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# South Bend Tribune

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## ISTEP science exam base-year results released

### P-H-M's numbers strong; South Bend schools' well below state average

By **MICHAEL WANBAUGH**  
 Tribune Staff Writer

Results for ISTEP's base-year science exam were released Thursday by the Indiana Department of Education.

The test was given statewide to fifth-grade students in September 2003. It is the first time a science component has been included on the ISTEP exam.

The ISTEP also tests mathematics and English/language arts. Those results were released in December 2003.

According to the Department of Education, 61 percent of the more than 78,000 fifth-graders tested passed the science portion.

"The results provide us with data that will serve as Indiana's base line," said Suellen Reed, superintendent of public instruction. "This base line allows our educators and school boards to examine growth and detect weakness in a manner that can be clearly identified from year to year. ..."

### ISTEP science

A science portion of the ISTEP test was given for the first time in September 2003 to fifth-graders statewide. School-by-school ISTEP science test results for South Bend and Mishawaka schools:

#### South Bend Community Schools

	Students tested	Percent pass
Brown	152	34
Clay	180	51
Dickinson	162	24
Edison	145	41
Greene	133	37
Jackson	162	36
Jefferson	130	45
LaSalle	153	87
Marshall	135	45
Navarre	164	18
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>41</b>



ISTEP science results will become part of the state's accountability standard.

The highest score possible for the grade-five science test was 780. The minimum score for passing was 479.

Of the three largest school systems in St. Joseph County, only Penn-Harris-Madison exceeded the state passing average for science. Of the 823 P-H-M fifth-graders tested, 75 percent passed.

Both Madison and Prairie Vista elementary schools had passing rates of 92 percent. Northpoint and Mary Frank had passing rates of 89 and 88 percent, respectively.

None of P-H-M's 12 elementary schools had a passing rate below 60 percent.

At School City of Mishawaka, 54 percent of the 377 students tested passed.

Twin Branch Elementary had the system's highest passing rate at 69 percent.

Only 41 percent of the 1,523 students tested in the South Bend Community School Corp. passed.

LaSalle Intermediate Academy, a magnet school for grades five through eight, had the corporation's best passing rate at 87 percent. The next best was Clay Intermediate Center at 51 percent.

Of the 10 intermediate schools in the system, only LaSalle and Clay had passing rates above 50 percent. At half of the schools, fewer than 40 percent of students passed. Only 18 percent of the 164 fifth-graders at Navarre Intermediate passed.

Of the area schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Corpus Christi School in South Bend had the passing rate of 96 percent, the highest in the county. Christ the King School in South Bend had a

**School City of Mishawaka**

Battell	41	49
Beiger	55	64
Emmons	49	43
Hums	51	61
LaSalle	88	48
Liberty	47	47
Twin Branch	45	69
<b>Overall</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>54</b>

**Penn-Harris-Madison**

Bittersweet	87	67
Elm Road	60	60
Elsie Rogers	52	62
Horizon	136	72
Mary Frank	74	88
Madison	38	92
Meadows Edge	53	62
Moran	64	67
North Point	101	89
Prairie Vista	86	92
Walt Disney	72	65
<b>Overall</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>75</b>

**Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend**

Christ the King	60	92
Corpus Christi	52	96
Holy Cross	33	61
St. Adalbert	12	42
St. Anthony		
De Padua	56	82
St. John		
The Baptist	27	81
St. Bavo	18	61
St. Joseph (SB)	50	88
St. Jude	23	74
St. Mary		
Assumption	12	58
St. Matthew		
Cathedral	44	84
St. Monica	26	88
St. Joseph (Mish)	19	68

passing rate of 92 percent.

Queen of Peace	13	85
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The diocese as a whole had 82 percent of its 1,213 students tested pass.

<b>Overall for</b>		
<b>Diocese</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>82</b>

Jump to a day: 1  1  2004

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