

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

August 25, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: 2016 Preliminary Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Student Results

The Maryland State Department of Education released the state-wide results of the 2016 Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in Mathematics 3-8 and Algebra 1 and English Language Arts/Literacy 3-8 and 10 (ELA 3-8, 10), on Tuesday, August 23, 2016. Statewide performance showed some gains from 2015. The results for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) also shows some gains in performance, even as our students scored consistently above the state average. Performance trends among student subgroups continue to expose performance gaps that are consistent with other student achievement data we see in the district. The district level results will not be shared by the state Board of Education until their September meeting. **The district level results shared in this memorandum are preliminary and are embargoed until September 27, 2016.**

According to PARCC, these exams measure whether students are meeting new, higher academic standards and mastering the knowledge and skills needed to be successful beyond high school. PARCC measures more complex skills like critical thinking, persuasive writing and problem solving. The tests are scored on a five point scale—Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations; Level 2: Partially Met Expectations; Level 3: Approached Expectations; Level 4: Met expectations and Level 5: Exceeded expectations. Students scoring 4's and 5's are considered to be on track to be college and career ready.

**English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Grades 3-5**

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students performed better than the statewide averages in both content areas at the elementary grade levels (Figure 1). According to the data, 44.7 percent of MCPS students who took the ELA 3 assessment were at levels 4 or 5 (7.2 percentage points higher than the state); 49.8 percent at levels 4 or 5 in ELA 4 (9.5 percentage points higher than the state) and 50.4 percent at levels 4 or 4 in ELA 5 (11.0 percentage points higher than the state). On the Mathematics 3 assessment, 54.1 percent of students performed at levels 4 or 5 (10.1 percentage points higher than the state); 48.6 percent at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 4 (11.6 percentage points higher than the state); and 45.4 percent of students at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 5 (8.9 percentage points higher than the state).

