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ABSTRACT

The Missouri Mastery and Achievement Tests (MMAT) were developed as a result of the state's Excellence in Education Act of 1985, which called for assessments of core competencies and key skills in reading/language arts/English, mathematics, science, and social studies/civics. The revised MMAT, like the original test, includes four multiple-choice items to measure each key skill. The MMAT for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10 includes subtests for each of the 4 domains, for a total of about 300 questions per grade level. This report presents data for the 1997 administration. Results indicate that student achievement has leveled off in recent years, with little improvement shown since the implementation of the revised tests in 1991 and 1992. There was, however, an upward trend for scaled score averages, with the exception of 10th-grade social studies. The 1996 MMAT results are somewhat encouraging even though most data show relatively stable student scores. A table presents key skill mastery data for all grades and subjects. (Contains four figures.) (SLD)

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Missouri Mastery and Achievement Tests

Summary Report

1997

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Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Robert E. Bartman, Commissioner of Education James Friedebach, Director of Assessment

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History of the

Missouri Mastery and Achievement Tests (MMAT)

The MMAT was developed as a result of the Excellence in Education Act of 1985. This law required the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to identify "core competencies and key skills" in reading/language arts/English, mathematics, science, and social studies/civics; to test annually a sample of students throughout Missouri; and to report results to the General Assembly. Local school districts are required to measure student achievement on the key skills and to identify areas in need of instructional improvement.

The Core Competencies and Key Skills for Missouri Schools documents, revised in 1992 for grades 2-6 and 1991 for grades 7-10, identify key skills as required by the Excellence in Education Act. These documents were developed with the assistance of Missouri educators, and provide a framework around which districts can build a complete curriculum.

The MMAT was designed in accordance with the American Psychological Association's Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing. Missouri teachers assisted in writing test items.

The revised MMAT, like the original test, includes four multiple-choice items to measure each key skill. To demonstrate mastery of a key skill, a student must correctly answer at least three of the four items. The MMAT for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10 includes four subtests (reading/language arts/English, Mathematics, science and social studies/civics). Each subtest contains between 56 and 104 items for a total of about 300 questions per grade level. Test administrations requires approximately 2 hours per subtest.

The MMAT is available for district use for grades 2-10. State level data is currently reported for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. Many Missouri students in grades 3 and 6 take the MMAT (approximately 50,000 for each grade). A representative sample in grades 8 and 10, which includes an estimated 10 percent of Missouri students, take the MMAT(approximately 5,000 for each grade).

MMAT Data:

Scale Scores allow districts to determine how their students compare with other Missouri students and to monitor educational progress over time.

Scale Distribution Data help educators determine whether instruction efforts are reaching all of the various populations of students taking the test.

Key Skill Mastery Data provides information to help teachers guide instruction for individual students and/or enables districts to evaluate the effectiveness of curriculum and identify needed changes.



Table of Contents

Summary	3
Scaled Scored Averages	4
Score Distribution Data	5
Median Student Mastery Data (Key Skills)	6
Median Student Mastery in All Subject Areas	7
Kev Skill Mastery Data	8-16



Summary

The 1997 Summary Report presents trend data for the springs of 1996 and 1997. Data from the first year the revised Missouri Mastery and Achievement Tests (MMAT) were administered is also presented. The report includes data for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. Spring 1997 MMAT results indicate student achievement has leveled off in recent years, with students showing little improvement across most grade levels or subject areas since the implementation of the revised tests in 1992 (grades 3 & 6) and 1991 (grades 8 & 10). In relation to the base or initial year of testing in 1987, scores are up, indicating instruction has impacted students at most levels of achievement in a positive way. The 1997 Summary Report has trend data for scaled scored averages, score distribution and key skills mastered.

