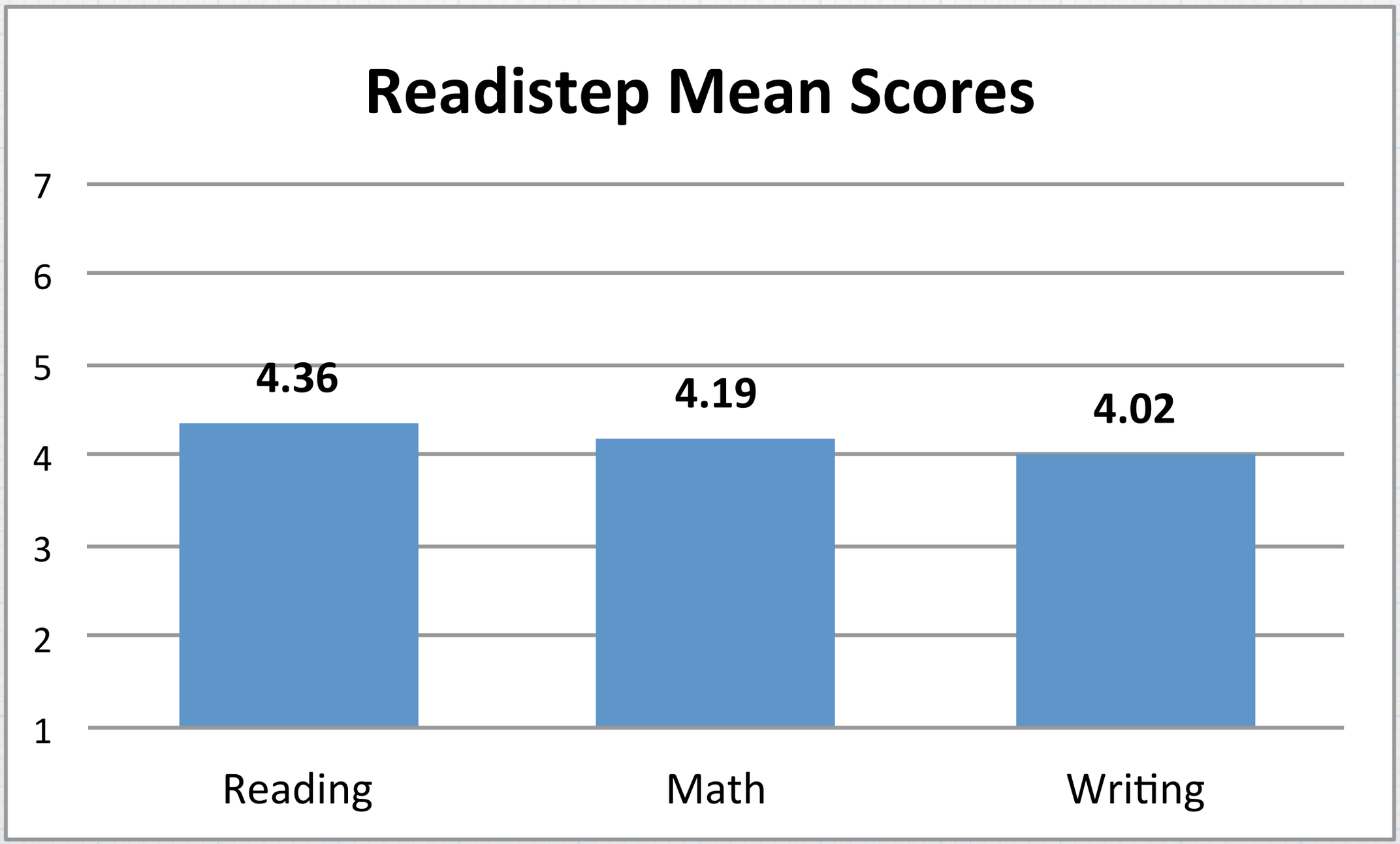
