

# ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT NEW YORK STATE SCIENCE EXAM RESULTS

## Overview

The grade 4 & 8 New York State Science Assessment dataset includes student-level records from the New York State Science exam taken by 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in New York City. The data are stored in tab-delimited or comma-delimited text files (.txt).

In the file, there is one record per student. Each student has a unique, nine-digit, non-identifiable student identification number. Although the student id numbers are non-identifiable, they are linked across years.

## Universe of students included in dataset

With the exception of charter schools, every student for whom there is at least one test record in Science is included.

## Administration details

There is a separate file for each individual school year since 1999-00. Due to COVID-19, the 2019-20 exam was not administered. In 2020-21, students participating in full remote instruction were not required to sit for state assessments; families could opt their students into the Science test.

*2020-21 Administration:* The NY State Grades 4 & 8 Science tests typically contain 2 parts: a written test and a performance test. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only the written test was administered, and the raw score from the written test (calculated as the sum of Written Part I and Written Part II) was converted to the student's final examination score, used to determine the students' performance levels. See page 34 of this document for more details on 2020-21 scoring: <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/state-assessment/4-els-sam-2021.pdf>

*2022-23 Administration:* In Spring 2023, there was no administration of the Grade 4 Science Test. This is to support the transition to the new Grade 5 Elementary-level Science Test measuring the [new NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards](#), which commences in Spring 2024.

### \*\*\*Note regarding universe of students\*\*\*

Prior to and including 2012-13: Non-test-takers have "missing" values in place of a raw score.

For 2013-14 and onward: Non-test-takers, as indicated by a missing raw score, are dropped from the dataset.

Example File Name: "2000-01\_Science\_G4&8\_Scrambled.csv"

Format: Comma Separated Values (.csv)

FIELD	DATA TYPE	FIELD DESCRIPTION	VALID VALUES
<b>student_id_scam</b>	Numeric	The student's unique identification number. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: To ensure that all student IDs are 9 digits, import the variable as test to keep leading zeroes.</li> </ul>	Nine-digit integer.
<b>dbn</b>	String	The school code represented as a concatenation of the school district (D), school borough (B) and school number (N).	Alphanumeric in the format 'DDBNNN'.
<b>year</b>	Numeric	Year of the Spring semester	Four digit year value.
<b>grade</b>	Numeric	Student's grade of enrollment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: Most students should have grades of 4 or 8 as these are the two grades tested.</li> </ul>	One-digit value ranging from 4-8.
<b>subject</b>	String	Subject of the exam taken.	All values = 'Science'.
<b>raw_score</b>	Numeric	Student's raw score on the science exam.	Numeric value.
<b>scale_score</b>	Numeric	Student's scale score on the science exam	Numeric value.
<b>performance_level</b>	Numeric	Student's performance on the science exam. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note: Proficiency is denoted by a performance level of 3 or 4.</li> </ul>	1 – Level 1 2 – Level 2 3 – Level 3 4 – Level 4

## **Appendix 1: Non-Numeric Raw Score Values**

When no performance level is generated for a student's score, the following "code" may be supplied in the RAW\_SCORE field to explain.

<b>Value</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>ABS</b>	Absent
<b>ADM</b>	Administrative error
<b>INV</b>	Invalid Score
<b>LEP</b>	Exempt LEP
<b>MED</b>	Medically Excused
<b>NSC</b>	No Score
<b>NTE</b>	Not Enrolled
<b>OTH</b>	Exempt Other
<b>REF</b>	Refused to take the test
<b>S/L</b>	Exempt Special Ed/LEP
<b>SPE</b>	Exempt Special Ed