



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

October 17, 2023

TO: Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Deann Walsh, Manager, Assessment & Accountability
Dan Mason, Manager, Assessment & Accountability

SUBJECT: 2023 Santa Clara County Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Results

The following provides an analysis of Santa Clara County’s Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Results. The assessments were administered to students in Grades 3-8 and Grade 11 in Spring 2023 in the content areas of English Language-Arts and Mathematics.

The following analysis presents the results of the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments in a variety of methods. Some of the following information will illustrate the percent of students scoring in each of the assessment’s four performance levels (standard exceeded, standard met, standard nearly met and standard not met) while at other times highlighting the percent of students scoring at or above standard (standard met or standard exceeded). Comparisons between county and state results, as well as county results across time, are also provided and student data has been disaggregated by student group and grade levels.

For the purposes of compactness, the following abbreviations are used in the data visualizations.

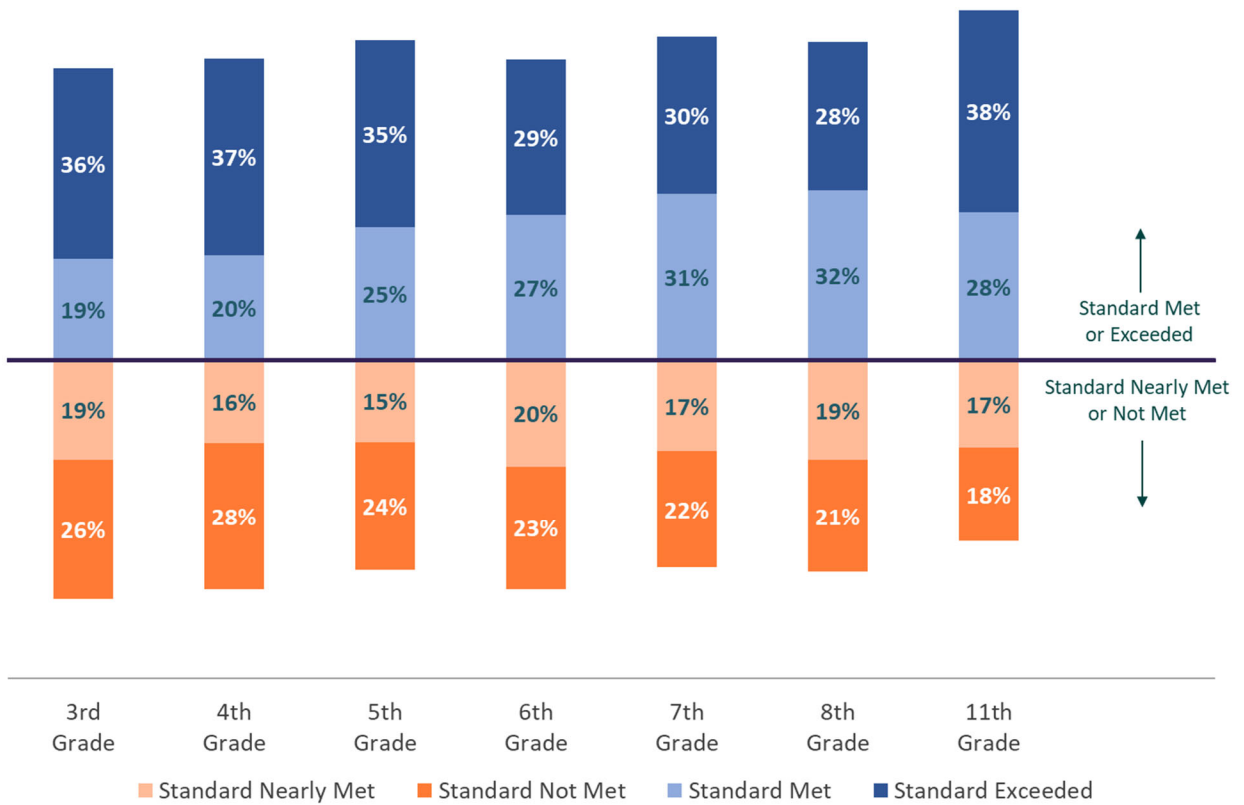
All	All Students
Am. Ind.	American Indian or Alaska Native
Black	Black or African American
Latino	Hispanic or Latino
Pac. Is.	Pacific Islander
Two+	Two or More Races
EL	English Learner
Not EL	Not English Learner (Fluent English Proficient and English Only)
SED	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
Not SED	Not Socioeconomically Disadvantaged

SWD	Reported Disabilities
Not SWD	No Reported Disabilities
Foster	Foster Youth
Homeless	Homeless Youth
CA	California
SCC	Santa Clara County
SBA	Smarter Balanced Assessments
Res./Inq.	Research/Inquiry
Prob. Solv./ Mod. & Data An.	Problem Solving/ Modeling & Data Analysis
Commun. Reasoning	Communicating Reasoning

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARTS

In 2023, 59% of Santa Clara County students met or exceeded standard in English-Language Arts (ELA). When disaggregated by grade level, there is an ascending pattern with the percentages of students who met or exceeded standard ranging from a low of 55% (3rd Grade) to a high of 66% (11th Grade). As illustrated in Figure 1, the ELA results have a general upward trajectory with percentages of students meeting and exceeding standards increasing across grade levels.

