

DC Students' Science and Biology Scores Rise on 2009 DC CAS



Adrian Fenty, Mayor • Kerri Briggs, State Superintendent

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"Our nation's economic future depends upon improving the pipeline into the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields. We want DC's students to be a part of the next generation of STEM experts.

-Dr. Kerri Briggs, State Superintendent

The final results of the 2009 DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) in Science show **more 5th and 8th grade students reaching higher levels of science and biology**. In grades 5 and 8 combined, 33% of students across the city scored Proficient or Advanced, an **increase of 6 points** from 2008. Also, the percent of 8th grade students scoring **Below Basic decreased by 5 points** from 2008 to 2009.

5th Grade Science

	2008			2009			2008			2009		
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient/Advanced									
State (all DC)	18%	49%	28%	19%	45%	29%	↑	↓	↑	4%	6%	↑
DCPS	20%	47%	28%	21%	45%	27%	↑	↓	↓	4%	7%	↑
PCS	13%	55%	28%	14%	49%	32%	↑	↓	↑	4%	5%	↑

8th Grade Science

	2008			2009			2008			2009		
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient/Advanced									
State (all DC)	49%	29%	20%	44%	26%	27%	↓	↓	↑	1%	3%	↑
DCPS	55%	27%	17%	54%	24%	20%	↓	↓	↑	1%	3%	↑
PCS	38%	34%	26%	31%	29%	36%	↓	↓	↑	1%	3%	↑

5th and 8th Grade Science Highlights

- 5th grade students **gained 3 points** from the previous year – 35% scored Proficient or Advanced compared with 32% in 2008.
- Gains were particularly large in 8th grade – 30% scored Proficient or Advanced compared with 22% in 2008 for a **gain of 8 points**.
- Students with disabilities almost **nearly doubled** their proficiency rates, from 8% in 2008 to 15% in 2009.
- **Participation increased from 91% to 95%**.
- 34% of DCPS 5th grade students were Proficient or Advanced; 37% of charter school 5th grade students were Proficient or Advanced. 7% of DCPS 5th grade students scored Advanced while 5% of charter school 5th grade students scored Advanced.
- In the 8th grade, 23% of DCPS students scored Proficient or Advanced and 39% of charter school students scored proficient or advanced.

Biology is administered in grades 9-12. 36% of high school students who participated in the Biology assessment scored proficient or advanced.

High School Biology*

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
State (all DC)	38%	26%	33%	3%
DCPS	39%	22%	35%	4%
PCS	37%	31%	31%	1%

*2009 results only; 2008 results are not comparable

- 39% of DCPS students scored proficient or advanced; 32% of charter school students scored proficient or advanced.

In 2008, Biology scores were only reported for students in grades 9 and 10. In order to provide the public with a more clear picture of how all students in high school Biology are achieving, OSSE is reporting this year on the proficiency of all students, regardless of grade level, who participated in the Biology assessment.

In 2008, reporting only on 9th and 10th grade students, 34% of students scored proficient or advanced.