

# Strong Foundation Walls

- 3RD GRADE READING ACHIEVEMENT

Children who start behind, stay behind. Most Ohio children are not ready for kindergarten, a trend which persists through third grade and beyond. Without a strong foundation, closing the learning gap between kindergarten and third grade is very difficult. Further, the health and education of young children are inextricably linked. Whether it is their mental or physical health, healthy students are better learners and more educated children have better health outcomes. Poor children, children of color and Appalachian children are disproportionately impacted by poor health outcomes that undermine their ability to excel in school. In order to support the whole child, we have to begin with a strong foundation.



# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

**A compelling body of research has shown that children who are behind in reading in third grade have a very difficult time catching up over the duration of their primary and secondary education careers.**

The gap between struggling and fluent readers does not diminish over time. Just as kindergarten readiness predicts third grade reading achievement, third grade reading predicts high school graduation. Children who do not read by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers.

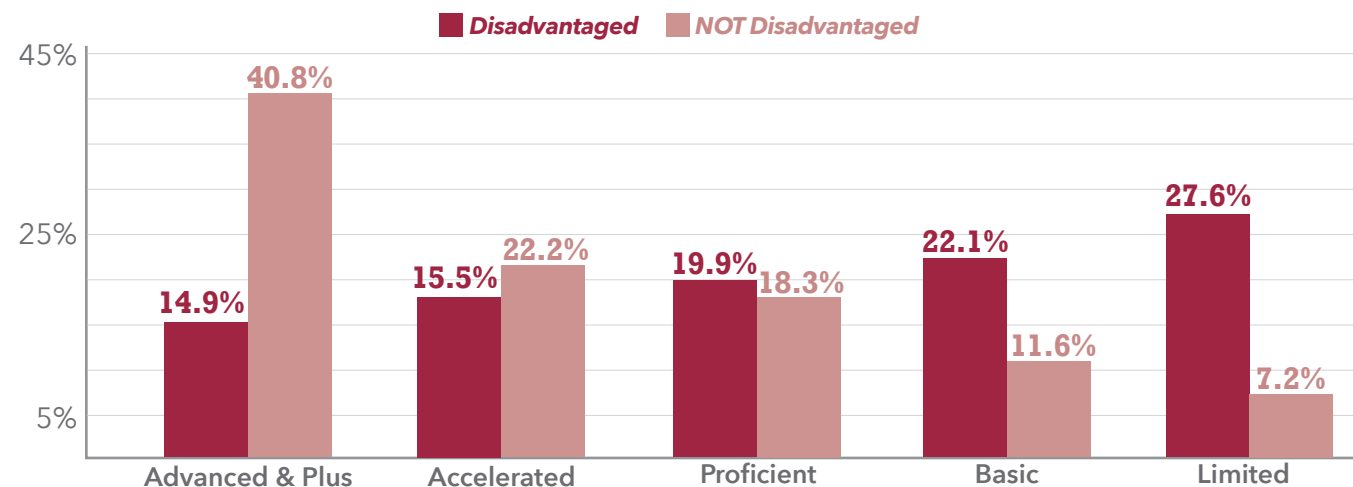
**There are six performance levels for third grade reading achievement:**

**Advanced Plus | Advanced | Accelerated | Proficient | Basic | Limited**

More than 2.5 times as many non-disadvantaged students (40.8%) performed at the "Advanced" and "Advanced Plus" levels on third grade reading in FY17 than did economically disadvantaged students (14.9%). At the other end of the spectrum, the 27.6% rate at which economically disadvantaged students performed at the Limited (lowest) level on the third grade reading exam was nearly four times that of the non-disadvantaged students (7.2%).

*Children who do not read by the end of 3rd grade are **4 TIMES MORE LIKELY** to leave school without a diploma.*