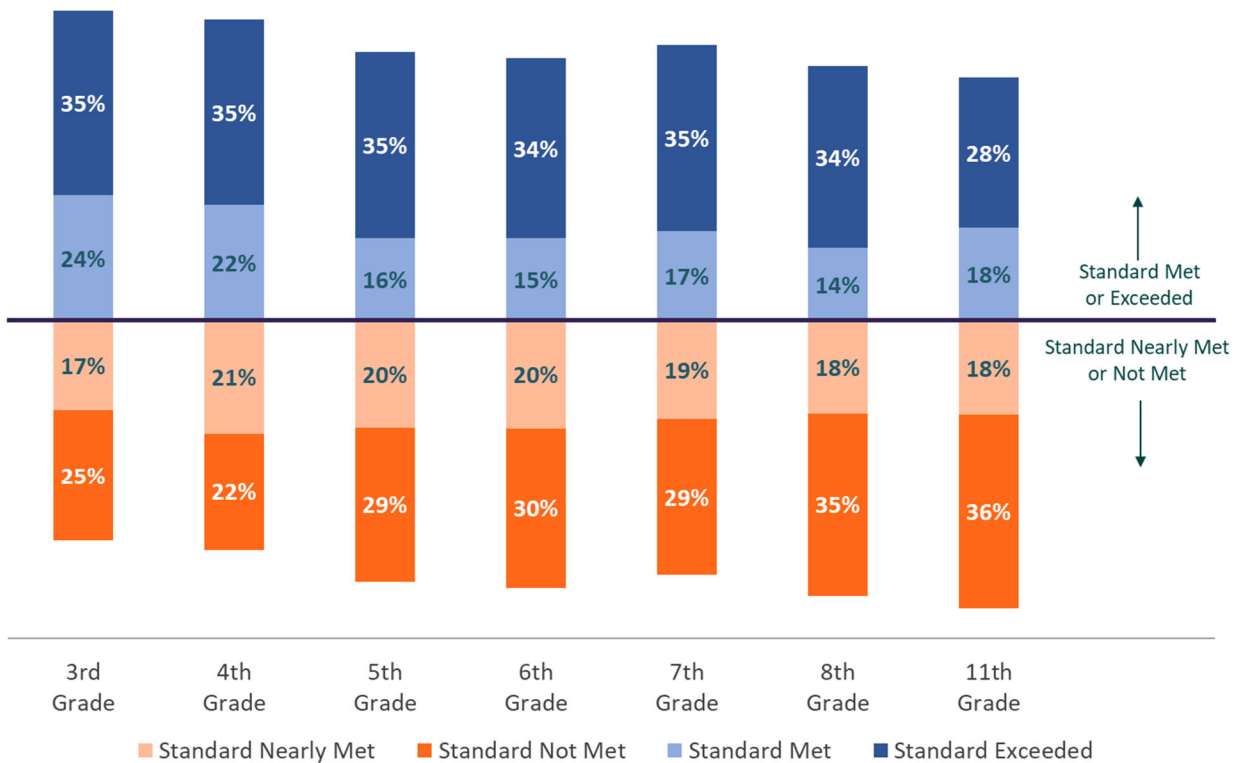
Figure 1: 2023 Santa Clara County SBA ELA Results by Grade Level, Percent of Students Performing at Each Performance Level



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN MATHEMATICS

In 2023, 51% of students in Santa Clara County met or exceeded standard in Mathematics. When disaggregated by grade level, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding standard ranges from a low of 46% (11th Grade) to a high of 58% (3rd Grade). This is a reverse distribution from that experienced in ELA. As illustrated in Figure 2, Mathematics results have a general downward trend in which the percentage of students meeting and exceeding standard steadily decreases as the grade level increases.

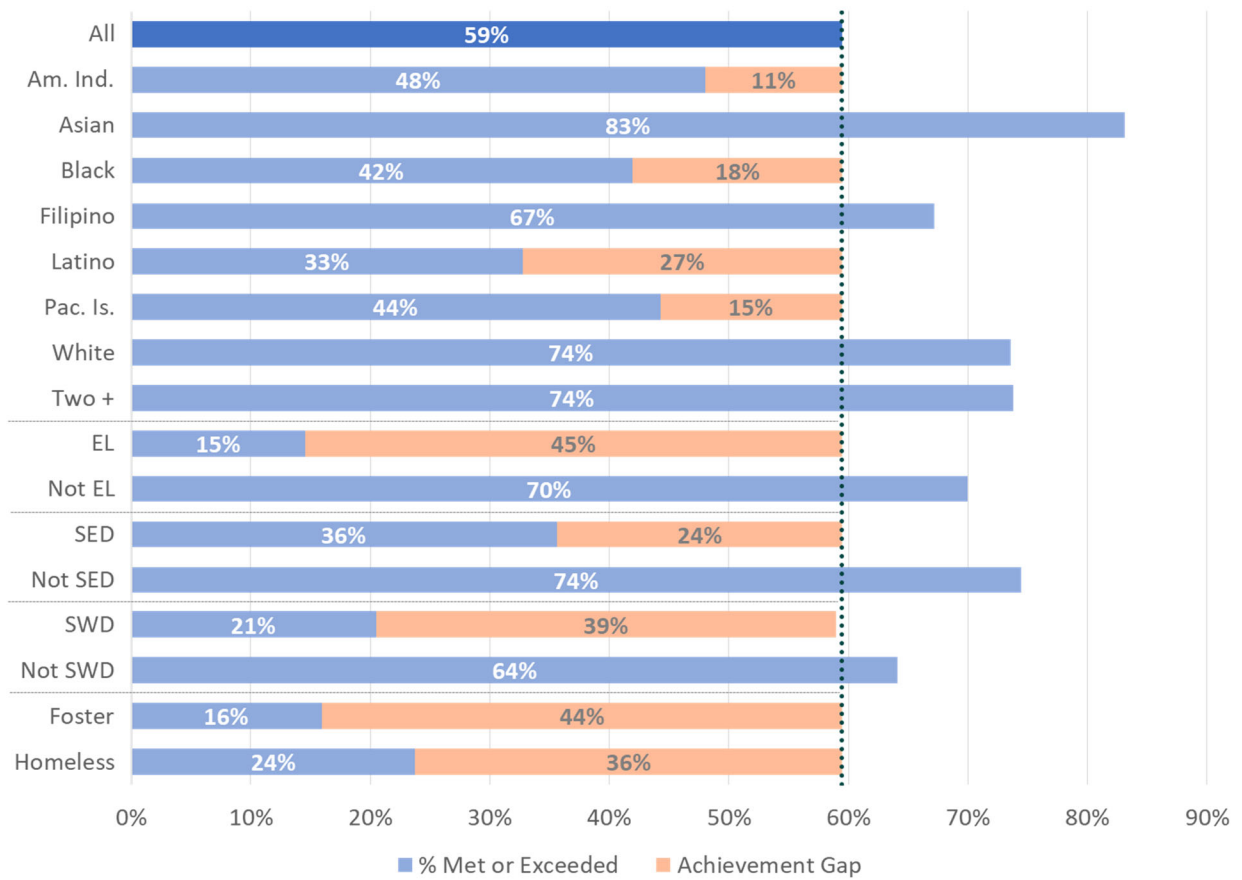
Figure 2: 2023 Santa Clara County SBA Mathematics Results by Grade Level, Percent of Students Performing at Each Performance Level