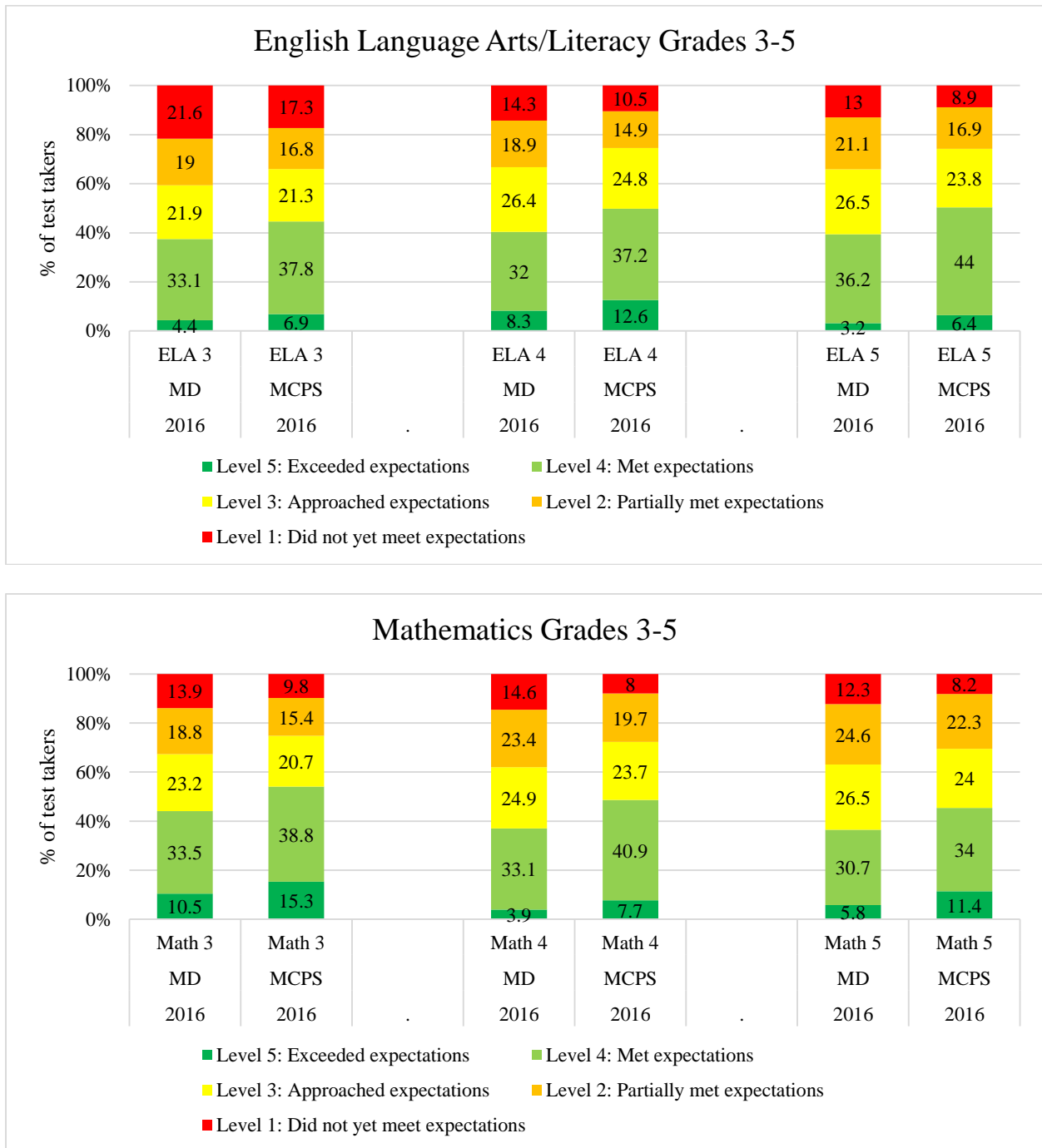


Figure 1. MCPS student performance on PARCC by level and content area Grades 3-5.

MCPS student performance increased on the 2016 PARCC assessments in both content areas at the elementary grade levels as compared to the 2015 PARCC administration (Figure 2). According to the data, there was a 3.5 percent increase in performance at levels 4 or 5 on the ELA 3 as compared to

2015; a 2.9 percent increase at levels 4 or 5 in ELA 4; 2.0 percent increase at levels 4 or 5 in ELA 5. Mathematic performance increases were more than double the increases in ELA/L as the data showed an 11.3 percentage increase in performance at levels 4 or 5 on the Mathematics 3; 10.1 percent increase at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 4; 8.7 percent increase at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 5. It would be important to note that the combined percentage of levels 1 and 2 declined in all grades levels and content areas at the elementary level between 2015 and 2016.

