

# **Virginia Alternative & Alternate Testing Programs**

## **Overview of 2009 Results**

**February 2010**

**Department of Accountability**



**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



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DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Clinton Page, Ed.S.  
Primary Author

Monte E. Dawson  
Executive Director

Bernadine Pearson, Ph.D.  
Analyst

Rose Alston  
Administrative Secretary



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## **Executive Summary**

This overview reviews the Virginia Alternative and Alternate Testing Program data for ACPS from school years 2005-2006 to 2008-2009. The testing options reviewed in this overview first came available for students in 2000-2001 with the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP). Since that time the testing program has grown to include the Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) and the Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP). These alternatives to the Standards of Learning (SOL) assessments are intended to serve students with disabilities and those with limited proficiency in English (VGLA reading assessment only).

Local ACPS results for 2008-2009 were combined with data from the previous three school years to conduct various analyses. All passing percentages contained within this report are unadjusted.

### **Strengths**

This past school year saw the largest number of VGLA students (423) and tests (654) ever administered within ACPS. This represented a 200% increase of students and a 276% increase in tests when compared to the 2007-2008 school year. With the rapid increase ACPS also saw its highest pass rates ever recorded with the VGLA. The overall pass rate (88%) represented a dramatic increase from the previous year pass rate (48%). The percentage of VGLA tests that received the highest score category of “Pass Advanced” jumped from 6% in 2007-2008 to 52% in 2008-2009. The state audit of 10% of VGLA binders from ACPS showed local scores aligned with state scores. ACPS had an audit overturn rate equal to the overall average seen across the state.

This past school year saw the highest pass percentage (93%) for VAAP students recorded over the previous four school years. This coincided with a one year 15% increase of VAAP tests that received the highest score category of “Pass Advanced.”

No details are reported out on VSEP due to student confidentiality ( $n < 5$ ), but it should be noted that TC Williams administered its first ever VSEP tests during 2008-2009.

### **Concerns**

The ACPS overall pass rate for VGLA (88%) still remained below the state’s overall pass rate (91%). With the rapid growth of participation in the VGLA, the VGLA identification practices became a concern not only in ACPS but across the commonwealth. Throughout implementation of the VGLA assessment professional development needs emerged in terms of formative assessment creation, scaffolding, differentiation of instruction, and alignment of instruction to the curriculum.

In summary, ACPS had a large increase in the 2008-2009 school year in the number of alternate assessments given, and with this large increase also saw huge gains in achievement on these assessments. In short last school year was the greatest success ACPS has ever seen related to the VGLA, VAAP, and VSEP assessment programs.



## **Background for Virginia's Alternative & Alternate Testing Programs**

The following information was extracted from the *Virginia Alternative and Alternate Assessments Administrator's Manual: 2009-2010*.

This manual as well as additional information on the VGLA, VAAP, and VSEP is available at: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative\\_assessments/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/alternative_assessments/index.shtml)

### **Purpose**

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires that all students, including those with disabilities, and those with limited proficiency in English, be assessed on statewide accountability measures to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). For all students with disabilities identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) of 2004, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines how the student will participate in the accountability system. In Virginia, students with disabilities have several options for participating in the state accountability system.

### **SOL Assessment without Accommodations**

The student will sit for the end of year SOL test, and no accommodations will be provided to the student.

### **SOL Assessment with Accommodations**

The student will sit for the end of year SOL test, and accommodations will be provided to the student as determined appropriate by the IEP team.

### **Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA)**

Available to students in grades 3 through 8 as an alternative assessment for SOL testing. The VGLA is intended for students whose disabilities prevent them from accessing the SOL test(s) in a content area, even with accommodations, and students with limited English proficiency in the content area of reading only. Students who qualify to participate in the VGLA are required to demonstrate individual achievement of grade level content standards as presented in the SOL test blueprints for the academic content area in which they are being assessed.

### **Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP)**

Available to students in grades 3 through 8 and students in grade 11 who have significant cognitive disabilities. The students demonstrate individual achievement on the Aligned Standards of Learning (ASOL) which are based off the Standards of Learning (SOL) but have been reduced in complexity and depth. Students participating in the VAAP are required to submit evidence in the same subject areas as required of their non-disabled peers in the same grade level.

## **Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)**

Available to students with disabilities who are enrolled in courses or who have previously passed courses with end-of-course SOL assessments, and students in grades 9 through 12 who need the grade 8 literacy and/or numeracy certification required to earn a modified standard diploma. Students who qualify for the VSEP are expected to provide evidence of achievement through a Course Work Compilation (CWC) based on the same standards as the students taking the SOL tests. A student's CWC represents his or her performance and skill attained within a specific subject area addressed in the SOL test blueprints.

## Tables & Figures Overview

### Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) Pages 5-13

- Table 1 provides a summary display of VGLA test results for the four comparison years 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009.
- Figure 1 shows the total number of VGLA students and the total number of VGLA tests taken from 2005-2006 through 2008-2009.
- Figure 2 displays the unadjusted overall passing percent of VGLA tests and the percent “pass advanced” over the four comparison years.
- Figures 3 and 4 compare ACPS VGLA unadjusted pass percentages to the state’s across the four comparison years (Figure 3) and by content area in 2008-2009 (Figure 4).
- Table 2 and Figure 5 present the results for each VGLA content area of reading, math, history, writing, and science over the four comparison years.
- Table 3 shows VGLA results by grade level and content area for 2008-2009.
- Table 4 displays VGLA results for 2008-2009 by NCLB subgroups, looking at both participation rates and performance.
- Table 5 presents school level results in terms of unadjusted overall pass percentage and participation in the VGLA over the four comparison years.
- Figure 6 and 7 provide school level VGLA results for 2008-2009.
- Table 6 compares VGLA school level results by content area for 2008-2009.
- Table 7 and Figure 8 are a summary of VGLA results from the state audit of VGLA binders.
  - The state audits 10% of locally scored VGLA binders from each district to ensure local scoring procedures align with the state’s procedures. If the state does not agree with the score given by the local school division they will overturn the local score with the state score. The overall state overturn rate (31%) was equal to the overturn rate seen in ACPS in 2009. This rate represents any scores moving to a new score category, so it does not only represent changes from fail to pass or pass to fail.

### Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) Pages 14-16

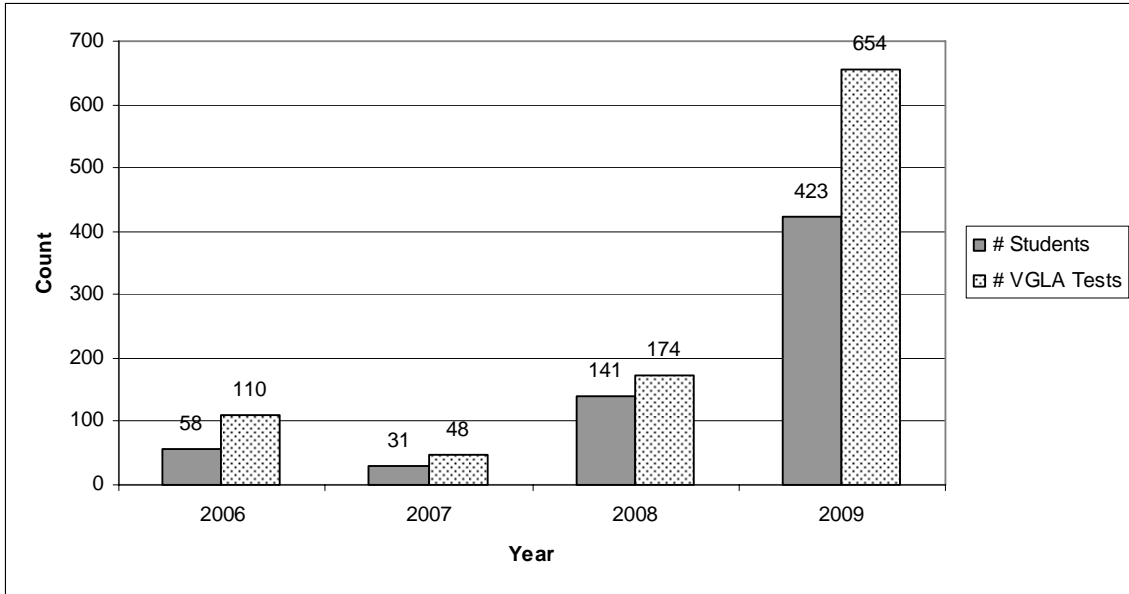
- Table 8 provides a summary display of the VAAP test results for the four comparison years.
- Figure 9 shows the total number of VAAP students and the total number of VAAP tests taken from 2005-2006 through 2008-2009.
- Figure 10 displays the unadjusted overall passing percent of VAAP tests and the percent “pass advanced” over the four comparison years.
- Table 9 shows school level results in terms of unadjusted overall pass percentage and participation in the VAAP over the four comparison years.

Virginia Substitute Evaluation Program (VSEP)

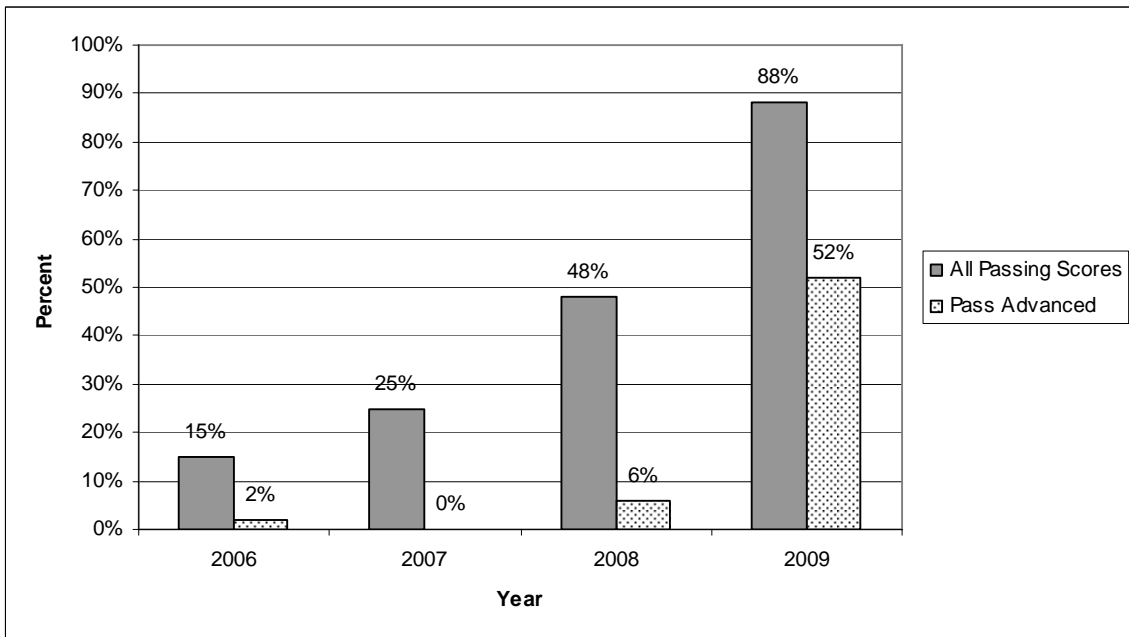
Due to student confidentiality concerns no VSEP data were presented in table or graph form. Prior to 2008-2009 a VSEP had never been administered in ACPS. In 2008-2009 two VSEPs were administered to one student in the content areas of Grade 8 Reading and Grade 8 Mathematics.

