

## Suppression Overview

In order to protect student privacy, aggregate data must sometimes be withheld public from display when it could potentially be used to identify or derive information about individual students. Suppression is applied to all reports that display aggregated student information, though the specific suppression rules will vary based on whether they include outcome information about students. The paragraphs below provide a synopsis of suppression rules that are applied to OSPI's assessment reporting system. The screenshots throughout this document provide examples of how Washington State Report Card's "Detail" pages will look before and after enhanced suppression rules are applied, but the suppression rules apply throughout the assessment reporting system.

### Suppression for Small Student Groups (fewer than 10 students)

This level of suppression protects student privacy by obscuring the results of small groups of students wherein it might be easy to identify an individual or subset of students, and is the only level of suppression traditionally applied in Washington State Report Card.

- If the total number of students for a report row (whether displayed or not) is fewer than 10 then the entire row is suppressed except for the total number of students (if displayed).
- If the number of students for a subgroup(s) in a report row is fewer than 10, then both the count and percentage for that subgroup is suppressed.

The reports throughout Washington State Report Card have been altered to make the layout of data tables consistent whether data are presented or suppressed:

*Example of grade 4 reading at a site with 3 students prior to enhanced suppression:*

Reading - Grade 4	
	<u>Number</u> <u>Percent</u>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	3

*Example of grade 4 reading at a site with 3 students after enhanced suppression:*

Reading 4th Grade	
	<u>Number</u> <u>Percent</u>
<b>Meeting Standard</b>	
Level 4 (exceeds standard)	
Level 3 (met standard)	
Basic (met standard)	
<b>Not Meeting Standard</b>	
Level 2 (below standard)	
Level 1 (well below standard)	
No Score	
Unexcused Absence, Refusal	
Other*	
<b>Total</b>	3
<b>Meeting Standard excluding No Score</b>	
<b>Alternate Assessment (see WAAS)</b>	
WAAS Portfolio	
WAAS DAW**	
<b>Not included in test calculations</b>	
Excused Absence	
Exempted**	
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	

## Suppression for Percentages (greater than or equal to 95%)

If all students perform similarly on an assessment (e.g., all students were proficient), then one can infer the performance of any one given student.

- If any percentage of students in a report row for a given performance level (e.g., 'Level 1') is greater than or equal to 95%, the entire row is suppressed except for the total number of students (if displayed).
- If the total percentage of students meeting standard in a report row is greater than or equal to 95% or less than or equal to 5% of the total students, suppress all rows.

*Example of grade 8 EOC Math Year 2 with >95% meeting standard before enhanced suppression:*

EOC Math Year 2 - All Grades		
	Geometry	
	Number	Percent
<b>Meeting Standard</b>	290	99.3%
Level 4 (exceeds standard)	249	85.3%
Level 3 (met standard)	41	14.0%
Basic (met standard)	0	0.0%
<b>Not Meeting Standard</b>	2	0.7%
Level 2 (below standard)	2	0.7%
Level 1 (well below standard)	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	292	100%
<b>Meeting Standard excluding No Score</b>		99.3%
<b>Not included in test calculations</b>	442	
Excused Absence	0	
Exempted**	442	

*Example of grade 8 EOC Math Year 2 with >95% meeting standard after enhanced suppression:*

EOC Math Year 2 All Grades		
	Geometry	
	Number	Percent
<b>Meeting Standard</b>		> 95%
Level 4 (exceeds standard)		
Level 3 (met standard)		
Basic (met standard)		
<b>Not Meeting Standard</b>		< 5%
Level 2 (below standard)		
Level 1 (well below standard)		
No Score		
Unexcused Absence, Refusal		
Other*		
<b>Total</b>	292	
<b>Meeting Standard excluding No Score</b>		
<b>Alternate Assessment (see WAAS)</b>		
WAAS Portfolio		
WAAS DAW**		
<b>Not included in test calculations</b>		
Excused Absence		
Exempted**		
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		

## Suppression for Sub-Groups

If a report is divided by sub-groups (gender, race & ethnicity, English language learners, etc.) then an additional set of suppression rules apply. Suppression is designed to protect privacy when data about a (suppressed) small group could be derived by subtracting its correlate from a total (e.g., Total minus ELL equals non-ELL):

- Binary Sub-Group Category (e.g., ELL vs. non ELL):
  - If total number of students of one sub-group for a binary category is fewer than 10 students, then suppress the entire row of both of the sub groups, except the total number of students (if displayed).
- Complex Sub-Group Categories (e.g., race and ethnicity):
  - In the case of a sub-group category with multiple sub-groups, sum the total number of students in each sub-group that has fewer than 10 students. If the sum is fewer than 10 then suppress the entire row of next highest sub-group until at least 10 student records are suppressed.

The example below represents the white students subgroup in a grade comprised of 60 total students (student count by race/ethnicity: 31 Hispanic, 22 white, 3 two or more races, 2 American Indian, 1 black, 1 Asian):

*Example of grade 4 reading for 'white' subgroup as 'next highest subgroup' prior to enhanced suppression:*

Reading - Grade 4	
	<u>Number</u> <u>Percent</u>
<b>Meeting Standard</b>	14 63.6%
Level 4 (exceeds standard)	4 18.2%
Level 3 (met standard)	8 36.4%
Basic (met standard)	2 9.1%
<b>Not Meeting Standard</b>	8 36.4%
Level 2 (below standard)	7 31.8%
Level 1 (well below standard)	1 4.5%
No Score	0 0.0%
Unexcused Absence, Refusal	0 0.0%
Other*	0 0.0%
<b>Total</b>	22 100%
<b>Meeting Standard excluding No Score</b>	63.6%
<b>Alternate Assessment (see WAAS)</b>	2
WAAS Portfolio	2
<b>Not included in test calculations</b>	0
Excused Absence	0
Exempted***	0
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	24

Historically only American Indian, black, Asian and 'two or more races' subgroups in this grade at this site would have been suppressed because there were fewer than 10 students in each subgroup. However, because the total number suppressed does not exceed the 10 student threshold (2+1+1+3=7), the next lowest subgroup (white) will also be suppressed even though there are more than 10 students in that subgroup.

*Example of grade 4 reading for 'white' subgroup as 'next highest subgroup' after to enhanced suppression:*

Reading 4th Grade		
	Number	Percent
<b>Meeting Standard</b>		
Level 4 (exceeds standard)		
Level 3 (met standard)		
Basic (met standard)		
<b>Not Meeting Standard</b>		
Level 2 (below standard)		
Level 1 (well below standard)		
No Score		
Unexcused Absence, Refusal		
Other*		
<b>Total</b>	22	
<b>Meeting Standard excluding No Score</b>		
<b>Alternate Assessment (see WAAS)</b>		
WAAS Portfolio		
WAAS DAW**		
<b>Not included in test calculations</b>		
Excused Absence		
Exempted**		
<b>Total Enrollment</b>		

### Cross-Organization

Similar to subgroups, small schools' totals and the figures for subgroups within them could be derived by subtracting school figures from the district. These suppression rules parallel the 'binary' rules above when there are two schools in a district and the 'complex sub-group' rules when more than two schools are present in a district.