Comparing Performance on State Exams

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.
   - Click a link to sort the list by this heading.
   - Click a link to drill down to another level of supporting data.
   - These are the average scores for the group for each subject area.
   - Click a subject link to see the supporting data.
   - The report shows the data that rolls up into the area you selected.

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.

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.