



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Gail Pinsker
310.450.8338, ext. 70230
gpinsker@smmusd.org

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SMMUSD Overall CAASPP Scores Show Improvement for 2016-17

The California Department of Education released the student performance results for the 2016-17 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), with data reflecting that Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students continue to outpace their peers in Los Angeles County and California.

In review of the scores, students from SMMUSD showed gains in English language arts / literacy (ELA) and mathematics in all grades except eighth grade, *where lower math scores reflect an exclusion of more than 60 student scores from state reporting this year, causing the appearance of a decline from seventh to eighth grades and compared to last year’s eighth grade scores. ELA scores for fifth grade also registered a slight decline.

The charts below reflect the increased percentage of SMMUSD students who met or exceeded standards in 2016-17 compared with LA County and California. 2015-16 SMMUSD scores are also listed

| English Language Arts | SMMUSD 2015-16 | SMMUSD 2016-17 | LA County 2016-17 | State 2016-17 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Grade 3 | 72 | 72.94 | 43.23 | 43.9 |
| 4 | 72 | 73.28 | 44.15 | 45.06 |
| 5 | 78 | 75.61 | 45.49 | 46.54 |
| 6 | 69 | 74.26 | 44.77 | 47.03 |
| 7 | 70 | 73.41 | 47.41 | 49.4 |
| 8 | 69 | 68.8 | 46.51 | 48.61 |
| 11 | 65 | 80.27 | 59.2 | 59.76 |
| Overall | 71 | 74.04 | 47.2 | 48.56 |

| Mathematics | SMMUSD 2015-16 | SMMUSD 2016-17 | LA County 2016-17 | State 2016-17 |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Grade 3 | 74 | 76.33 | 46.64 | 46.83 |
| 4 | 70 | 70.27 | 39.17 | 40.45 |
| 5 | 63 | 68.21 | 32.22 | 33.83 |
| 6 | 54 | 57.29 | 34.4 | 36.48 |
| 7 | 57 | 57.98 | 34.3 | 36.91 |
| 8 | 56 | 50.46* | 34.15 | 36.3 |
| 11 | 50 | 51.52 | 30.34 | 29.14 |
| Overall | 60 | 61.79 | 35.89 | 37.56 |

This is the third year the computer-based tests were administered. The tests measure success using California's challenging academic standards and asks students to write clearly, think critically, and solve complex problems, just as they will need to do in college and 21st century careers.

"The test results reflect a high rate of success amongst SMMUSD students compared to their peers, which is a testament to our teachers, staff and administrators at our schools, along with parent support," Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati said. "That does not, however, mean we can relax. We are continuing to focus on access and opportunity for all students as we face an achievement gap within some of our subgroups including Latino, African American, English Learner and students with disabilities." Latino, African American, English Learner and students with disabilities groups did show gains in some areas.

The tests were taken last spring and parents received individual student results over the summer. The SMMUSD Board of Education, along with district leadership and site administrators, are currently reviewing the results in order to implement strategies for improvement where needed.

"Our goal is to help all students graduate with the problem-solving and critical-thinking skills they need to prepare for college and a 21st century career," Dr. Drati said. "The results give parents a key measure of how well students are doing – and give teachers and schools information they need to differentiate instruction and help every child prepare for a bright future."

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SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1651 16TH Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404
ph: 310.450.8338; fax: 310.581.1138
www.smmusd.org Follow us on Twitter: @SMMUSD