STUDENT GROUP PERFORMANCE

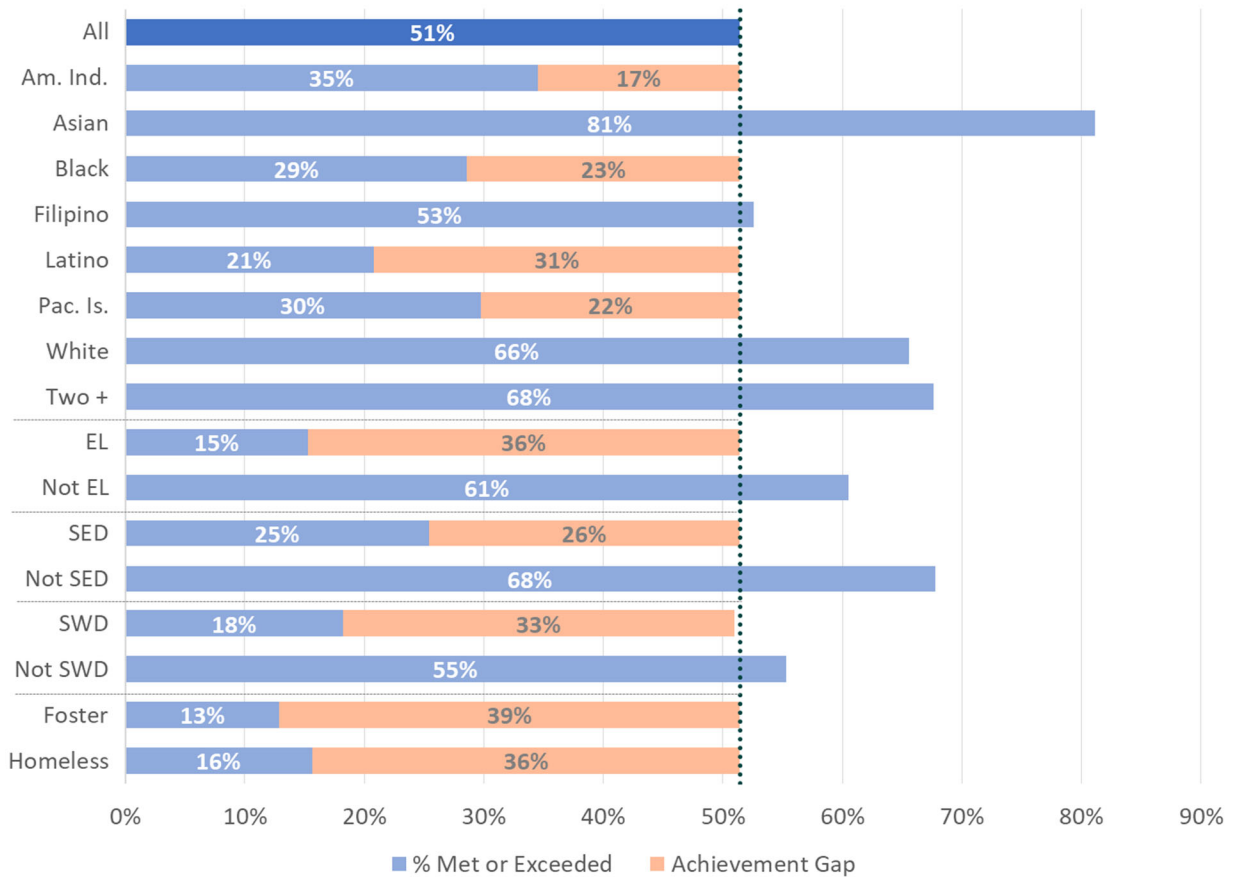
While Santa Clara County has relatively high overall performance results, student group disaggregation reveals considerable achievement gaps. As illustrated in Figure 3, significant disparities exist between our highest performing student group in ELA at 83% meeting or exceeding standard (Asian) and our lowest performing student group at 15% meeting or exceeding standard (English Learners). As illustrated by the light orange bars, significant performance gaps exist for many of our student groups, including American Indian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islander, English Learners, Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, Foster Youth and Homeless Youth.

Figure 3: 2023 Santa Clara County SBA ELA Results, Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standard by Student Group



In mathematics, when the countywide results are disaggregated by student group the same trends are evident as those discussed for ELA. Students who identify as Asian, White or Two or More Races (or are categorized as Not English Learners, Not Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, or Not Students with Disabilities) continue to experience rates significantly above the countywide average, while the previously mentioned student groups continue to experience rates significantly below the countywide average.

Figure 4: 2023 Santa Clara County SBA Mathematics Results, Percent Meeting or Exceeding Standard by Student Group



STATE/COUNTY COMPARISON RESULTS

When compared to statewide figures, Santa Clara County students tend to outperform their statewide peers in both ELA and Mathematics. In 2023, Santa Clara County students met or exceeded standard in ELA at a rate 59%, compared to statewide results at 47%. However, in comparison to 2022 results, this marked a decreased rate in Santa Clara County of -1.2 percentage points, while statewide the decline was only -0.4 percentage points.

Similarly, in mathematics, Santa Clara County outperformed the state by approximately 17 percentage points (51% in Santa Clara County versus 35% in California). When compared to 2022 results, Santa Clara County’s results remained consistent with no significant improvement or decline, while statewide students experienced an increase of 1.2 percentage points.

Table 1: Santa Clara County and California SBA ELA and Mathematics Results, 2-Year Change

	English-Language Arts				Mathematics		
	2022	2023	Change		2022	2023	Change
CA	47.1%	46.7%	-0.4		33.4%	34.6%	+1.2
SCC	60.6%	59.5%	-1.2		51.4%	51.4%	0.0

Additionally, as illustrated in Figure 5 (ELA Comparison by Race/Ethnicity), Figure 6 (ELA Comparison by Student Group), Figure 7 (Math Comparison by Race/Ethnicity), and Figure 8 (Math Comparison by Student Group) most of our county’s student groups performed higher in ELA and Mathematics than their counterparts at the statewide level.

