



Pittsburgh Public Schools



# Summary of Successes in 2007-2008 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

July 24, 2008



Despite dramatic changes introduced in 2006-2007, the District still made modest growth in student achievement that year.



In 2007-2008, the District made substantial progress in raising student achievement levels across the board.



## **This year students made gains in Reading and Mathematics proficiency on 13 of 14 PSSA exams**

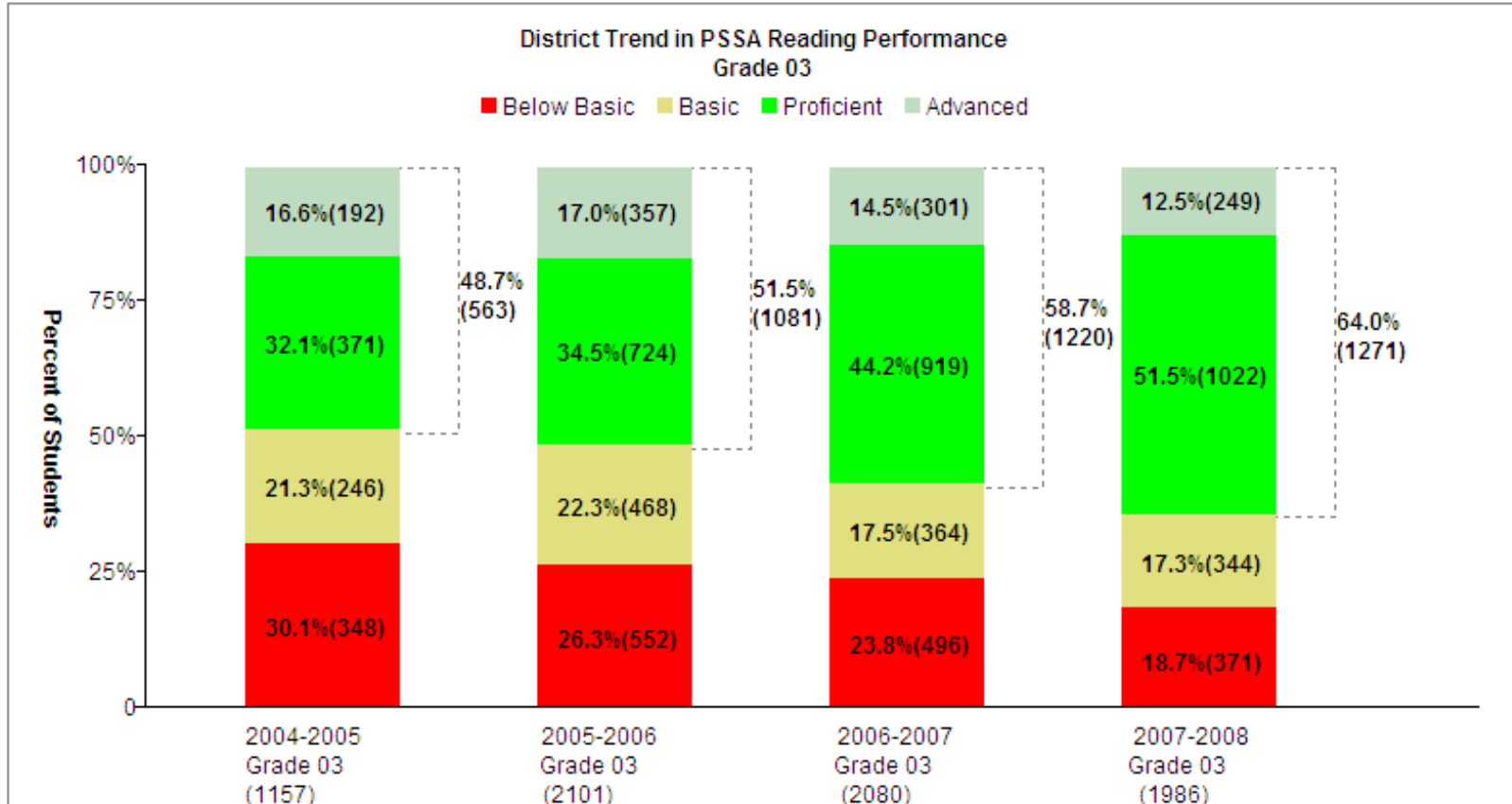
- Reading gains ranged from 0.8 points (1.9%) in grade 5 to 8.8 points (15.3%) in grade 8
- Mathematics gains ranged from 0.5 points (0.9%) in grade 5 to 8.6 points (19.6%) in grade 11

*Note: PSSA's were taken in two subjects (Reading and Mathematics) in seven grades (3-8 and 11)*

This year's results show  
accelerated progress on  
District priorities.

