

2015 PSSA: Overview, Outcomes and Impacts



July 30, 2015

Matt Stem, Deputy Secretary

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education


Revised to Present to:

Tunkhannock Area School District Board of Education

August 20, 2015

UPDATED WITH FINAL DATA 10/22/15

Mary Gene Eagen, Assistant Superintendent



Matt Stem, Deputy Secretary Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

- As a superintendent and assistant superintendent who just left our districts four months ago, we recognize the impact of these new cut scores will have and ramifications these cut scores will have for public schools across PA!
- It would have been politically expedient to try to intervene but that is not PDE's role...and it wouldn't have been honest to not honor the process.
- We realize the difficulty this places on you to try and explain to your constituent stakeholders. We are committed do whatever we can to help you explain this to your constituents and communities across Pennsylvania.
- We know with fair funding and sufficient time, our public schools will ensure all are students are prepared!

Background: Transition Timeline for PA-Core Aligned PSSA

July 2010

State Board of Education adopts Common Core State Standards, the first update to Pennsylvania standards since 1999. Forty-three states, Washington, D.C., four territories, and Department of Defense schools have adopted the Common Core State Standards.

September 2013

State Board of Education adopts current standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics as the PA Core.

November 2013

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) **approves final-form revisions to Chapter 4**, including the PA Core Standards.

March 2014

PA Core Standards published in Pennsylvania Bulletin and **became part of Chapter 4 regulations**.

