

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Randall Booker, Superintendent
Stephanie Griffin, Director of Instructional Technology

DATE: February 9, 2022

RE: PRESENTATION ON THE 2020-21 PUSD RESULTS ON THE CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS (CAASPP)

I. **SUPPORT INFORMATION**

The CAASPP – the California Assessments of Student Performance and Progress – is a collection of computer-based assessments in English Language Arts/Literacy, Mathematics and now, Science. The CAASPP replaced the paper-based Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program beginning in 2014. Last spring, Piedmont students in grades 3–8 and 11 participated in the 2020-21 CAASPP for English Language Arts and Math. Students in grades 5, 8, and 12 participated in the Science test "CAST".

Individual student score reports are accessed by parents electronically on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Directions are available on the district website (<http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/blog/2019/10/18/student-caaspp-reports-available-electronically/>). New on the individual student score reports this year are Lexile and Quantile reports. A Lexile measure indicates the difficulty of materials a child can read and understand. It is based on the child's ELA score. A Quantile measure shows what mathematical skills a student has mastered and which skills they need additional instruction in. It is based on the child's mathematics score. The individual score reports include a link to free tools and resources in reading and mathematics. Parents can use the tools to find "just right" books based on their child's Lexile measure and activities in mathematics tailored to the child's Quantile measure.

Though these individual results have been available since June, the school, district and state aggregate results were only made public in early January at <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov>. To see Piedmont's results, search for Piedmont, or use this link <https://tinyurl.com/pusdcaaspp2021> for ELA and Math results, and <https://tinyurl.com/pusdscience2021> for Science.

Due to the irregular administration of the CAASPP in the spring of 2021, the CDE website advises all users that **"care should be used when interpreting results."** Educators, parents/guardians, and community partners are always

encouraged to use a variety of data when making decisions, or making inferences about education programs and policies, but in this time of disrupted data, these cautions are even more critical. There are multiple factors that contribute to the need to interpret the results with care this year, including:

- A different, shortened test was used in the spring of 2021 than in the past
- Districts had the option to administer a local, Common Core aligned and approved assessment instead of the CAASPP if it was not a viable option
- Participation rate requirements were removed resulting in wide variations in participation across the state and within schools
- Students took the test in a variety of in-person and remote locations and that may have impacted performance.
- The inability to compare with the previous year data when the assessment was canceled due to pandemic lock-downs.

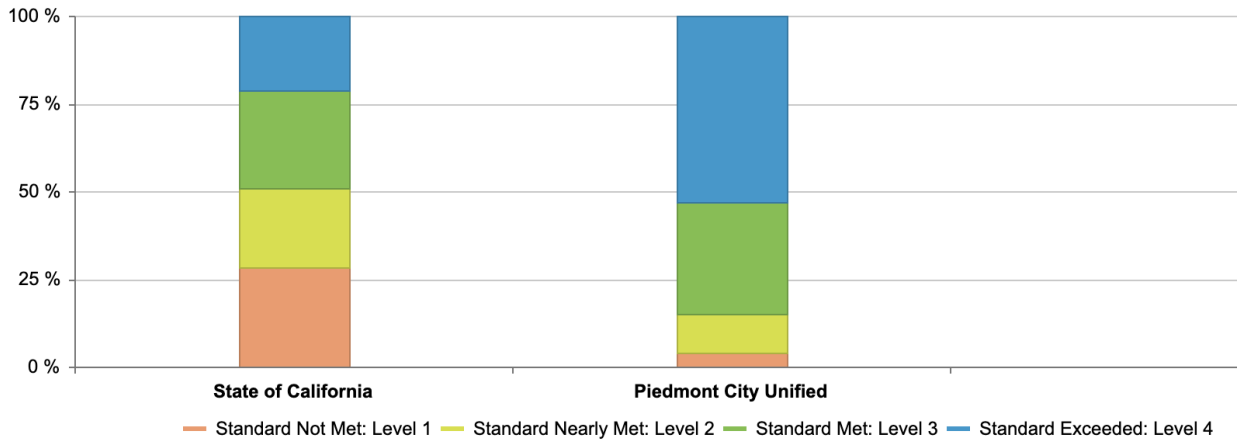
Piedmont students demonstrated remarkable achievement on the CAASPP, especially considering the impact of distance and hybrid learning and less instructional minutes from March 2020 on. The District is extremely proud of students' efforts, parent support, as well as the extraordinary teaching found across the District that resulted in high achievement in face of adversity.