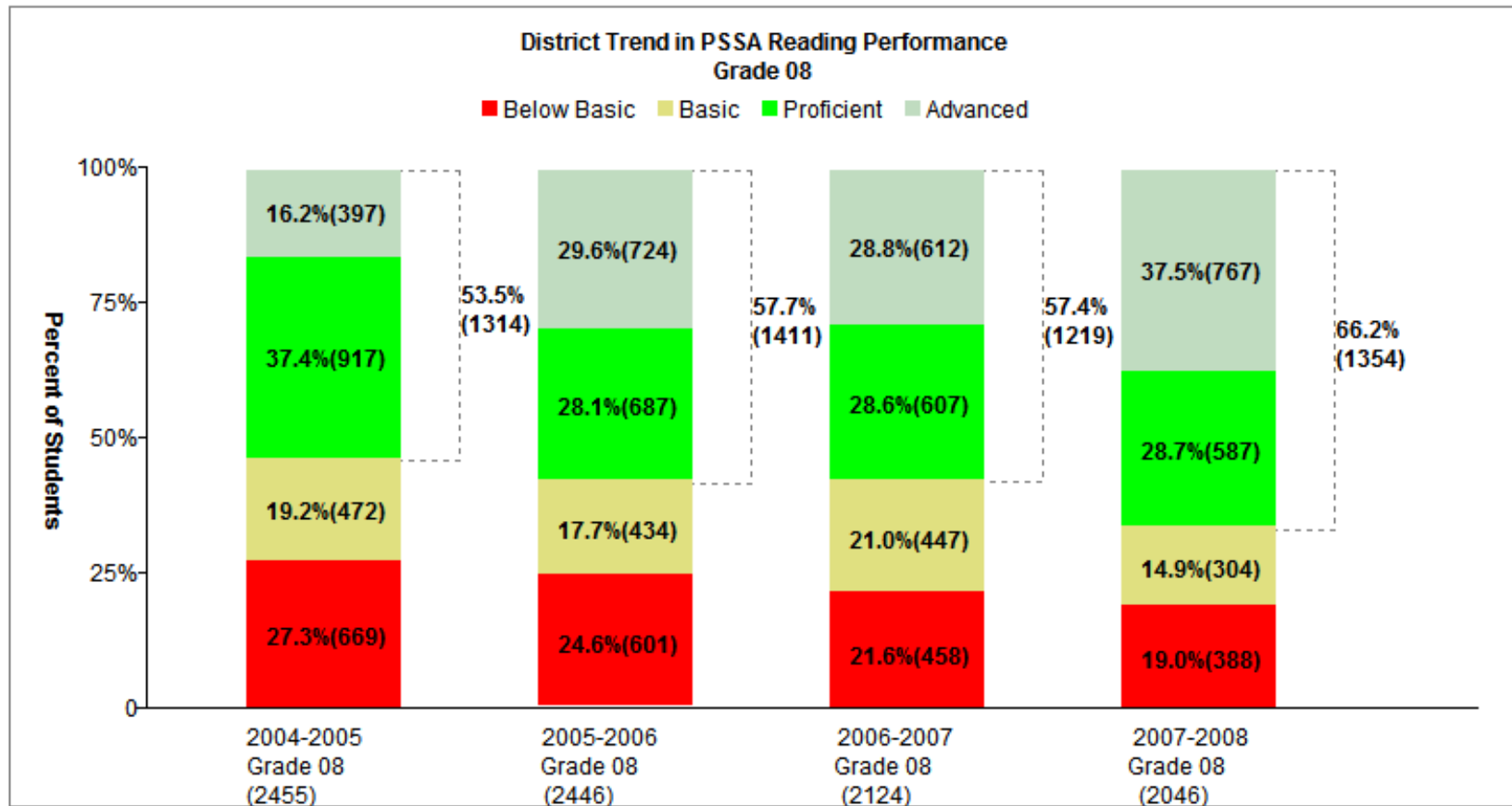


# Grade 3 Reading Proficiency: This year's 5.3 increase means that students improved 15.3 points (31.4%) over 3 years



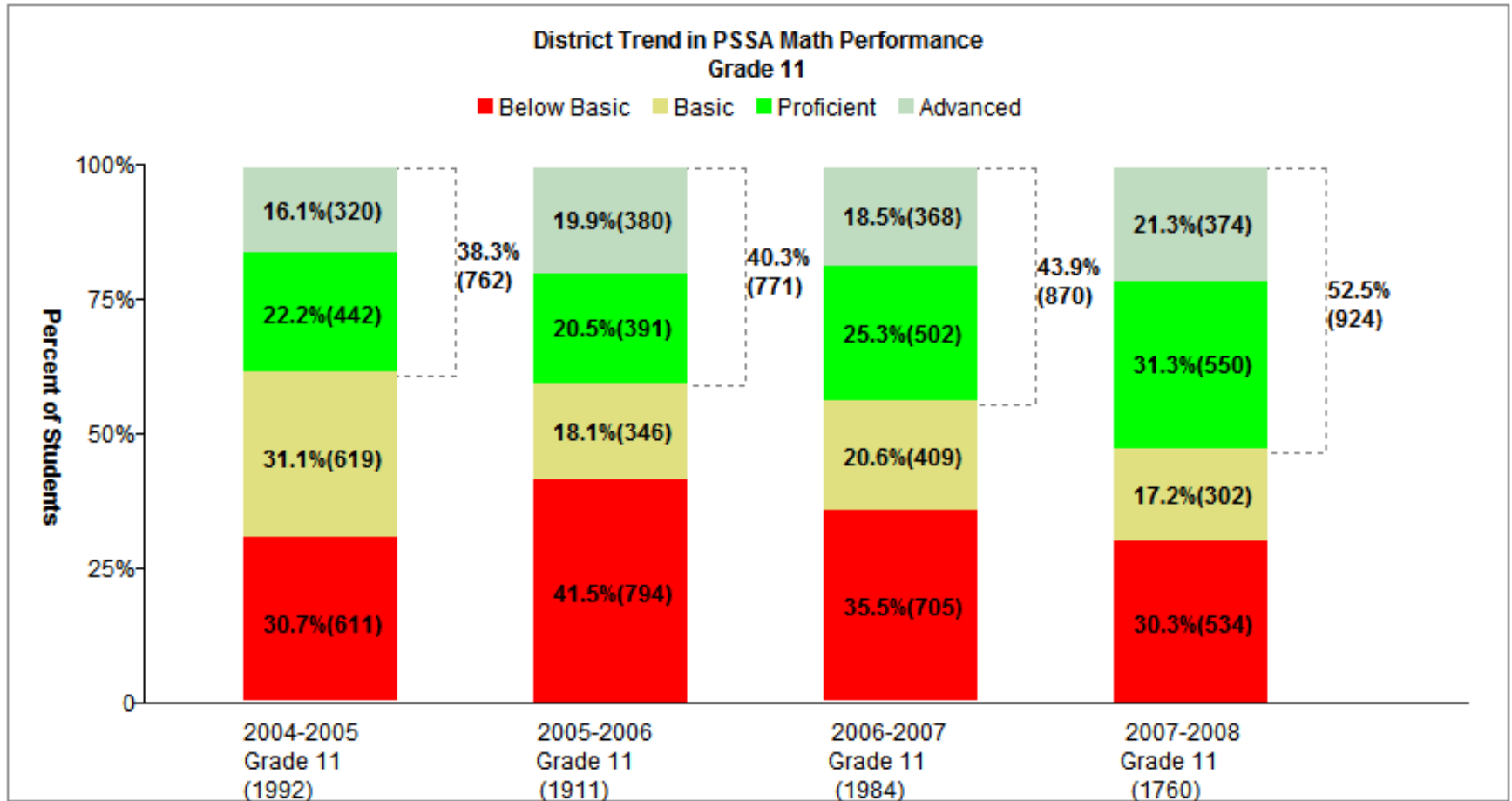


# Grade 8 Reading Proficiency: This year's 8.8 increase means that students improved 12.7 points (23.7%) over 3 years





# Grade 11 Mathematics Proficiency: This year's 8.6 increase means that students improved 14.2 points (37.1%) over 3 years







## Spotlight

Students from Pittsburgh Greenfield K-8 posted gains in Reading and Mathematics proficiency across all grades tested.

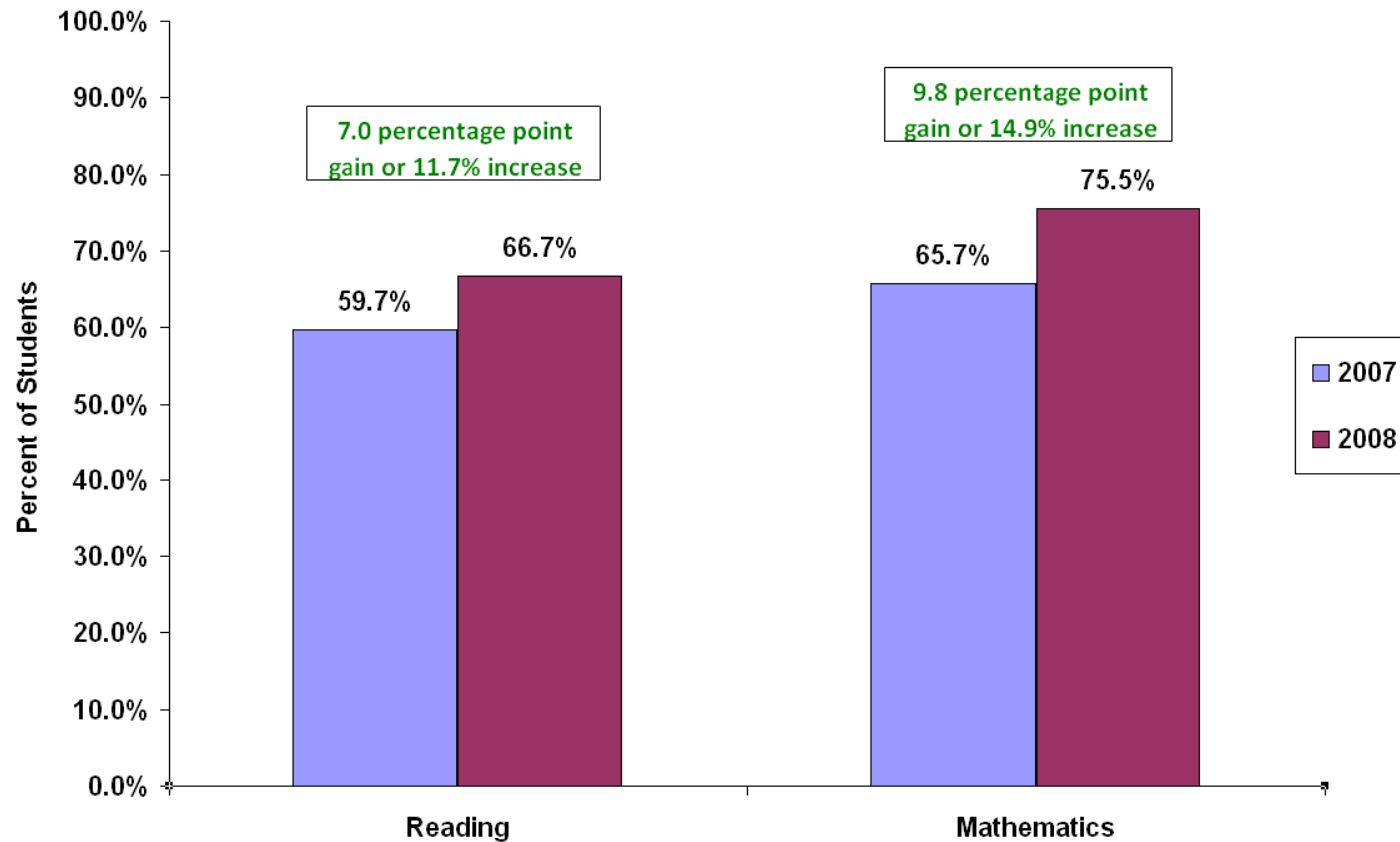
*Pittsburgh Greenfield was among five elementary schools with the greatest improvements in proficiency in both Reading and Mathematics across all grades.*

Pittsburgh Manchester PreK-5  
Pittsburgh Spring Hill K-5  
Pittsburgh Weil PreK-8  
Pittsburgh Northview PreK-5



## Overall, students improved 7.0 points (11.7%) in Reading proficiency and 9.8 points (14.9%) in Mathematics proficiency from last year.

Pittsburgh Greenfield K-8  
Overall increase in PSSA Proficiency





District goals exceed what is required for compliance with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and include moving students to the advanced level.