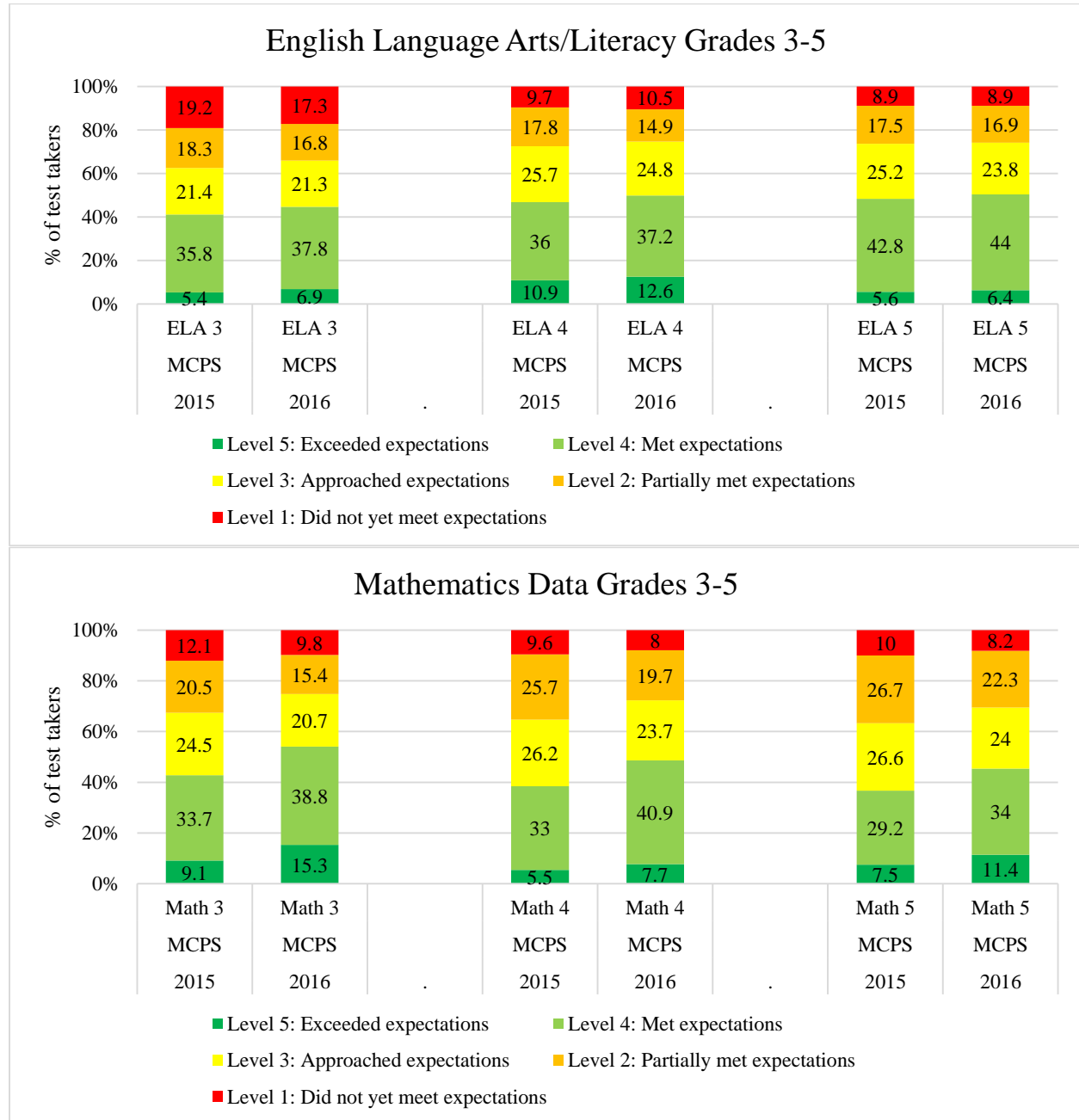
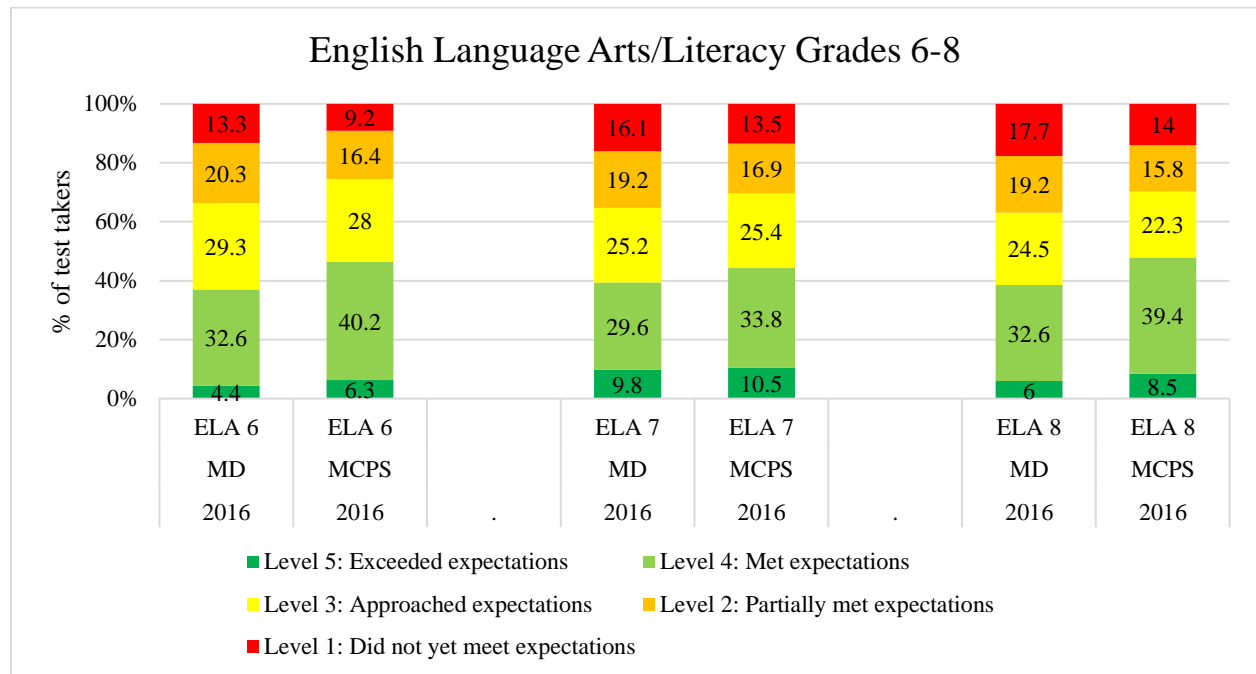


Figure 2. MCPS student performance on 2016 PARCC by level and content area Grades 3-5 as compared with the 2015 PARCC.

