

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Scores for the 2015-2016 School Year

AGENCY: Public Education Department (PED)

DATE: September 16, 2016

**PURPOSE OF HEARING:
Review of 2015-2016 PARCC Scores**

WITNESSES: Christopher Ruskowski, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Program, PED; and Matthew Pahl, Director of Policy, PED

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**EXPECTED OUTCOME:
Understanding of trends in PARCC results for the 2015-2016 school year**

Due to small sample size, eight school districts and two constitutional schools were excluded from this brief's analysis: Corona Public Schools; Des Moines Municipal Schools; House Municipal Schools; Lake Arthur Municipal Schools; Mosquero Municipal Schools; New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; New Mexico School for the Deaf; Roy Municipal Schools; Vaughn Municipal Schools; and Wagon Mound Public Schools.

The PARCC assessment provides results in five performance levels: level one: did not yet meet expectations; level two: partially met expectations; level three: approached expectations; level four: met expectations; and level five: exceeded expectations.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is one of two consortia of states that received \$330 million in federal Race to the Top assessment program funding to develop assessments aligned to the common core state standards, which were adopted in New Mexico in 2010 for implementation beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Replacing the New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment for reading and mathematics, PARCC testing for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics was administered to students in third through 11th grade during the following window for computerized testing in the 2015-2016 school year: April 4 through May 13, 2016 (paper-based testing was administered from April 4 through April 29, 2016).

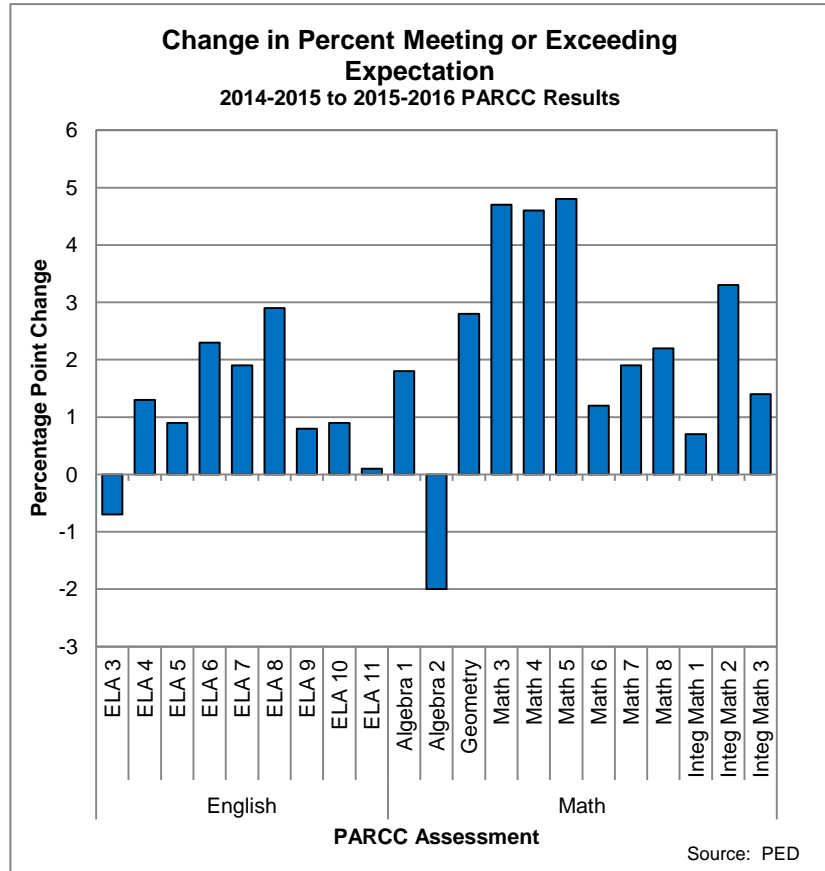
According to the PARCC website, the performance-based component captures critical-thinking, reasoning, and application skills through extended tasks. The end-of-year component consists of innovative, short-answer questions, and items to measure concepts and skills. To help simplify administration for the 2015-2016 school year, the PARCC governing board shortened the assessment by an average of 90 minutes and condensed two testing windows into one. For instance, testing changed from eight units to seven units for third through fifth grade and changed from nine units to six units for sixth grade through high school.

