



SPECIAL REVIEW ASSESSMENT (SRA) UPDATE

April 15, 2009

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The SRA Context: A Reminder

“In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a pre-requisite. The countries that out-teach us today will out-compete us tomorrow.”

President Barack Obama, February 24, 2009



The SRA Context: A Reminder

- The SRA is for students who have not yet passed one or both content areas of the HSPA, the current state graduation proficiency test;
- The SRA is state developed but locally administered and scored, over several weeks or months, consisting of Performance Assessment Tasks (PAT), in math and language arts literacy;
- In recent years, 11,000-15,600 students have achieved their diploma via the SRA, most of them general ed students;
- In some schools a majority of seniors graduate via the SRA;
- March 19, 2008: the State Board adopted the department's proposal to improve the SRA by strengthening the SRA administration process.

Progress Since March 2008

The Department –

- Gathered more information about SRA students and SRA practice in the districts:
 - Collected data about 2007-2008 SRA usage;
 - Required districts with significant SRA usage rates (10% or higher) to submit detailed analyses of their SRA student populations;
 - Interviewed students and teachers about SRA process;
- Established SRA Advisory Committee to consider department's plans for improving the SRA;
- Consulted testing vendors about scope of work and costs of changes to SRA administration and scoring;
- Developed plans for 2009-2010.

SRA Data 2007-2008

Total Students Using SRA to Fulfill
Graduation Testing Requirement For One
or Both Content Areas

<u>Year</u>	<u>N-Count</u>
○ 2008	11,513
○ 2007	11,747
○ 2006	13,288
○ 2005	15,669
○ 2004	15,351

SRA 2007-2008 Rates by County

County	N-Count	Total = 11,513
○ Essex	1862	
○ Hudson	1519	
○ Camden	1097	
○ Union	1080	
○ Passaic	928	
○ Middlesex	928	
○ Bergen	611	
○ Ocean	586	
○ Mercer	532	
○ Burlington	504	
○ Monmouth	357	
○ Cumberland	344	
○ Morris	222	
○ Gloucester	213	
○ Atlantic	213	
○ Somerset	190	
○ Sussex	122	
○ Salem	101	
○ Warren	95	
○ Hunterdon	69	
○ Cape May	43	

SRA 2007-2008: Highest District Rates

(30% or more seniors using SRA to satisfy HSPA proficiency requirement)

○ Orange	62.8%
○ CREATE Charter (Hudson)	58.9%
○ Plainfield	59.6%
○ Irvington	58%
○ Atlantic City	57.5%
○ Trenton	54.8%
○ Academy Charter (Monmouth)	54.5%
○ Emily Fisher Charter (Mercer)	51.3%
○ Pleasantville	51.6%
○ Camden	50.1%
○ L.E.A.P. Academy Charter (Camden)	46.6%
○ Elizabeth	43.9%
○ Paterson	41%
○ Willingboro	39.5%
○ Newark	39%
○ Bridgeton	37.6%
○ Jersey City	34%
○ East Orange	31.8%



Summary: SRA 2007-2008

- Decrease in SRA usage by districts from 2007 to 2008;
- SRA-based graduation rate was 11.5% in 2008, down slightly from 11.8% in 2007;
- Overall, steady decrease in SRA usage since 2005;
- Four counties (Camden, Essex, Hudson, Union) account for half of SRA usage statewide;
- 68% of SRA profiles completed are in mathematics, 32% in LAL.



District SRA Survey 2008

High schools with SRA usage rates of 10% or more in 2008 were required to submit detailed information about their SRA student population:

- 105 schools met or exceeded the 10% threshold.

District SRA 2008 Surveys: What did they tell us?

Some students do fail SRA:

- The 105 schools surveyed reported a total of 6620 students graduating in 2008 via the SRA;
- They reported a total of 263 students who failed to graduate in 2008 due to failure to complete the SRA successfully;
- SRA failure rate = 4%.

District SRA 2008 Surveys: What did they tell us?

A majority of SRA students are taking college preparatory courses:

<u>Course</u>	<u>% of SRA Students Taking/Have Taken</u>
Biology	91%
Algebra I	90%
Geometry	86%
Algebra II	71%
Chemistry	57%
Physics	10%
CP12 English	63%
Honors/AP English	9%



District SRA 2008 Surveys: What did they tell us?