Scaled Score Averages - In grades 3, 6, 8, and 10, Missouri students demonstrated, on the average, an upward trend in achievement. Grade 10 shows no meaningful improvement in social studies since establishment of the 1987 baseline. (Reference Figure A, Page 4)

Score Distribution Data - Student scores have leveled off over time and remain relatively flat for 1997. Scores are up in relation to the base or initial year of testing (1987). However, there has been no significant change in the lowest two quintiles since the 1992 and 1991 revision years. (Reference Figure B, page 5)

Key Skills Mastered - The average students' performance in general has remained stable. Grade 10 has regained percentage points to match 1994 levels in the area of math and science, after a 7% and 5% drop respectively in 1995. (reference Figure C-E, Pages 6-16).

The 1997 MMAT results are somewhat encouraging, in that student scores have improved over the established 1987 baseline. But on the whole, most data shows student scores relatively stable in recent years. The MMAT continues to provide a framework for fulfilling one of the major goals of the Excellence in Education Act - encouraging academic excellence for all of Missouri's public school students.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Assessment Section



Scaled Score Averages

- Scaled score averages monitor educational progress over time.
- Each subject is shown for 1996 and 1997 for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. Each subject is also shown for the first year the revised MMAT was administered (1992 for grades 3 and 6, and 1991 for grades 8 and 10).
- In 1987 a baseline was established and the average for each grade and subject was set at 300.
- A sustained change of about 11 points over time is considered educationally meaningful.

Figure A: Scaled Score Averages

Grade	Year	Reading/ English/	Math	Science	Social Studies	Average
		Lang. Arts	1, 1		Ottude 5	
	1992	323	339	364	336	341
3	1996	325	346	374	348	348
_	1997	332	356	388	362	360
	1992	308	349	347	322	332
6	1996	314	372	369	335	348
J	1997	319	382	380	343	356
	1991	318	331	339	315	326
8	1996	317	355	357	321	338
	1997	327	354	376	333	348
	1991	313	326	327	302	317
10	1996	308	339	333	300	320
10	1997	316	339	340	306	325

Summary:

Students, on the average, demonstrated a slight upward trend in performance in Grades 3, 6, 8, and 10 for 1997. Student Scores have risen since the 1987 baseline was established but achievement has leveled off somewhat in recent years.



7

Score Distribution Data

- Score distribution data can be used to monitor the specific effects of instruction over time. Each subject area is shown for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10 for years 1996, and 1997.
 Each subject is also shown for the first year the revised MMAT was administered (1992 for grades 3 and 6, and 1991 for grades 8 and 10).
- In 1987 the scaled scores were rank-ordered. The ranked scores were divided into five equal parts. Twenty-percent of the students fell into each part or cell, thus establishment of a baseline.
- Overtime, the percentage of students in the bottom two cells should decease, and the
 percentage of students in the top two cells should increase. The percentage of
 students in the bottom two cells should be close to zero.

Figure B: Score Distribution Quintiles

Grade		Reading/English	Math	Science	Social
		/Lang.Arts			Studies
		'92 '96 ' 97			
	High	32 34 37	42 46 51	54 59 66	40 47 54
		22 21 23	20 20 21	20 17 17	20 17 18
3		18 17 18	15 13 13	10 09 08	14 12 11
·		15 14 13	12 10 09 ·	08 07 05	12 10 08
	Low	13 14 10	11 11 07	08 08 04	14 14 09
	High	24 27 29	44 55 69	46 55 69	34 41 44
		20 21 22	19 18 18	17 15 16	19 19 20
6		19 19 19	14 11 10	13 11 10	15 13 13
!		19 17 17	11 08 07	10 08 08	14 13 12
	Low	18 16 14	11 08 06	14 11 08	18 14 11
Grade		'91 '96 ' 97	'91 '96 ' 97	'91 '96 '97	'91 '96 ' 97
Grade	High	29 30 35	36 49 48	40 47 55	29 33 39
		20 20 21	18 18 19	18 16 15	18 19 19
8		20 17 17	16 13 13	14 12 11	18 15 16
		17 18 14	15 11 11	12 11 08	15 15 12
	Low	14 15 13	14 10 10	15 14 11	20 18 15
	High	28 28 30	34 41 40	35 40 43	22 23 24
		19 18 19	20 19 20	20 18 19	19 19 20
10		16 15 16	16 14 15	16 14 14	18 17 19
		18 17 17	15 12 12	13 12 11	19 18 17
	Low	19 23 18	15 15 14	15 16 13	22 24 20