**English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Grades 6-8**

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students performed better than the statewide averages in both content areas at the elementary grade levels (Figure 3). According to the data, 46.5 percent of MCPS students who took the ELA 6 assessment were at levels 4 or 5 (9.5 percentage points higher than the state); 44.3 percent at levels 4 or 5 in ELA 7 (4.9 percentage points higher than the state) and 47.9 percent at levels 4 or 5 in ELA 8 (9.3 percentage points higher than the state). On the Mathematics 6 assessment, 42.8 percent of students performed at levels 4 or 5 (10.2 percentage points higher than the state); 31.6 percent at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 7 (7.4 percentage points higher than the state); and 38.9 percent of students at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 8 (17.0 percentage points higher than the state).



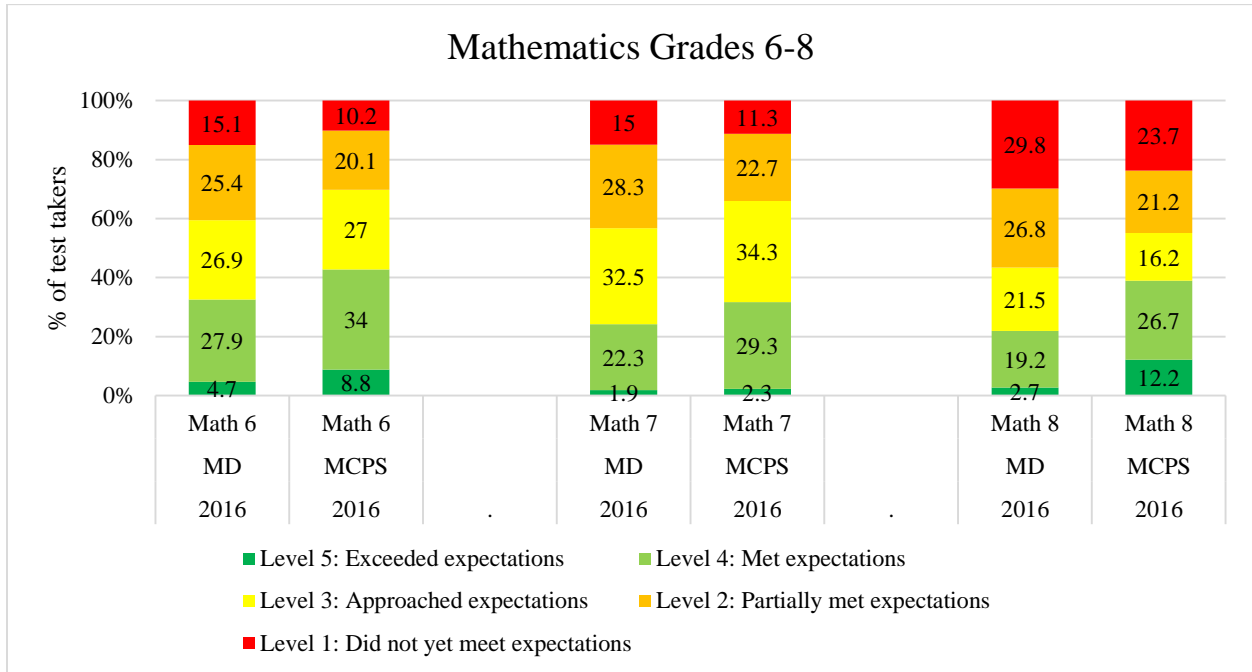


Figure 3. MCPS student performance on PARCC by level and content area Grades 6-8.

MCPS student performance on the 2016 PARCC assessments in both content areas at the middle grade levels as compared to the 2015 PARCC administration showed mixed results (Figure 4). According to the data, there was a 5.6 percent increase in performance at levels 4 or 5 on the ELA 6 as compared to 2015; a 4.8 percent decrease at levels 4 or 5 in ELA 7; 3.0 percent decrease at levels 4 or 5 in ELA 8. There was a decrease of 3.7 percent at levels 1 or 2 in ELA 6; a 2.0 percent increase at levels 1 or 2 in ELA 7; and a 2.3 increase in levels 1 or 2 in ELA 8. Mathematic performance, however, showed an increase in performance at levels 4 or 5 and a decrease in students performing at levels 1 or 2; 5 percent increase in performance at levels 4 or 5 on the Mathematics 6; 7.7 percent increase at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 7; 2.3 percent increase at levels 4 or 5 in Mathematics 8. The combined percentage of levels 1 and 2 declined in all grades levels in mathematics at the middle grades between 2015 and 2016.