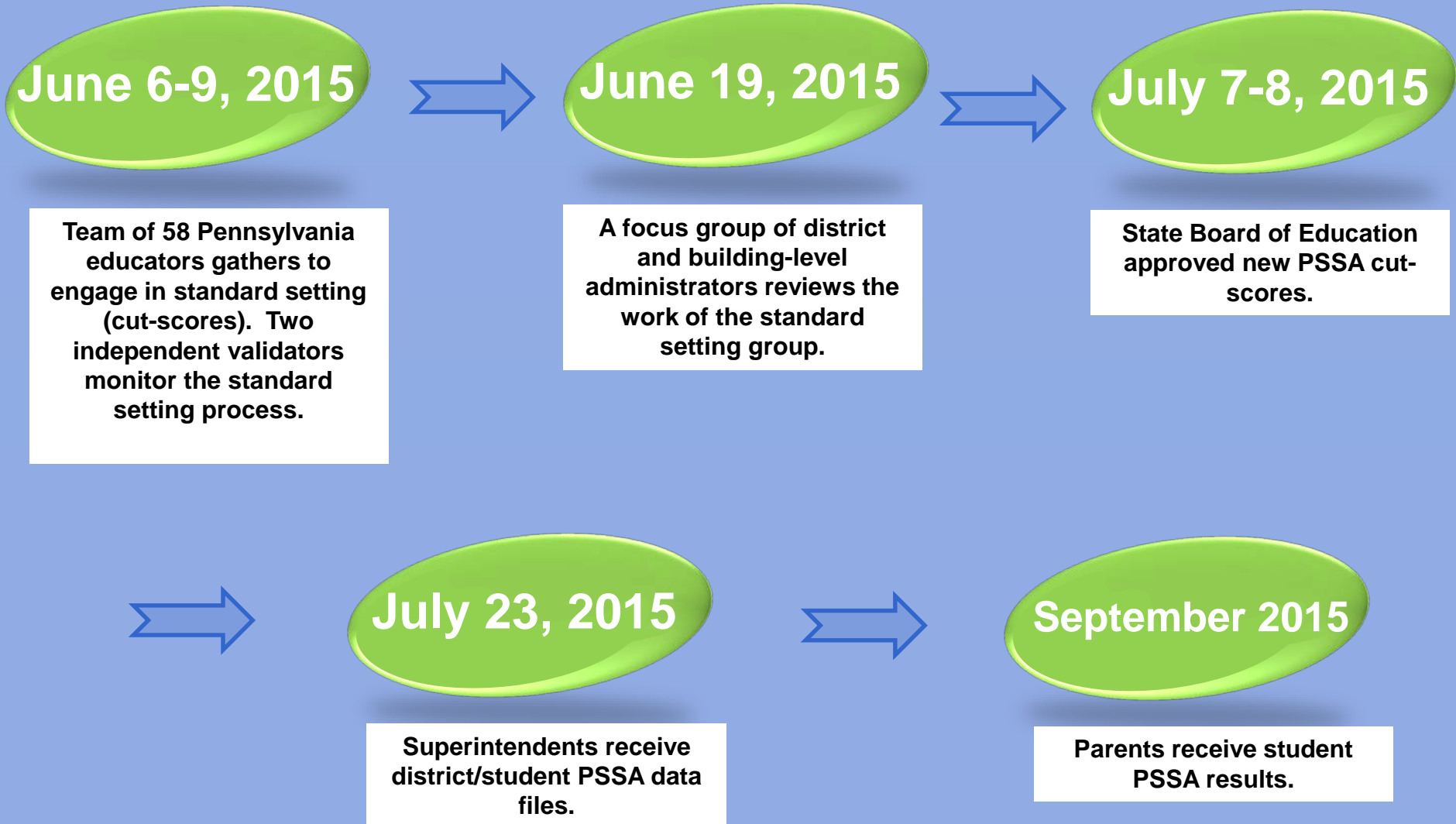
Spring 2014

Field testing begins for new PA Core-aligned questions on the PSSA.

April 2015

Pennsylvania administers new PA Core-aligned PSSAs in grades 3-8 in ELA and Math

▶ Background: Transition Timeline for PA-Core Aligned PSSA



Pennsylvania
CODE TITLE TOC · BROWSE · SEARCH · HOME

CHAPTER 4. ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.

- 4.1. [Statutory authority.](#)
- 4.2. [Purpose.](#)
- 4.3. [Definitions.](#)
- 4.4. [General policies.](#)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PLANNING

- 4.11. [Purpose of public education.](#)
- 4.12. [Academic standards.](#)
- 4.13. [Strategic plans.](#)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- 4.20. [Prekindergarten education.](#)
- 4.21. [Elementary education: primary and intermediate levels.](#)
- 4.22. [Middle level education.](#)
- 4.23. [High school education.](#)
- 4.24. [High school graduation requirements.](#)
- 4.25. [Languages.](#)
- 4.26. [ESOL.](#)
- 4.27. [Physical education and athletics.](#)
- 4.28. [Special education.](#)
- 4.29. [HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening and communicable diseases.](#)

There are many opportunities for our current system to be refined and improved; however, **please remember that nearly all of the issues related to standards, assessment, and accountability are codified in statute or regulation. Therefore, it will take time, and require extensive dialogue** and input among stakeholder groups to achieve these revisions to the system. PDE is committed to taking the time and making the effort necessary to engage in the change process, and we look forward to continuing to collaborate in the weeks and months ahead.

Matt Stem, Deputy Secretary

▶ Background: What is the PSSA and Its Objectives?

- The PSSA is the state's standardized test administered in grades 3 through 8 in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- The new PSSA reflects the PA Core standards, which were developed to better prepare students to be college or career ready when they graduate.
- Students' results set a benchmark to measure student academic growth in future years.