**TABLE 1**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VGLA Results: 2006-2009**

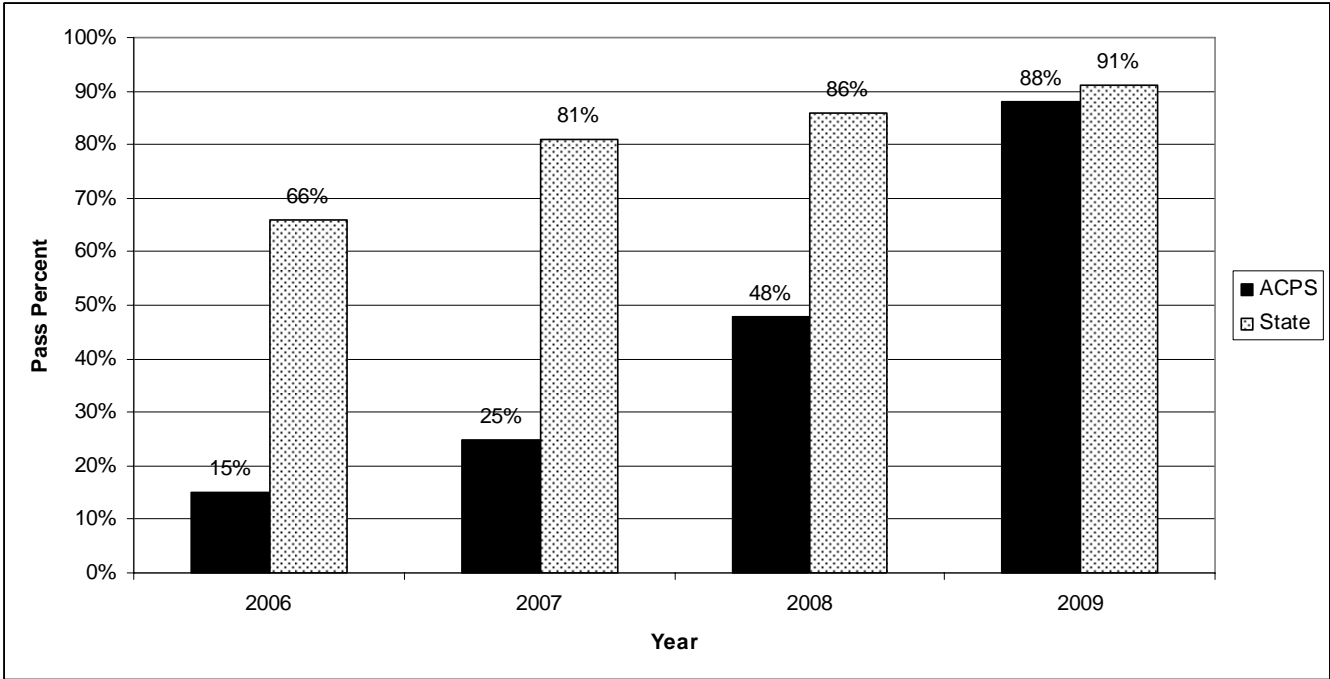
		2006	2007	2008	2009	Change Over Time			
						One Year 2006 to 2007	One Year 2007 to 2008	One Year 2008 to 2009	Four Years 2006 to 2009
Number of Students Taking VGLA		58	31	141	423	-27	+110	+282	+365
Number of VGLA Tests Taken by Students		110	48	174	654	-62	+126	+480	+544
Passing VGLA Scores	#	17	12	84	578	-5	+72	+494	+561
	%	15%	25%	48%	88%	+10%	+23%	+40%	+73%
Highest VGLA Score of "Pass Advanced"	#	2	0	11	342	-2	+11	+331	+340
	%	2%	0%	6%	52%	-2%	+6%	+46%	+50%