However, while this was the case for most of the county’s student groups, it was not universally true. In Santa Clara County, students in the Filipino, Hispanic/Latino, Foster Youth and Homeless Youth student groups did not perform higher in either ELA and/or mathematics than their relative student group at the statewide level.

Figure 5: 2023 Santa Clara County and California SBA ELA Results by Race/Ethnicity

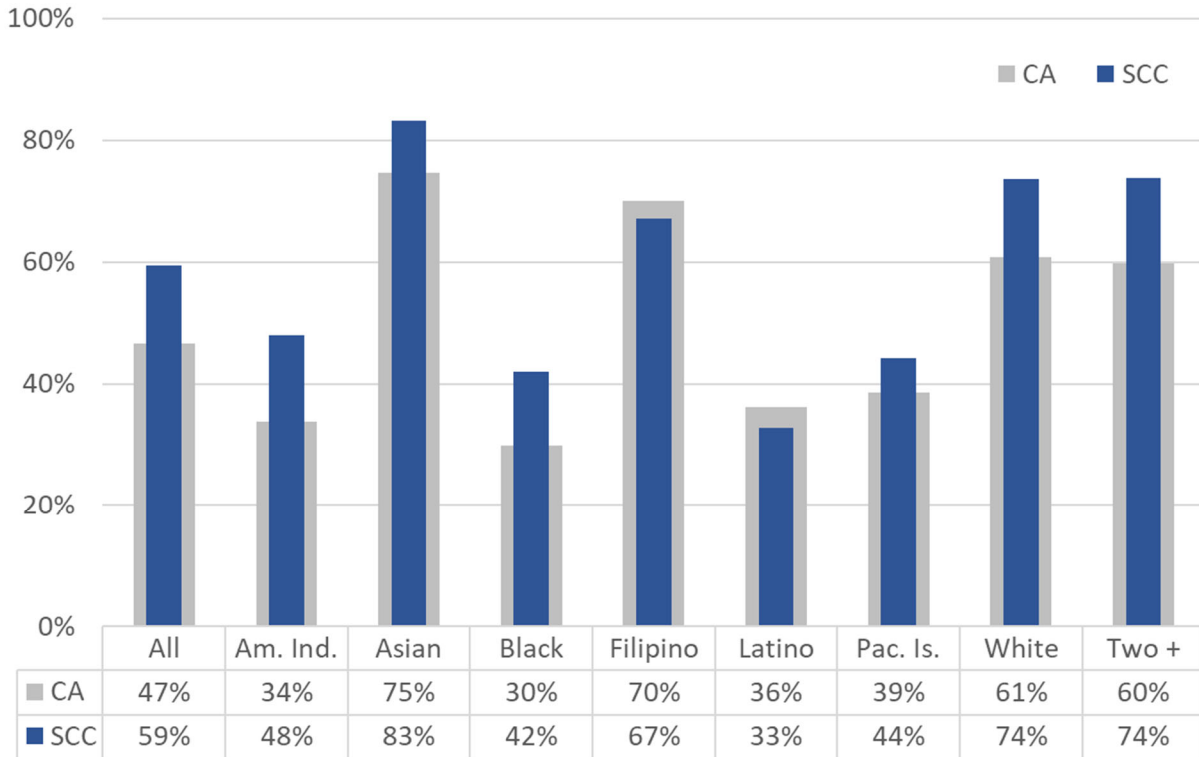


Figure 6: 2023 Santa Clara County and California SBA ELA Results by Student Group

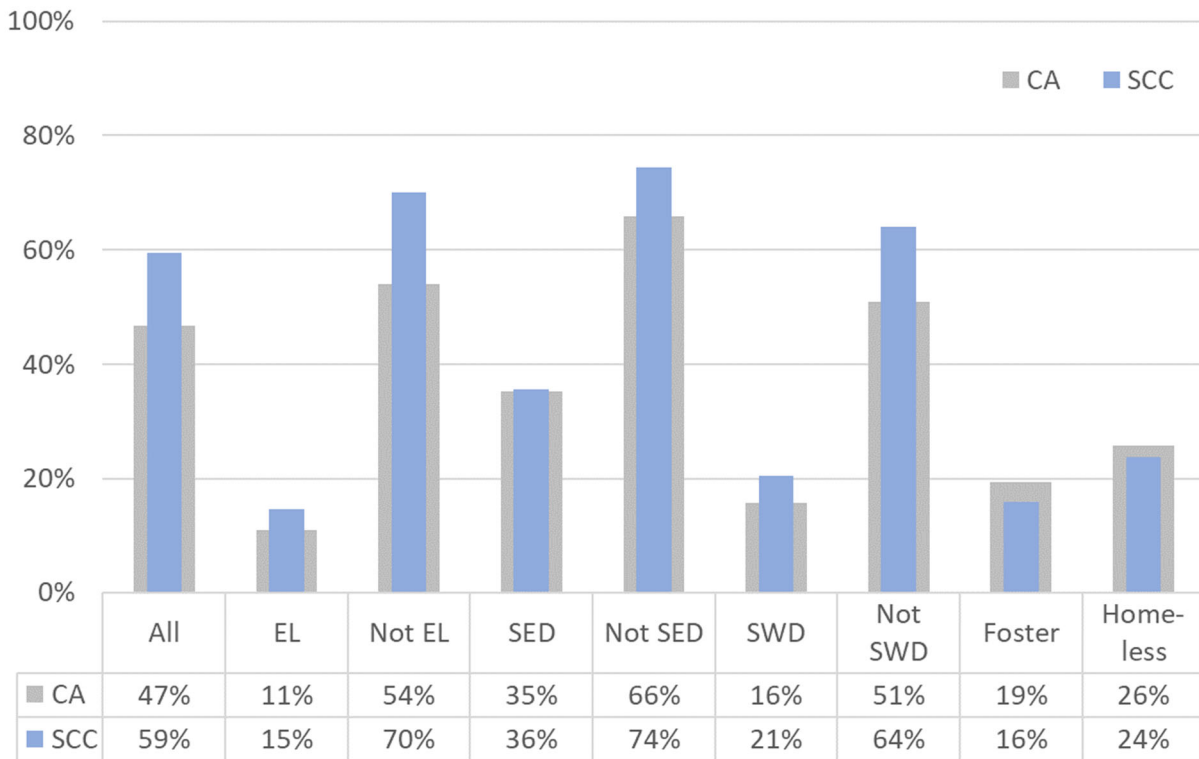


Figure 7: 2023 Santa Clara County and California SBA Mathematics Results by Race/Ethnicity