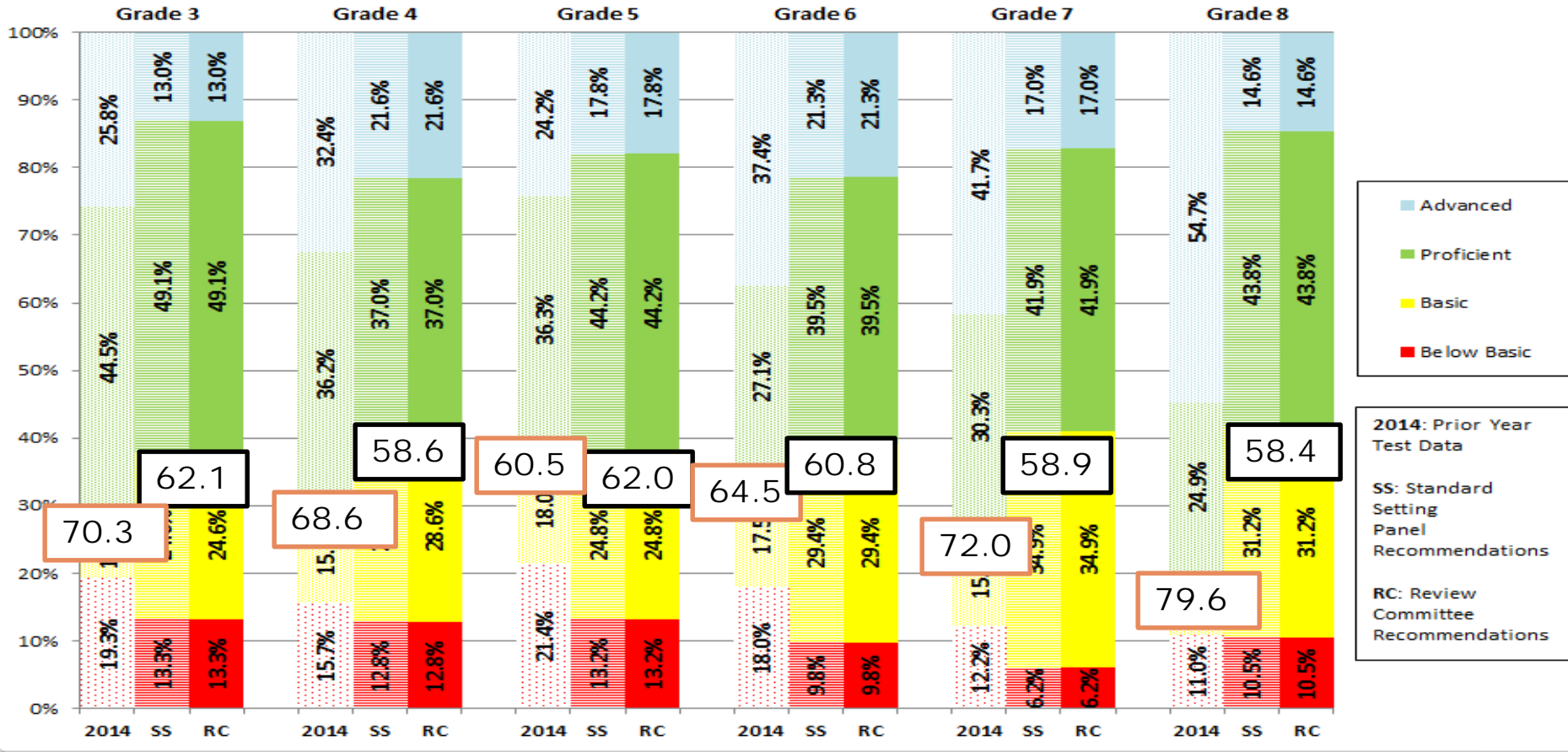


What is Standard Setting?

- Using Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) developed by Pennsylvania educators to reflect the knowledge and skills expected of students at each of the performance levels:
 - Advanced
 - Proficient
 - Basic
 - Below Basic