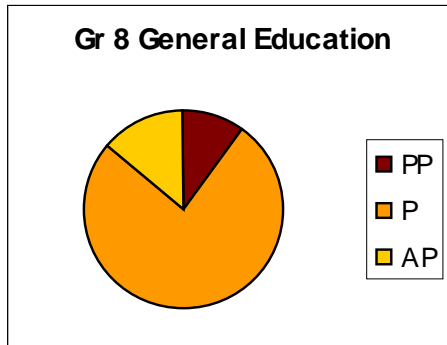
Teaching

Almost 20% of schools responding to survey acknowledged that they sometimes use long term substitutes or inappropriately certified teachers.

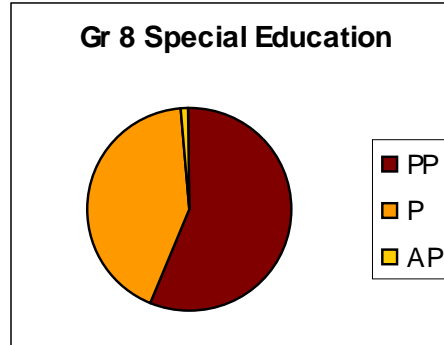
District SRA 2008 Surveys: What did they tell us?

- Students who fail the NJ ASK8 are likely to fail the HSPA;
- We asked the 105 schools whether they had programs in place to use NJ ASK8 scores to identify at-risk students:
 - Yes, programs in place: 88 schools
 - Some programs in place: 5 schools
 - No programs in place: 12 schools

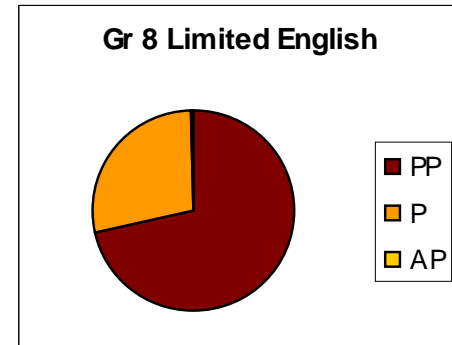
2008 Grades 8 & 11* LAL Results by Program Group