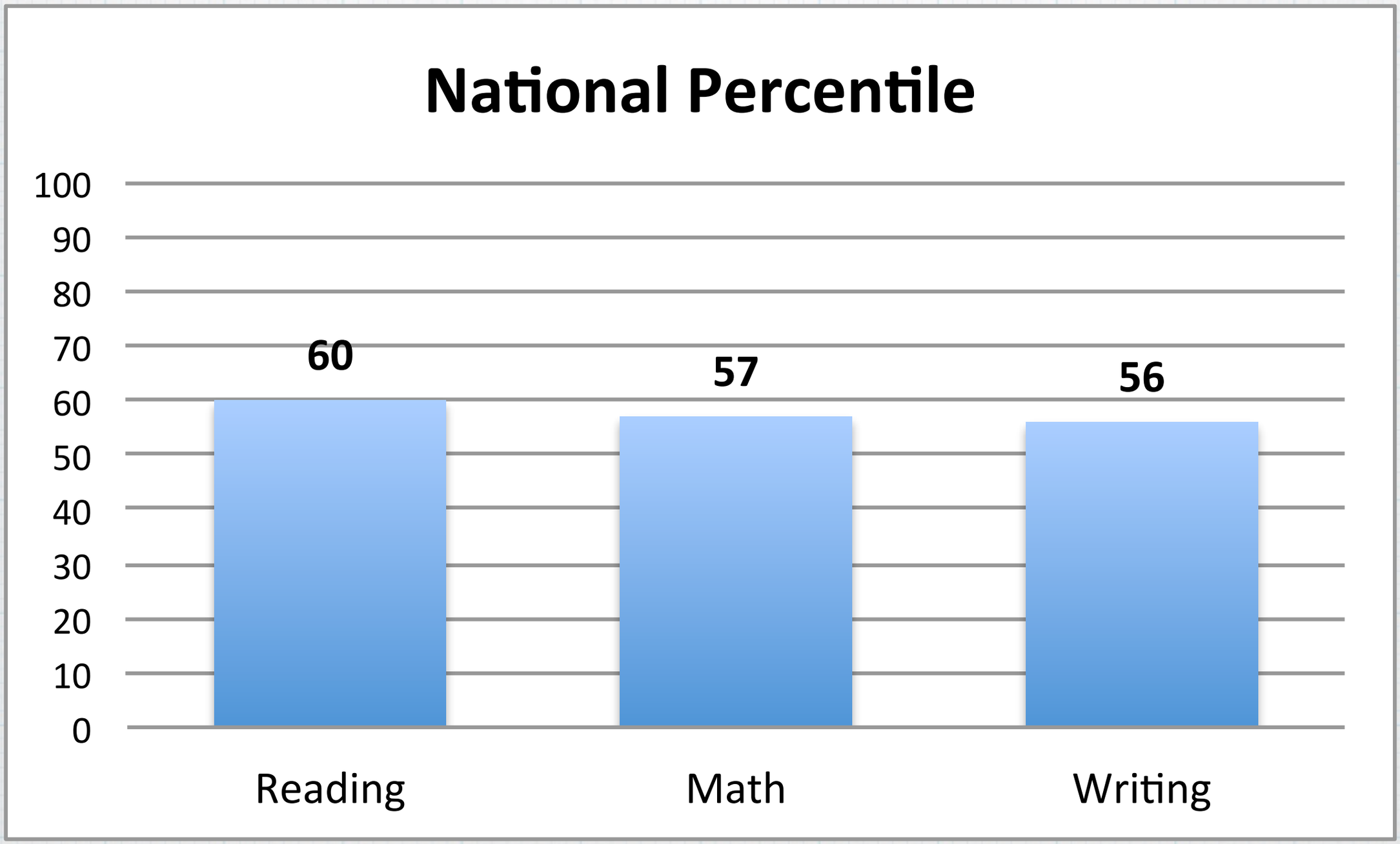
Eastford Student Achievement at WA