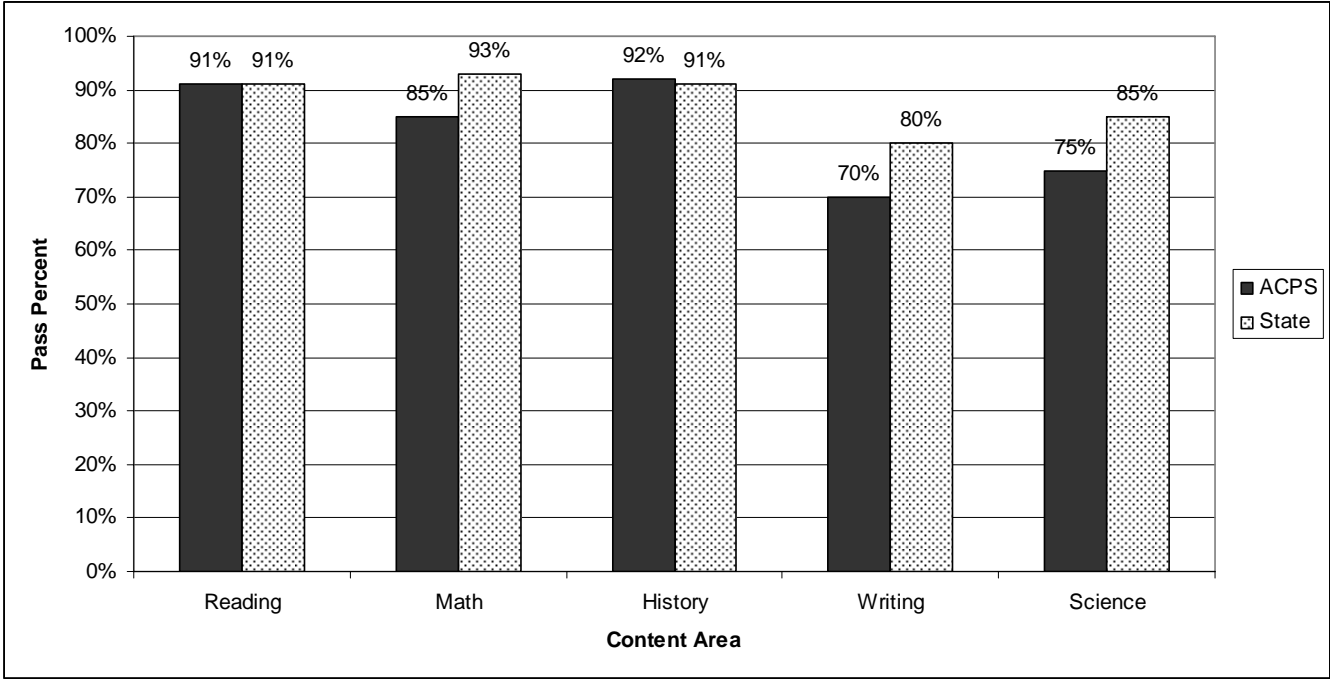
**FIGURE 1. Number of VGLA Students & Tests Administered: 2006-2009**



**FIGURE 2. Passing Percentages of VGLA Tests: 2006-2009**



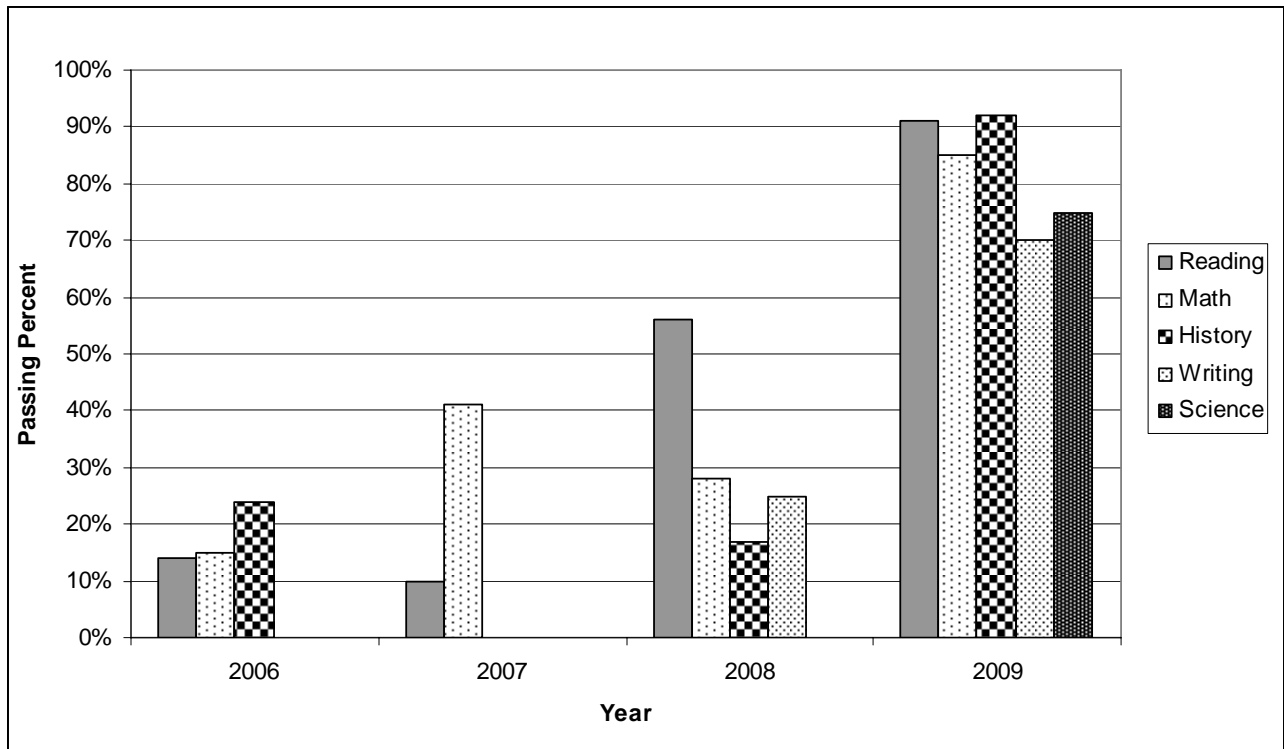
**FIGURE 3. ACPS and State VGLA Pass Rates: 2006-2009**



**FIGURE 4. ACPS and State VGLA Pass Rates by Content Area: 2009**

**TABLE 2**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VGLA Content Area Results: 2006-2009**

Year		Reading	Math	History	Writing	Science	Total Unadjusted Passing Percent
2006	% Passing	14%	15%	24%	0%	0%	15%
	# Tests	(n=37)	(n=41)	(n=25)	(n=5)	(n=2)	(n=110)
2007	% Passing	10%	41%	0%		0%	25%
	# Tests	(n=10)	(n=27)	(n=6)		(n=5)	(n=48)
2008	% Passing	56%	28%	17%	25%	0%	48%
	# Tests	(n=135)	(n=25)	(n=6)	(n=4)	(n=4)	(n=174)
2009	% Passing	91%	85%	92%	70%	75%	88%
	# Tests	(n=390)	(n=194)	(n=38)	(n=20)	(n=12)	(n=654)