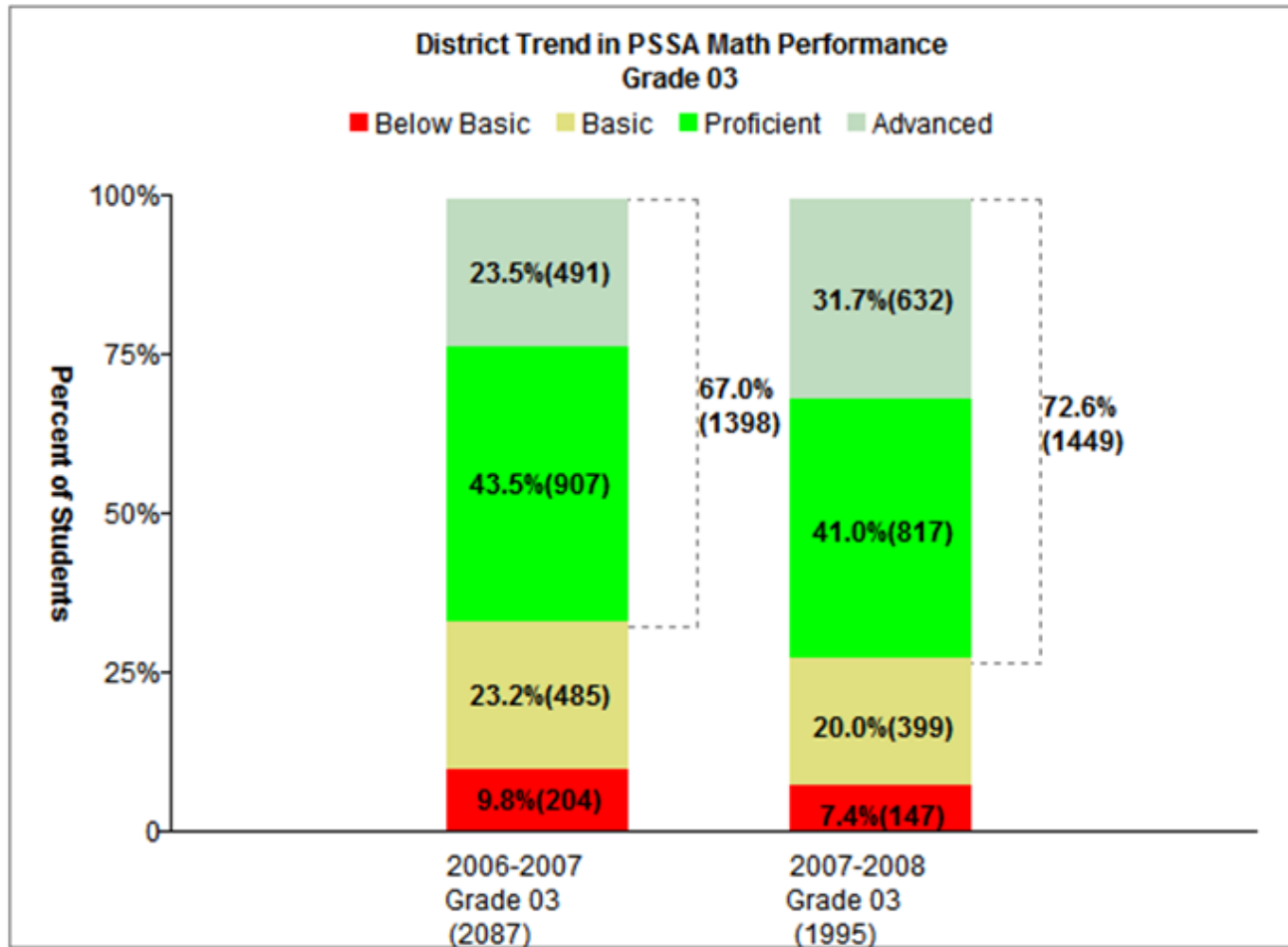


## **This year students showed progress in moving to the advanced level on 12 of 14 PSSA exams.**

- Reading gains ranged from 0.5 points (4.4%) in grade 5 to 8.7 points (30.2%) in grade 8
- Mathematics gains ranged from 1.6 points (5.6%) in grade 5 to 8.8 points (30.1%) in grade 4

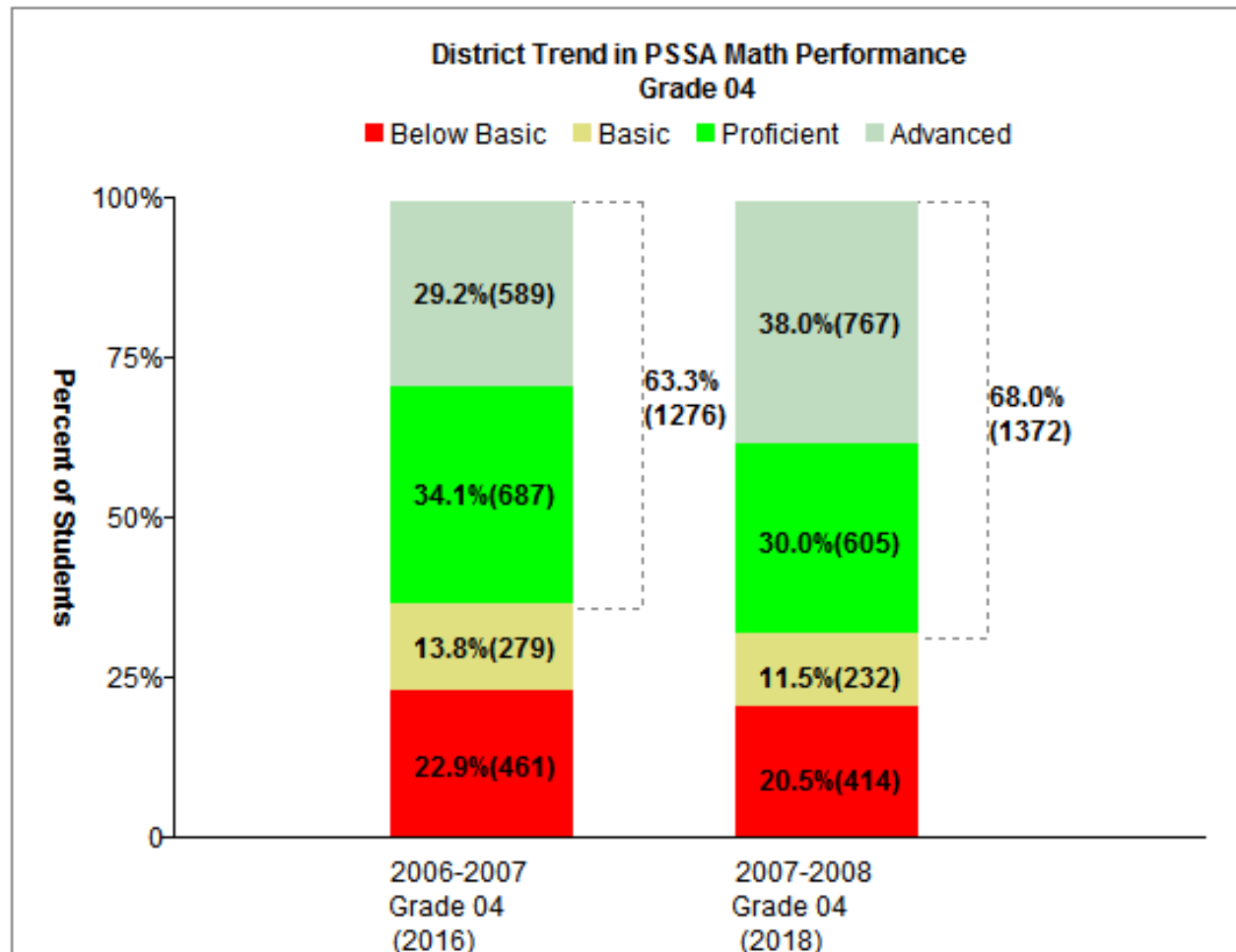


## Grade 3 Mathematics Advanced: Students improved 8.2 points (34.9%) over last year



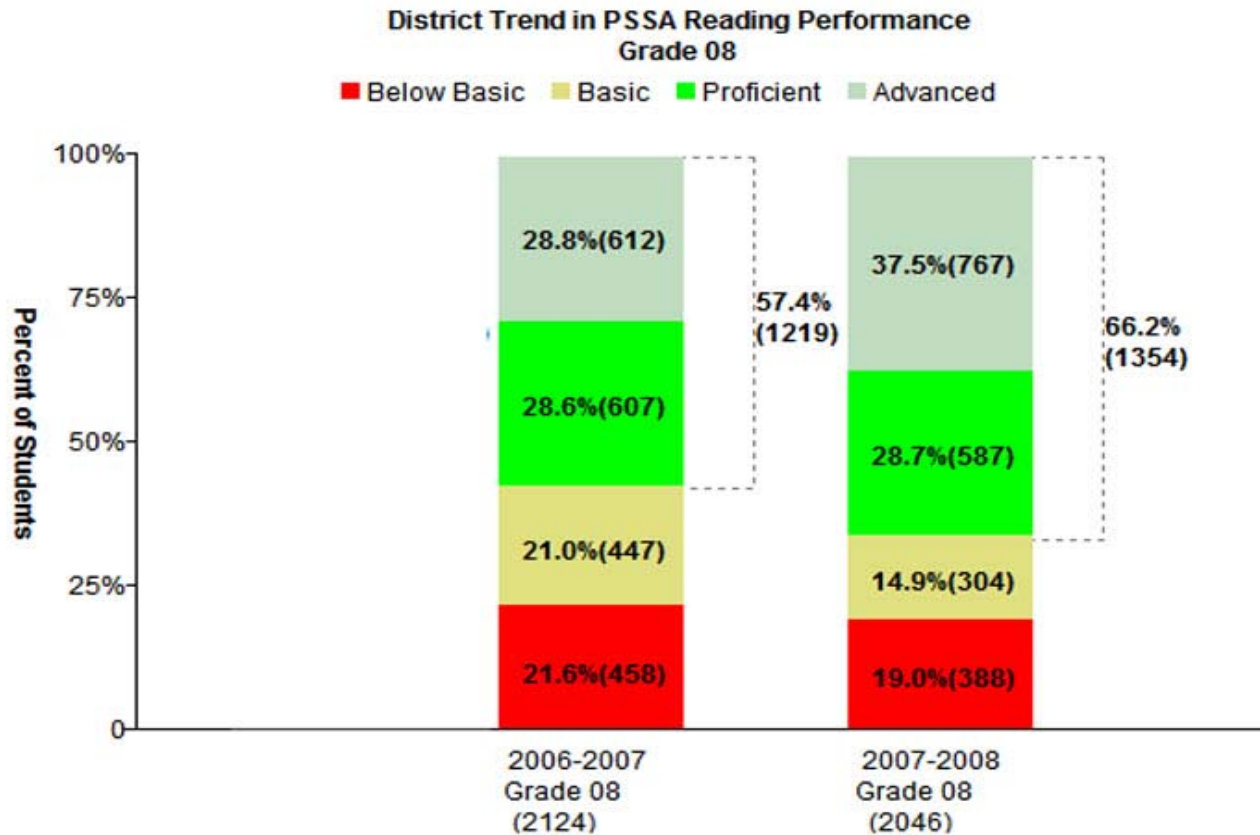


## Grade 4 Mathematics Advanced: Students improved 8.8 points (30.1%) over last year





## Grade 8 Reading Advanced: Students improved 8.8 points (30.1%) over last year





## Spotlight

Students from Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5 posted gains in advanced Reading and Mathematics across all grades tested.