Summary:

Student scores have leveled off over time and remain relatively flat for 1997. Scores are up in relation to the base or initial year of testing (1987). However, there has been no significant change in the lowest two quintiles since the 1991 and 1992 revision years.



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Median Student Mastery

- The table shows the percent of key skills mastered by the average or median student in Missouri in each subject area for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10.
- The number at the top of each grade and subject represents the total number of skills tested for that subject area and grade level.
- Each number represents the percent of key skills mastered by the average student in Missouri for the noted year...

Figure C: Percent of Key Skills Mastered by the Average Student By Year

Grade	Reading/English/	Math	Science	Social Studies
	Language Arts			
	'91' '96 '9 7	'91 '96 '97	'91 '96 ' 9 7	'91 '96 '97
3	18 Total Key Skills Tested	13 Total Key Skills Tested	17 Total Key Skills Tested	10 Total Key Skills Tested
	72% 78% 78 %	77% 77% 85 %	83% 83% 83 %	80% 80% 90 %
6	20 Total Key Skills Tested	16 Total Key Skills Tested	17 Total Key Skills Tested	21 Total Key Skills Tested
	70% 70% 75 %	56% 63% 69 %	53% 59% 65 %	62% 67% 71 %
Grade	91 96 97	'91 '96 '97	91' '96 '97	·91 · '96 · '97
8	25 Total Key Skills Tested	16 Total Key Skills Tested	14 Total Key Skills Tested	8 Total Key Skills Tested
	60% 60% 64 %	50% 56% 56 %	43% 43% 50%	61% 61% 67 %
10	22 Total Key Skills Tested	15 Total Key Skills Tested	20 Total Key Skills Tested	23 Total Key Skills Tested
	56% 59% 64 %	40% 47% 47%	35% 35% 40 %	52% 48% 52 %

Summary:

The table indicates the average student achievement, in general, has remained relatively stable. Grade 10 regained percentage points in the areas of math and science, after a 7% and 5 % drop respectively in 1995.





9

Median Student Mastery In All Subject Areas

- The table presents a summary of all subjects areas for grades 3, 6, 8, and 10.
- Data is presented for 1996 and 1997. Data are also shown for the first year the revised MMAT was administered (1992 for grades 3 and 6, and 1991 for grades 8 and 10).
- The table shows total key skills for all subjects areas mastered by the median student in the noted grade level.

Figure D: Median Student Mastery all Subject Areas

Grade	1992 (Grades 3 &6)	1996	1997
	1991 (grades 8 &10)		
3	41 key skills mastered out of a total of 53	42 key skills mastered out of a total of 53	44 key skills mastered out of a total of 53
	41/53=77%	42/53=79%	44/53=83%
6	45 key skills mastered out of a total of 74	48 key skills mastered out of a total of 74	52 key skills mastered out of a total of 74
	45/74=61%	48/74=65%	52/74=70%
8	40 key skills mastered out of a total of 73	41 key skills mastered out of a total of 73	44 key skills mastered out of a total of 73
	41/73=55%	41/73=56%	44/73=60%
10	38 key skills mastered out of a total of 80	39 key skills mastered out of a total of 80	41 key skills mastered out of a total of 80
	38/80=48%	39/80=49%	41/80=51%

Summary:

The table indicates the average student performance, in general, has remained relatively stable. Grade 10 has regained percentage points after a drop in 1995.