Statewide PARCC Assessment Results.

On August 18, the Public Education Department (PED) released statewide PARCC assessment results for third through 11th grade in ELA and mathematics. According to data obtained from PED, 424,838 ELA and math assessments were administered statewide in the 2015-2016 school year, compared to 404,431 in the 2014-2015 school year. Approximately 217 thousand students in third through 11th grade took the PARCC assessment in the 2015-2016 school year, compared to about 208 thousand in the 2014-2015 school year. Additionally, nearly 99 percent of participating students took the PARCC assessment on the computer.

Students scoring levels four or five are considered to have demonstrated competency. However, guidance from PED to schools indicates that, for the purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements for the 2016 graduating cohort, school districts are allowed to graduate students who scored a level three – the approached expectations range – as having demonstrated competency.

PARCC Proficiency Rates By Test. Compared to the 2014-2015 results, New Mexico saw improved statewide proficiency scores on 19 of 21 PARCC assessments. The largest increases were on the third through fifth grade math assessments, with statewide proficiency improvements of almost five percentage points each. Meanwhile, statewide averages declined on the Algebra 2 assessment (2 percentage points) and third grade ELA assessments (0.7 percentage points).



Six states (Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Rhode Island) and Washington D.C., administered the full PARCC assessment in the 2015-2016 school year. Massachusetts, although a PARCC consortia member, decided to administer a next generation state comprehensive assessment system, using much of the PARCC framework and content but tailored to the state's unique needs. In addition, Bureau of Indian Education schools, U.S. Department of Defense schools, and Louisiana are also participating at varying levels.

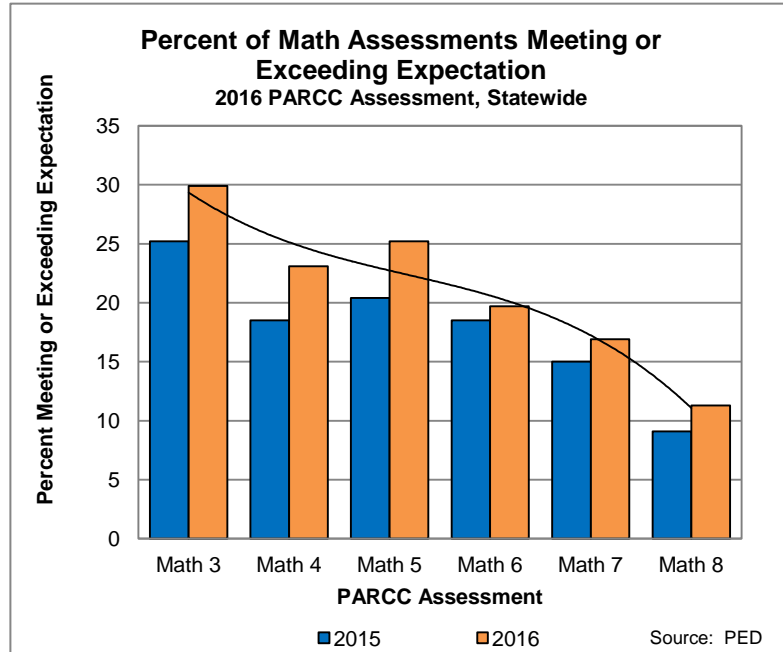
PARCC Scores in Other States. While statewide PARCC proficiency rates increased, New Mexico still lags behind other states that administer PARCC tests (see **Attachment 1**). Of the seven jurisdictions, including Washington, D.C., that administer the PARCC assessments, New Mexico scored the lowest on third and eighth grade math and ELA assessments as well as the Algebra 2 assessment. New Jersey scored higher than the six other jurisdictions on four of the six assessments. On the ELA 11 PARCC assessment, New Mexico scored the highest proficiency based on tests administered. It is unclear why New Mexico shows a significant spike in English 11 and other states do not.

New Mexico School District Proficiencies. Overall based on the total aggregate of PARCC tests administered, 47 school districts achieved proficiency rates above the state average, while 34 school districts were below the overall state average (see **Attachment 2**).

