

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2026

2025

FRL Student Performance

Context and Purpose



This presentation is a review of academic performance for low-income students in Denver Public Schools in 2025, as measured by qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. It is intended to be objective in order to inform conversations about next steps, not prescriptive about what those next steps should be.



It is entirely based on publicly available data from the Colorado Department of Education which limits the availability of some inputs because of data suppression rules and other limitations.



The presentation is focused on academic outcomes because we have valid, reliable measures of this—not because it is the only indicator of school quality.

FRL Student Proficiency 2025

FRL students make up a large percentage of DPS' student body but have low proficiency rates compared to White students.

Grades 3-8 CMAS ELA (24.6%)



Grades 3-8 CMAS Math (17.3%)



Grade 11 SAT ELA (37.8%)



Grade 11 SAT Math (18.2%)



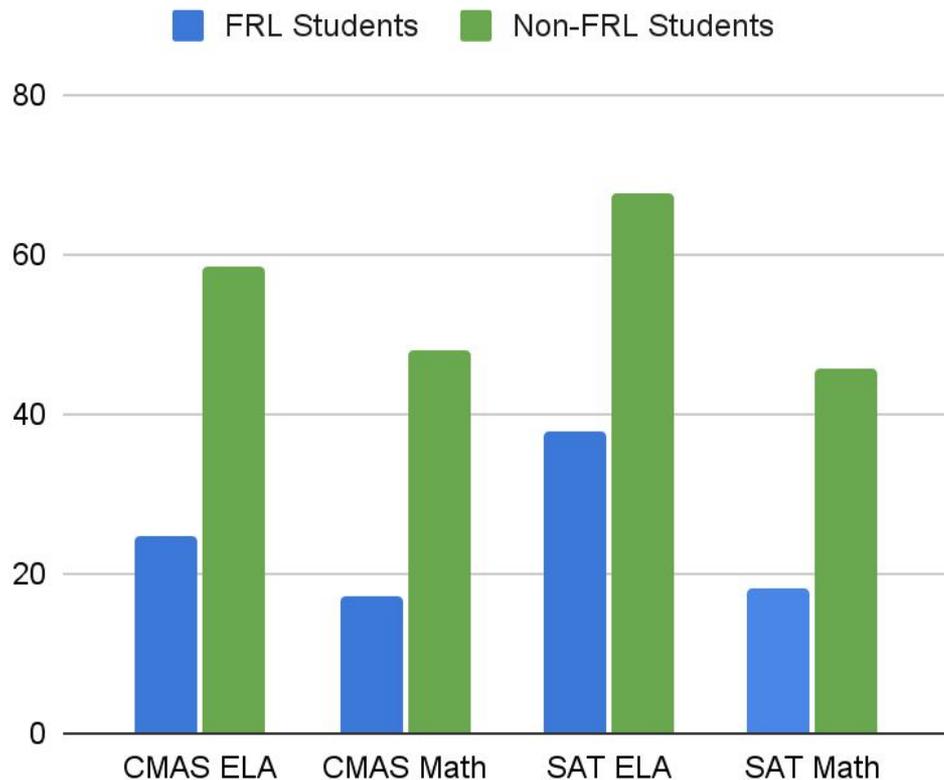
2025 Proficiency Rates

Non-FRL students are 2-3 times more likely to be proficient

Only 1 in 4 FRL students in DPS grades 3-8 are reading at grade level; Fewer than 1 in 5 are doing math at grade level.