**FIGURE 5. VGLA Content Area Results: 2006-2009**

**TABLE 3**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VGLA Results by Grade Level and Content Area: 2009**

Grade Level	Reading	Math	Writing	History	Science	Grade Level Total
<b>3</b>	85% (n=54)	75% (n=16)		33% (n=3)	100% (n=3)	<b>82%</b> <b>(n=76)</b>
<b>4</b>	91% (n=58)	88% (n=24)		80% (n=5)		<b>90%</b> <b>(n=87)</b>
<b>5</b>	92% (n=52)	72% (n=29)	70% (n=20)		67% (n=9)	<b>81%</b> <b>(n=110)</b>
<b>Elementary Total</b>	<b>90%</b> <b>(n=164)</b>	<b>78%</b> <b>(n=69)</b>	<b>70%</b> <b>(n=20)</b>	<b>63%</b> <b>(n=8)</b>	<b>75%</b> <b>(n=12)</b>	<b>84%</b> <b>(n=273)</b>
<b>6</b>	93% (n=89)	87% (n=45)		100% (n=13)		<b>92%</b> <b>(n=147)</b>
<b>7</b>	88% (n=67)	80% (n=41)		100% (n=6)		<b>86%</b> <b>(n=114)</b>
<b>8</b>	96% (n=70)	97% (n=39)		100% (n=11)		<b>97%</b> <b>(n=120)</b>
<b>Middle School Total</b>	<b>92%</b> <b>(n=226)</b>	<b>88%</b> <b>(n=125)</b>		<b>100%</b> <b>(n=30)</b>		<b>92%</b> <b>(n=381)</b>
<b>Division Total</b>	<b>91%</b> <b>(n=390)</b>	<b>85%</b> <b>(n=194)</b>	<b>70%</b> <b>(n=20)</b>	<b>92%</b> <b>(n=38)</b>	<b>75%</b> <b>(n=12)</b>	<b>88%</b> <b>(n=654)</b>

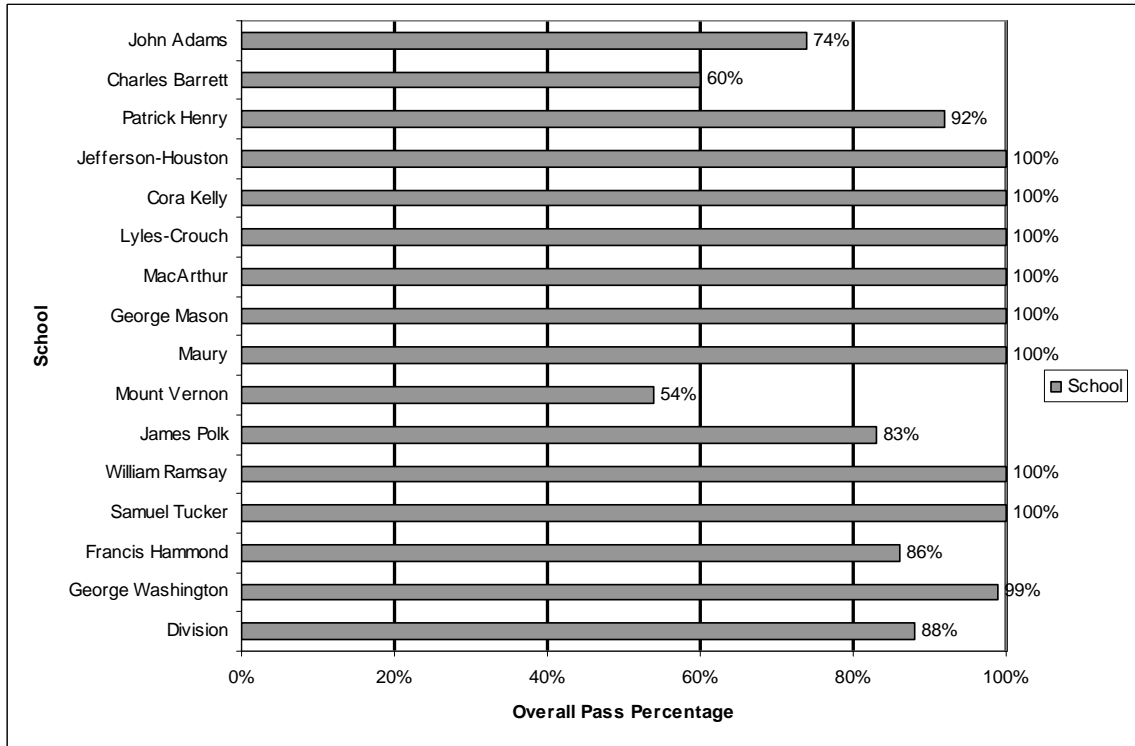
**TABLE 4**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VGLA Results by NCLB Subgroups: 2009**

	NCLB Subgroups									
	Ethnicity <sup>a</sup>				Gender		Special Education	LEP	F & RL	
	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Female	Male				
Number of Students Taking VGLA Tests	21	179	184	34	145	278	284	202	333	
Number of VGLA Tests Taken by Students	36	300	254	55	208	446	515	252	506	
Percentage of Total Tests Taken	6%	46%	39%	8%	32%	68%	79%	39%	77%	
Passing Score on VGLA	#	31	261	226	52	197	381	448	223	447
	%	86%	87%	89%	95%	95%	85%	87%	88%	88%
Highest Score 'Pass Advanced' on VGLA	#	20	147	142	30	126	216	238	155	267
	%	56%	49%	56%	58%	61%	48%	46%	62%	53%