**Chart 1** FY17 Third Grade Reading Performance of Students BY ECONOMIC STATUS



Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

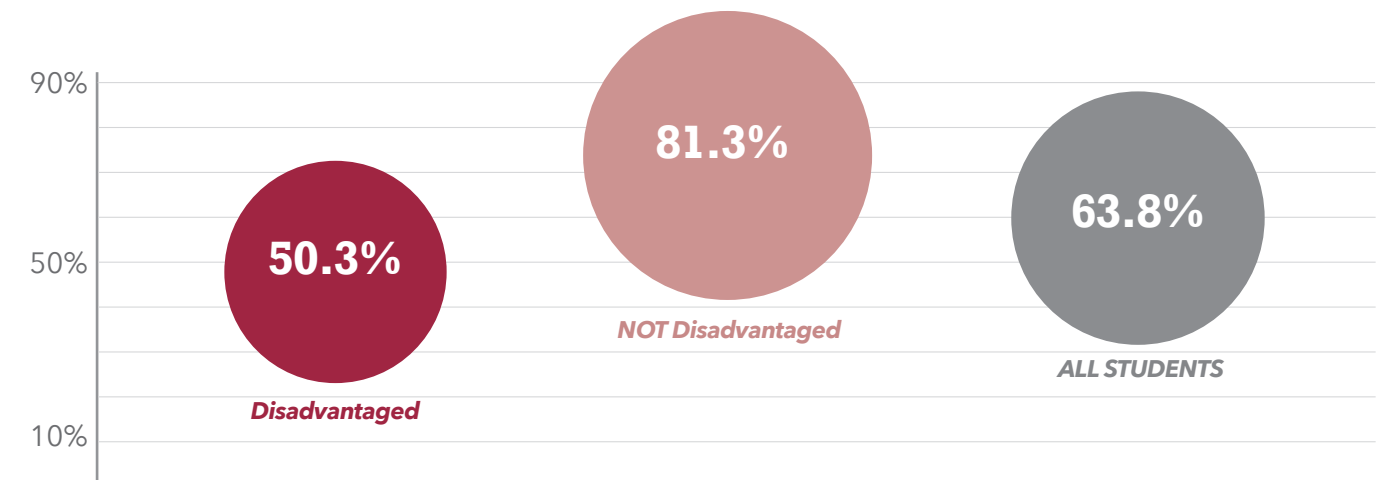
# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

Chart 2 provides a simple overview of the data in Chart 1.

**81.3%**  
OF NOT DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS performed at the proficient or higher level on the FY17 third grade reading test.

**ONLY 50.3%** OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS DID SO.

**Chart 2** FY17 Percent of Students Proficient & Above BY ECONOMIC STATUS



Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

## Reflections

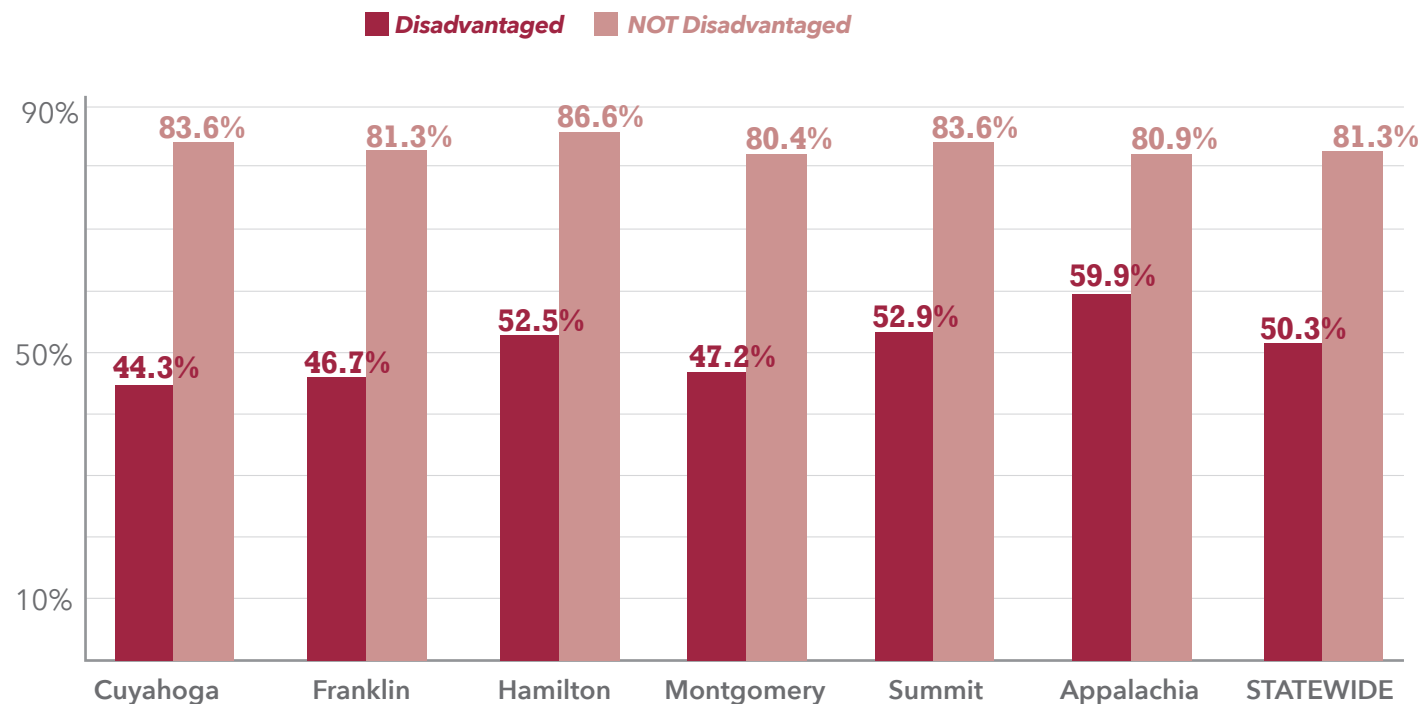
GIVEN THAT KINDERGARTEN READINESS PREDICTS THIRD GRADE READING AND THIRD GRADE READING PREDICTS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION...  
**HOW CAN WE BEST POSITION ALL KIDS FOR SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY THOSE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED KIDS WHO ARE NOT PROFICIENT IN READING BY THE THIRD GRADE?**

# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

Chart 3 provides a comparison of third grade reading proficiency in selected regions in Ohio with that of the state overall.

All regions exhibit a significant disparity in the performance of economically disadvantaged students compared to their more affluent peers.

**Chart 3** FY17 Percent of Students Proficient & Above BY ECONOMIC STATUS IN SELECTED REGIONS



Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

Table 1 provides an overview of the number of economically disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged third grade students tested and the number and percentage of those achieving the level of proficiency or above on the exam for selected regions of the state.

(The percentages shown in Table 1 are the same as those shown in Chart 3.)

**Table 1** FY17 Number of Third Grade Reading Students Tested, & Number/Percentage Demonstrating Proficiency or Above, BY ECONOMIC STATUS IN SELECTED REGIONS

Region	# Economically Disadvantaged Students Tested	% Economically Disadvantaged Students Proficient or Above	# Economically Disadvantaged Students Proficient or Above	# Non-Econ. Disadvantaged Students Tested	% Non-Econ. Disadvantaged Students Proficient or Above	% Non-Econ. Disadvantaged Students Proficient or Above
Cuyahoga	3,864	44.3%	1,712	6,447	83.6%	5,390
Franklin	5,251	46.7%	2,452	8,226	81.3%	6,688
Hamilton	3,322	52.5%	1,744	4,680	86.6%	4,053
Montgomery	2,068	47.2%	976	2,827	80.4%	2,273
Summit	2,497	52.9%	1,321	2,606	83.6%	2,179
Appalachian	7,827	59.9%	4,688	12,467	80.9%	10,086
STATEWIDE	77,152	50.3%	38,783	59,367	81.3%	48,251