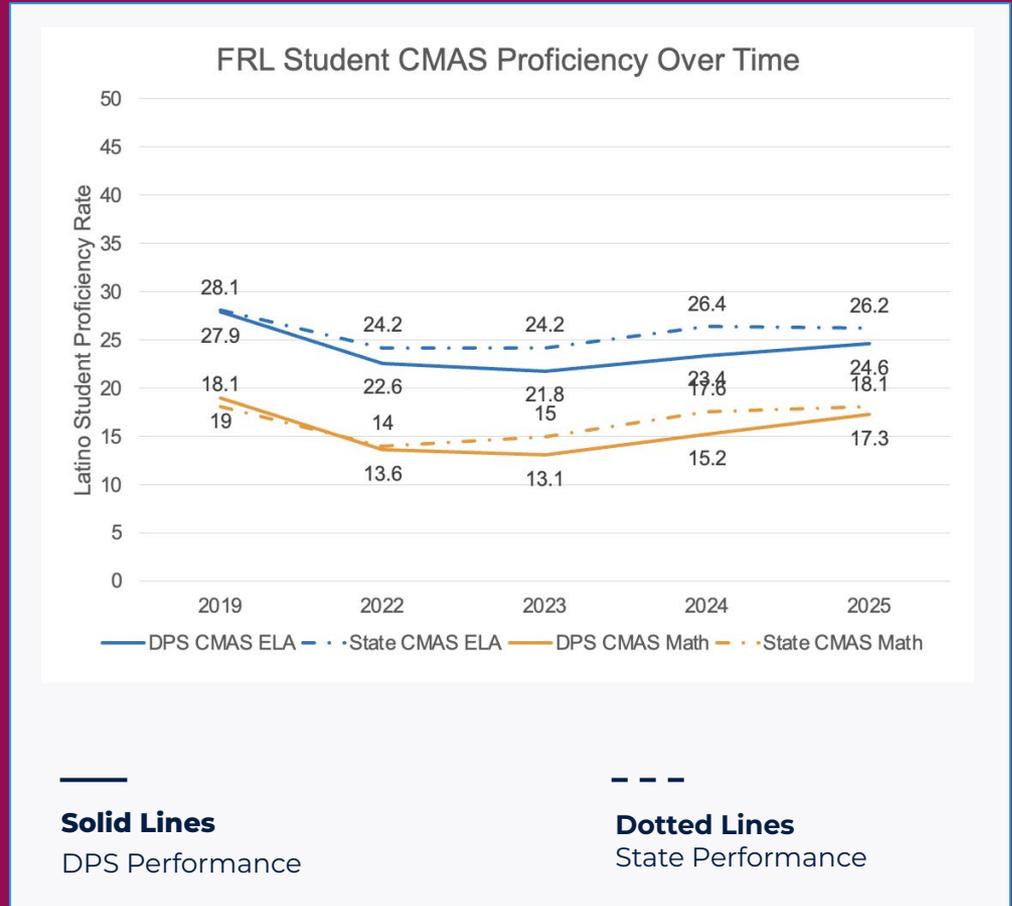
In 11th grade, less than 4 in 10 FRL students are reading at grade level and less than 1 in 5 are doing math at grade level.

