



# Montana Science Assessment Dashboard (5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade)



## Summary

In 2016, the state of Montana adopted new science standards. These standards are based on the Next Generation Science Standards, or NGSS, with some modifications to meet the needs of Montana students. With the adoption of the new standards, a new assessment was created that replaced the legacy CRT test for science. The Montana Science Assessment (MSA) Dashboard provides an overview of student performance and participation on this test beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, or the first year of an operational assessment. Both 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade longitudinal data can be examined on this dashboard, however, comparison between the legacy CRT test and the MSA are not valid since these tests are assessing different sets of standards.

## Central Navigation and Knowledge

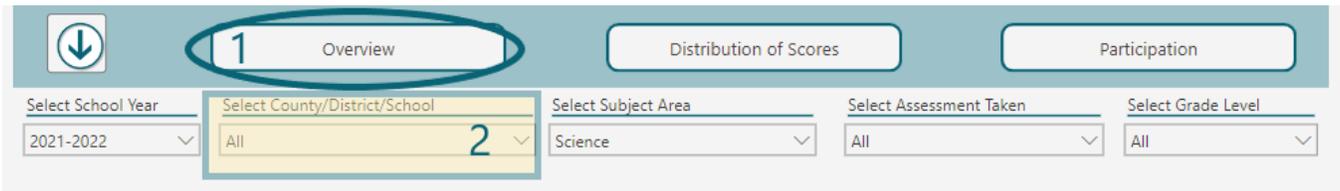
	Page Contents	Page Navigation
Overview Button	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-bar graph displaying science proficiency levels (Novice, Nearing Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced)</li> <li>-cards highlighting the count of students assessed, the count of students eligible to take the assessment, and the percent of students assessed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-slicer menu options: federal race/ethnicity, gender, socio economic status, Special Education status, English Learner status, homeless status and migrant status</li> <li>-slicers located outside menu: school year, county/district/school location(s), subject area, assessment taken, grade level</li> </ul>
Distribution of Scores Button	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-two bar graphs providing the distribution of scores for 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade on the assessment</li> <li>-the two distributions are color coded to highlight scores by proficiency levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-slicer menu options: same as the Overview page</li> <li>-slicers located outside menu: school year, county/district/school location(s), subject area, assessment taken</li> </ul>
Participation Button	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-expandable table providing the count of students tested and the percent assessed by county, district and school</li> <li>-pie graph displaying the proportions of students assessed and not assessed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-slicer menu options: same as Overview page</li> <li>-slicer located outside menu: same as Overview page</li> <li>-the two visualizations on this page are interactive, so if a specific school location is selected in the table, the pie graph proportions will reflect this selection</li> </ul>

## Where to Start

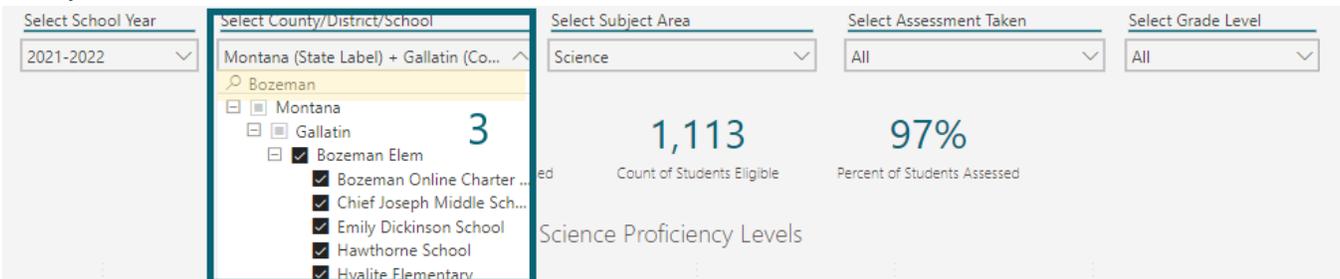
Below you will find a guided walk-through for accessing specific data to answer a question. These tutorials are provided based on frequently requested data or commonly asked questions on how to view a school or district's performance on the MSA for a selected school year(s).

To view performance by a specific school or district:

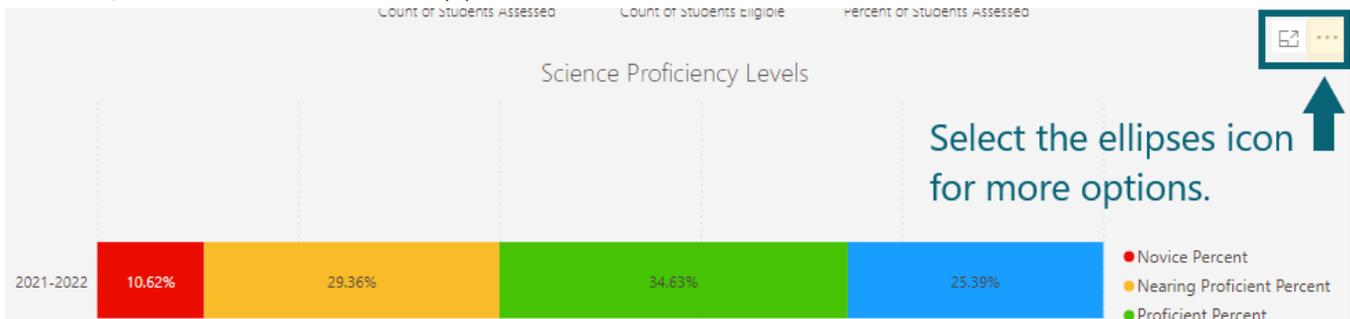
Begin on the Overview page of the MSA dashboard (1) and select the school location filter within the dashboard environment (2).



Either scroll and expand the counties using the "+" to find the school location of interest, or type a key word such as the city or school name into the search bar (3).



Once the school location(s) have been selected, the proficiency levels bar graph can be turned into a table if preferred. Select the ellipses icon "..." for more options which appears when hovering over any visualization on GEMS. Then, select to show as a table (4).



## Tips and Tricks

- The default on both the Overview and the Participation page is to select for both 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade performance and participation data. To examine one grade level, use the "Select Grade Level" filter within the dashboard environment.
- To examine the districts or schools within a county on the Participation page's table, use the "+" icon to the left of the county name to expand.
- Depending on the number of districts selected, the table can be dense to read. Selecting *focus mode* will enlarge the table for easier analyzing. To select focus mode, hover over the visual. In the top right corner, two icons will appear. Select the first icon.
- An "\*" indicates that the count of students is 10 or less and has been masked.