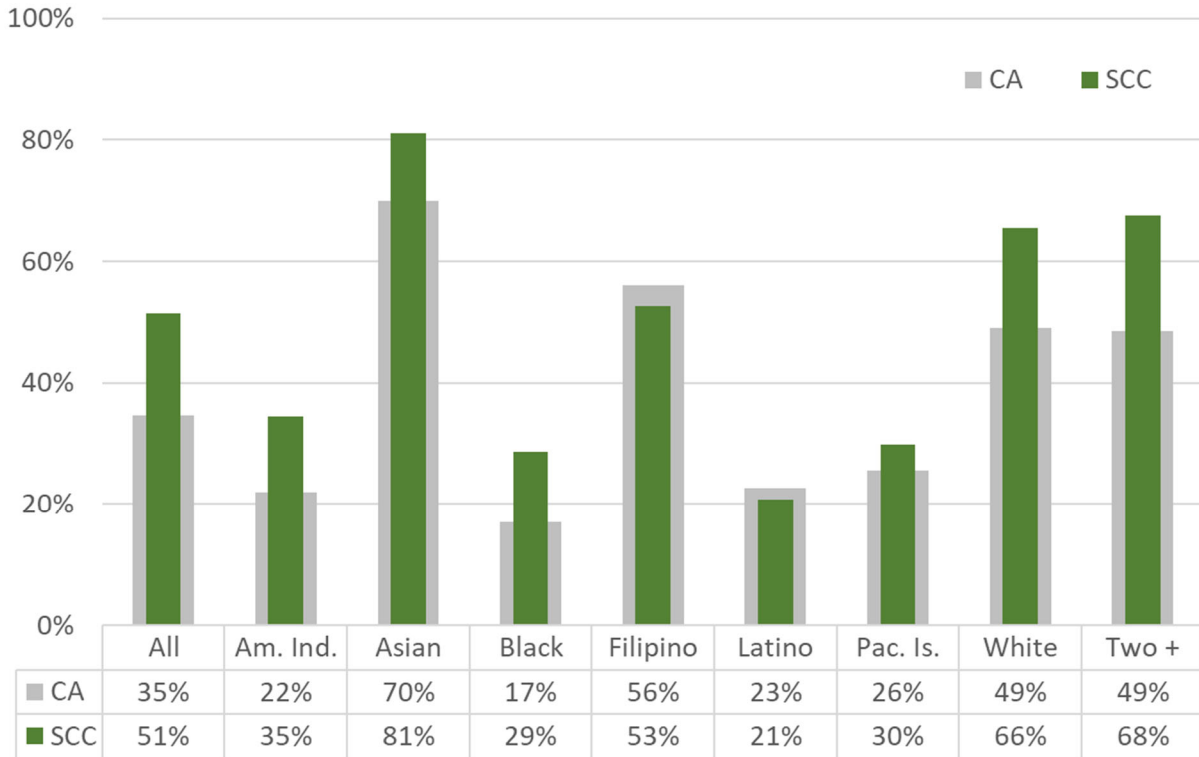
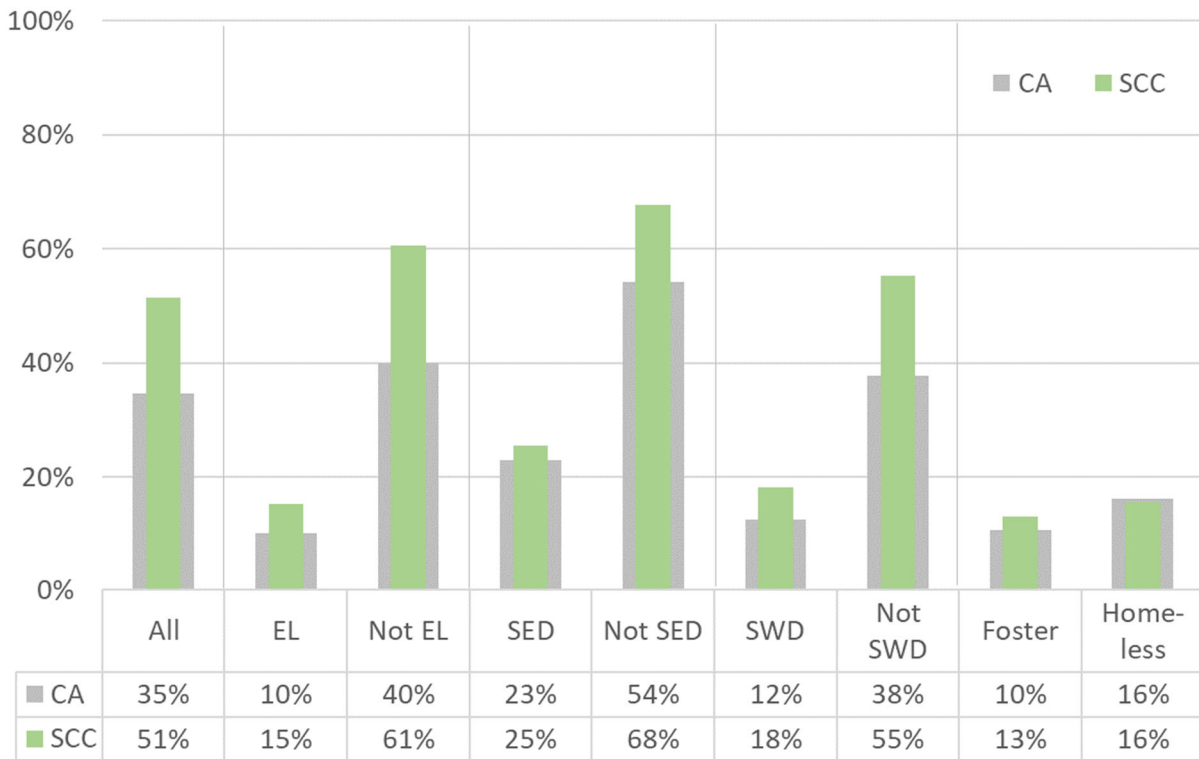


