



Office of Curriculum & Instruction

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Verona Public Schools, the center of an engaged and supportive community, is to empower students to achieve their potential as active learners and productive citizens through rigorous curricula and meaningful, enriching experiences."

Verona High School's

High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) Results Are Positive

This past March, Verona High School junior students, were given the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). Our students, teachers, supervisors, administrators, and community have been focused on lowering our **Partial Proficient (%PP)**¹ scores and narrowing the %PP gap between Verona and the districts that are in our same District Factor Group I² (DFG I) such as New Providence, Caldwell, Berkeley Heights, Cedar Grove, and Glen Ridge.

We are excited to announce that our **Mathematics %PP** score (*see chart #1*) has decreased to 8.4% for our district, a five year low, and we eliminated our gap between Verona High School (VHS) and our DFG I peer average (*see chart #1*). Additionally, we raised our **Mathematics Advanced Proficient (%AP)** score to its highest level of 39.6% over the past five years and have narrowed the gap between Verona and our DFG I peers to 8.9%! VHS's **Mathematics %AP** score of 39.6% is a 12% increase since 2009. This is excellent news for the Verona Community!

Chart #1: HSPA Mathematics (%PP)

Year	Verona PP	DFG I PP	Difference
2013	8.4%	8.6%	-0.2%
2012	11.6%	8.9%	2.7%
2011	16.3%	11.1%	5.2%
2010	23.3%	10.8%	12.5%
2009	18.4%	11.5%	6.9%

Chart #2: HSPA Mathematics (%AP)

Year	Verona AP	DFG I AP	Difference
2013	39.6%	48.5%	-8.9%
2012	30.6%	46.7%	-16.1%
2011	27.5%	43.4%	-15.9%
2010	26.7%	42.7%	-16.0%
2009	27.9%	41.2%	-13.3%

Our **Language Arts Literacy Partial Proficient (%PP)** score of 1.9% is, for the second year in a row, below our DFG peer average (*see chart #3*). Over the past five years, we have lowered our **LAL %PP** score approximately 8% compared to the DFG I average of 3%. The **Advanced Proficient (%AP)** score of 38.7% is our highest result in five years and doubles our %AP result from 2009 (*see chart #4*). Moreover, the **LAL %AP** continues to close the gap against the **DFG %AP** Average. Verona High School has increased 29% while the DFG I only increased 20% from 2009 to 2013.

Chart #3: HSPA LAL (%PP)

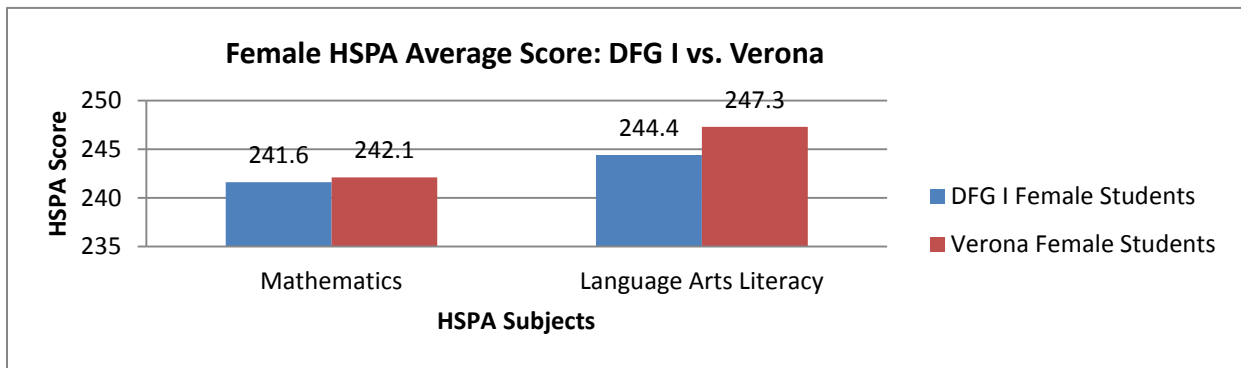
Year	Verona PP	DFG I PP	Difference
2013	1.9%	2.6%	-0.7%
2012	1.4%	2.7%	-1.3%
2011	4.6%	3.5%	1.1%
2010	4.7%	3.8%	0.9%
2009	9.6%	5.6%	4.0%

Chart #4: HSPA LAL (%AP)

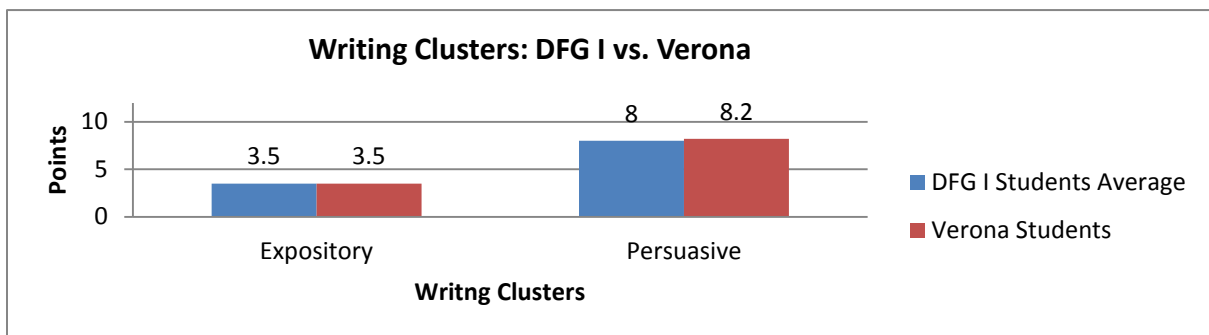
Year	Verona AP	DFG I AP	Difference
2013	38.7%	45.4%	-6.7%
2012	29.3%	38.0%	-8.7%
2011	23.5%	43.4%	-19.9%
2010	14.7%	34.3%	-19.6%
2009	19.9%	25.9%	-6.0%

Other notable performances are the following:

- VHS's female students' average for the HSPA Mathematics and Language Arts Literacy (LAL) outperformed the DFG I average!



- VHS's LAL teachers and students tied or outperformed the DFG I average in the Expository and Persuasive Writing clusters.



These positive results have been accomplished through teamwork, curriculum revision using the Understanding by Design (UbD) process, and improved communication between students, teachers, supervisors, administration, and parents. Moreover, VHS's success can be attributed to strong, purposeful professional development, effective and efficient teaching, solid support from parents and community, dedication and hard work from our students, and the commitment from our Board of Education.

¹ Please note that Partial Proficient scores range between 100 and 199, Proficient scores are from 200 to 249, and Advanced Proficient Scores are 250 to 300.

² DFG is an indicator of socioeconomic status in each district. Factors considered a percent of adult residents who failed to complete high school, who attended college, occupational status of adult household members, population density, median family income, unemployment, and percent of residents below the poverty level. There are 105 DFG I districts in NJ.