Key Skill Mastery Data

- The information on pages 8-16 shows the percent of students in Missouri mastering each tested objectives for the years 1996, and 1997; in grades 3, 6, 8, and 10. Data are also shown for the first year the revised MMAT was administered (1992 for grades 3 and 6, and 1991 for grades 8 and 10). The key skills are presented in Core Competencies and Key Skills for Missouri Schools.
- The key skills are listed by the code number used in respective publication and a brief descriptor.
- Each tested objective is measured by four items. The student must answer at least three of the four correctly to demonstrate mastery of the key skill.
- A change of 5 or more percentage points between years is educationally meaningful.
- See Figures C & D for percentage of key skills mastered by median students and total skills mastered by grade.

Figure E: Key Skill Mastery Data

Grade 3
Reading/Language Arts

Key Skill		Percent of Students Demonstrating Mastery			
		<u>1992</u>	1996_	1997	
B-1	Contextual Word Meaning	59	60	64	
B-2	Prefixes/Suffixes	68	70	74	
B-3	Synonyms/Antonyms	65	64	68	
B-4	New Word Meanings	68	66	69	
C-1	Story Elements	83	83	86	
C-2	Fact/Fantasy	70	70	74	
C-3	Cause/Effect	74	74	77	
C-4	Main Ideas	58	58	61	
C-5	Conclusions/Generalizations	58	58	81	
C-7	Outcome Prediction	75	75	78	
C-8	Story Title	51	53	56	
C-10	Summarization	53	55	67	
D-5	Directions	79	80	82	
G-3	Effective Writing	66	. 67	72	
G-6	Sentence Combining	69	71	75	
G-9	Capitalization	68	69	73	
G-10	Punctuation	50	53	56	
G-11	Grammatical Usage	72	70	74	



11

Mathematics

Key Skills		Percent of Student	<i>l</i> lastery		
			1992	1996	1997
A-2	Number Comparison		74	78	82
A-3	Place Value	•	61	65	69
A-6	Fractional Parts		73	75	80
B-4	Addition/Subtraction		80	79	82
B-5	Multiplication		71	72	76
B-7	Open Sentences		66	67	69
D-3	Time		71	73	77
D-5	Measurement		78	79	83
E-2	Shapes		77 .	81	85
F-2	Displays of Data		69	69	74
F-3	Grids	,	62	64	68
H-2	Money Problems		61	63	66
H-4	Problems		61	65	68
Grade	e 3				
Scien	ice	٠,			
B-3	Organisms in Ecosystems		83	84	87
C-1	Seed Germination & Growth		80	82	86
C-2	Seeding Growth		60	63	68
C-3	Animal/Plant Development		87	88	91
E-3	Temperature Measurement		56	58	61
G-2	Effects if Heating/Cooling		87	87	90
H-2	Effects of Pushing/Pulling	·	84	84	88
H-4	Hazardous Situations		84	83	86
I-1	Objects in the Sky		82	83	86
1-2	Light Producers/Reflectors		61	62	70
I- 4	Temperature/Precipitation		71	75	79
J-1	Shadow Lengths		56	60	64
Grade	e 3				
Socia	l Studies/Civics				
A-4	Map-reading Skills		80	80	84
A-5	Features of Maps		71	74	78
B-2	Effects of Regional Changes		56	58	62
F-1	Past/Present Comparisons		79	79	84
G-2	Democratic Decision Making		74	76	82
H-2	Major Offices of Government	•	46	51	54
J-1	Responsible Behavior		87	87	90
K-1	Respect for Others		83	83	87
M-2	Economic Choices		55	65	73
V-1	Interpret Sources		77	76	80
	·	12			