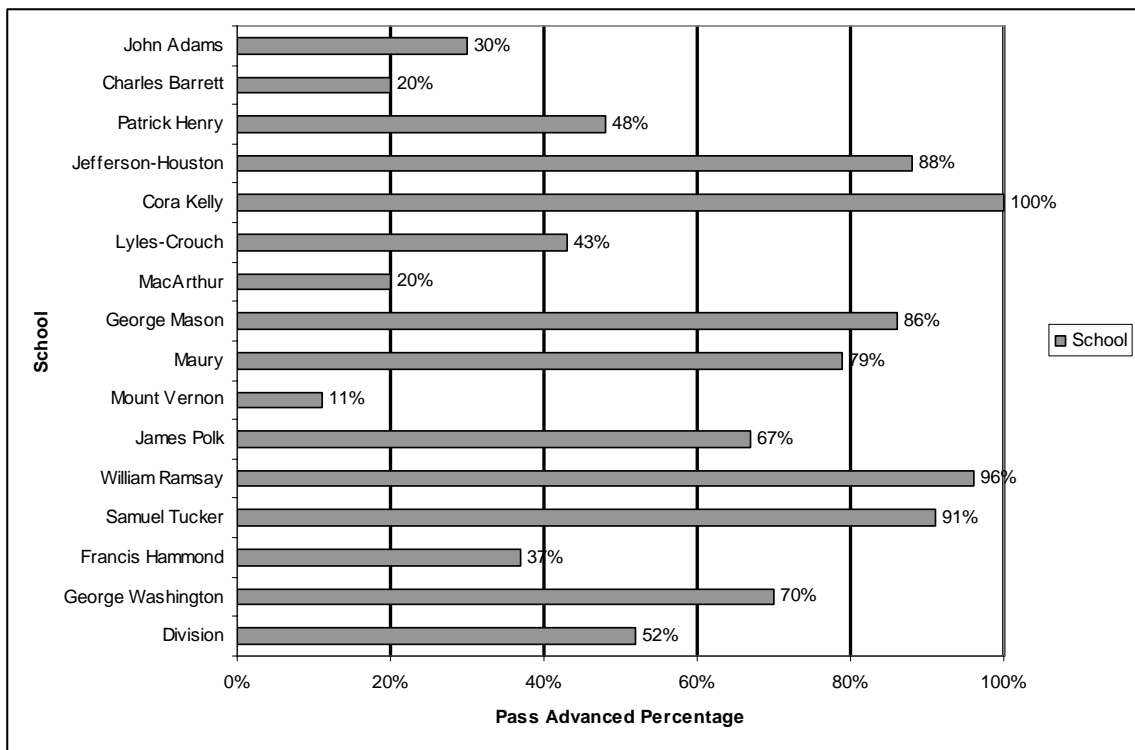
<sup>a</sup> Does not contain Unspecified (n=9) ethnic group due to low representation

**TABLE 5**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VGLA Results by School: 2006-2009**

	School		School Year			
			2006	2007	2008	2009
Elementary Schools	John Adams	% Passing			31%	74%
		# Tests			16	23
	Charles Barrett	% Passing		0%		60%
		# Tests		3		5
	Patrick Henry	% Passing				92%
		# Tests				73
	Jefferson-Houston	% Passing	0%	8%	19%	100%
		# Tests	7	13	21	16
	Cora Kelly	% Passing	33%		77%	100%
		# Tests	3		13	7
	Lyles-Crouch	% Passing				100%
		# Tests				7
	Douglas MacArthur	% Passing				100%
		# Tests				5
	George Mason	% Passing			67%	100%
		# Tests			3	7
	Maury	% Passing		22%	15%	100%
		# Tests		9	27	19
Mount Vernon	% Passing	0%	0%		54%	
	# Tests	1	1		54	
James Polk	% Passing	0%		0%	83%	
	# Tests	12		4	12	
William Ramsay	% Passing			89%	100%	
	# Tests			18	28	
Samuel Tucker	% Passing			50%	100%	
	# Tests			2	11	
Middle Schools	George Washington Middle	% Passing	20%		68%	99%
		# Tests	15		31	172
	Francis Hammond Middle	% Passing	18%	41%	50%	86%
		# Tests	72	22	36	209
ACPS	Special Situation	% Passing			100%	50%
		# Tests			3	6
	DIVISION	% Passing	15%	25%	48%	88%
		# Tests	110	48	174	654



**FIGURE 6. VGLA Overall Pass Percentages by School: 2009**



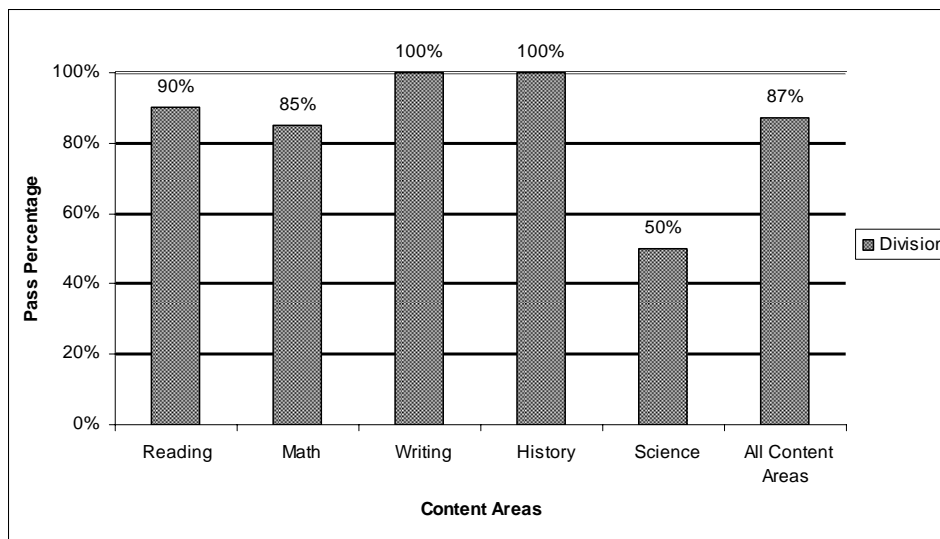
**FIGURE 7. VGLA Pass Advanced Percentages by School: 2009**

