



NWEA Benchmark Data Analysis

Fall 2021 – Winter 2022

Overview

Encore Jr. Sr. High School for the Performing and Visual Arts administered its Winter Benchmarks to students grades 9-11 from January 24, 2022 – February 11, 2022. The window for administering the assessment to students was originally set for two weeks (January 24, 2022 – February 4, 2022) however, due to the increased rate of absences due to the COVID-19 Omicron variant, administration extended the window by one additional week. Students were assessed in their Math, English, and Science classes with approximately ninety minutes per testing session.

Completion Rate

The goal that administration set for assessment completion rate was 95% as it would mirror the state requirement for CAASPP. Below is a chart indicating the completion rates for each grade level and assessment for the Winter 2022 benchmarks.

Winter 2022 Assessment Completion Rate

Grade	Assessment	Rate	Goal Met
7 th grade	Math	91%	-4%
	Reading	80%	-15%
	Language	82%	-10%
	Science	82%	-10%
8 th grade	Math	87%	-8%
	Reading	47%	-48%
	Language	69%	-26%
	Science	82%	-10%

9 th grade	Math	74%	-21%
	Reading	82%	-10%
	Language	62%	-33%
	Science	90%	-5%
10 th grade	Math	87%	-8%
	Reading	61%	-34%
	Language	80%	-15%
	Science	91%	-4%
11 th grade	Math	87%	-8%
	Reading	71%	-24%
	Language	71%	-24%
	Science	91%	-4%
Overall Total		78.35%	-16.65%

Completion Rate Analysis: Student attendance during the month of January and February of 2022 was low due three possible factors. One factor was the low attendance rate due to the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Encores Aeries [Attendance Report](#) will show that during the testing window, the average absence rate was 47.2%. That’s almost half of our students. In addition to students, Encore had a high rate of staff callouts due to COVID-19 which made it difficult for administration to find a staff member to cover that class who could administer benchmark assessments. The second possible factor is that students are pulled from school about halfway through the day from parents. According to the front desk, during the testing window, they had a full page to a page and a half of students signed out by parents. Each page holds approximately twenty-five students. Overall, we are looking at anywhere between twenty-five to forty being removed from class. The third possible factor is the academic staff vacancies. Currently, the school has four academic vacancies where period substitutes or daily

substitutes are covering for testing subjects.

Goals towards attendance improvement: Looking forward to March and April of 2022 when the school administers state summative assessments, Encore needs to encourage all stakeholders that attendance is crucial. Encore is required by the state to have a 95% completion rate for each individual grade level and assessment on the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Administration will send out the mandatory summative assessment information letter to all parents and students. This information letter will have the dates and schedule for each grade level and when they will be assessed. In addition, teaching staff will administer the practice summative assessment with students so students can ease testing anxiety going into the assessment. Encore incentive program of distributing Awesome Tags will continue for each student who completes an assessment. These Awesome Tags can be saved to purchase Encore Swag in the Pirate Student Store.

Mid-Year Progress

The overall goal for the Winter benchmark is to show student mid-year progress. The cart below will show the current growth levels for students grades 9-11 in subject areas of Math, Reading, Language, and Science. A full NWEA [Student Growth Summary by Grade](#) can be found here.

Student Growth by Grade

Fall 2021 – Winter 2022

Math

Grade	Fall 2021 score	Winter 2022 score	Growth	Projected Growth	Growth Goal
7	206.9	210.5	4	4.5	-0.5
8	211.2	213.4	2	4.0	-2
9	213.2	214.7	2	2.9	-0.9
10	220.4	222.4	2	2.7	-0.7
11	223.7	225.8	2	2.3	-0.3

Reading

Grade	Fall 2021 score	Winter 2022 score	Growth	Projected Growth	Growth Goal
7	209.8	207.5	-2	3.9	-5.9
8	208.6	206.6	-2	3.7	-5.7
9	208.9	213.7	5	2.5	2.5
10	222.1	220.0	-2	-1.9	-3.9
11	223.1	219.6	-3	1.4	-4.4

Language

Grade	Fall 2021 score	Winter 2022 score	Growth	Projected Growth	Growth Goal
7	206.0	209.7	4	3.7	0.3
8	211.6	210.8	-1	3.0	-4.0
9	212.5	212.5	0	2.1	-2.1
10	218.2	221.3	3	1.8	1.2
11	220.3	221.8	2	1.6	0.04

Science

Grade	Fall 2021 score	Winter 2022 score	Growth	Projected Growth	Growth Goal
7	203.9	205.7	2	4	-2
8	205.6	206.5	1	3.8	-2.8
9	205.8	208.0	2	2.8	-0.8

10	213.7	214.2	1	2.4	-1.4
11	215.4	214.3	-1	0	-1

In addition to these tables, you will find detailed reports of student assessment scores based on student subgroups by clicking the [District Summary Reports](#), [Student Proficiency Summary](#), [Subgroup Data Report](#), and the [Student Growth Summary](#).