2025 Proficiency Rate



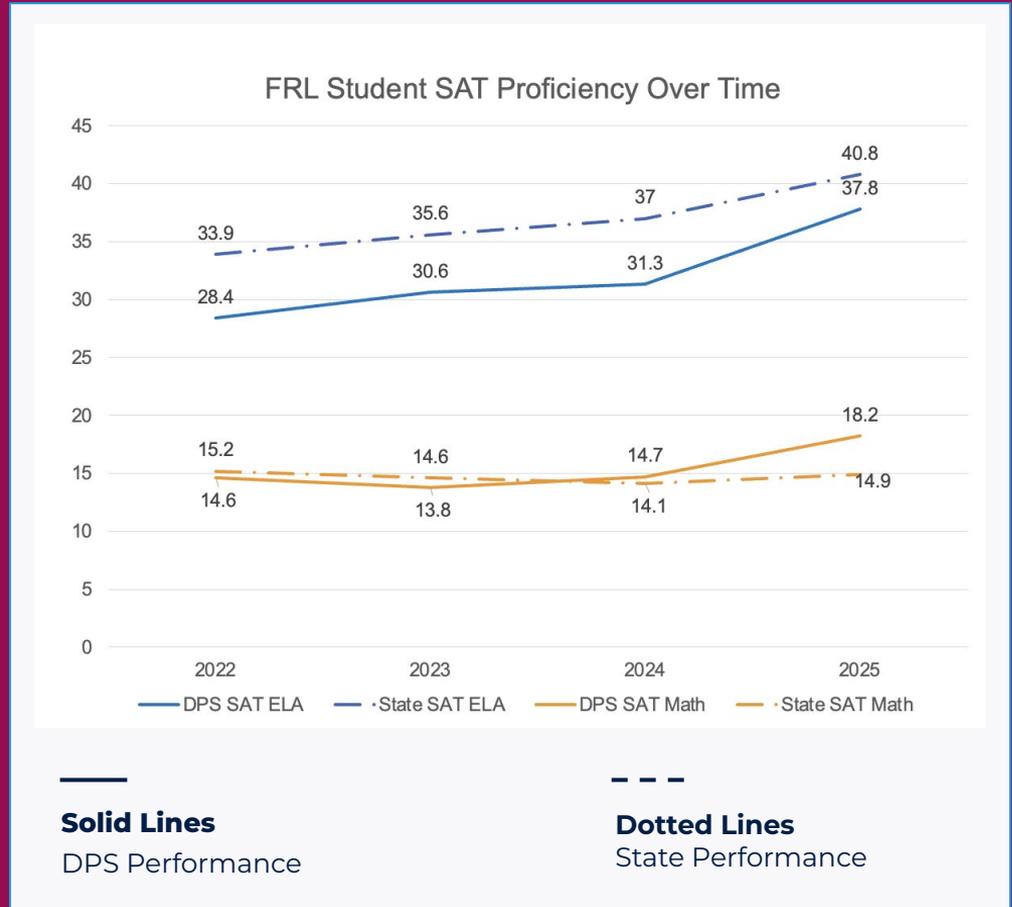
FRL Student CMAS Proficiency Over Time

FRL students in DPS did see an increase on CMAS proficiency in 2025 but still lag their statewide peers.