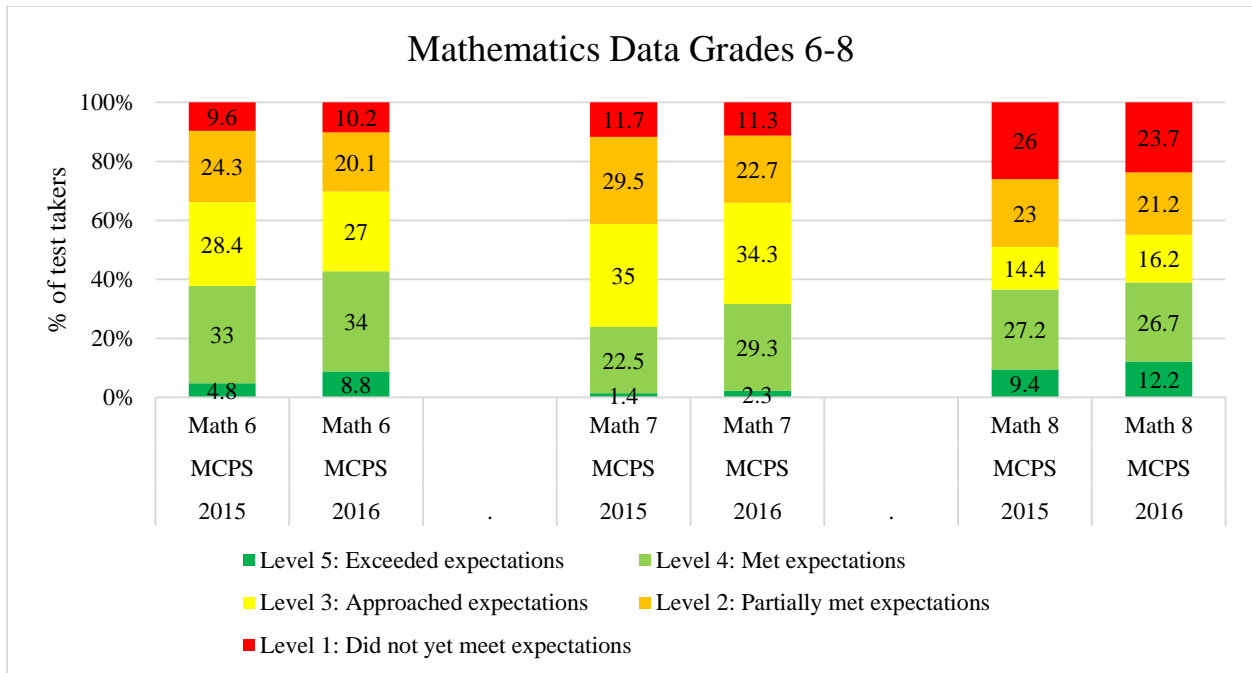
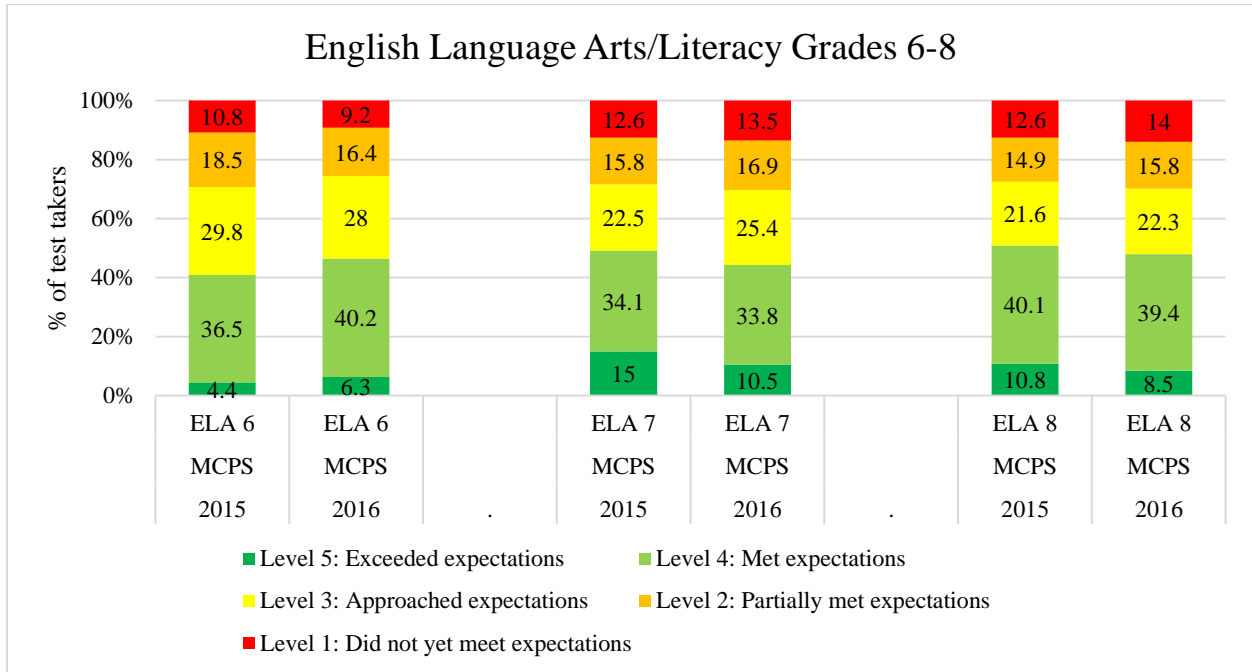