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

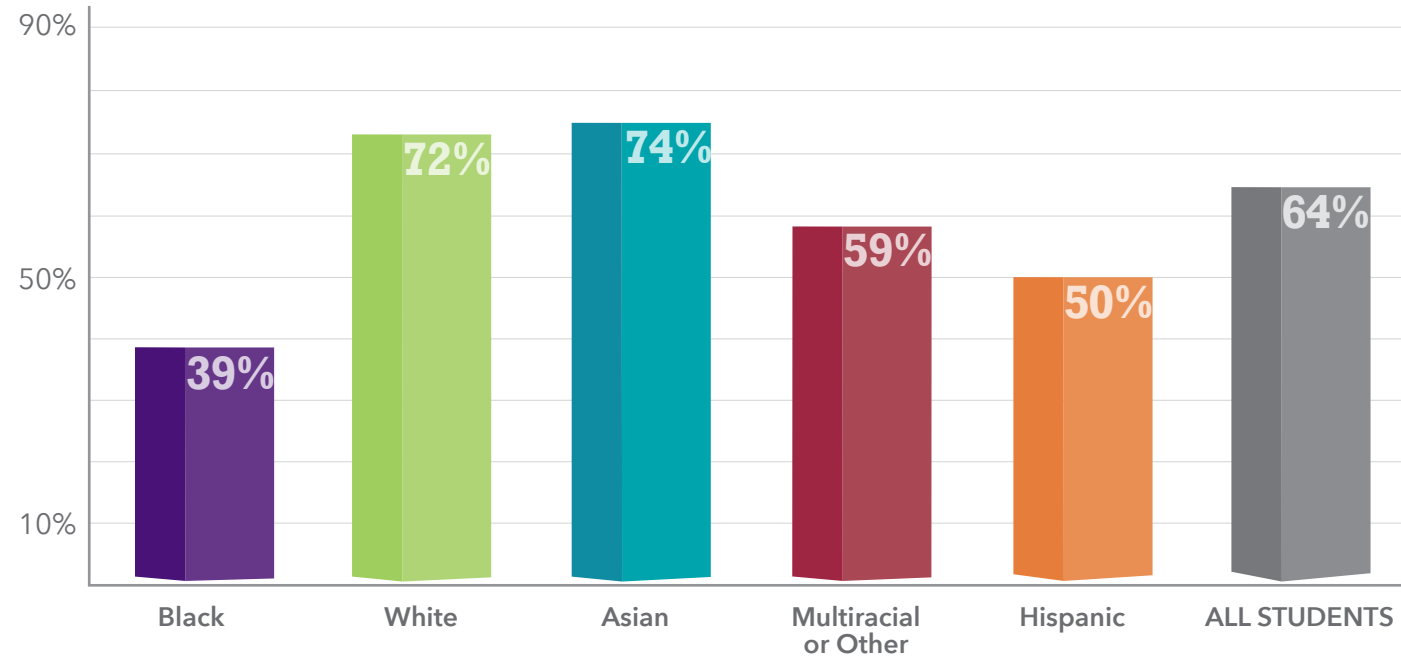
# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

## ANALYSIS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

The data in Chart 4 below shows that black students performed slightly over half as well on Ohio's third grade reading exam as did white and Asian students in FY17. Only 39.3% of black students performed at the proficient, accelerated or advanced levels, while 71.5% of white students scored proficient or better and 73.9% of Asian students did so. Hispanic and multi-racial students also performed significantly lower in third grade reading than did the white and Asian students.

Chart 4

### STATEWIDE FY17 Percent of Students Proficient & Above BY RACE & ETHNICITY



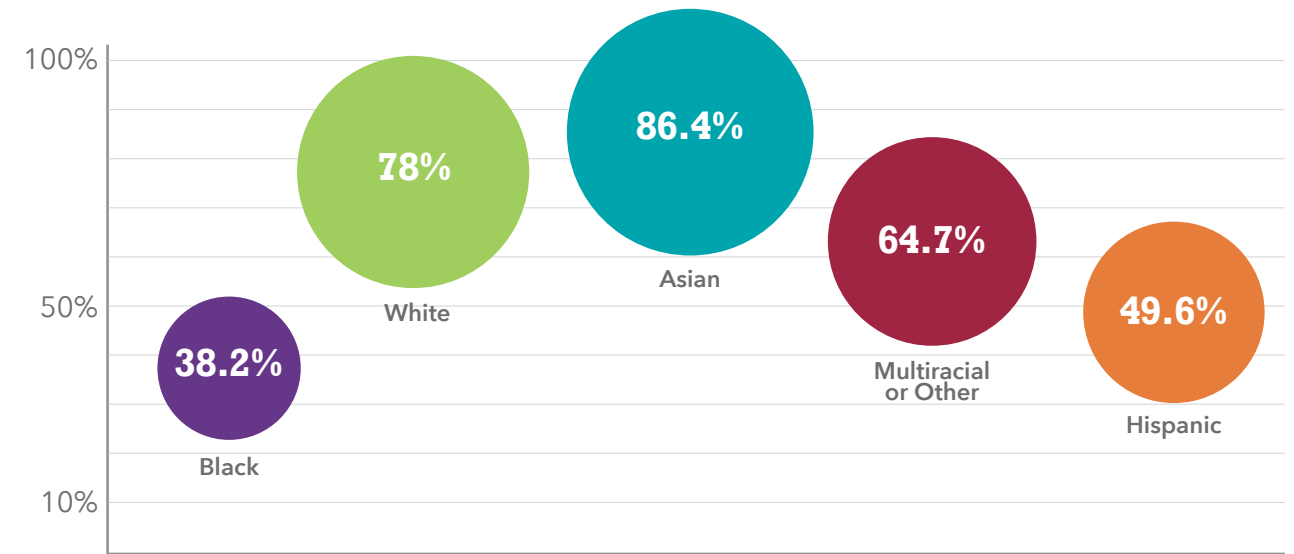
Note: Due to small numbers of students, the county and Appalachian region graphs by race and ethnicity do not include results for Pacific Islanders or American Indian/Alaskan Natives as part of the "Other" category as do the other counties.

Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

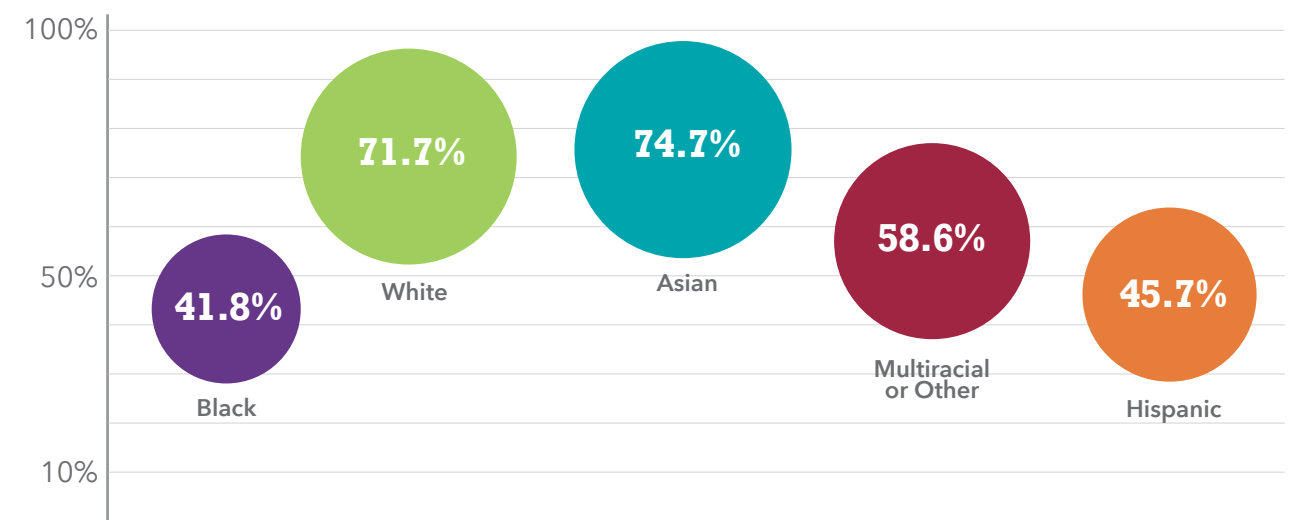
# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

## REGIONAL FY17 Percent of Students Proficient & Above BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Cuyahoga County