*Pittsburgh Dilworth was among seven elementary schools with the greatest improvements in both advanced Reading and advanced Mathematics across all grades.*

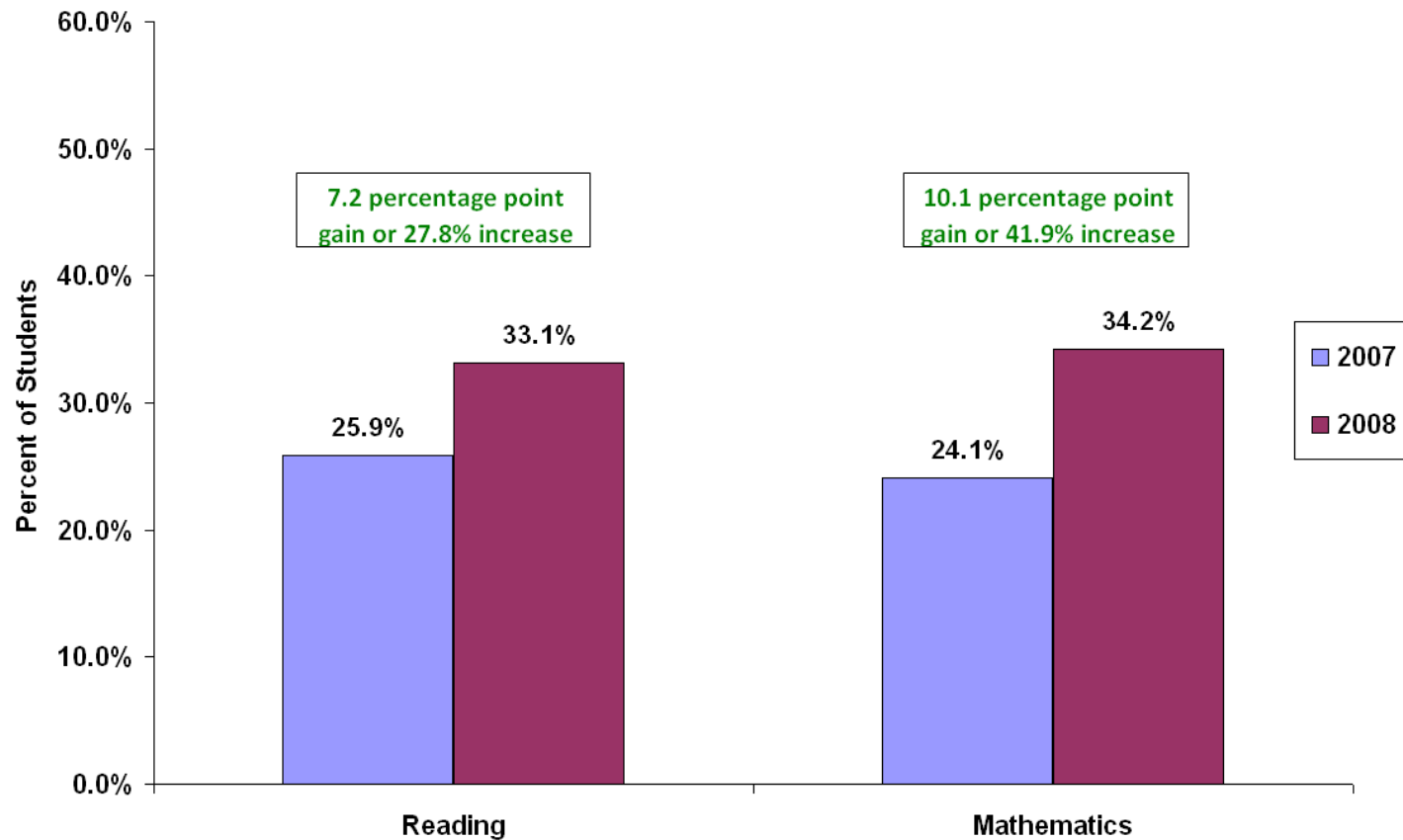
Pittsburgh Manchester PreK-8  
Pittsburgh Morrow PreK-5  
Pittsburgh Whittier K-5  
Pittsburgh Liberty K-5  
Pittsburgh Greenfield K-8  
Pittsburgh Weil PreK-8





## Overall, students improved 7.2 points (27.8%) in advanced Reading and 10.1 points (41.9%) in advanced Mathematics from last year.

Pittsburgh Dilworth K-5  
Overall PSSA Increase in Advanced



Another one of the District's goals is reducing the number of students performing at the below basic level.

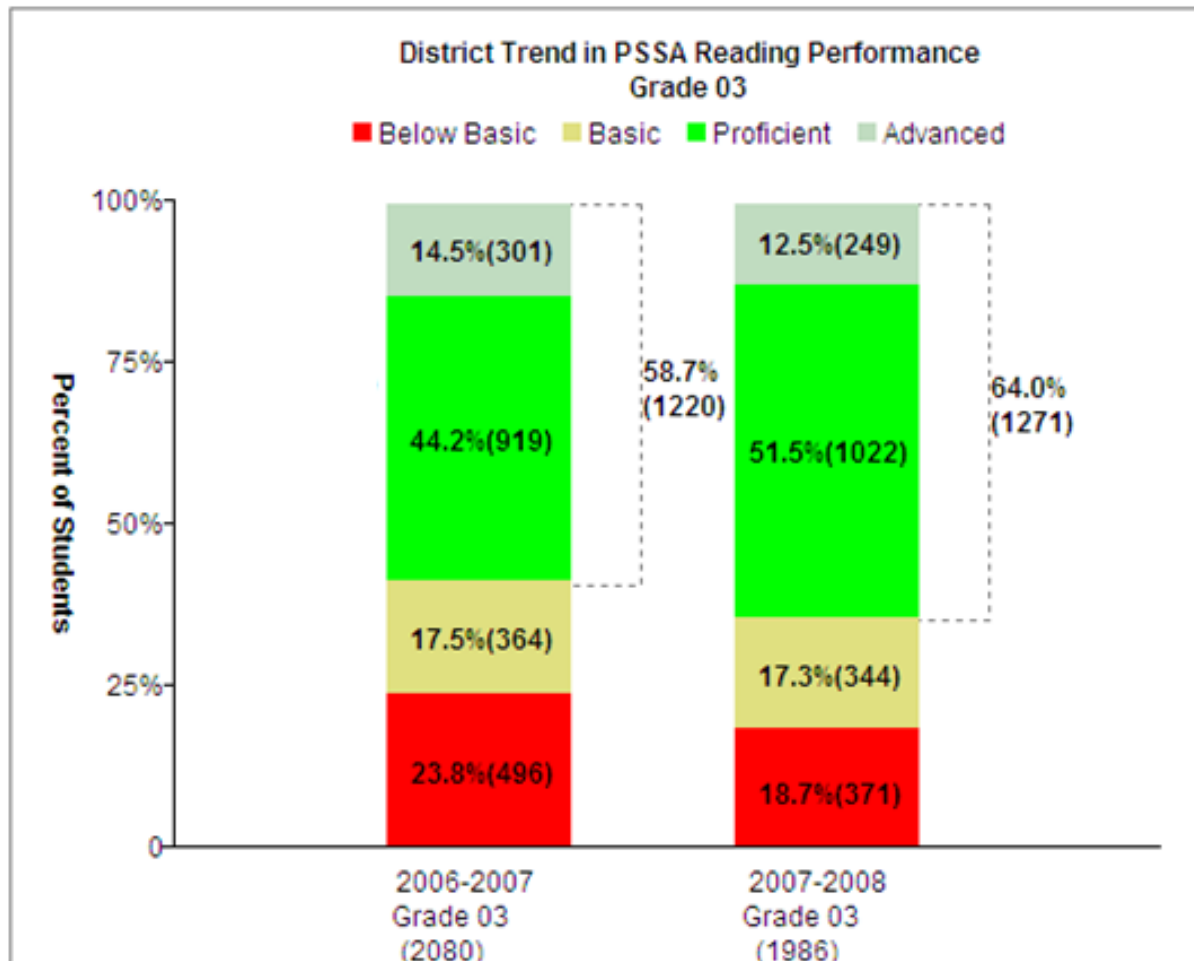


## **This year students showed progress in moving out of below basic on 11 of 14 PSSA exams.**

- Reductions in below basic ranged from 2.6 points (12.0%) in grade 8 to 5.1 points (21.4%) in grade 3 in Reading from last year
- Reductions in below basic ranged from 2.4 points (24.5%) in grade 3 to 5.9 points (18.8%) in grade 7 in Mathematics from last year