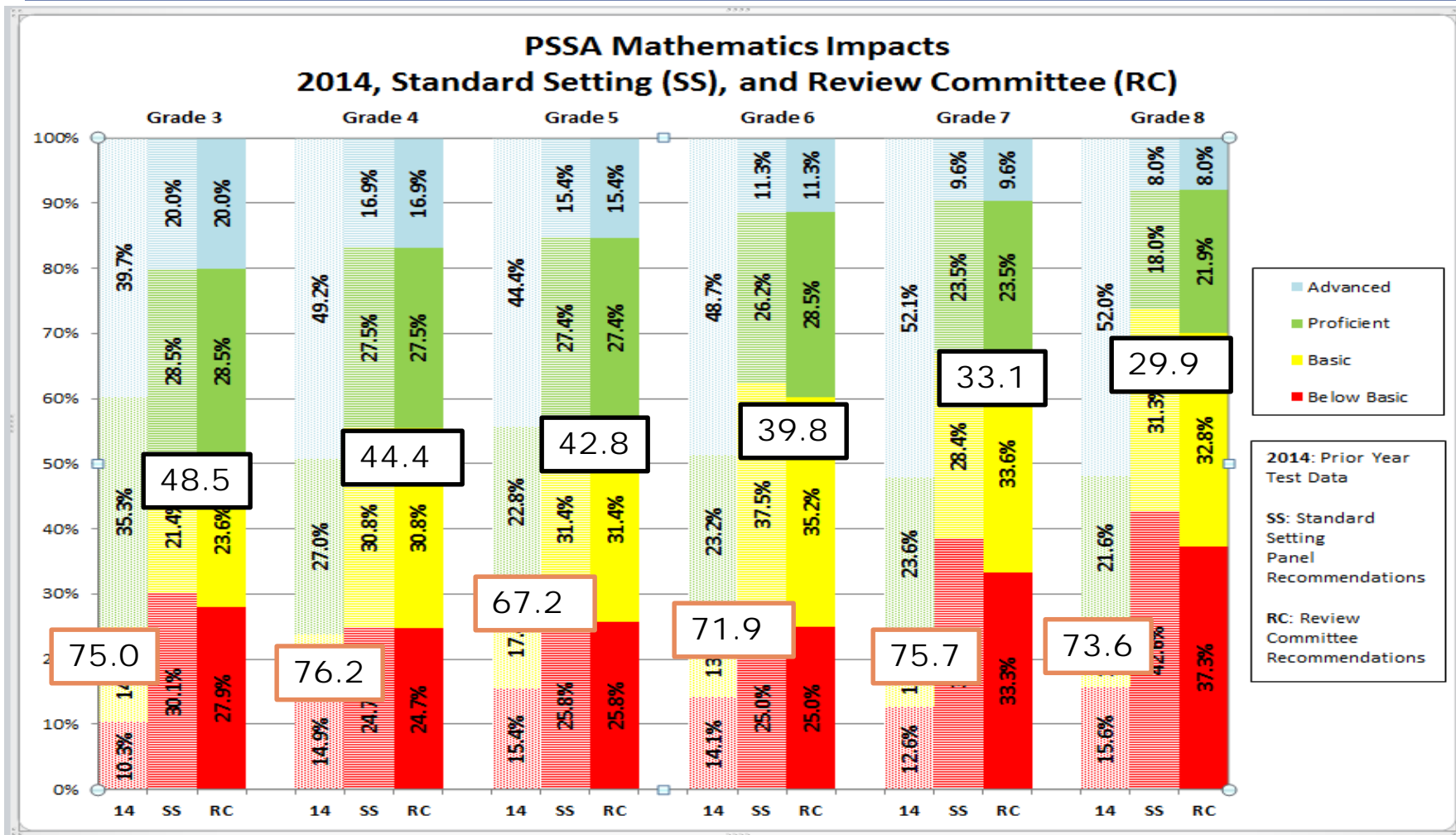
Standard Setting: Recommended Cut Points English Language Arts

PSSA English Language Arts Impacts 2014, Standard Setting (SS), and Review Committee (RC)



Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
2013/2014: 75.6%	2013/2014: 72.3%	2013/2014: 61.2%	2013/2014: 58.2%	2013/2014: 69.0%	2013/2014: 84.0%
2014/2015: 68.6%	2014/2015: 60.7%	2014/2015: 61.7%	2014/2015: 60.7%	2014/2015: 52.1%	2014/2015: 50.8%

