

PSSA's at the Elementary Level

Citizens For Education analyzed 3rd and 5th grade PSSA Reading and Math scores for all Council Rock School District (CRSD) elementary schools over the last 5 academic years, ending in 2009-10. While the PSSA scores are just one snapshot of student academic success, it does allow for comparisons to be made among the elementary schools and to the scaled state scores.

According to the administration, scores in any comparison must differ by at least 50 points in order to be considered statistically significant. Although there were 3 cases over the five year period where an elementary school had an average Reading or Math score lower than the state score, none of these were statistically significant (there were two 20-point and one 10-point difference). So it can safely be said that CRSD students in 3rd and 5th grades perform consistently better than the state scaled score in both Math and Reading, and have done so for at least the last five years.

When comparing the elementary schools to each other, four different schools have been able to claim the "Top CRSD Score" award: Goodnoe, Hillcrest, Sol Feinstone and Wrightstown. Each of the ten elementary schools has been in the top three scoring schools at least once in the five year period.

A comparison of test scores of 3rd graders to the same group of students two years later as 5th graders was conducted. This analysis evaluated data from 2006-07 3rd graders who became 2008-09 5th graders, and from 2007-08 3rd graders who became 2009-10 5th graders. In both 2008-09 and 2009-10, the Reading score for two schools increased by more than 50 points. The remaining schools' Reading scores increased from 3rd to 5th grade as well, although the increases were not statistically significant (50 point benchmark). In Math, however, every elementary school showed a 50-point or more increase in scores from 3rd to 5th grade. The administration credits this improvement to a number of factors, including student familiarity with taking assessments, alignment of the math curriculum to the material on the test, and the work of the math specialists and teachers.