Figure 8: 2023 Santa Clara County and California SBA Mathematics Results by Student Group



COMPARISON BETWEEN 2022 and 2023 TEST ADMINISTRATIONS

Figure 9 (ELA Results by Race/Ethnicity) and Figure 10 (ELA Results by Student Group) illustrate the decreases experienced between the two administrations in ELA. In ELA, decreases were experienced by nearly all student groups. The only exceptions were for the American Indian or Alaska Native student group that experienced an increase of approximately 4 percentage points and the Not Socioeconomically Disadvantaged student group that experienced an increase of about half a percentage point.

While nearly all student groups did experience decreases in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding standard, the decreases were not experienced uniformly across student groups. Overall, in ELA the percent of students meeting and exceeding standard declined by -1.2 percentage points between 2022 and 2023. However, a handful of student groups experienced more significant declines, including: Hispanic/Latino (-1.5 percentage points), English Learners (-2.9 percentage points) and Foster Youth (-1.6 percentage points).

Figure 9: Santa Clara County SBA ELA Results by Race/Ethnicity, 2022 and 2023

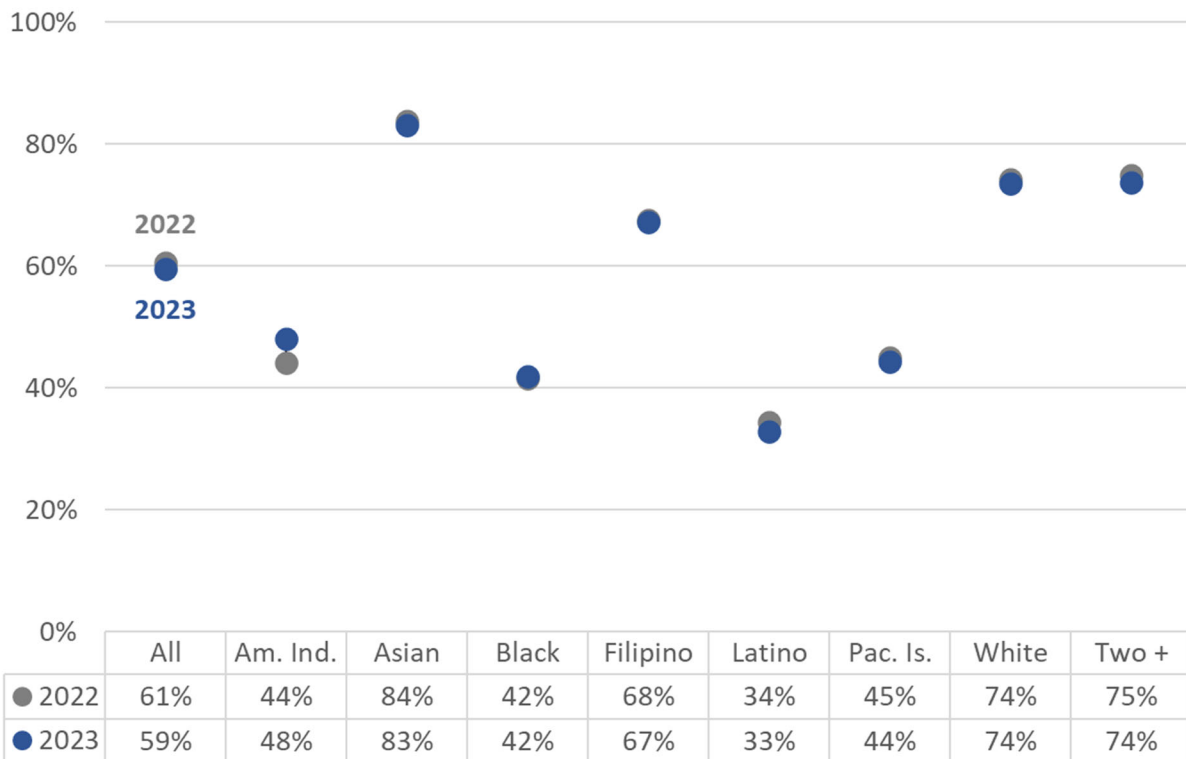
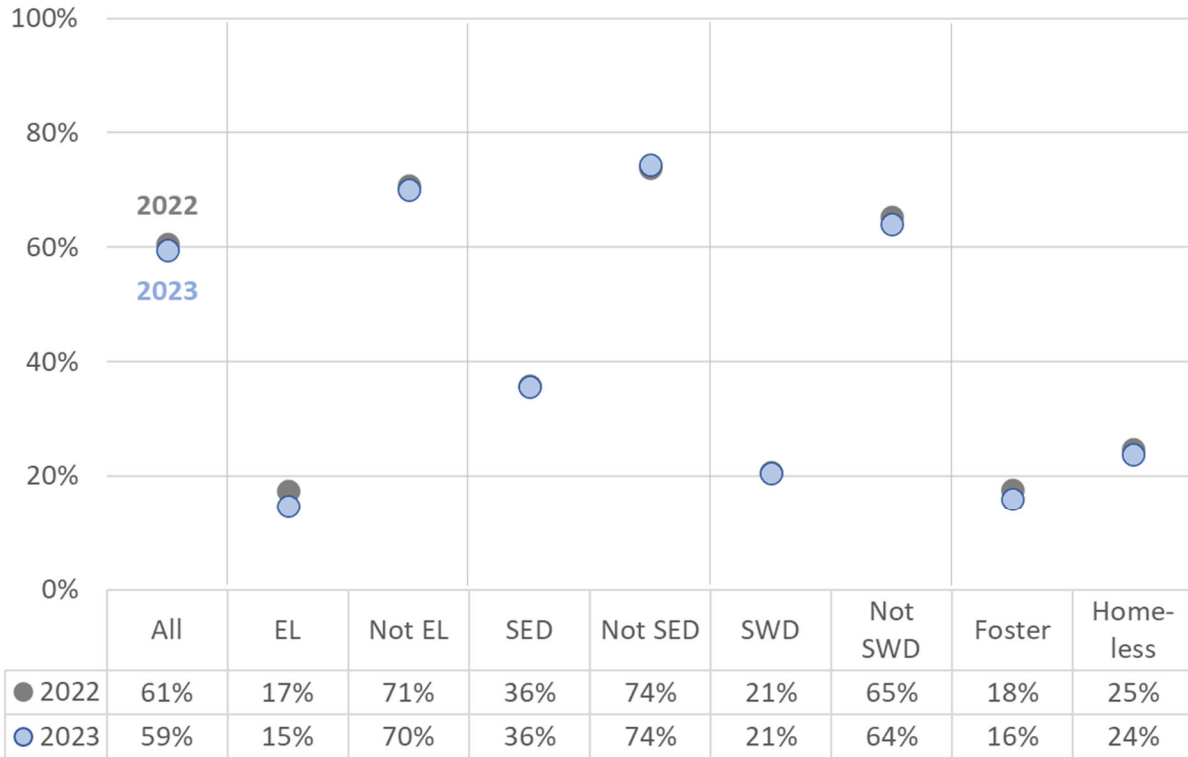