Overall over 85% of Piedmont students met or exceeded state standards in English Language Arts. This is a drop of 2% points from 2019. In Mathematics nearly 82% of all students met or exceeded state standards, a drop of five percentage points. In Science 69% of Piedmont students met or exceeded state standards, which was a drop of two points.

In contrast, the State of California overall level of achievement after this extraordinary period was nearly 49% met or exceeded standards in English Language Arts (down two points from 2019), 34% in Math (down six points), and nearly 29% in Science (down one point).

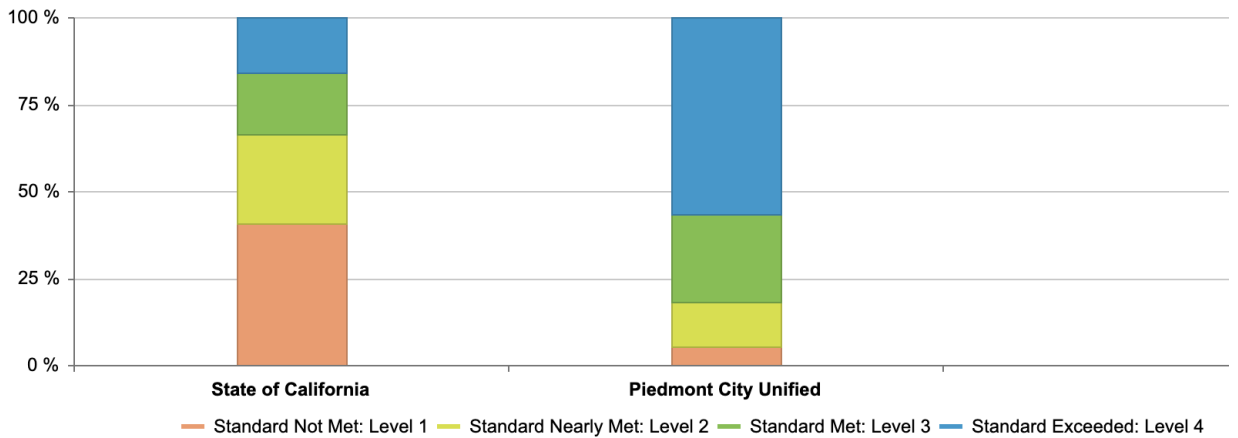
ELA

2020–21 Achievement Level Distribution - All Grades



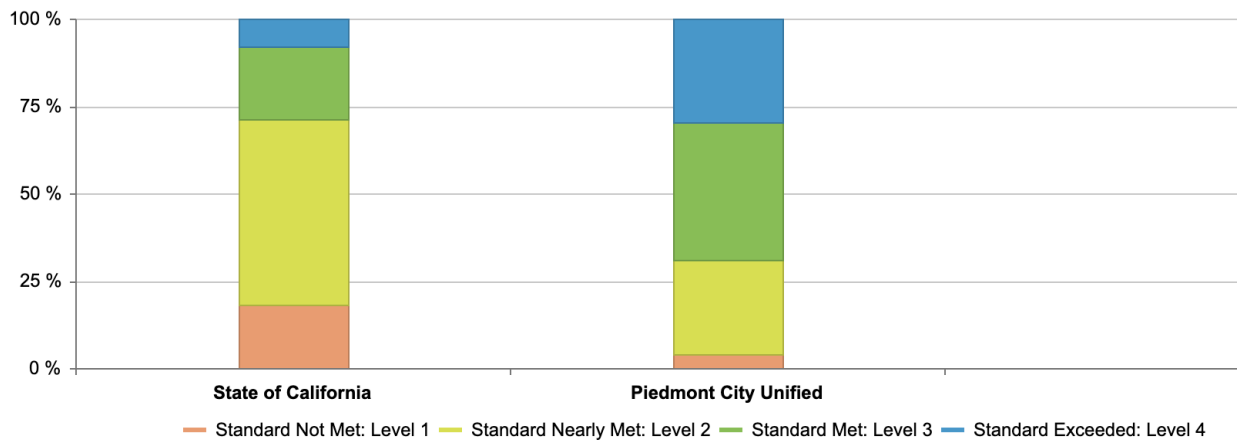
MATH

2020–21 Achievement Level Distribution - All Grades



Science

2020–21 Achievement Level Distribution - All Grades



Comparisons

It is very difficult and problematic to make comparisons on the 2020-21 CAASPP results. Many school districts did not administer the assessment to all grades, using instead an approved Common-Core aligned existing assessment such as iReady, Illuminate, Renaissance or NWEA-map as allowed by the federal and state departments of education. This was especially common in the primary grades where these benchmark assessments are already in common use for formative assessment throughout the year. In 2020–21, less than 25 percent of students statewide completed the CAASPP assessments in all the assigned subject areas. As a result, it is not possible to know whether differences in the scores from this year as compared to previous years are a function of differences in the population of test takers or differences in the teaching and learning that have occurred. Most of the unified school districts we often compare ourselves with did not administer the CAASPP to all eligible grades. Some did not use the CAASPP at all, and several used it only at the high school level.

Secondly, even the results we do find on the CDE website have very uneven participation data bringing to question the accuracy and validity of the results. For example our own high school participation rate on the CAASPP was about 57% compared to 95% in other years. Varying participation rates can be found on other schools' results as well. The lower and uneven participation rates require that data interpretations regarding the 2020–21 ELA, mathematics, and science assessment results be made with explicit caution, keeping in mind the specific context and conditions of the learning experience at that school and district.