Franklin County

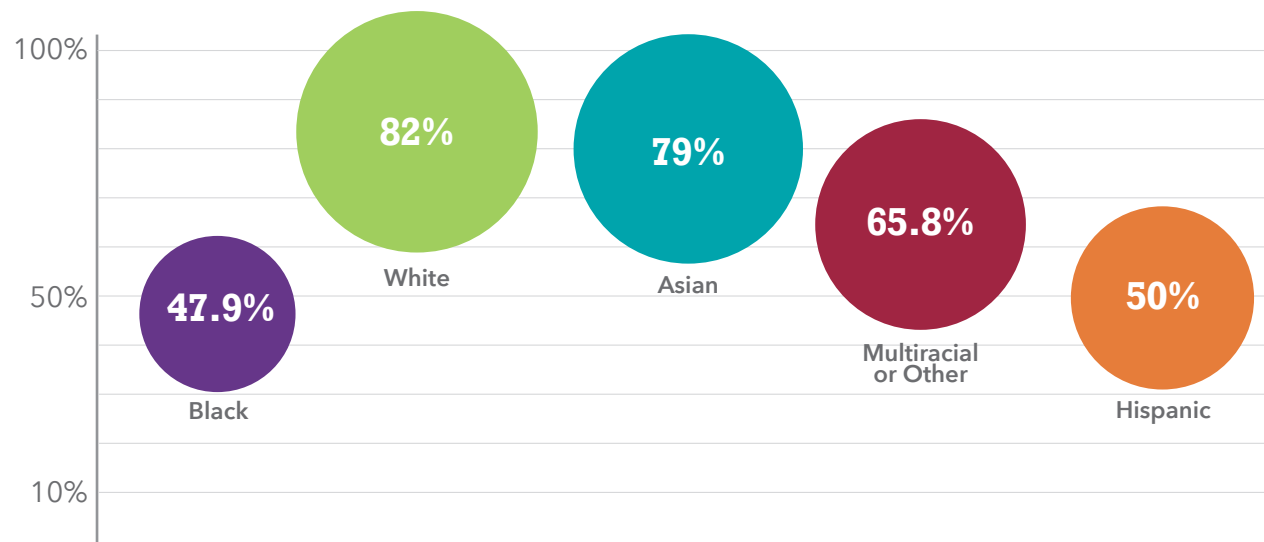


Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

# 3rd Grade Reading Achievement

**REGIONAL**  
FY17 Percent of Students Proficient & Above  
**BY RACE & ETHNICITY**

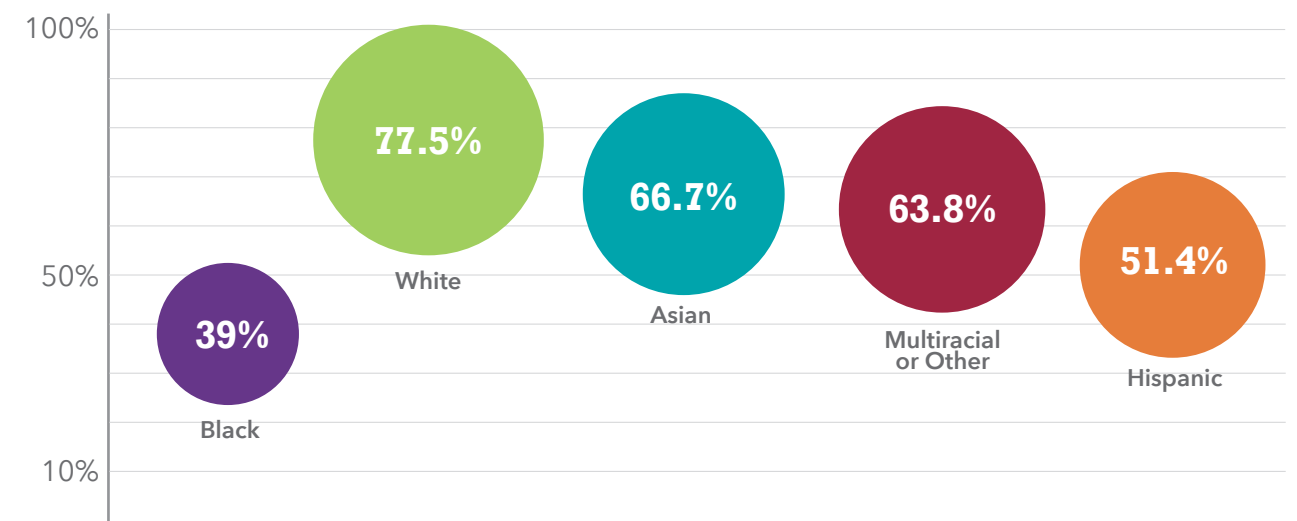
## Hamilton County



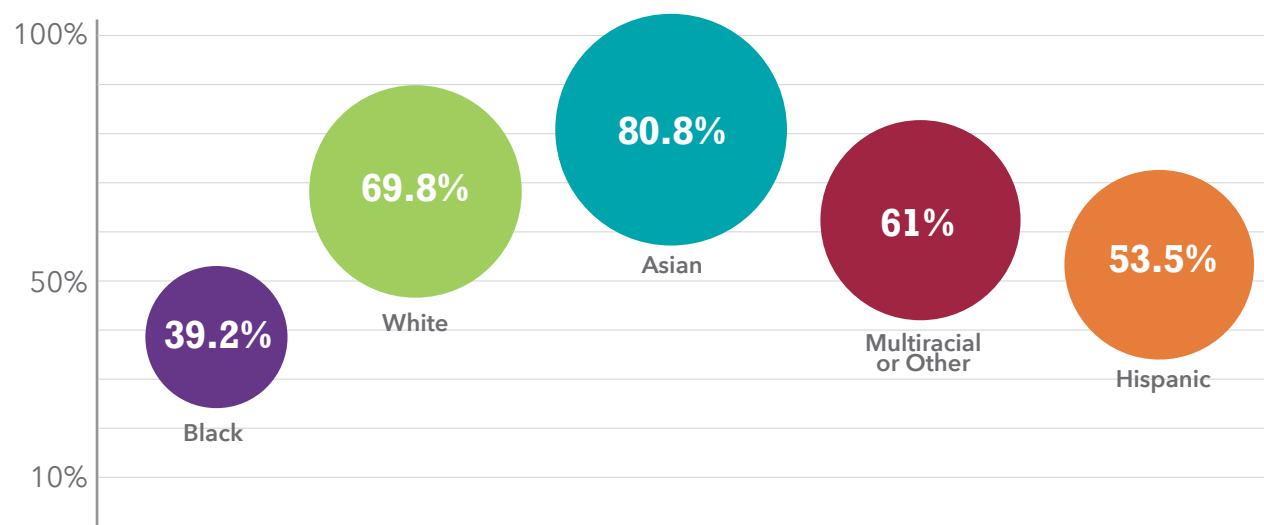
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**REGIONAL**  
FY17 Percent of Students Proficient & Above  
**BY RACE & ETHNICITY**

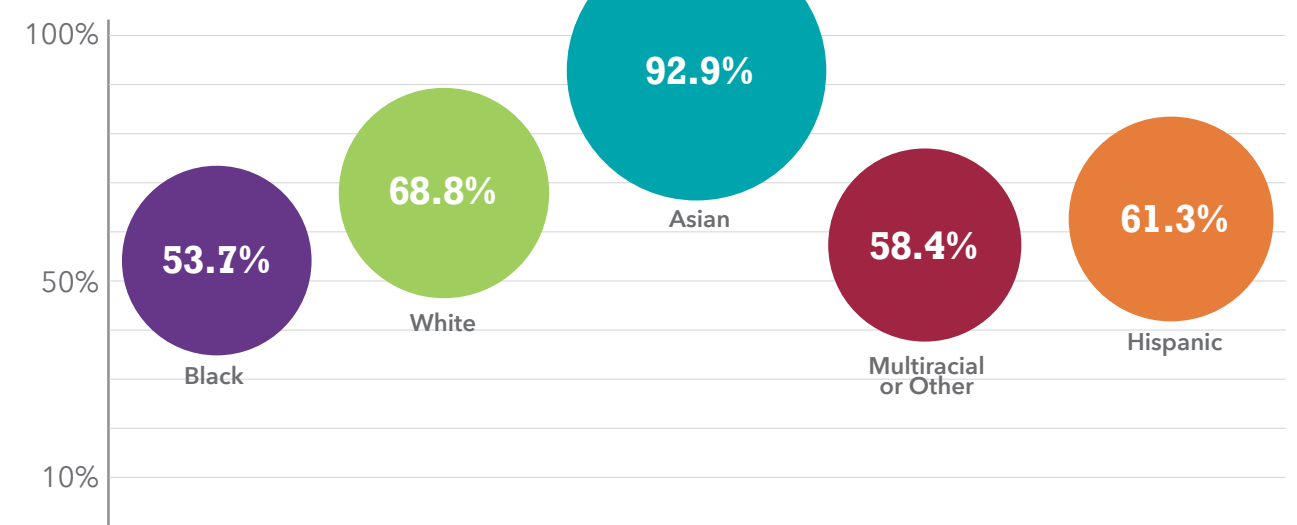
## Summit County



## Montgomery Region



## Appalachian Region



Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

Note: The Appalachian Region graph is based on the simple average rather than weighted average of county test results.  
Data Source: Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017

## 3rd Grade Reading Achievement:

### SOURCES

Ohio State University, Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy, <https://ehe.osu.edu/news/listing/kindergarten-test-reveals-likely-3rd-grade-readers>

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
[www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF-EarlyWarningConfirmed-2013.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AECF-EarlyWarningConfirmed-2013.pdf)

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### DATA SOURCE

Ohio Department of Education, School Report Card 2017



# Join Us.

Groundwork  
OHIO



*Ohio Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity Report*

[GroundworkOhio.org](http://GroundworkOhio.org)



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*Groundwork Ohio is a fiscally-sponsored project of Community Initiatives*