



NEWS RELEASE

Utah State Board of Education

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Statewide scores show language arts proficiency up slightly, math proficiency flat

SALT LAKE CITY – The percentage of Utah public school students proficient in language arts rose from 44 to 45 percent in 2018 while the mathematics proficiency rate held steady at 46 percent, according to [SAGE test data](#) released today by the Utah State Board of Education.

Grades 6-8 science proficiency levels are not in the report released today nor, are growth scores in science for any grade. In December 2015, the Board updated the state’s [grades 6-8 science standards](#). Following a year of educator training on the new standards, updated assessments matching the new standards were introduced in the 2017-18 school year and those assessments are in a validation process to make sure they match the new standards. Updated science scores will be released later this fall after the validation study and review by Utah’s school districts and charter schools.

Gaps in proficiency levels among students persist with students who are white, Asian, and multiracial outperforming other minority groups. Small gains in proficiency, however, were seen across the board among all racial and ethnic groups. Students who are economically disadvantaged also struggle more with proficiency than students who are not, but again there were small gains in proficiency here, too.

[SAGE tests](#) in language arts, mathematics, and science have been given to Utah students in grades 3 – 11 each spring since 2014. SAGE scores will be a component – along with other measures including ACT scores, graduation rates, English language learner progress, and readiness coursework completion rates – of school accountability reports that will be released later this year.

This is the last year for SAGE tests with the expiration of the contract with the provider. Utah will debut [RISE tests](#) for students in grades 3-8 while students in grades 9 and 10 will take the [Utah Aspire Plus](#) exam in the 2018-19 school year. High school juniors will continue to take the [ACT exam](#).

SAGE scores including disaggregated data and district and school data can be found online at <https://datagateway.schools.utah.gov/Assessment/SAGE/2018>.

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