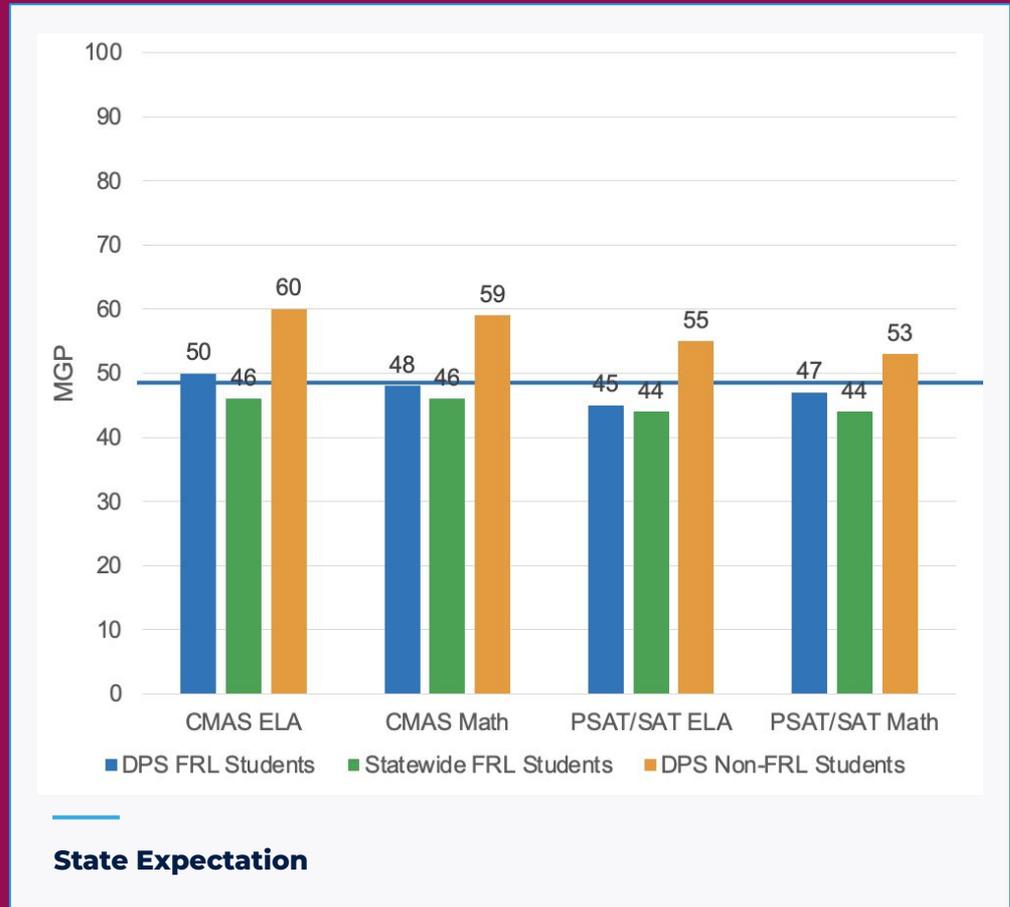
FRL Student SAT Proficiency Over Time

FRL students in DPS did see an increase on SAT proficiency in 2025 and now outperform their peers statewide in math.



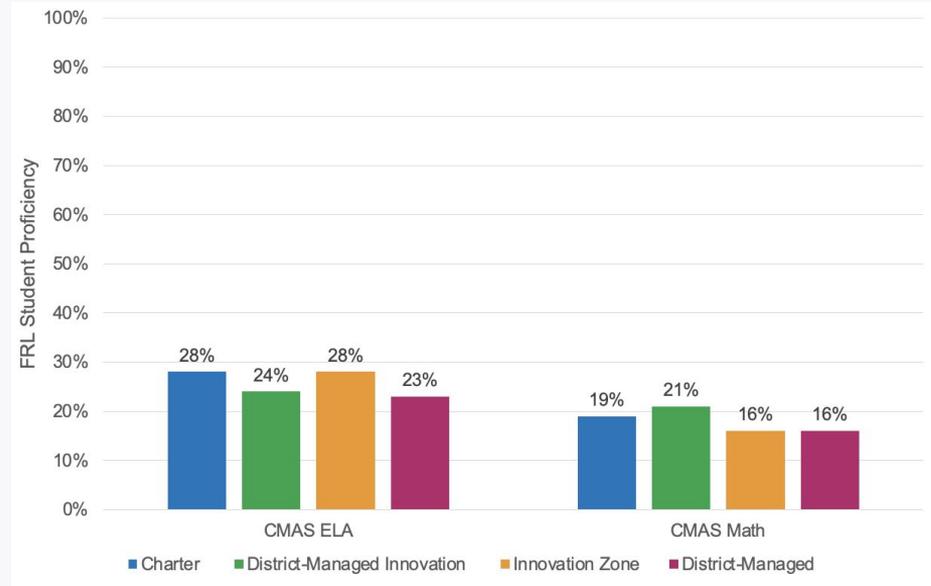
2025 Academic Growth

FRL students did see more growth in 2025 than FRL students statewide, but in many cases it was still less than their academic peers statewide (MGP less than 50). They also saw less growth than non-FRL students in DPS, which could lead to widened gaps.



2025 CMAS Proficiency for FRL Students

FRL student performance did vary slightly by governance type but gaps exist across all governance models.