Reading/Language Arts

Key Skill		Percent of Studer	Percent of Students Demonstrating Ma			
-			1992	1996	<u> 1997</u>	
B-1	Contextual Word Meaning		69	70	72	
B-3	Synonyms/Antonyms		35	37	39	
C-1	Story Elements		60	61	62	
C-2	Fact/Opinion		81	83	86	
C-3	Cause/Effect		85	85	86	
C-4	Main Idea		73	77	79	
C-5	Conclusions/Generalizations		78	79	80	
C-7	Outcome Prediction		72	74	76	
C-8	Author's Purpose		69	72	75	
C-10	Summarization		54	57	58	
C-12	Figurative Language		75	77	79	
C-13	Point of View		51	54	58	
D-1	Learning Resources		67	69	71	
D-5	Directions		88	88	89	
G-3	Effective Writing	•	59	68	70	
G-7	Draft Revision		51	55	67	
G-8	Spelling		45	46	47	
G-9	Capitalization	•	51	54	66	
G-10	Punctuation		55	57	68	
G-11	Grammatical Usage		53	58	60	
Grad	e 6					
Math	<u>ematics</u>					
A-2	Fraction/Decimal Comparison		41	51	54	
A-4	Numerical Sequences		56	67	70	
A-6	Graphing on Number Lines	•	37	46	49	
B-6	Arithmetic		45	51	54	
B-7	Number Sentences	•	77	77	78	
B-8	Fraction Multiplication		67	66	70	
B-9	Order of Operations		48	58	64	
D-1	Measurement		68	75	78	
D-6	Area/Perimeter		46	53	56	
D-9	Convert Units of Measurement		35	42	44	
E-4	Properties of Shapes		58	69	73	
F-1	Data Collection		72	79	81	
F-2	Displays of Data		68	73	75	
H-1	Money Problems	4 =	69	72	74	
H-4	Multistep Problems	13	53	57	59	
H-5	Nonstanard Problems	,	39	43	44	



Science

Key Skill		Percent of Students D	strating I	g Master	
			1991	1996	1997
B-1	Requirements for Life		68	71	73
B-2	Parts of Plants		34	40	44
B-3	Photosynthesis		40	46	50
C-2	Plant/Animal Growth Rates		81	85	86
C-3	Endangered Species	!	57	65	68
E-4	Acids/Bases		44	51	56
E-5	Metric Measurement		58	58	60
G-1	Chemical/Physical Changes	,	64	6 5	69
H-1	Simple/Compound Machines	!	50	51	54
H-3	Fiction		55	57	60
H-5	Electromagnets		69	75	77
H-6	Electricity		77	82	84
H-7	Electric Circuits		48	55	59
H-11	Potential/Kinetic Energy	:	39	49	63
I-1	Minerals		69	74	77
K-2	Soil Erosion	·	23	25	27
K-3	Fossils	;	37	44	46
Grad	le 6				
Soci	al Studies/Civics				
A-4	Map-reading Skills	·	57	61	63
A-5	Features of Maps	•	58	61	63
A-6	Maps: United States		61	67	71
A-7	Maps: World	!	52	61	63
B-2	Effects of Regional Changes	!	53	56	60
E-1	Time Line Interpretations	!	54	60	62
E-3	Fact/Value Judgment	!	56	66	70
F-4	Cause/Effect Relationship		49	57	59
G-1	Democratic Practices/Values		49	54	56
G-3	Democratic Decision Making	;	77	81	83
H-1	Government Activities	•	49	54	57
I-2	Rights/Responsibilities	•	64	68	70
M-2	Economic Choices	•	64	63	68
N-1	Production Terms	•	4 2	48	50
P-2	Supply/Demand Predictions	;	79	82	84
Q-2	Government & Economy		47	53	56
R-6	Regional Specialization	•	56	49	51
S-4	Social/Cultural Roles	•	59	63	65
T-1	Meeting Human Needs	•	65	68	72
V-1	Meeting Human Needs	14	67	71	73
V-2	Library Resources		67	71	73