Standard Setting: Recommended Cut Points Mathematics



Grade 3

2013/2014: 83.9%
2014/2015: 43.4%

Grade 4

2013/2014: 83.6%
2014/2015: 45.4%

Grade 5

2013/2014: 58.9%
2014/2015: 31.8%

Grade 6

2013/2014: 68.6%
2014/2015: 40%

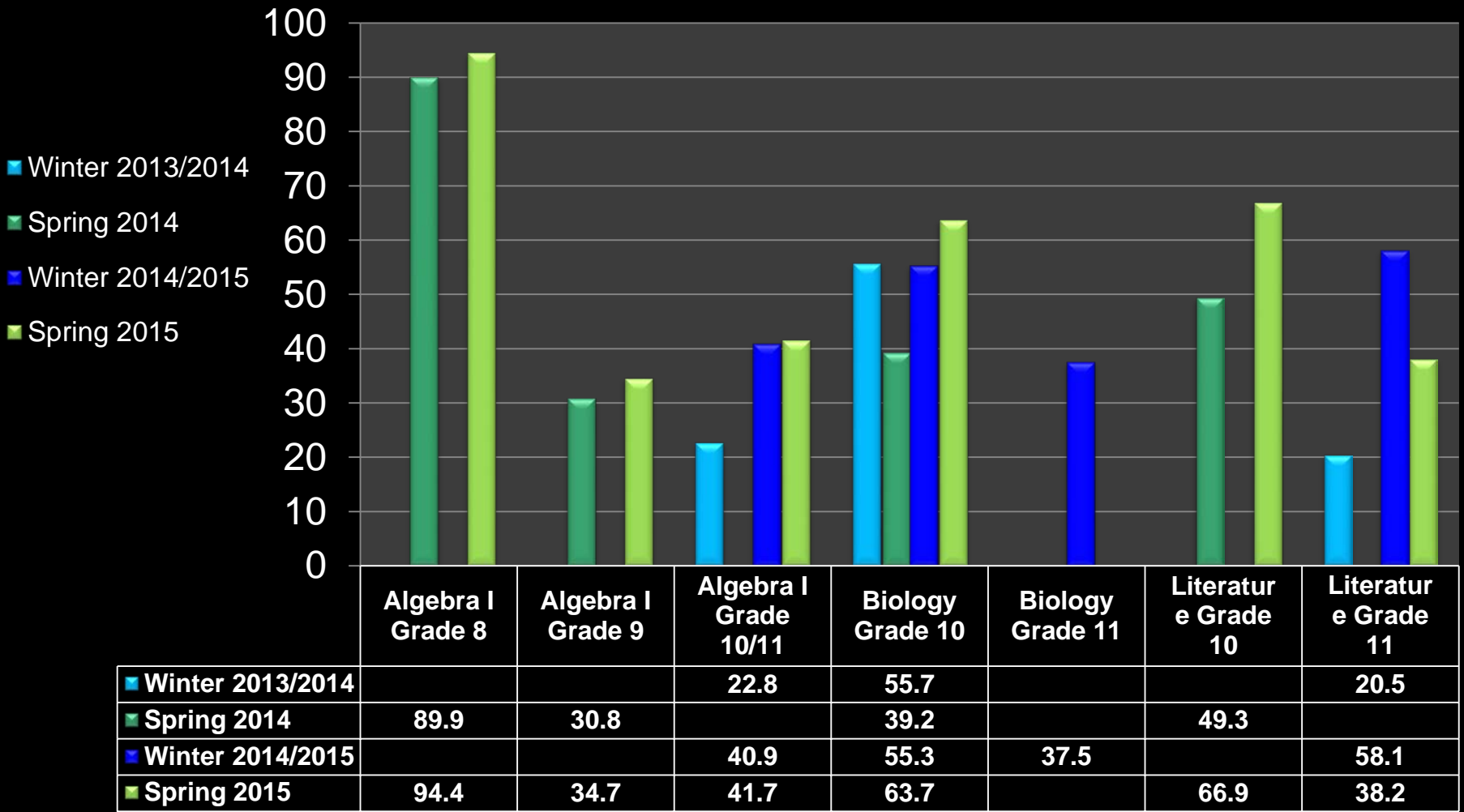
Grade 7

2013/2014: 74.9%
2014/2015: 37.8%

Grade 8

2013/2014: 87.2%
2014/2015: 32.8%

Tunkhannock Area School District Keystone Exams



FALL 2015 School Performance Profile – Students took the Algebra I Keystone in 2012/2013
 – Students took the Biology/Literature Keystones in 2013/2014
2014/2015 Grade 9 Data will appear in the fall of 2017 School Performance Profile – Newspaper Spring 2018
2014/2015 Grade 10 Data will appear in the fall of 2016 School Performance Profile – Newspaper Spring 2017

Comments from Grade 6-8 Math Committee

Grade 8 students missed the most content due to the shifts in the standards.

•Grade 3 students have fewer gaps and will experience the standards as revised moving forward.

The former proficient student is more like the new basic student (Performance Level Descriptors - PLDS).

•Must understand and apply concepts not just computations.

•The mathematical practice standards are reflected in some test questions. Teachers need to focus and apply them in their teaching.

•Teachers and students need to internalize the depth of the standards and PLDs.

Kids used to get away with applying trick and strategies.

•We did not focus on depth of understanding.

•There is lots of increased depth of knowledge reflected in the new PLDs.

•Many elementary teachers are not math certified. We should provide professional development on the new, more difficult content that some teachers do not understand in depth.

In many schools a student who fail one subject (i.e. Math) are promoted and even more challenged in the next grade level PSSA.



Impact: Making Comparisons

- It is not meaningful to directly compare students' scores on the new assessments to student scores from previous years.
 - The 2015 PSSA measures different content than the previous years' PSSAs
 - Some content is now being taught a full grade level earlier than under the previous Academic Content Standards.
 - The new standards require deeper knowledge, stronger problem solving and critical thinking skills.