Readistep, CAPT, PSAT, and SAT Comparative Performance Overview March 2015

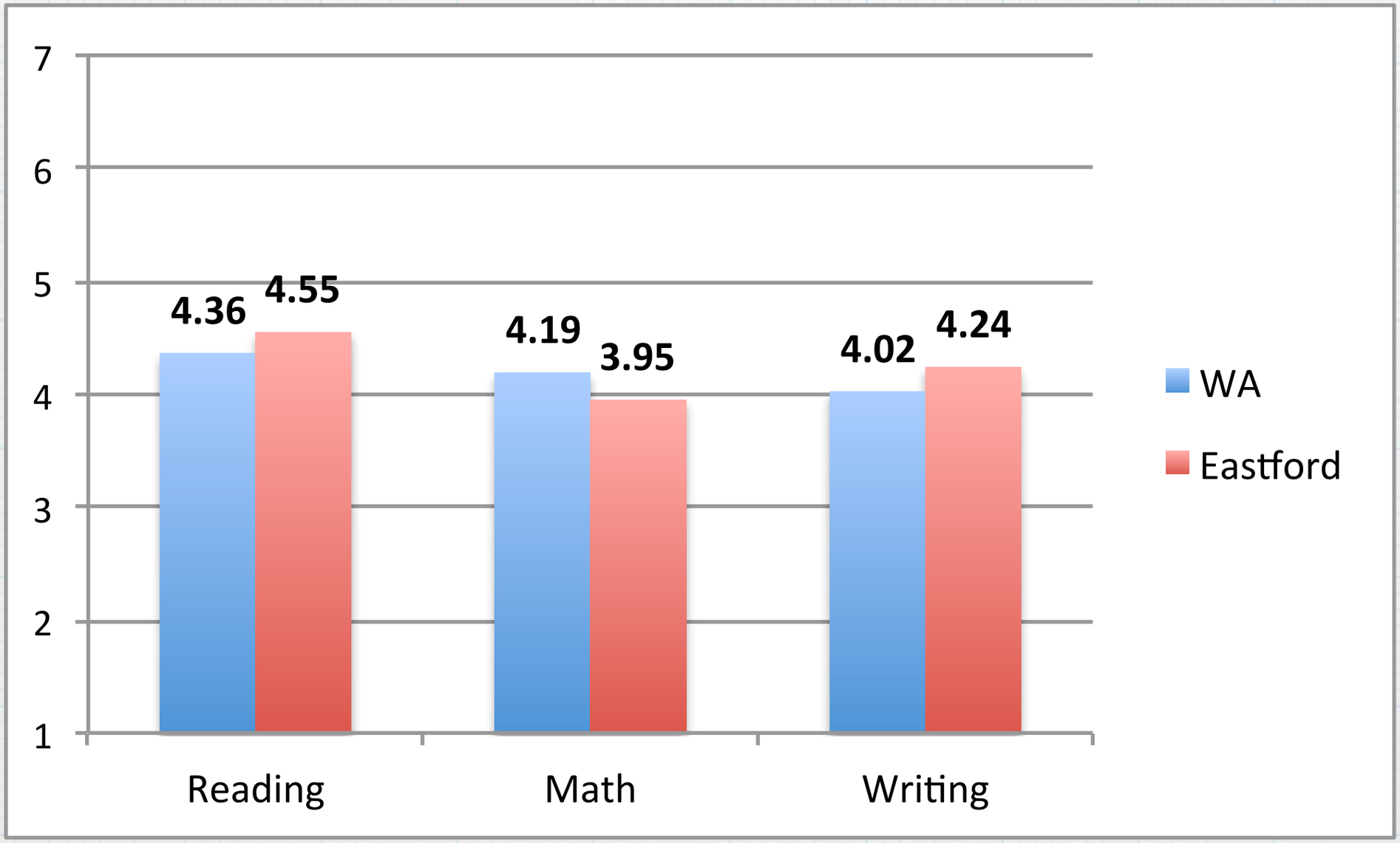
Freshmen Mean Scores on Readistep



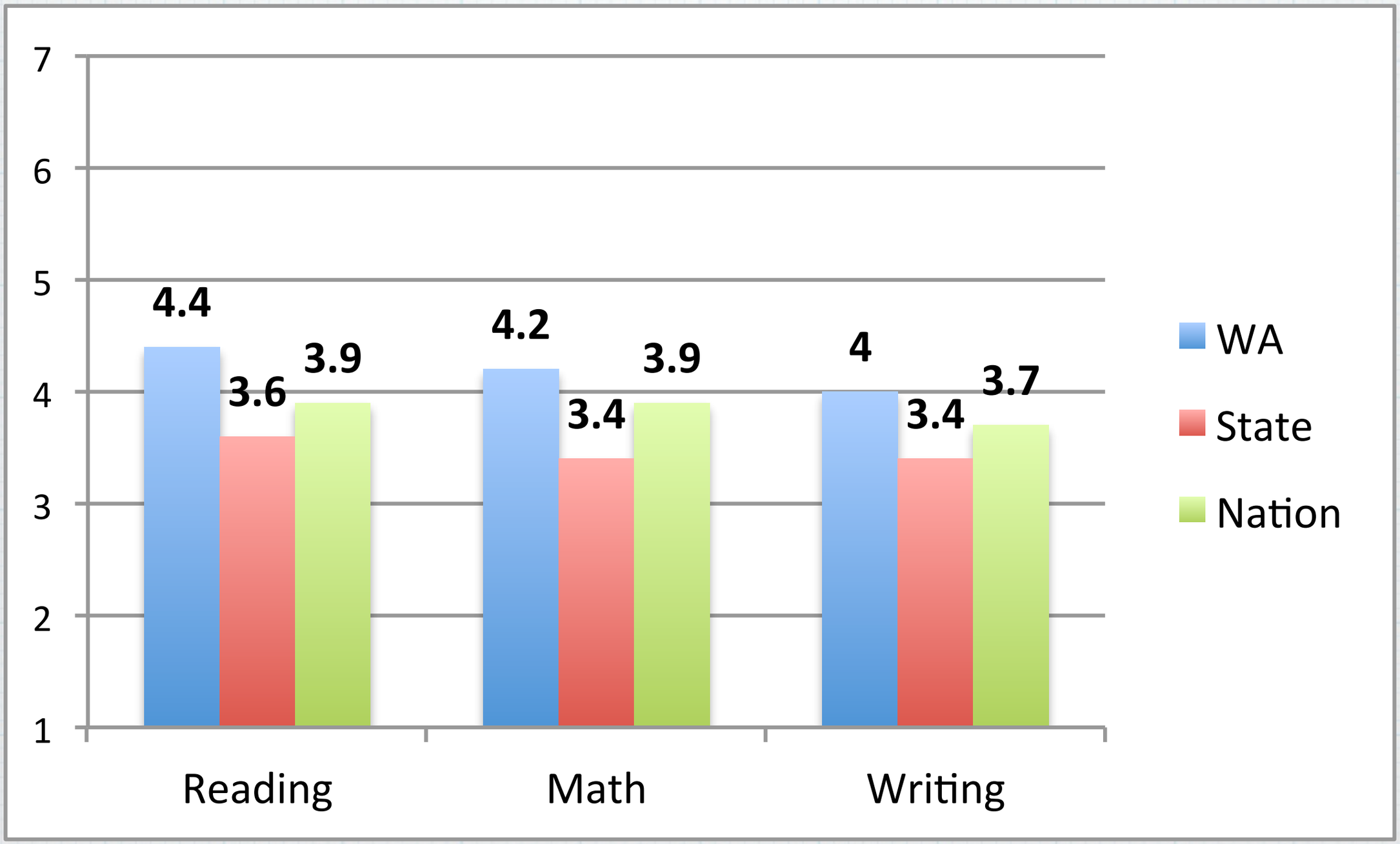
WA Students Scored higher than....



Comparative Scores



Readistep Mean Scores Compared to CT & Nation



Comparative Strengths on the Readistep

* Our 9th grade students were above the state and national averages in nearly every skill category.

* On the Reading subtest, students scored the highest in the category"Determining the Meaning of Words" (vocabulary, context, prefixes, suffixes, etc) and were also high in "Reasoning and Inferencing" (drawing informed conclusions, understanding assumptions, etc).

* On the Math subtest students scored the highest in the category "Data, Statistics, and Probability."

* On the Writing subtest, students scored the highest in "Grammatical structures used to Modify or Compare."