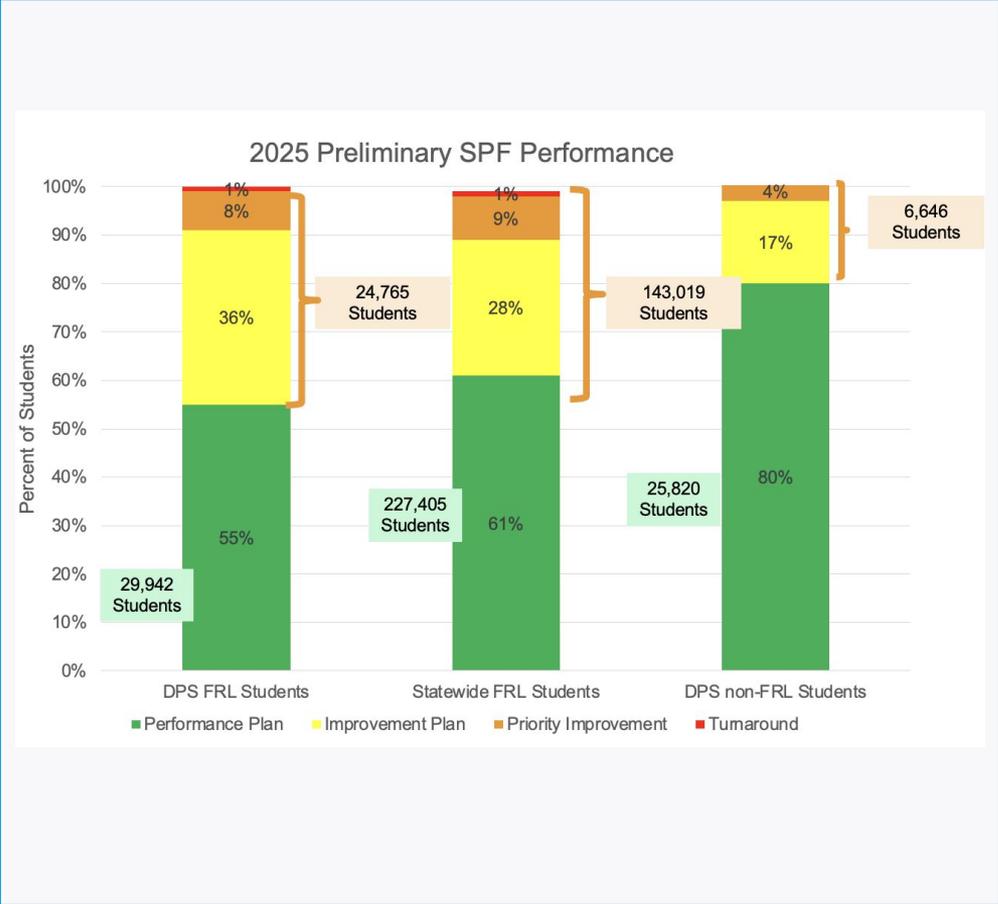


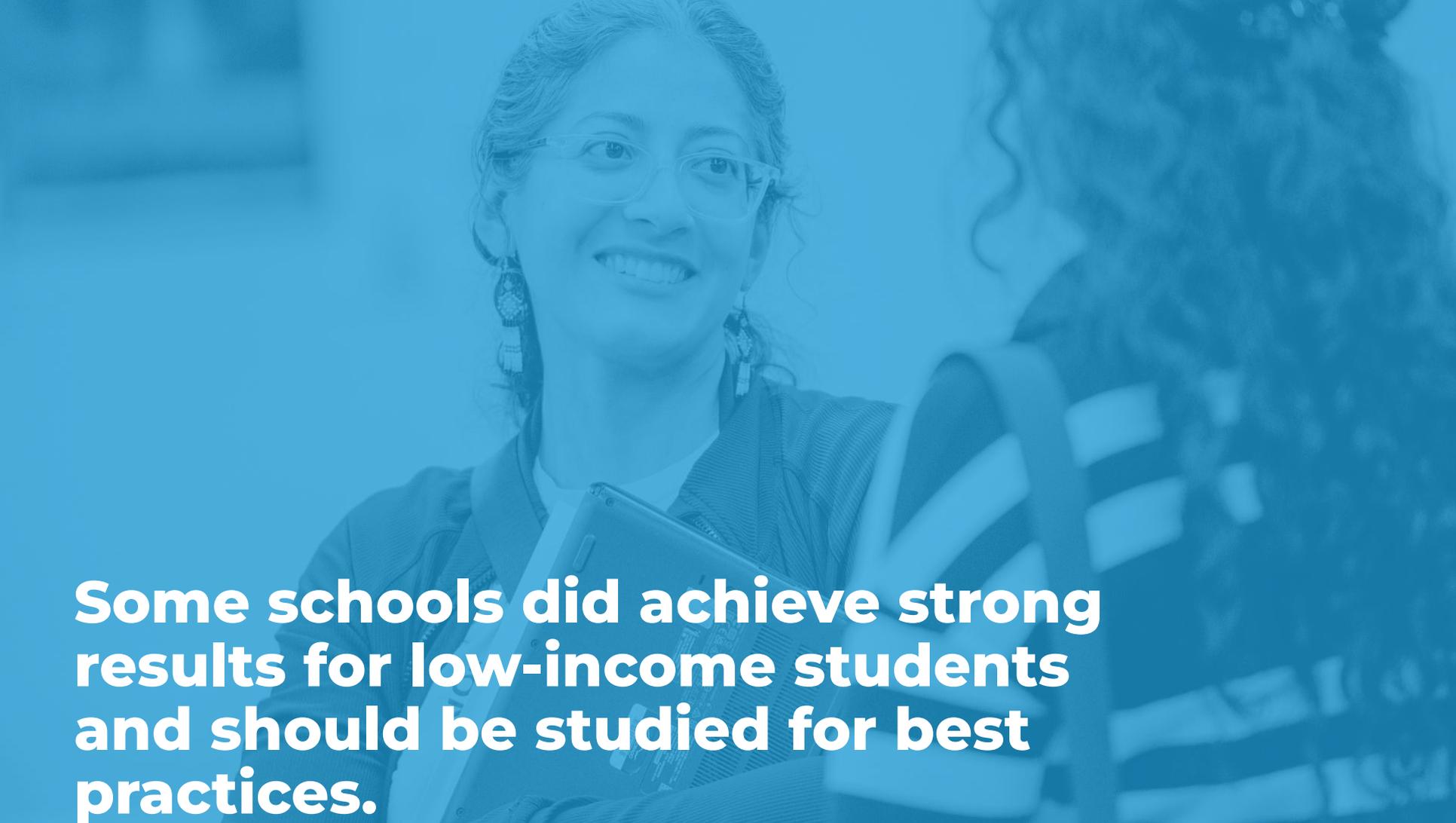
Note

Due to small N sizes and data suppression the same analysis is not reliable for high schools.

2025 Preliminary SPF Performance

FRL students are also less likely to be attending a Performance rated school compared to both FRL students statewide and non-FRL students in DPS. Over 40% or almost 25,000 FRL students in DPS are not attending a Performance rated school.



A woman with glasses and a striped shirt is smiling while holding a tablet. Another person's hand is visible in the foreground, also holding the tablet. The image has a blue overlay.

Some schools did achieve strong results for low-income students and should be studied for best practices.

Schools Serving 50%+ FRL Students With Highest CMAS Proficiency Rates* for FRL Students

School	Proficiency Rate (ELA/Math)	% FRL Students Served
DSST: Cedar Middle School (ELA and Math)	53/34.1	51%
Rocky Mountain Prep Creekside (ELA and Math)	45.6/48.4	86%
Highline Academy Southeast (ELA)	45.5/NA	53%
Gust Elementary School (ELA and Math)	39.1/38.1	82%
DSST: Green Valley Ranch Middle School (ELA)	36.5/NA	80%
Rocky Mountain Prep Berkeley (Math)	NA/36.7	60%
Sabin World School (Math)	NA/36.1	65%

*Selected schools with 5 highest proficiency rates for FRL students on each assessment. Ordered based on proficiency; scores only provided for subjects where schools were strong performances.

Schools Serving 50%+ FRL Students With Highest SAT Proficiency Rates* for FRL Students

School	Proficiency Rate (ELA/Math)	% FRL Students Served
DSST: Conservatory Green High School (ELA and Math)	67.6/41.2	70%
DSST: Montview High School (ELA and Math)	56.5/29	70%
DSST: Green Valley Ranch High School (ELA and Math)	51.8/35.3	74%
DSST: Cedar High School (ELA and Math)	51.7/ 51.7	57%
DSST: College View High School (ELA and Math)	51.1/41.3	86%

*Selected schools with 5 highest proficiency rates for FRL students on each assessment. Ordered based on proficiency; scores only provided for subjects where schools were strong performances.