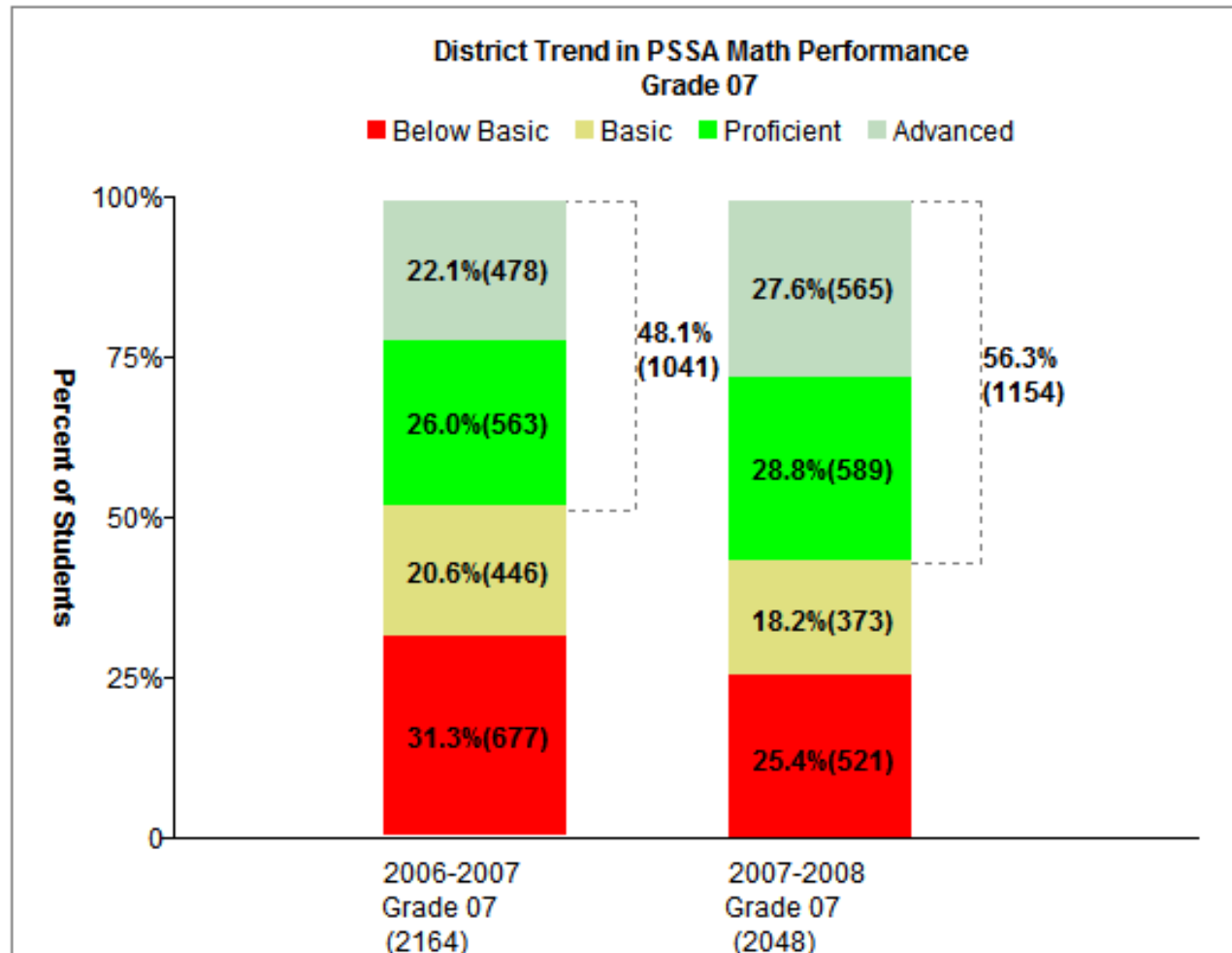


## Grade 3 Reading Below Basic: Students reduced below basic by 5.1 points (21.4%) over last year



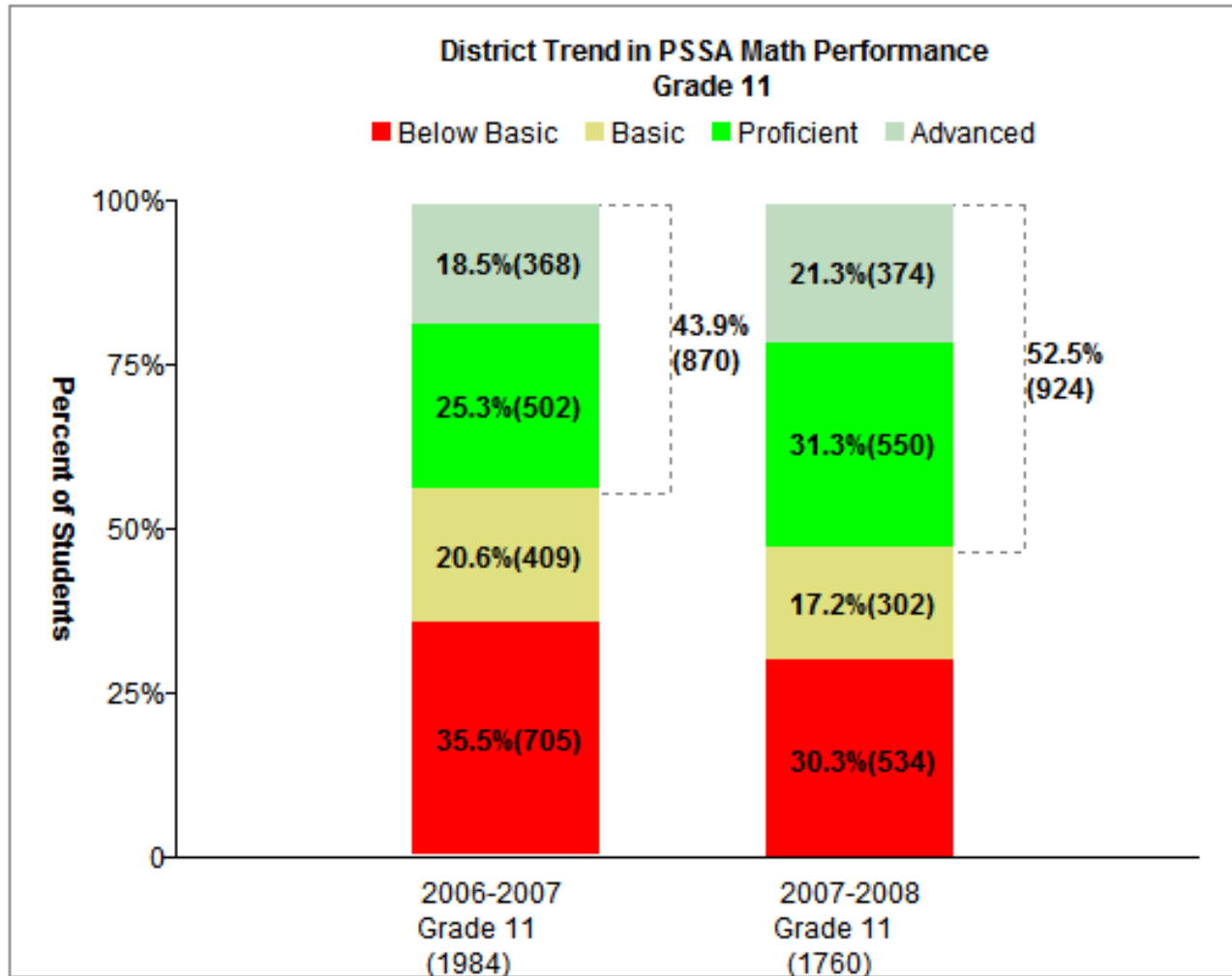


## Grade 7 Mathematics Below Basic: Students reduced below basic by 5.9 points (18.8%) over last year





## Grade 11 Mathematics Below Basic: Students reduced below basic by 5.2 points (14.6%) over last year



Another District goal is reducing the academic disparity between African-American and White students.



## **The District made progress in reducing the academic disparity between African-American and White students on 10 of 14 PSSA exams.**