**TABLE 6**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VGLA Results by School and Content Area: 2009**

	School		Content Area					Total Unadjusted Passing Percent
			Reading	Math	History	Writing	Science	
Elementary Schools	John Adams	% Passing	91%	50%	33%		100%	<b>74%</b>
		# Tests	11	6	3		3	<b>23</b>
	Charles Barrett	% Passing	67%	100%	0%			<b>60%</b>
		# Tests	3	1	1			<b>5</b>
	Patrick Henry	% Passing	87%	96%		100%		<b>92%</b>
		# Tests	39	24		10		<b>73</b>
	Jefferson-Houston	% Passing	100%	100%	100%			<b>100%</b>
		# Tests	8	6	2			<b>16</b>
	Cora Kelly	% Passing	100%					<b>100%</b>
		# Tests	7					<b>7</b>
	Lyles-Crouch	% Passing	100%	100%				<b>100%</b>
		# Tests	6	1				<b>7</b>
	Douglas MacArthur	% Passing	100%	100%				<b>100%</b>
		# Tests	1	4				<b>5</b>
	George Mason	% Passing	100%	100%				<b>100%</b>
		# Tests	6	1				<b>7</b>
	Maury	% Passing	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>100%</b>
		# Tests	9	5	2	1	2	<b>19</b>
	Mount Vernon	% Passing	70%	27%		33%	57%	<b>54%</b>
		# Tests	27	11		9	7	<b>54</b>
James Polk	% Passing	89%	67%				<b>83%</b>	
	# Tests	9	3				<b>12</b>	
William Ramsay	% Passing	100%	100%				<b>100%</b>	
	# Tests	25	3				<b>28</b>	
Samuel Tucker	% Passing	100%	100%				<b>100%</b>	
	# Tests	10	1				<b>11</b>	
Middle Schools	George Washington Middle	% Passing	99%	98%	100%			<b>99%</b>
		# Tests	93	49	30			<b>172</b>
	Francis Hammond Middle	% Passing	88%	82%				<b>86%</b>
		# Tests	133	76				<b>209</b>
ACPS	Special Situation	% Passing	67%	33%				<b>50%</b>
		# Tests	3	3				<b>6</b>
	<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>% Passing</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>88%</b>
		<b># Tests</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>654</b>

**TABLE 7**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VGLA State Audit Results by School: 2009**

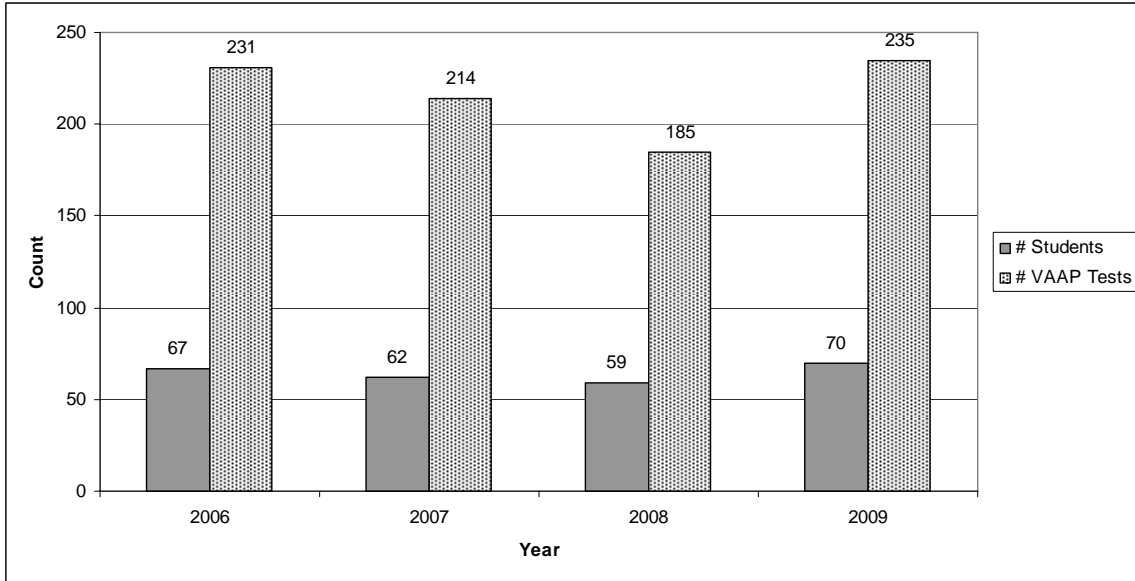
School	Reading	Math	Writing	History	Science	School Total
John Adams	2 - Pass 1 - Fail	1 - Fail	0	0	0	2 - Pass 1 - Fail
Charles Barrett	0	0	0	0	0	0
Patrick Henry	1 - Pass 1 - Fail	2 - Pass 1 - Fail	1 - Pass	0	0	4 - Pass 2 - Fail
Jefferson-Houston	1 - Pass	0	0	0	0	1 - Pass
Cora Kelly	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyles-Crouch	0	0	0	0	0	0
MacArthur	0	0	0	0	0	0
George Mason	1 - Pass	0	0	0	0	1 - Pass
Maury	1 - Pass	0	0	0	1 - Pass	2 - Pass
Mount Vernon	1 - Fail	1 - Pass	0	0	1 - Fail	1 - Pass 2 - Fail
James Polk	1 - Pass 1 - Fail	0	0	0	0	1 - Pass 1 - Fail
William Ramsay	2 - Pass	0	0	0	0	2 - Pass
Samuel Tucker	1 - Pass	0	0	0	0	1 - Pass
George Washington	7 - Pass	4 - Pass	0	1 - Pass	0	12 - Pass
Francis Hammond	17 - Pass 1 - Fail	10 - Pass 1 - Fail	0	0	0	27 - Pass 2 - Fail
<b>Division Total</b>	<b>35 - Pass 4 - Fail</b>	<b>17 - Pass 3 - Fail</b>	<b>1 - Pass</b>	<b>1 - Pass</b>	<b>1 - Pass 1 - Fail</b>	<b>55 - Pass 8 - Fail</b>