English/Language Arts

Key S	••••				
			<u>1991</u>	1996	1997
3-1	Contextual work Meaning		68	68	70
C-1	Story Elements		58	55	56
C-2	Fact/Opinion		68	67	71
C-3	Cause/Effect		69	67	73
C-4	Main Idea		49	46	50
C-5	Inferences/Conclusions		60	58	62
C-7	Propaganda Techniques		42	45	49
-8	Author's Purpose		54	51	57
C-9	Pilot/Setting Relationship		55	53	59
C-10	Summarization		55	56	59
-12	Figurative Language		60	62	67
)-1	Reference Sources		50	55	58
)-5	Directions		78	76	79
)-6	Compare Sources		76	75	78
-1	Schedules/Timetables		72	70	76
-2	Instructions/Labeling	•	32	61	65
3-2	Main Idea/Details		33	35	40
3-3	Story Details	·	66	65	68
S-4	Organizational Elements		45	43	50
S-5	Persuasive Rhetoric		56	54	59
3-6	Sentence Combining		46	47	51
3-8	Spelling		56	58	58
3-9	Capitalization		51	52	54
S-10	Punctuation		44	47	50
S-11	Grammatical Usage		56	57	62
Grade	e 8				
/lathe	ematics				
\-1	Interpreting Numbers		51	67	63
A-2	Number Comparison		42	51	51
\-7	Number Theory		34	48	45
3-7	Solving Linear Equations		43	61	61
3-9	Algebraic Expressions		61	73	71
C-5	Estimation Problems		55	60	62
0-6	Perimeter/Area		42	51	51
D-10	Circle Circumference/Area		38	43	38
-1	Lines/Angles		63	68	67
- · -2	Polygon Classification		32	34	34
 E-3	Similar/Congruent Figures		54	61	62
4	Probability		55	58	61
- 3-4	Sequential Instructions	A ter	65	72	68
 	Consumer Money Problems	15	41	43	43
 3	Area/Perimeter Problems		49	. 55	56



Science

Key Skill		1991	1996	g Maste <u>1997</u>
		•		
A-2	Vertebrate Classification	63	63	73
B-1	Cell Parts	37	37	43
D-1	Human Body Systems	60	63	67
D-4	Pollution Effects	60	61	64
D-5	Variables in an Experiment	19	27	28
E-1	Kinetic/Potential Energy	34	43	48
E-5	Heat Transfer	35	46	60
E-6	Atoms/Elements/Compounds	40	45	52
F-1	Wave Characteristics	20	27	33
H-1	Energy in Systems	48	56	60
H-5	Periodic Table	68	70	76
-3	Missouri Fossils	24	34	35
L-2	Weather Prediction	44	48	54
L-6	Climatic Zones	40	44	49
Grac	ie 8			
<u>Soci</u>	al Studies/Civics			
A-4	Map-reading Skills	73	74	78
A-6	Maps: United States	67	72	77
4- 7	Maps: World	70	72	74
B-2	Effects of Regional Changes	47	49	63
E-5	Historical Resources/Biases	46	52	60
F-4	Early American History	43	47	52
F-5	U.S. History to Civil War	35	37	42
G-1	Democratic Practices/Values	60	63	64
G-2	Democratic Decision Making	63	67	73
H-2	Government Offices	46	46	51
H-4	Legislative Procedures	46	46	63
I-2	Rights/Responsibilities	55	58	62
J-3	Citizen Influence	63	65	69
K-2	Political Issue Analysis	45	49	52
M-3	Economic Decision Making	65	66	70
N-1	Results of Production Change	50	49	56
P-4	Changes in Supply/Demand	60	61	66
V-3 .	Research Methods	71	75	79