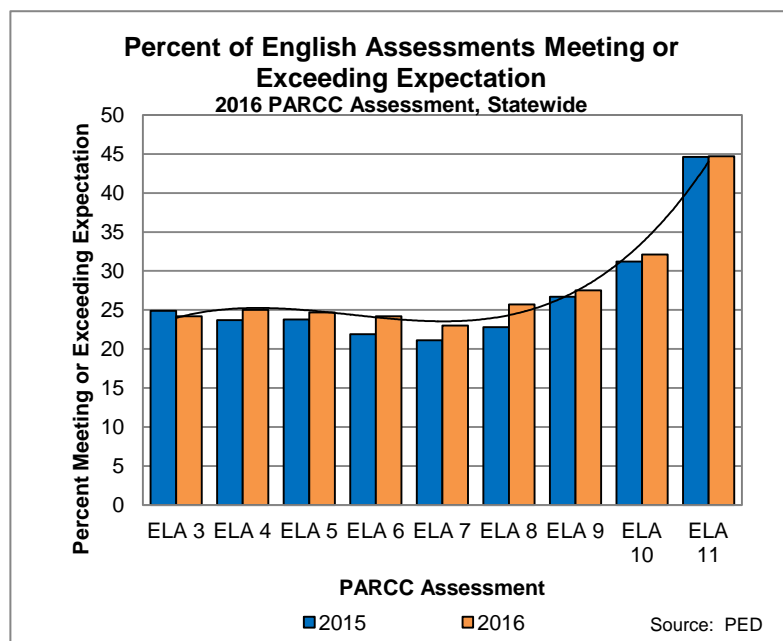
Examining statewide math assessment results in high school is more difficult than ELA results because of the structure of the PARCC tests. While ELA tests evaluate students on grade-level standards, math assessments evaluate students on content-level standards. Because students who take a PARCC math assessment vary in grade level (i.e. an eighth grader and a 10th grader might both take the Algebra 1 exam in a given year), comparisons by grade cannot be conducted among the high school math tests.