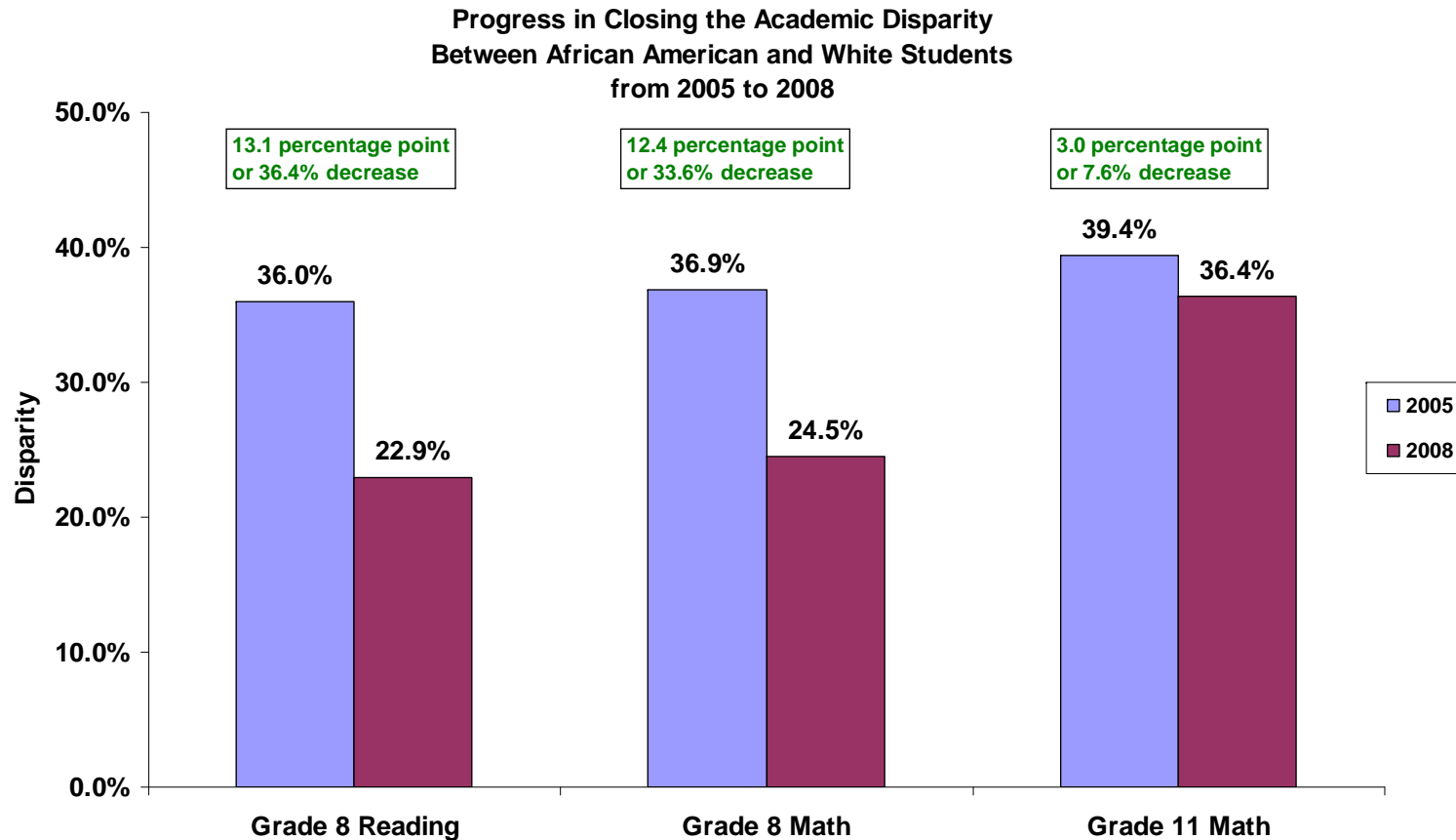
**Over the past three years, the most progress was made in grades 8 and 11:**

- Reduced disparity by 13.1 points (36.4%) in grade 8 Reading over 3 years
- Reduced disparity by 12.4 points (33.6%) in grade 8 Mathematics over 3 years
- Reduced disparity by 3.0 points (7.6%) in grade 11 Mathematics over 3 years





**Over 3 years, the District reduced academic disparity by 13.1 points (36.4%) in grade 8 Reading; 12.4 points (33.6%) in grade 8 Mathematics and 3.0 points (7.6%) in grade 11 Mathematics.**

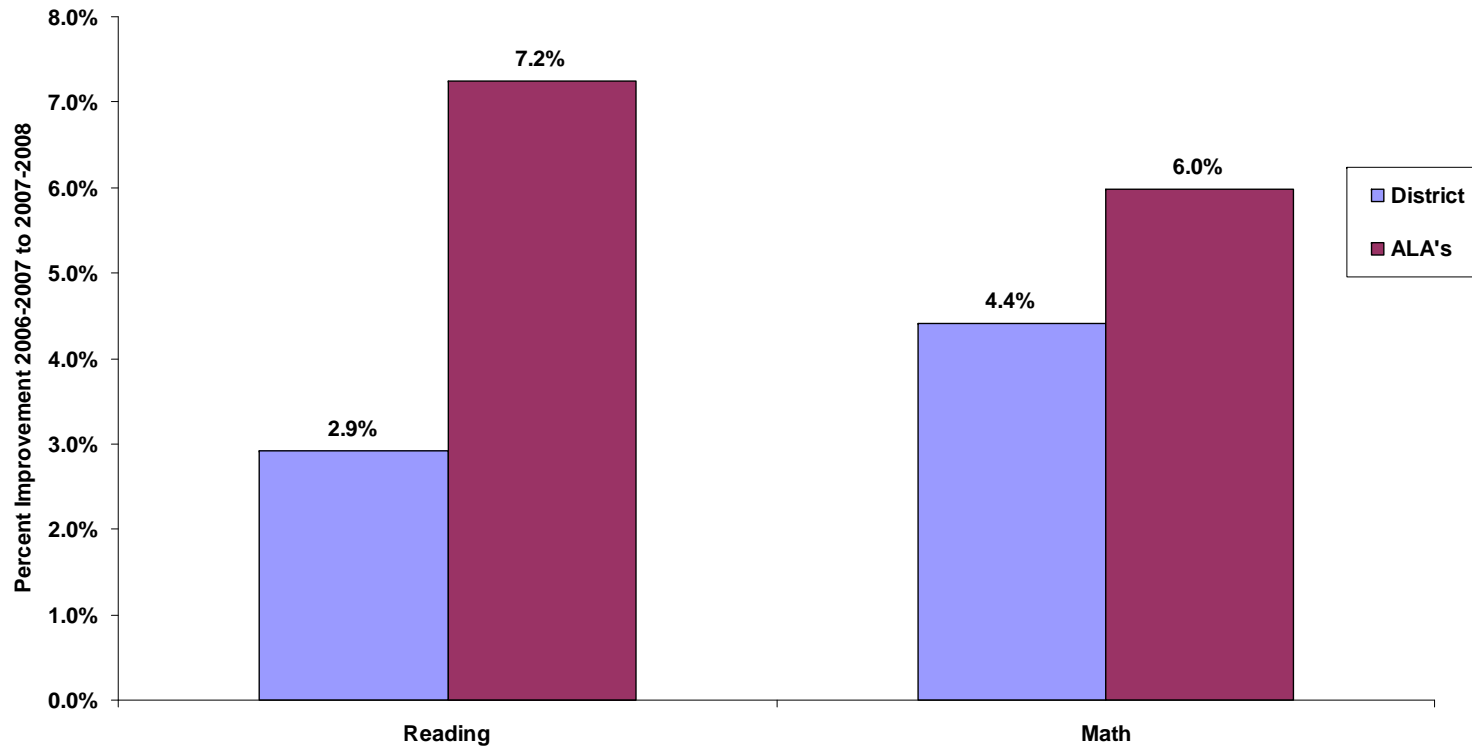


Accelerated Learning  
Academies did, in fact,  
accelerate student  
achievement.



## Students in Accelerated Learning Academies posted increases in proficiency 2.5 times greater than the District overall in Reading and 1.4 times greater in Mathematics over the past year.

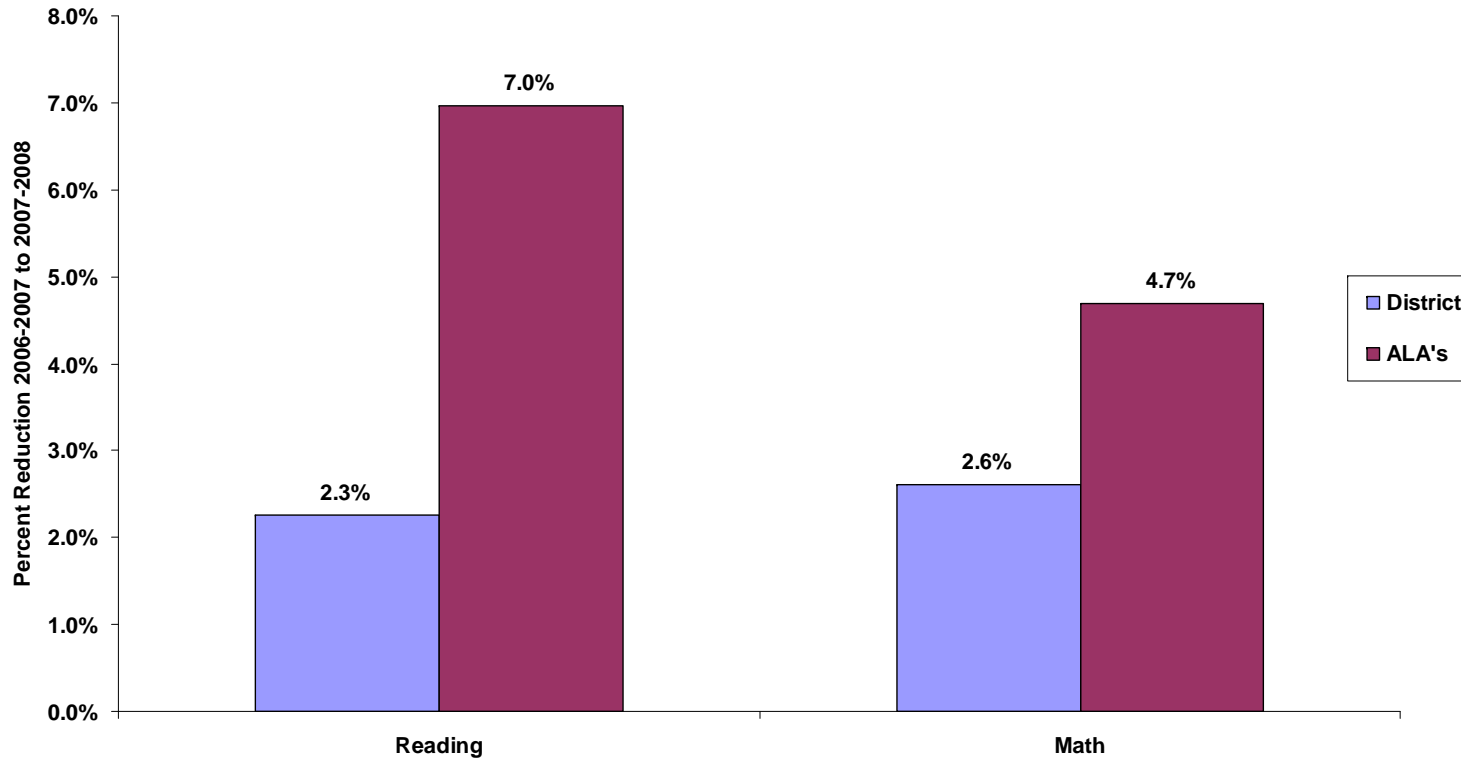
PSSA Reading and Mathematics Proficiency Improvements  
for ALA's and District, Grades 3 through 8 Combined, over Last Year