Finally this test is different from previous tests and we need to view this year's results with a grain of salt. The test itself was shortened though care was taken to have it still align to the criteria of the longer version from previous years. In addition the test was taken in a variety of environments including at home "distance" environments. It is unknown what impact this variable may have had on results.

Included below are Piedmont, Alameda County and State results over time.

Comparison of 2020-21 CAASPP Results: Unified (K-12) School Districts – English Language Arts/Literacy

Unified School Districts ELA	2020-21 Standard Exceeded/Met	2018-19 Standard Exceeded/Met	2017-18 Standard Exceeded/Met	2016-17 Standard Exceeded/Met
Piedmont Unified	85%	87% #1 in Northern California (#3 in State)	87% #1 in Northern California (#2 in State)	86% #1 in Northern California (#2 in the state)
Alameda County	64%	57%	56%	55%
California	49%	51%	50%	49%

Comparison of 2020-21 CAASPP Results: Unified (K-12) School Districts – Mathematics

Unified School Districts MATH	2020-21 Standard Exceeded/Met	2018-19 Standard Exceeded/Met	2017-18 Standard Exceeded/Met	2016-17 Standard Exceeded/Met
Piedmont Unified	82%	86% #1 in Northern California (#2 in State)	85% #1 in Northern California (#2 in State)	84% #1 in Northern California (#2 in State)
Alameda County	51%	49%	49%	47%
California	34%	40%	39%	38%

Like class assignments and report cards, the CAASPP assessments are one gauge of student progress, providing information to schools, teachers, and parents about how students perform relative to California’s goals for both learning and college and career readiness. These results will be used as one of several means to determine and meet student needs, and guide discussions among parents and teachers.

Below are links to that may help families understand the test, what the scores mean, and how to interpret the results:

- Info on the test, sample reports, and help for parents: [Test Score Guide website "Starting Smarter"](https://ca.startingsmarter.org) (https://ca.startingsmarter.org)

- You can view a complete sample report here: [Sample Individual Score Report](https://www.caaspp.org/administration/reporting/student-score-report.html)
(<https://www.caaspp.org/administration/reporting/student-score-report.html>)
- You can also visit the following website for a detailed explanation of test results for each grade level and subject:
<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/test-guide/>

II. **RECOMMENDATION: INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**
Review and discuss the 2020-21 PUSD CAASPP Results