Figure 4. MCPS student performance on 2016 PARCC by level and content area Grades 3-5 as compared with the 2015 PARCC.

**English Language Arts/Literacy 10 and Algebra 1**

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students performed better than the statewide averages in both content areas at the high school course level (Figure 5). According to the data, 47.9 percent of MCPS students who took the ELA 10 assessment were at levels 4 or 5 (3.5 percentage points higher than the state.) On the Algebra 1 assessment, 44.3 percent of students performed at levels 4 or 5 (8.7 percentage points higher than the state).

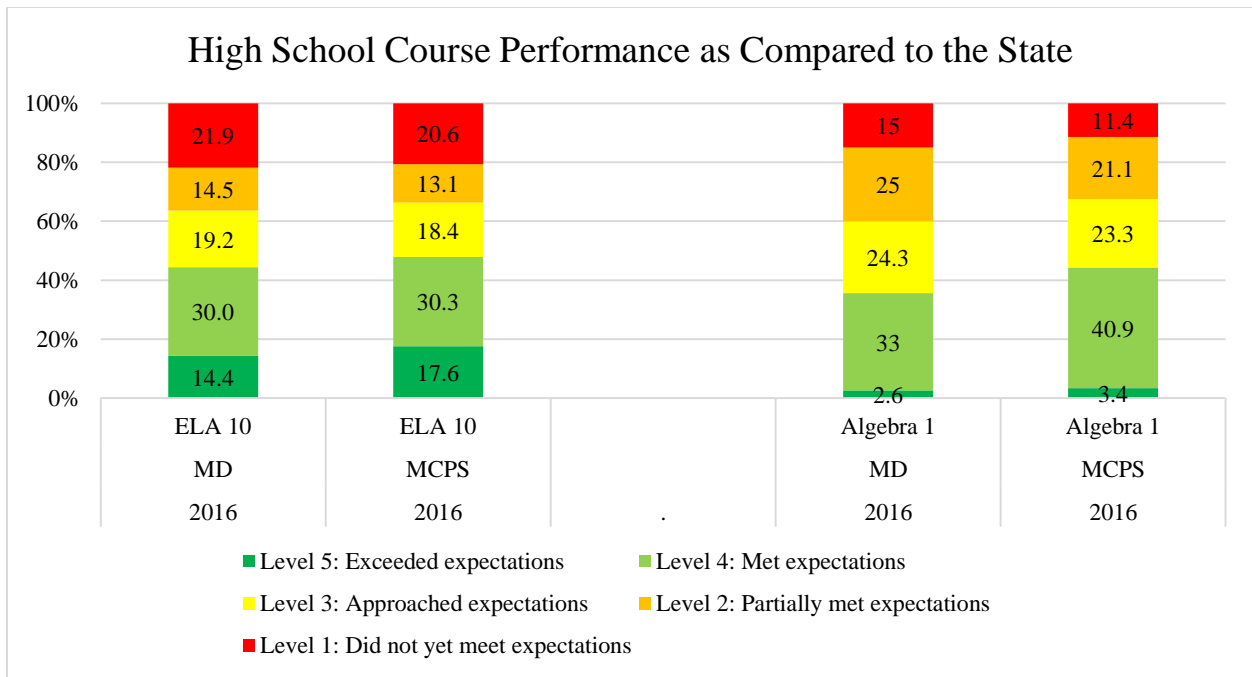


Figure 5. MCPS student performance on high school course PARCC assessments.