## Students in Accelerated Learning Academies posted reductions in below basic 3.0 times greater than the District overall in Reading and 1.8 times greater in Mathematics over the past year.

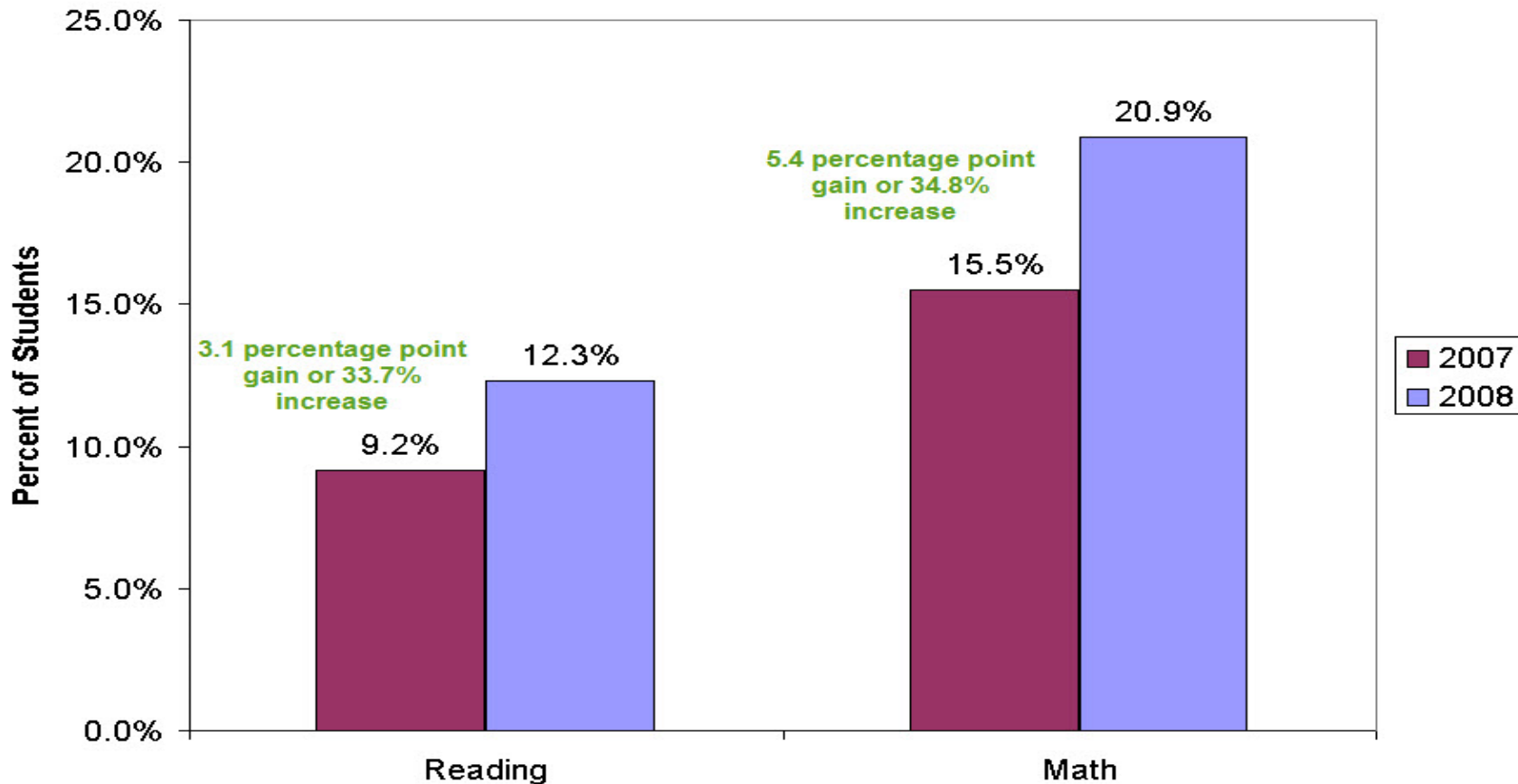
PSSA Reading and Mathematics Below Basic Reductions for ALA's and District, Grades 3 through 8 Combined, over Last Year





## Students in Accelerated Learning Academies posted a 3.1 point (33.7%) increase in advanced Reading and a 5.4 point (34.8%) increase in advanced Mathematics over last year.

PSSA Reading and Mathematics Advanced Improvements for ALA'S, Grades 3 Through 8 Combined, Over Last Year





## Spotlight

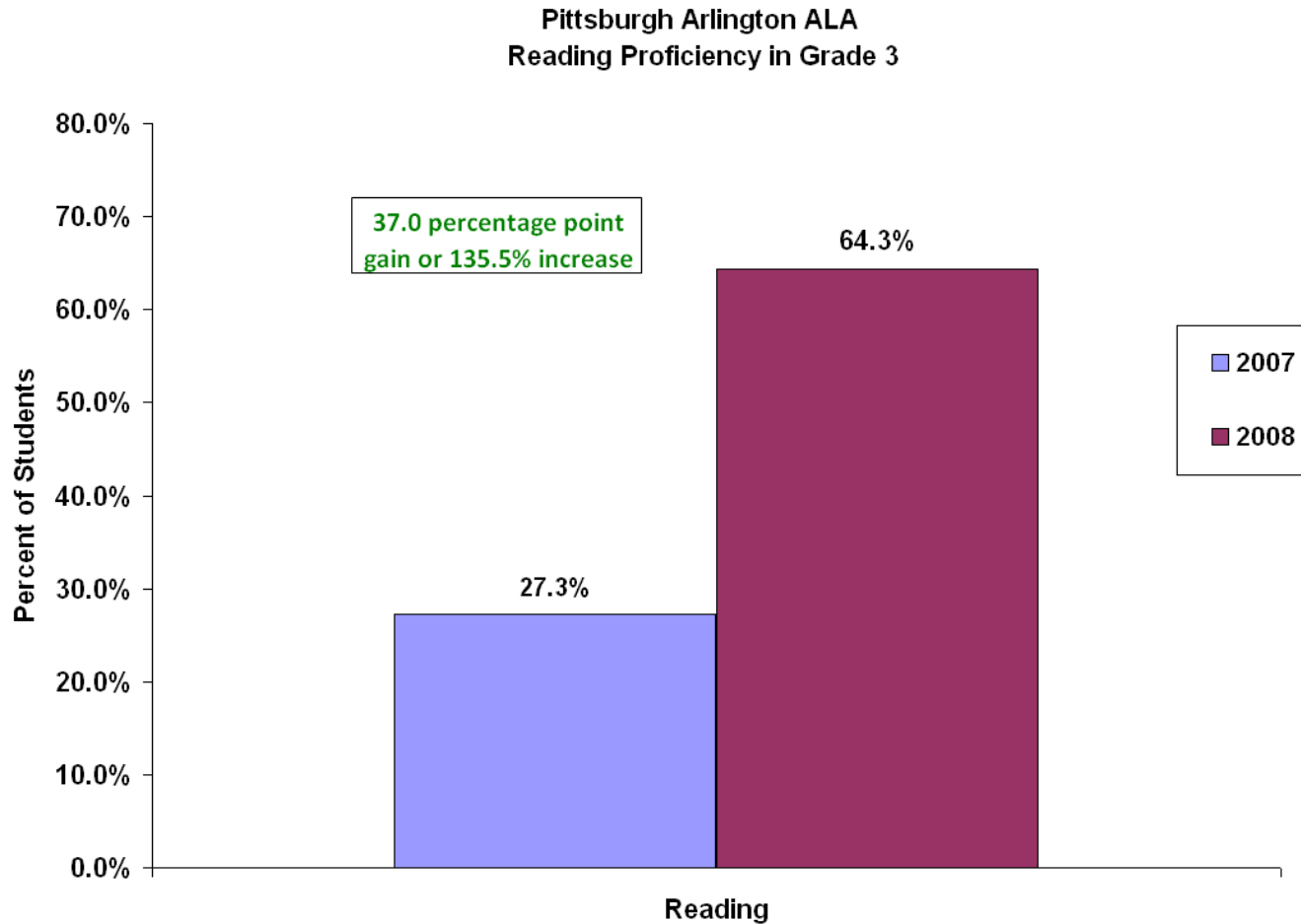
Students from Pittsburgh Arlington ALA posted the largest increase in 3rd grade Reading proficiency district-wide.