Figure 10: Santa Clara County SBA ELA Results by Student Group, 2022 and 2023



In the case of Mathematics, when comparing the results of the 2022 and 2023 test administrations, the rates were relatively stable throughout Santa Clara County. Overall, the percentage of students meeting and exceeding standard increased by 0.04 percentage points. While minor at the overall level, some student groups did experience meaningful improvement, including: Black/African American (1.5 percentage points), Filipino (2.1 percentage points), Pacific Islander (1.4 percentage points), Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (1.3 percentage points), Not Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (1.8 percentage points), Foster Youth (2.9 percentage points), and Homeless Youth (1.7 percentage points.) Additional details are provided in Figure 11 (Mathematics Results by Race/Ethnicity) and Figure 12 (Mathematics Results by Student Group).

Figure 11: Santa Clara County SBA Mathematics Results by Race/Ethnicity, 2022 and 2023

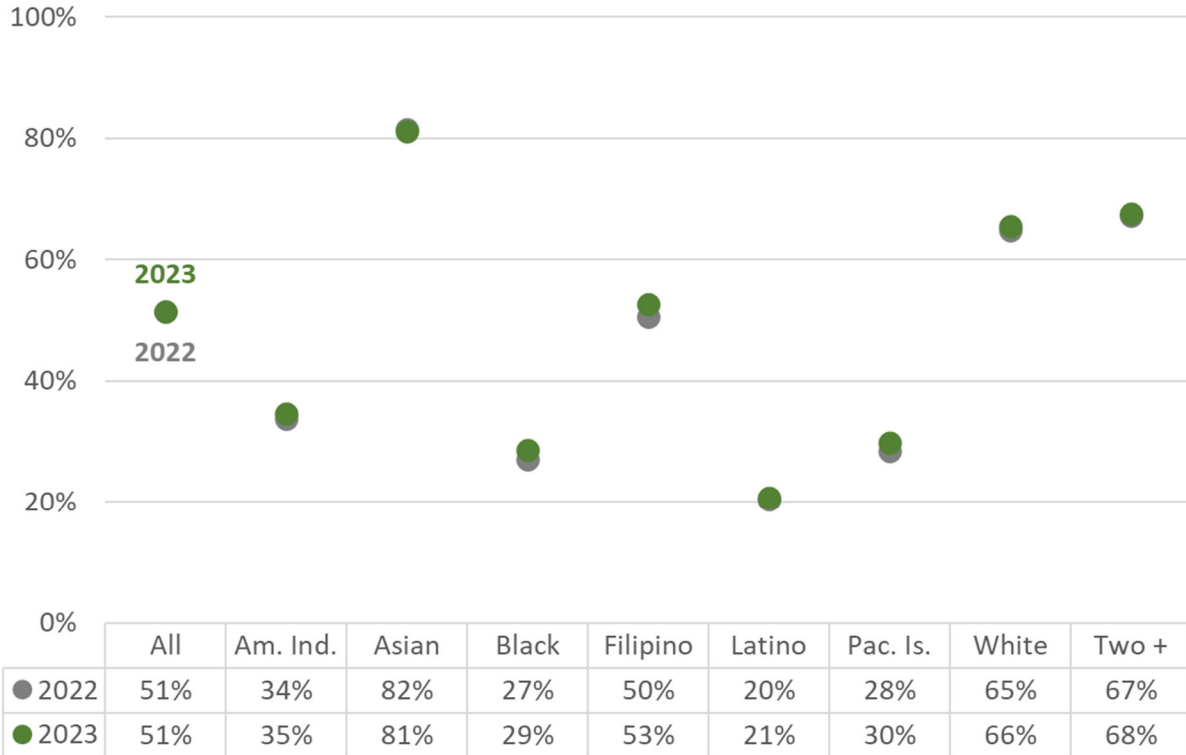
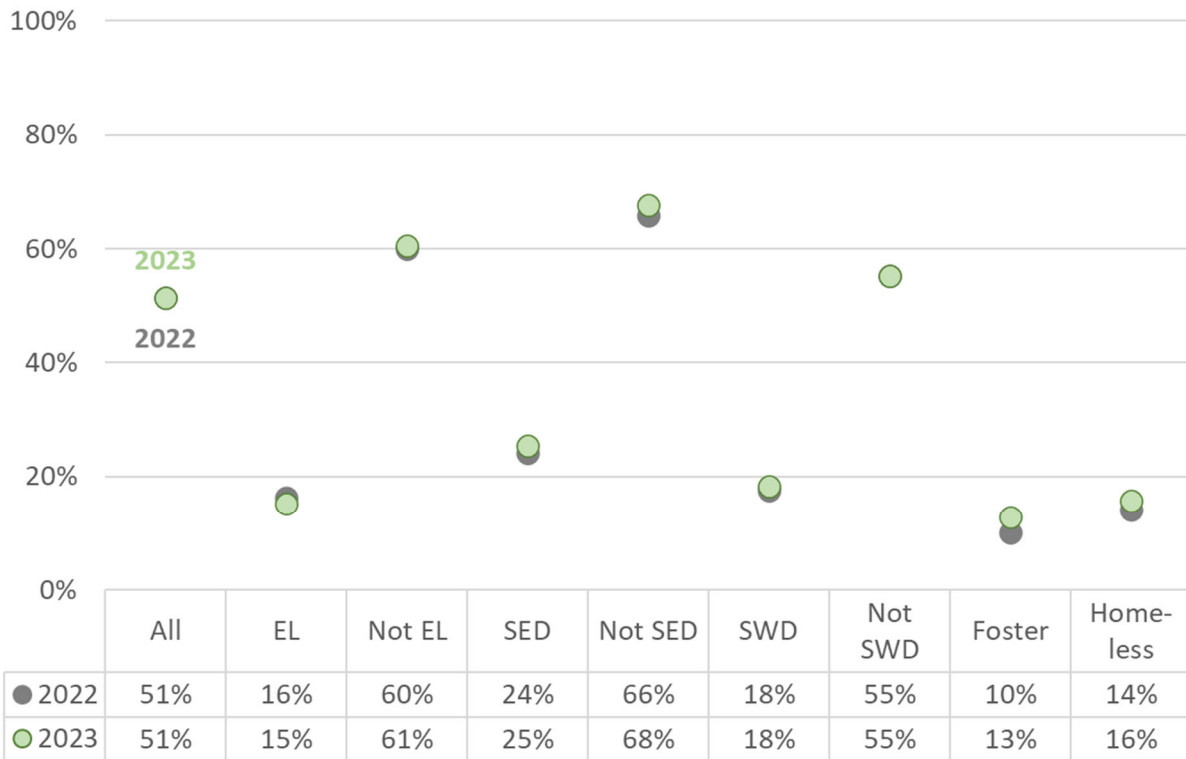