Goals Towards Improvement

With state summative assessments a few weeks away, Encore administration, teaching, and instructional staff will need to focus on standards remediation for students be successful for their assessments and for continuous academic growth. The following remediation practices will take place starting in February of 2022 in all academic classes.

-MyPath: Encores board approved curriculum, Edgenuity, offers a remediation course that is linked to NWEA benchmark assessments. These courses link Encores NWEA scores to Edgenuity and creates an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) for both Math and English remediation. Students work on these courses independently in their Math, English, Study Hall, and Skills classes for remediation support.

-Tutor.com: One area of concern that students and parents presented Encore administration was the fact that students need additional tutoring support besides the tutoring that is offered at Encore by credentialed teachers. Tutor.com is a program that Encore offers free of services to students that need additional tutoring twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week by tutors with academic experience and academic degrees. Students can access this program by selecting on the Google Apps on their Chromebook and selecting the Tutor.com application. Students can use this service at school and at home.

-Success class: Jr. high students are added to a remediation class that assists additional support in both English and Math. Students with declining RIT scores based on NWEA assessments results, were placed in these courses. These classes meet for some students everyday or every other day (due to block

scheduling).

-SPED Remediation: Students that have qualifying IEPs are added to additional Strategies courses that meet students IEP minutes as well as provides additional remediation support. Credentialed Special Education teachers and aides assist students with their NWEA goals during this time as well. These classes are more of a small group setting so additional support can be provided.

-ESL/EL Support: Encore has improved its prior EL program as the number of EL students has increased over the past two school years. A credentialed EL Coordinator and EL aide were hired at the start of the 2021/2022 school year to provide additional support in the ESL class. The EL aide assists students in the ESL class with a full time English teacher. The EL Coordinator works with EL students and has one ESL Jr. class that works with middle school EL students in a smaller group setting as in the previous years, middle school EL students did not receive additional pull-out support. In March of 2022, the Director of Academics and SPED department will hold a meeting to discuss strategies and area of improvement. Then the SPED teaching staff will have a meeting with all staff to discuss these strategies.

-504 Support: The Director of Academics and 504 Coordinator will hold a meeting in March 2022 to ensure that all staff know their 504 students' accommodations. In addition, discuss strategies that will be useful to this subgroup to retain content that is present on summative assessments.

-Engage New York and Tools for Teachers: After the analysis of the Winter 2022 benchmark results, it was determined that students need additional support in all standards as scores did not reflect growth. Teachers will prepare students for the Spring summative assessments by using the Tools for Teachers on TOMS/CAASPP as test preparation. Teachers will practice logging into the summative assessment portal so students can be familiar with the testing portal and process. In addition, teachers will implement units and lessons from Engage New York as additional test preparation as in the past, Engage New York was beneficial for student success.

-Attendance: As displayed in our data, student absence rate has increased. This could be factor of COVID-19 however, the front office has noticed a large increase in parents removing students from class starting after lunch. As noted in this report on [student absences](#), almost 50% of our students were

absent during the Winter 2022 benchmark window.

-Parent Involvement: In the past, Encore parents have been actively involved in student academic success. Since COVID-19, we have seen a mass decrease in parent involvement. Keeping all lines of communication open with parents is critical. As we move into state summative assessments and our final benchmark window, administration will share the assessment schedules via all communication platforms (mail, social media, email, text, and all call), to have full participation from parents in the assessment process.

Next Steps

To take a deeper dive into this data, Encores data team will meet with the Director of Academics to see what additional strategies and support that can be provided to students and to staff. In addition, the data team will look at student individual progress with student subgroups for the Encore support to team to work on remediation in small groups and or individual settings. Finally, Encore restructured its Response to Intervention (RTI) program. Working with the RTI coordinator, administration will work with students and parents by creating individualized RTI plans for student growth.