*Pittsburgh Arlington was among nine elementary schools with more than a 10 point increase in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Reading proficiency.*

Pittsburgh Vann K-8  
Pittsburgh Manchester PreK-5  
Pittsburgh Weil PreK-8  
Pittsburgh Sunnyside K-8  
Pittsburgh Beechwood PreK-5  
Pittsburgh King PreK-8  
Pittsburgh West Liberty K-5  
Pittsburgh Fulton PreK-5



## Grade 3 Reading Proficiency: Students improved 37.0 points (135.5%) from last year





Another District goal is ensuring that students are “Promise ready”



This year’s gains in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and Mathematics and 11<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics reflect substantial progress.





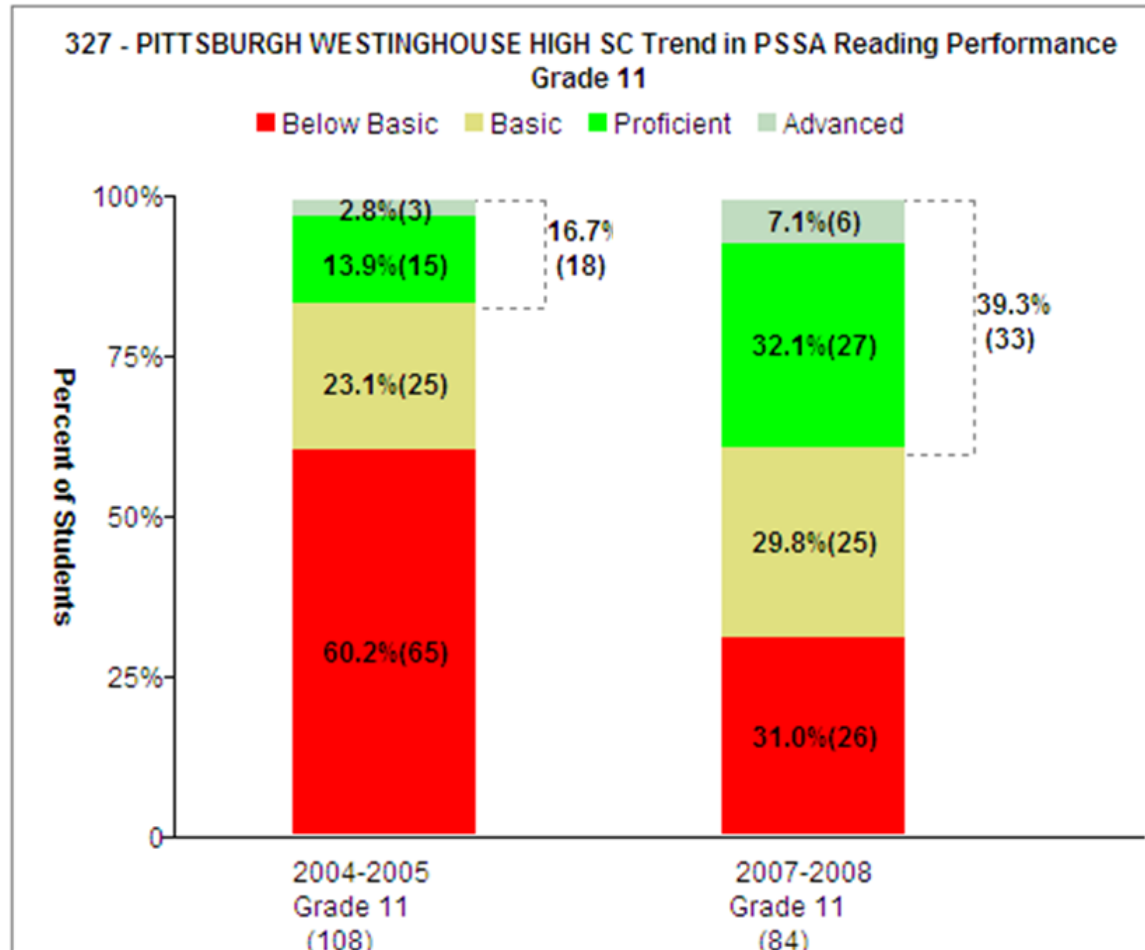
## Spotlight

Over the past three years, students from **Pittsburgh Westinghouse** posted the largest increase in 11th grade Reading proficiency, the second largest increase in Mathematics proficiency and the largest reductions in below basic in both subjects.



## Grade 11 Reading

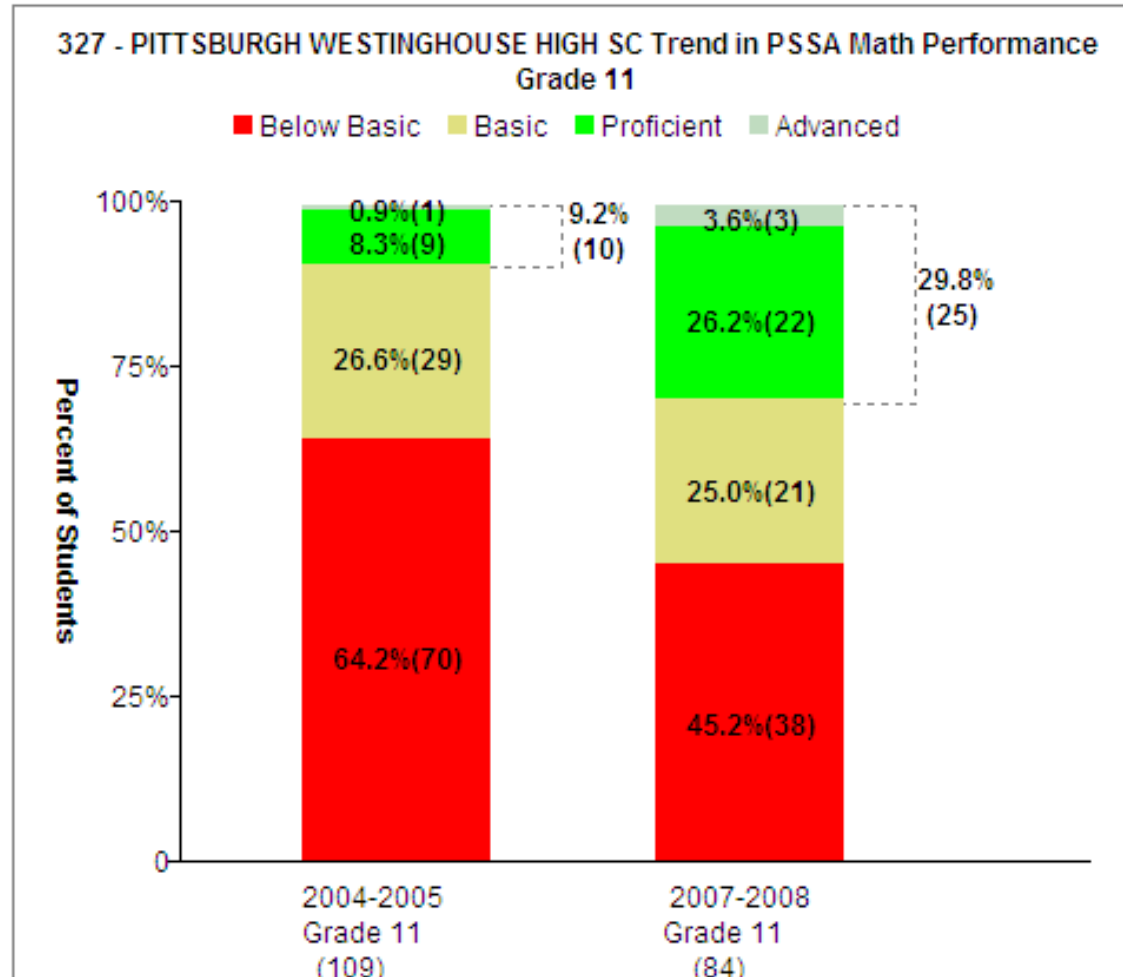
**Students improved 22.6 points (135.3%) in proficiency and reduced below basic by 29.2 (48.5%) over 3 years**





## Grade 11 Mathematics

**Students improved 20.6 points (223.9%) in proficiency and reduced below basic by 19.0 (29.6%) over 3 years**





## The District now has in place the core elements for raising student achievement:

- ✓ New rigorous curriculum
- ✓ Nationally recognized system to train, support, evaluate and reward principals
- ✓ Aggressive, comprehensive professional development for all instructional personnel
- ✓ Use of diagnostic assessments to get help to students quickly
- ✓ Instructional coaches in every school to deepen the work

These systemic initiatives have raised achievement in other districts and have taken hold in Pittsburgh.



With ongoing commitment and deepening of our efforts, the District will see continued gains in student achievement at all levels for many years to come.



## ***The Pittsburgh Pledge***

***We know that education is the key to our future.***

All of us – students, teachers, administrators, families, community, board members and other civic leaders – will take an active role in helping all students.

***We pledge to:***

- Have high expectations,
- Work hard,
- Achieve academic excellence,
- Keep our schools safe,
- Set a positive example,
- Be respectful and considerate of one another,
- Listen and be open to new ideas.

***Together, we will hold ourselves accountable for achieving “Excellence for All.”***