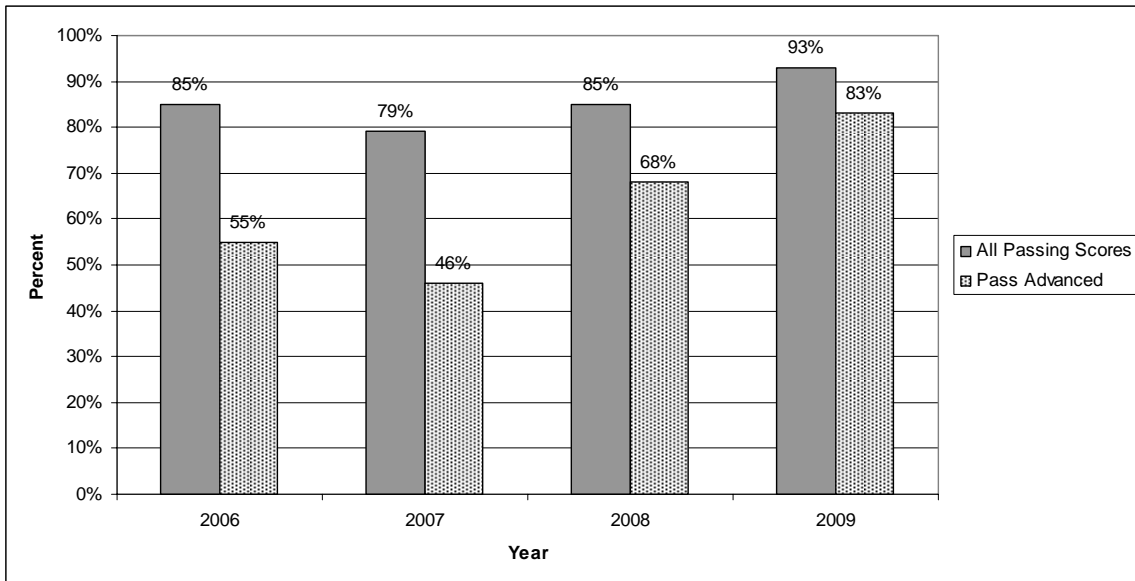
**FIGURE 8. ACPS VGLA State Audit Results by Content Area: 2009**

**TABLE 8**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VAAP Results: 2006-2009**

		2006	2007	2008	2009	Change Over Time			
						One Year 2006 to 2007	One Year 2007 to 2008	One Year 2008 to 2009	Four Years 2006 to 2009
Number of Students Taking VAAP		67	62	59	70	-5	-3	+11	+3
Number of VAAP Tests Taken by Students		231	214	185	235	-17	-29	+50	+4
Passing VAAP Scores	#	197	170	157	219	-27	-13	+62	+22
	%	85%	79%	85%	93%	-6%	+6%	+8%	+8%
Highest VAAP Score of "Pass Advanced"	#	126	99	126	195	-27	+27	+69	+69
	%	55%	46%	68%	83%	-9%	+22%	+15%	+28%



**FIGURE 9. Number of VAAP Students & Tests Administered: 2006-2009**



**FIGURE 10. Passing Percentages of VAAP Tests: 2006-2009**

**TABLE 9**  
**Alexandria City Public Schools**  
**VAAP Results by School: 2006-2009**

			School Year			
	School		2006	2007	2008	2009
Elementary Schools	John Adams	% Passing	78%	75%	96%	92%
		# Tests	27	44	23	25
	Jefferson-Houston	% Passing	100%	100%	100%	83%
		# Tests	6	4	8	6
	Mount Vernon	% Passing	100%	50%	89%	96%
		# Tests	16	20	37	28
	James Polk	% Passing	50%			
		# Tests	4			
Secondary Schools	George Washington Middle	% Passing	77%	84%	91%	100%
		# Tests	73	64	45	37
	Francis Hammond Middle	% Passing	100%	100%	100%	100%
		# Tests	21	33	12	45
	TC Williams High	% Passing	92%	95%	100%	98%
		# Tests	64	20	24	50
ACPS	Special Situation	% Passing	80%	59%	47%	75%
		# Tests	20	29	36	44
	DIVISION	% Passing	85%	79%	85%	93%
		# Tests	231	214	185	235