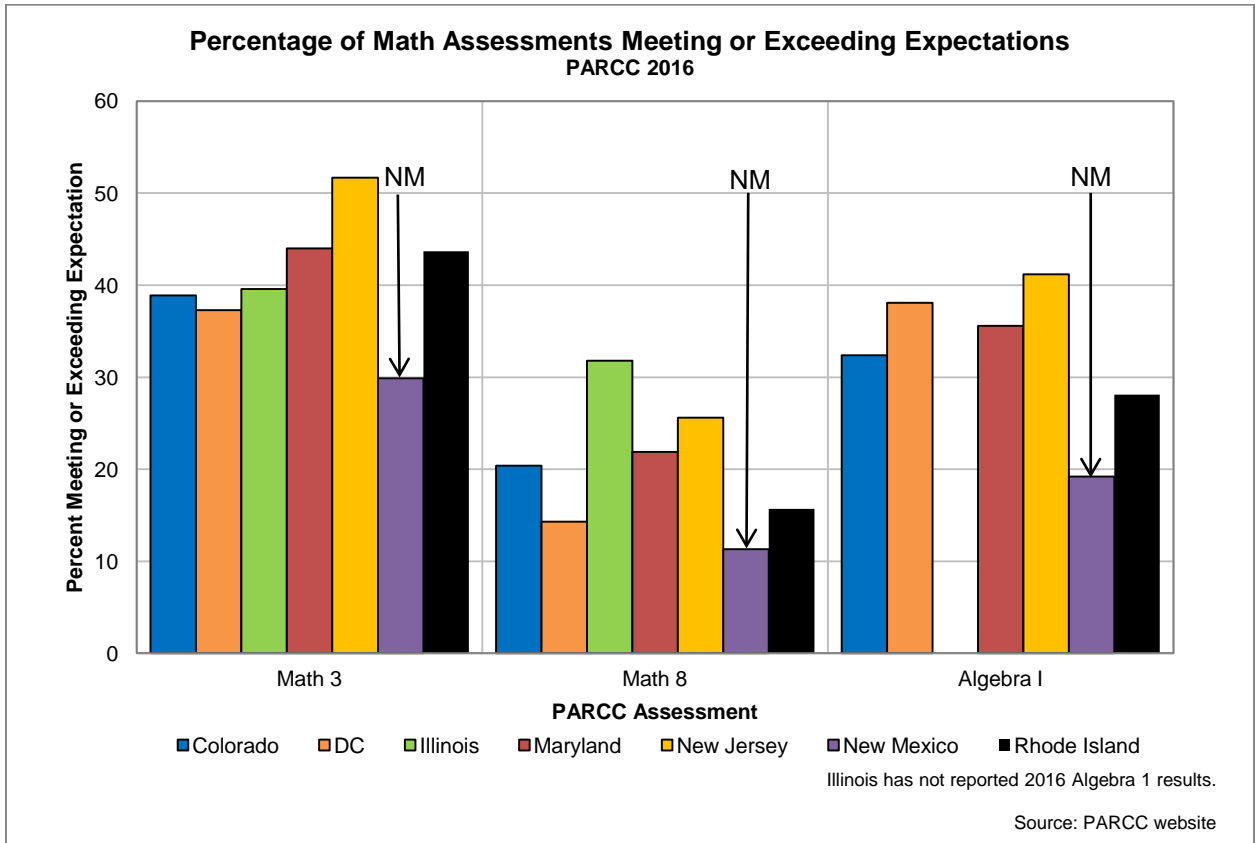
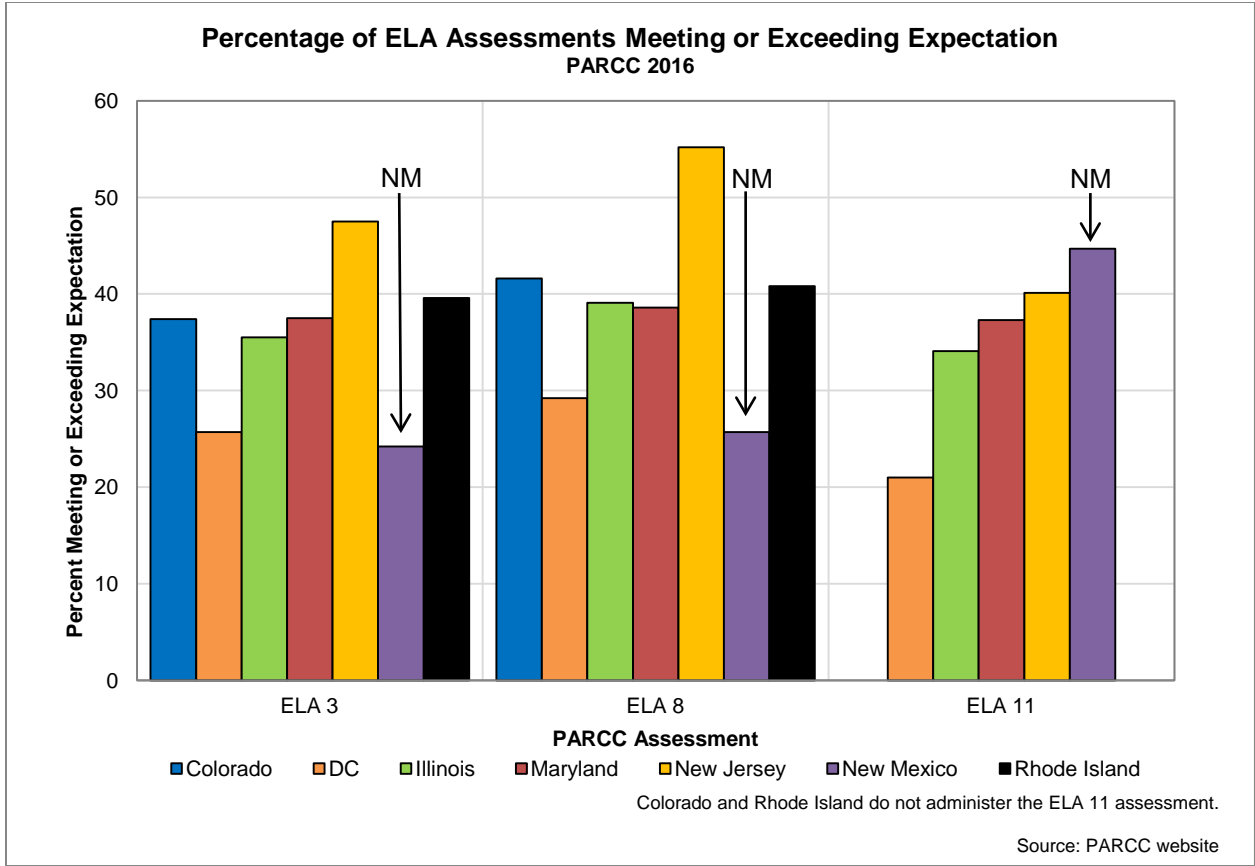
Based on total aggregate of PARCC tests administered, the following school districts scored the lowest proficiency rates in the state: Deming Public Schools; Jemez Valley Public Schools; Jal Public Schools; Zuni Public Schools; and Dulce Independent Schools.

