

ISTEP SCORES SPRING 2011

	E/LA	Math	Science	Soc. St.
3	95% 24% Pass+	95% 29% Pass+		
4	96% 29% Pass+	88% 29% Pass+	96% 46% Pass+	
5	82% 27% Pass+	100% 73% Pass+		91% 45% Pass+
6	100% 33% Pass+	93% 20% Pass+	93% 40% Pass+	
7	92% 8% Pass+	100% 58% Pass+		83% 25% Pass+
8	67% 17% Pass+	92% 17% Pass+		

Overall:

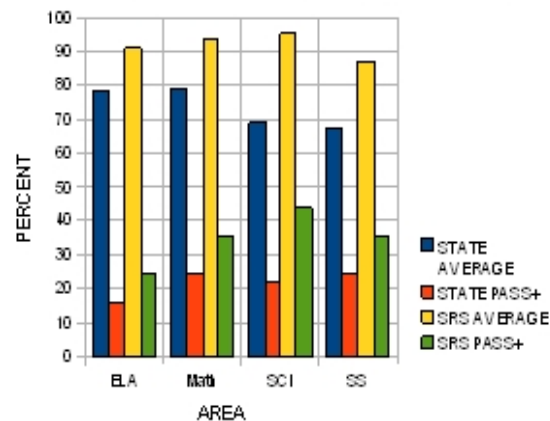
E/LA: 91% (24% Pass+)

Math: 94% (35% Pass+)

Science: 95% (44% Pass+)

Social Studies: 87% (35% Pass+)

2011 ISTEP SCORES COMPARISON



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REPORTED
BY THE DAILY JOURNAL NEWSPAPER
JULY 14, 2011

3 Area private schools earn high ISTEP scores

By [TOM LANGE](#) and [ANNIE GOELLER](#)

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Several area private schools found that the start of the school year is the perfect time to begin studying for the spring ISTEP test.

Three schools, St. Rose of Lima, SS. Francis and Clare and Our Lady of the Greenwood, began the 2010-11 school year by identifying students who would benefit from additional lessons in English and math designed to reinforce their skills.

The efforts paid off — the schools posted passing rates at or above 90 percent in English and math in 2011, with 85 to 97 percent of test takers passing both sections, above the state averages of 78 percent in English and 79 percent in math.

St. Rose students showed significant improvement on the 2010 ISTEP, and Principal Kelly England said educators' goal last year was to maintain the high scores.

They did.

Eighty-five percent of St. Rose's 88 test takers passed the English and math sections for the second consecutive year, widening the gulf between scores in 2009, when 78 percent of 105 students passed both sections.

Ninety-one percent of test takers passed the English section, down 3 percentage points from the previous year, and 93 percent of test takers passed the math section, up 3 percentage points.

England said the school's Response To Instruction program was vital to maintaining the high scores. Students are screened for the program at the beginning of the school year, and educators identify those who need additional academic help. Those students then receive supplemental lessons focused on improving reading comprehension, learning math facts and developing problem solving skills.

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"We've got it to the point where we're able to serve students who show even slight needs in one area or another, and we've seen a lot of success that way," England said.

At SS. Francis and Clare School, teachers spent extra time on math, an area where they found students weren't performing as well as they thought the students could.

Principal Betty Popp said she looked for teachers who had expertise in math before the start of last school year, and once the year started, teachers spent extra time analyzing student test data.

With that information, teachers could know how each student was doing on multiple subjects, where they were struggling and how the teacher could help them, Popp said.



How they measure up

Johnson County private schools released the 2011 school year Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus results this week. ISTEP+ results below included students who were graded as pass. Pass means a student met minimum requirements. The numbers reflect the percentage of students who passed the test at each school.

Schools	Students tested in 2011	% to pass English 2011	% to pass English 2010	% to pass Math 2011	% to pass Math 2010	% to pass both 2011	% to pass both 2010
St. Rose of Lima School	88	91	94	93	90	85	85
Our Lady of the Greenwood School	230	96	95	91	93	89	89

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SS. Francis and Clare School	65	97	95	100	86	97	84
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For example, teachers could see based on the data what reading level their students were at and group them together based upon that, so each child is getting education at the right level, she said.

"Teachers have to differentiate within the classroom for each student," Popp said.

And teachers didn't just focus on the students who needed extra help, she said.

They also looked at scores for high-ability students to see what they could do to help them improve, she said.

The extra efforts paid off, as every SS. Francis student passed the math section. Ninety-seven percent of students passed the English section, and 97 percent of the 65 students tested passed both.

Overall passing rates held steady for Our Lady of the Greenwood as well, with 89 percent of students passing both English and math sections for the second consecutive year. Ninety-six percent of students passed English, up 1 percentage point from 2010, and 91 percent of students passed math, down 2 points from the previous year.

"We feel like we are continuing to see not only growth overall, but growth with each individual child," Principal Kent Clady said.

Educators at Our Lady of the Greenwood looked to last year's ISTEP scores to identify students who needed extra preparation, and quarterly benchmark tests flagged students who could use additional help. Those students met with staff members for 30 minutes four mornings a week to review math and English skills.

"Once again we feel like those interventions have really made a difference for kids who needed that extra attention outside of the classroom," Clady said.

Scores from Greenwood Christian Academy, Greenwood Christian School, Suburban Christian Academy and Christian Preparatory Academy were unavailable. Officials from the Indiana Department of Education said because the schools are not accredited they are not required to report their scores to the state.