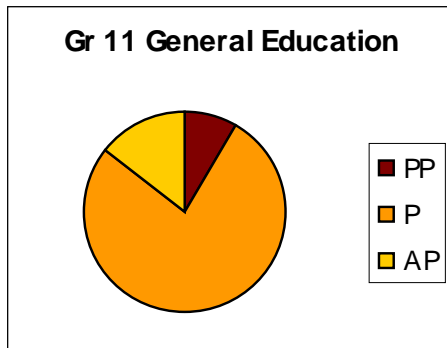
PP 10% P 76% AP 14%



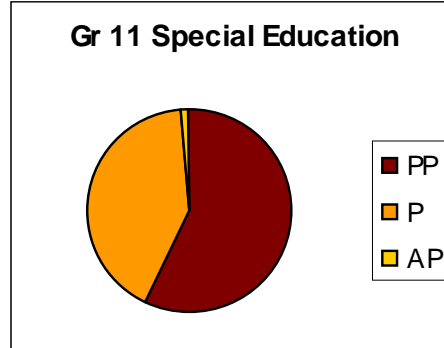
PP 56% P 43% AP 1%



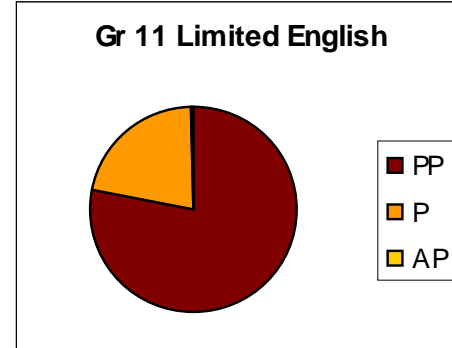
PP 72% P 28% AP 0%



PP 8% P 77% AP 15%



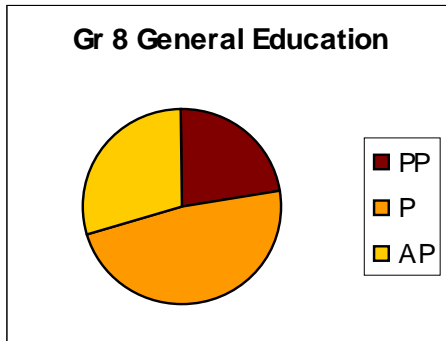
PP 57% P 42% AP 1%



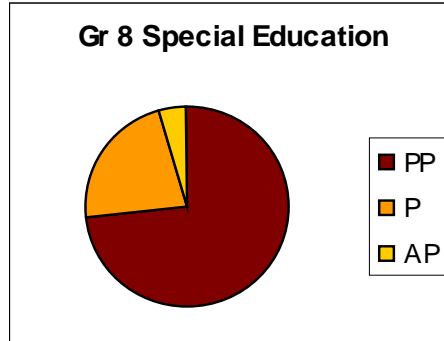
PP 78% P 22% AP 0%

*First time test-takers

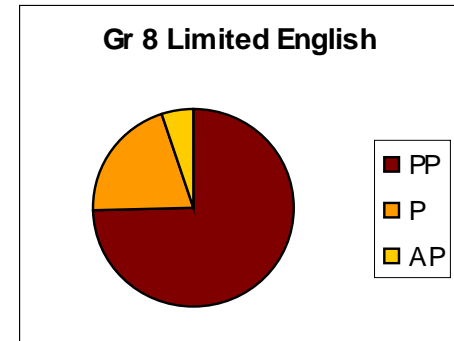
2008 Grades 8 & 11* Math Results by Program Group



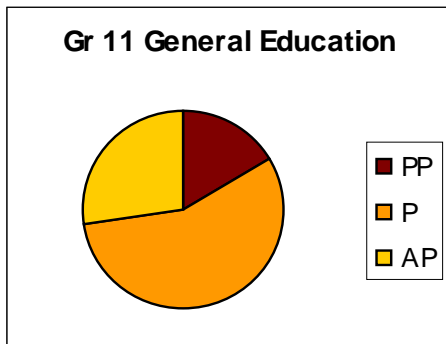
PP 23% P 47% AP 29%



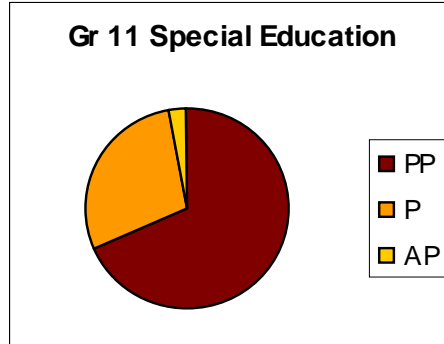
PP 73% P 23% AP 4%



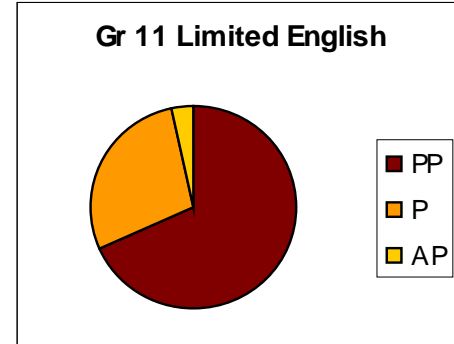
PP 74% P 20% AP 5%



PP 16% P 56% AP 28%



PP 68% P 29% AP 3%



PP 68% P 28% AP 4%

* First time test takers



What does this mean?

- Districts must use NJ ASK8 scores to plan personalized instructional support and intervention for all incoming *ninth* grade students who failed to attain proficiency on NJ ASK8.

District SRA 2008 Surveys: What did they tell us?

SRA Outlook for class of 2009, based on 105 surveys:

- Number of schools expecting to graduate less than 10% through SRA in 2009: 42
- Number of schools expecting to graduate more than 10% through SRA in 2009: 63
- Number of students in class of 2009 currently participating in SRA process: 10,306



SRA Advisory Committee

- Committee met five times between August 2008 and January 2009 for 4-6 hours each meeting;
- Membership included representatives from districts, NJEA, NJPSA, ELC, and DOE;
- Our thanks to Advisory Committee members.

SRA Advisory Committee: Major Recommendations

- DOE selects, assigns, distributes SRA tasks for each administrative window;
- Four three-week SRA administrative windows during school year;
- Schools continue to score student SRA responses but DOE implements systematic audit process to ensure accurate scoring and to identify abuse of scoring standards;
- Continued monitoring of districts that rely heavily on SRA to graduate seniors;
- Collection of more data about student performance, course-taking patterns, access to highly qualified teachers, and other indicators.



DOE Plans for SRA 2009-2011

- Stricter controls on administration of SRA performance tasks;
- Use of testing vendor to ensure quality of SRA scoring, using trained NJ teachers – the department does not believe that an audit model will be adequate;
- Continued collection and analysis of data about SRA student population;
- Phase in of end of course competency tests to replace HSPA, with alternate assessment instruments for student who fail the competency assessments.



Longer Terms Strategies for Reducing SRA Population

- Early childhood education
- Formative assessment
- Secondary School Redesign
- Improvements in teaching and learning
- Focus on personalization
- Improving teacher quality in districts with significant achievement gaps
- Continued commitment to multiple measures of student achievement



QUESTIONS?

- Thank you!