Figure 12: Santa Clara County SBA Mathematics Results by Student Group, 2022 and 2023



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT BY CLAIM BETWEEN 2022 and 2023 TEST ADMINISTRATIONS

When overall performance levels are disaggregated at the claim level, a similar pattern as the overall results is observable. Between the 2022 and 2023 administrations, fluctuation was minimal between the claim performance levels, only varying a maximum of 2 percentage points in any one performance level. While relatively steady across time, the results of the claim level data illustrate variation between content areas. As illustrated in Figure 13, Writing was the strongest claim area in Santa Clara County with 30% of students scoring above standard, while Listening was the weakest claim area with 19% of students scoring above standard.

Figure 13: Santa Clara County SBA ELA Results by Claim, 2022 and 2023

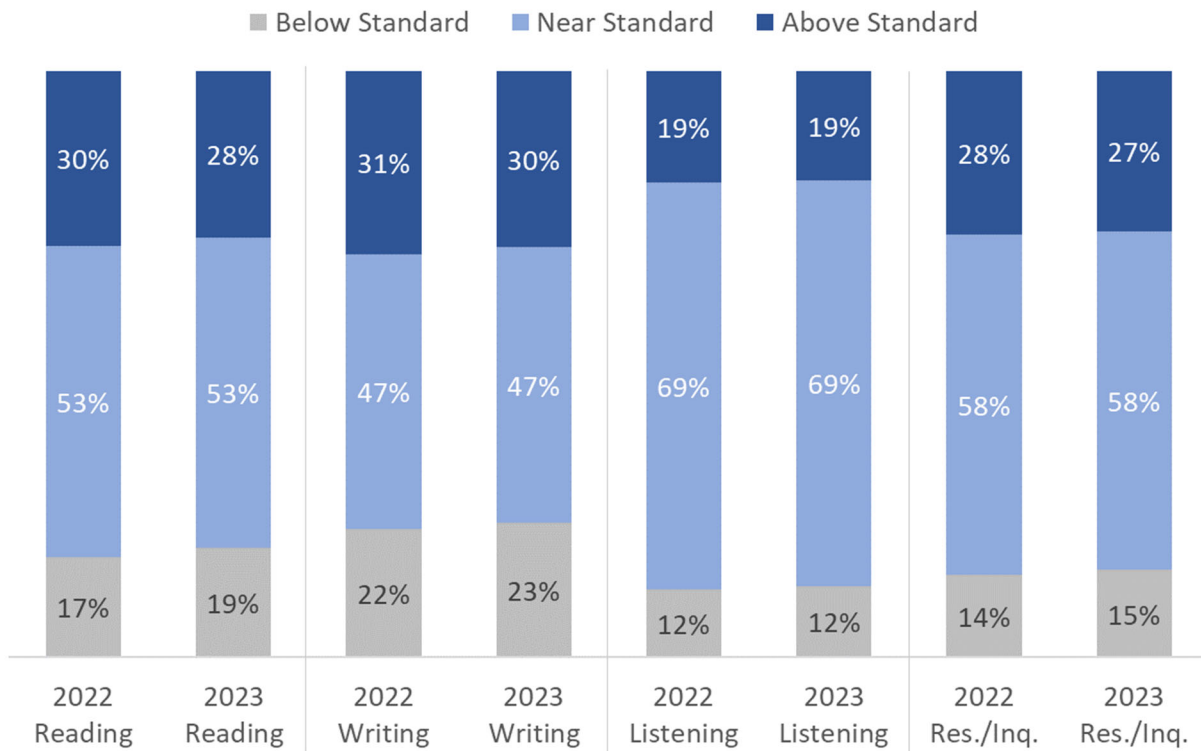


Figure 14 below represents claim level results for Santa Clara County students in Mathematics. Similar to the ELA claim level results, little to no fluctuation was observed in the mathematics results between 2022 and 2023. However, differences existed in the percentage of students reaching the above standard threshold across claim areas, with students performing the strongest in Concepts and Procedures (35% above standard) and weakest in Communicating Reasoning (29% above standard).

Figure 14: Santa Clara County SBA Mathematics Results by Claim, 2022 and 2023

