade 7 Math Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced


Statewide Grade 8 Math Performance Levels
Percent of Students
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
-20%
-40%
-60%
-80%
-100%
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014
Below Basic
Basic
Proficient
Advanced





Science is tested on the Benchmark Exam in grades 5 and 7. Performance has improved noticeably in both grades from 2008 through 2013. The percentage of students scoring at the Proficient or Advanced level declined in 2014.

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