English/Language Arts

Key Skill Percent of Students Demonstrating Mastery

-			<u> 1991</u>	1996	<u>1997</u>
B-1	Contextual Word Meaning		67	63	67
B-2	Prefixes/Suffixes	•	51	50	54
C-1	Story Theme		64	61	63
C-2	Examples/Illustrations		46	45	48
C-3	Cause/Effect		66	62	65
C-4	Main Idea		61	56	59
C-5	Inferences/Conclusions		49	49	48
C-7	Pilot Elements		66	65	69
C-8	Author's Purpose		54 .	51	55
C-9	Literary Forms		58	56	59
C-10	Figurative Language		47	47	51
D-1	Reference Sources		61	60	63
D-4	Organize Information		62	64	67
D-5	Directions		74	71	76
D-6	Compare Sources		60	57	62
E-1	Business Correspondence		47	44	49
E-2	Occupational Information		6 8	66	66
G-2	Paragraph Construction		56	54	58
G-3	Sentence Revision		59	56	60
G-5	Spelling/Usage/Structure		50	47	49
G-7	Punctuation		49	50	52
G-9	Writing Techniques		45	44	45
Grade	e 10				
	ematics		61	62	59
A-5	Simplify Expressions			51	63
B-7	Solve Linear Equations		41	34	34
B-10	Solve Formulas		30		45
C-1	Estimation		36 48	45 52	52
C-5	Estimation Problems		4 6 46	53	52 52
D-5	Pythagorean Theorem			53 52	52 53
E-1	Lines/Angles		49	30	30
E-3	Linear Equation Graphs		25 40		49
E-6	Similar/Congruent Figures		40	46	5 9
F-2	Probability		44	48 36	
F-3	Inference Limitations		34	36 66	37 64
G-1	Logical Conclusions		64 57	66 59	
G-2	Conclusion Validity		57 63	58	69 64
H-2	Banking Problems	17	63	64	64
H-4	Net Pay Computation	•	38	38	40



Science

Percent of Students Demonstrating Mastery Key Skill 1991 1996 1997 31 35 35 A-2 Mitosis/Meiosis 35 30 32 Classification: Kingdoms A-3 46 46 52 Classification: Phyla A-4 26 34 36 B-1 **Functions of Cell Parts** 28 32 34 C-4 Natural Selection 29 36 39 D-2 Marine/Terrestrial Environments 42 42 Overpopulation Problems 43 D-3 55 53 52 D-4 Elemental Cycles & Food Webs 69 72 71 D-7 Sexually Transmitted Disease 15 12 14 E-3 Scientific Notation Solution/Suspension/Colloid 33 33 F-2 16 F-7 Nuclear Fission/Fusion 17 17 G-1 Kinetic-Molecular Theory 35 34 37 G-2 46 47 48 **Energy Transformation** 27 30 32 H-1 Newton's Law of Motion 1-2 44 50 51 Earth Region Classification 65 K-1 Time Line/Earth History 61 63 22 23 15 L-1 **Experimental Variables** 45 45 42 L-3 **Energy Needs** L-4 66 63 65 Toxic/Nuclear Waste Grade 10 Social Studies/Civics 61 61 65 A-4 Map-reading Skills A-6 52 60 61 Maps: United States 66 A-7 Maps: World 60 65 **B-2 Effects of Regional Changes** 50 47 49 42 45 E-5 Historical Resources/Biases 42 35 F-3 **Historical Personages** 33 34 F-4 47 45 46 History Events: America F-7 29 29 29 History Events: Modern World F-8 Contributions of Cultures 32 37 42 F-12 53 47 49 Historical Sequences: U.S. F-13 Historical Sequences: World 32 33 37 G-5 U.S. Political Documents 35 35 G-6 52 Comparisons of Governments 51 48 H-2 53 52 54 **Government Offices** H-3 70 Federal/State Governments 68 68

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Social Studies/Civics - Continued

J-3	Citizen Influence	62	60	64
K-2	Political Issue Analysis	49	48	49
L-1	Propaganda Analysis	52	54	56
N-5	Influences on GNP	54	51	55
0-5	Economic Institutions	63	58	62
Q-3	Market 7 Command Economics	47	44	45
Q-7	GNP & Living Conditions	51	50	53
S-6	Prejudice/Discrimination	· 73	71	74



19



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Summary Report

1997

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