MCPS students performed better than in 2015 in both high school course content areas (Figure 6). According to the data, there was a 3.9 percent increase in performance at levels 4 or 5 on the ELA 10 and a 5.7 percent increase at levels 4 or 5 in Algebra 1. A combined percentage between performance levels 1 and 2 in both content areas showed a student performance decrease by 1.9 percent between 2015 and 2016.

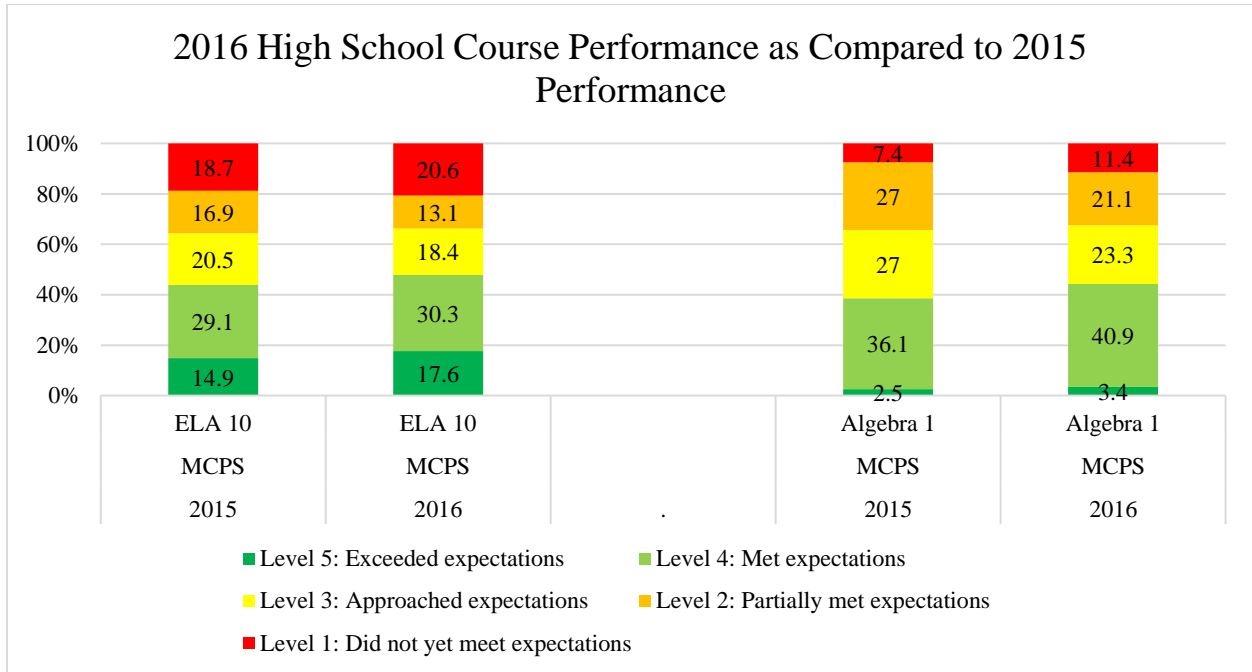


Figure 6. MCPS student performance on 2016 PARCC by level and content area Grades 3-5 as compared with the 2015 PARCC.

**Data Charts**

State-wide aggregated results are not yet available. However, the attached charts provide aggregated results of our student performance for each content and grade level assessed.

The disaggregated performance data by student subgroups continues to expose gaps that are consistent with other student achievement data we observe in the district. Although student performance improved or remained the same in all subgroup areas, particular concern still exists for our students in the following subgroup: Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, ESOL, FARMS and Special Education.

If you have any questions about these data, please contact Dr. Janet Wilson, associate superintendent, Office of Shared Accountability at 301-279-3448.

JRS:dmb

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Executive Staff