The results of individual assessments also display significant variance. Math proficiency rates between third and eighth grades showed a significant downward trend, falling from approximately 30 percent of third grade students meeting expectations to about 10 percent of eighth graders meeting expectations.

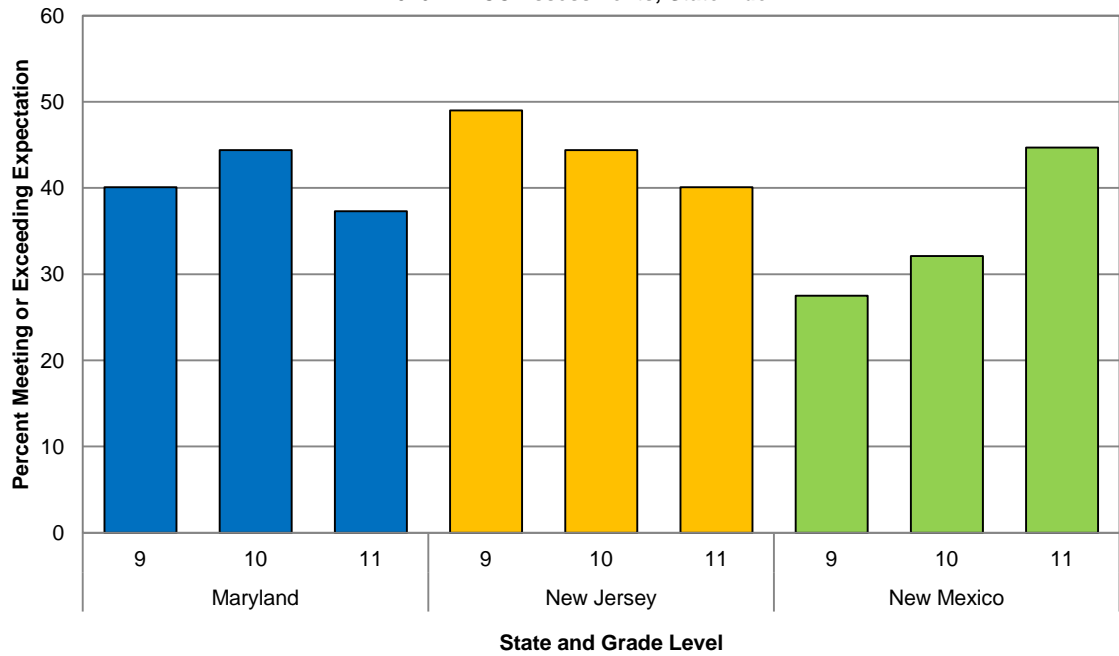


ELA assessments maintained stable proficiency rates around 25 percent from third through eighth grades. However, ELA proficiency rates increased drastically for high school students, beginning with 27.5 percent proficiency in ninth grade to 44.7 percent proficiency in 11th grade.





