

About the Comparison Tool

The Comparison Tool is a flexible, interactive report that makes data from high-stakes state exams available for comparative analysis by district and school administrators. It allows you to select any significant group of students and compare their performance on state exams by school, grade, teacher, student, ethnicity, Ed program, or gender.

Because the Comparison Tool report is interactive, you can drill down to see supporting data. You can also adjust your selection criteria to view results for different groups of students. The data available varies by state and exam.

Defining a Comparison Tool report

The Comparison Tool lets you select a group of students and compare their performance on state exams, subject by subject, based on whatever criteria you need. When you use the Comparison Tool, you can quickly generate a report based on just the basic report options and then use the Options Dashboard to refine the selection of students later.

To define a Comparison Tool report:

- 1 Click the **State Analysis** tab. Click the **Comparison Tool** link or icon.
- 2 In the Select a Test for Comparison Tool page, choose the exam to use as the basis for comparison. Click **Continue**.
- 3 Use these settings to define the initial report.

Basic Report Options

School(s): — Select the exam data you want to display.

Exam: — Select the grade you want to display. You can also display all grades.

Grades:

If you have access to only one school, the name of the school appears here.

- Select the school, exam, and grade you want to display.
- Use the student demographic option links on the lower half of the page to select students.

4 Click **Continue**.

After a brief pause, the Comparison Tool page appears.

Working with a Comparison Tool report

Once you define a Comparison Tool report, you can use the Options Dashboard to refine the group of students dynamically. The Comparison Tool initially compares the highest level of data available for the selection, but you can compare data at a different level by choosing it in the Compare By list. You can also compare different types of scores, depending on the exam.

Currently Selected Options

Exam:	STAR 04-05	Roster:	2005-2006 Fall, School Year
Schools:	All	Grades:	8
Teachers:	All	Ethnicities:	All
Ed Programs:	Gifted and Talented	Custom Groups:	All
Genders:	All	Courses:	All

— The Options Dashboard shows you the current report options. You can also use it to select other students.

Comparison Tool Showing: CAT6

Compare By: Score Type:

Group	Reading	Language	Spelling	CAT6	
sort by	sort by	sort by	sort by	sort by	sort by
Cherry Tree Middle School	42.9	42.8	42.4	49.9	N/A
Oak Hill High School				46	47.3
Pine Grove Elementary School				52	N/A
Sycamore Leaf Elementary School	15.6	20.8	9.9	27.4	66
Average (Total Number of Students)	43.7 (2021)	43.6 (2021)	43.3 (1347)		

— The Score type and scores you see in the **Scores** table depend on the type of exam you selected.

— Scores table

— Click a link to drill down to another level of supporting data.

— Click a link to sort the list by this heading.

— These are the average scores for the group for each subject area.

To work with a Comparison Tool report:

- 1 To select different students, click a link in the Options Dashboard.
- 2 To drill down to view supporting data, click a link in the Group list.
- 3 To view a different type of scores, choose a score type in the Scores Type list.
- 4 To drill down by subject on a report that shows standards, click the link for the subject you want to compare.

Click a subject link to see the supporting data.

Score Type: — The report shows the data that rolls up into the area you selected.

Group	English-Language Arts
sort by	sort by
Oak Hill High School	3.3
Average	3.3
Total Number of Students	232

English-Language Arts

English-Language Arts	
Reading	Writing
sort by	sort by
56.4	60.9