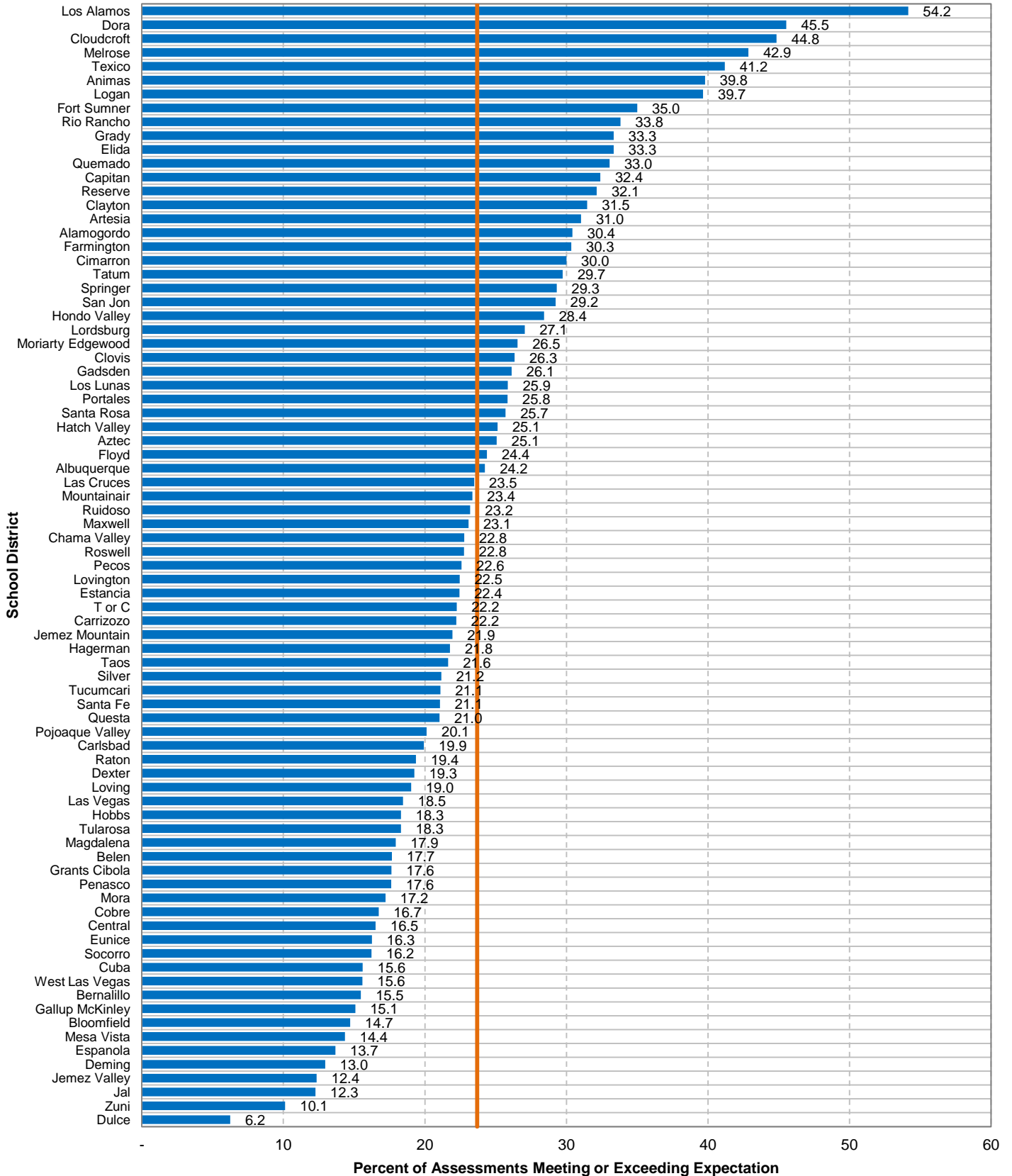
Percent of ELA Assessments Meeting or Exceeding Expectation
2016 PARCC Assessments, Statewide



Source: PARCC website, PED

Percent of Assessments Meeting or Exceeding Expectation

2016 PARCC Assessment
State Average: 23.7 percent



Due to small sample sizes, the following were excluded from this analysis: Corona; Des Moines; House; Lake Arthur; Mosquero; New Mexico School for the Deaf; New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; Roy; Vaughn; and Wagon Mound.

Source: PED