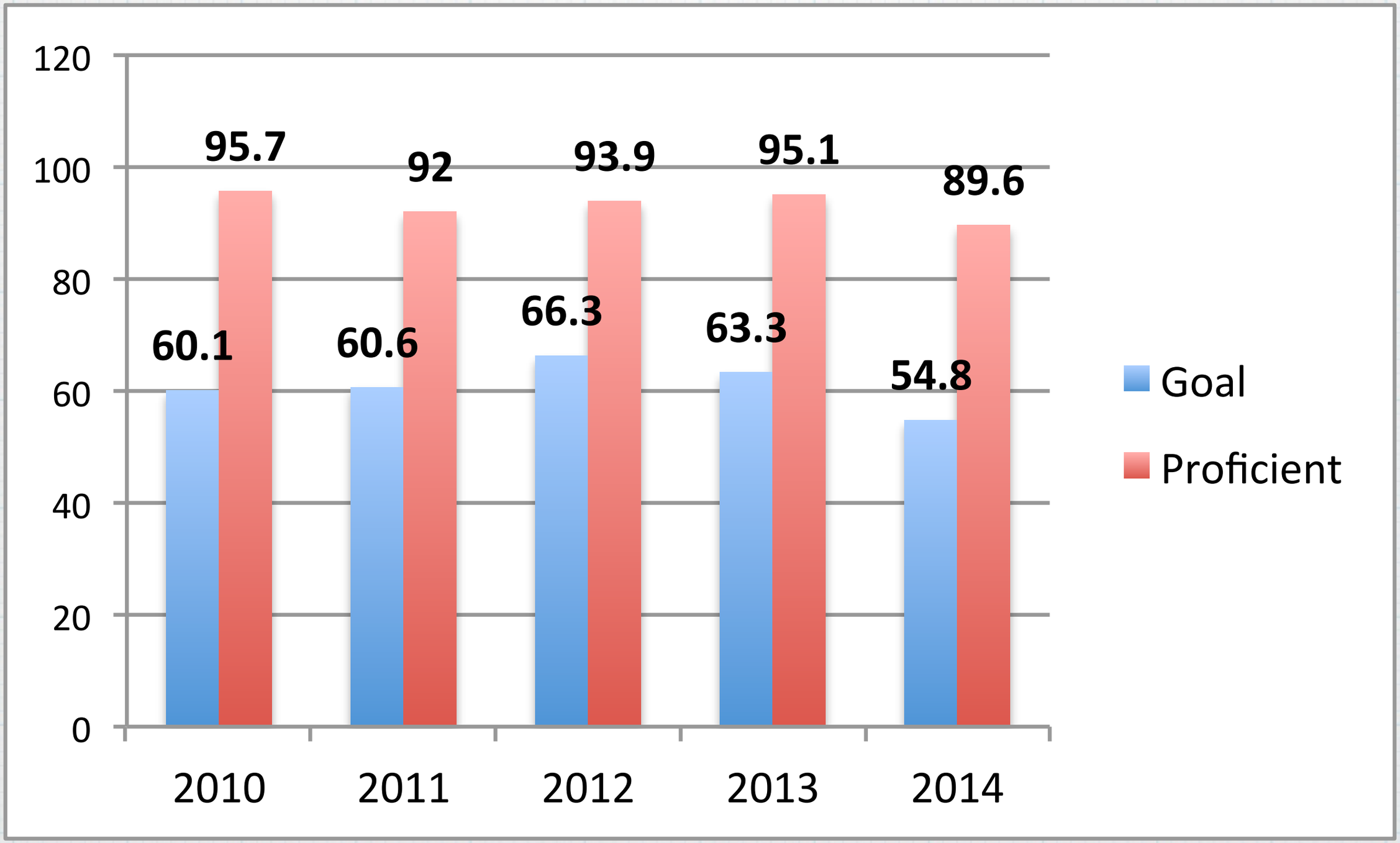
Comparative Weaknesses

* The only category where our 9th graders were slightly below the national average was on the Reading subtest in the skill category, "Understanding Literary Elements" (plot, setting, characterization). Students also scored low in "Author's Craft," (tone, style, metaphor, symbolism, etc).

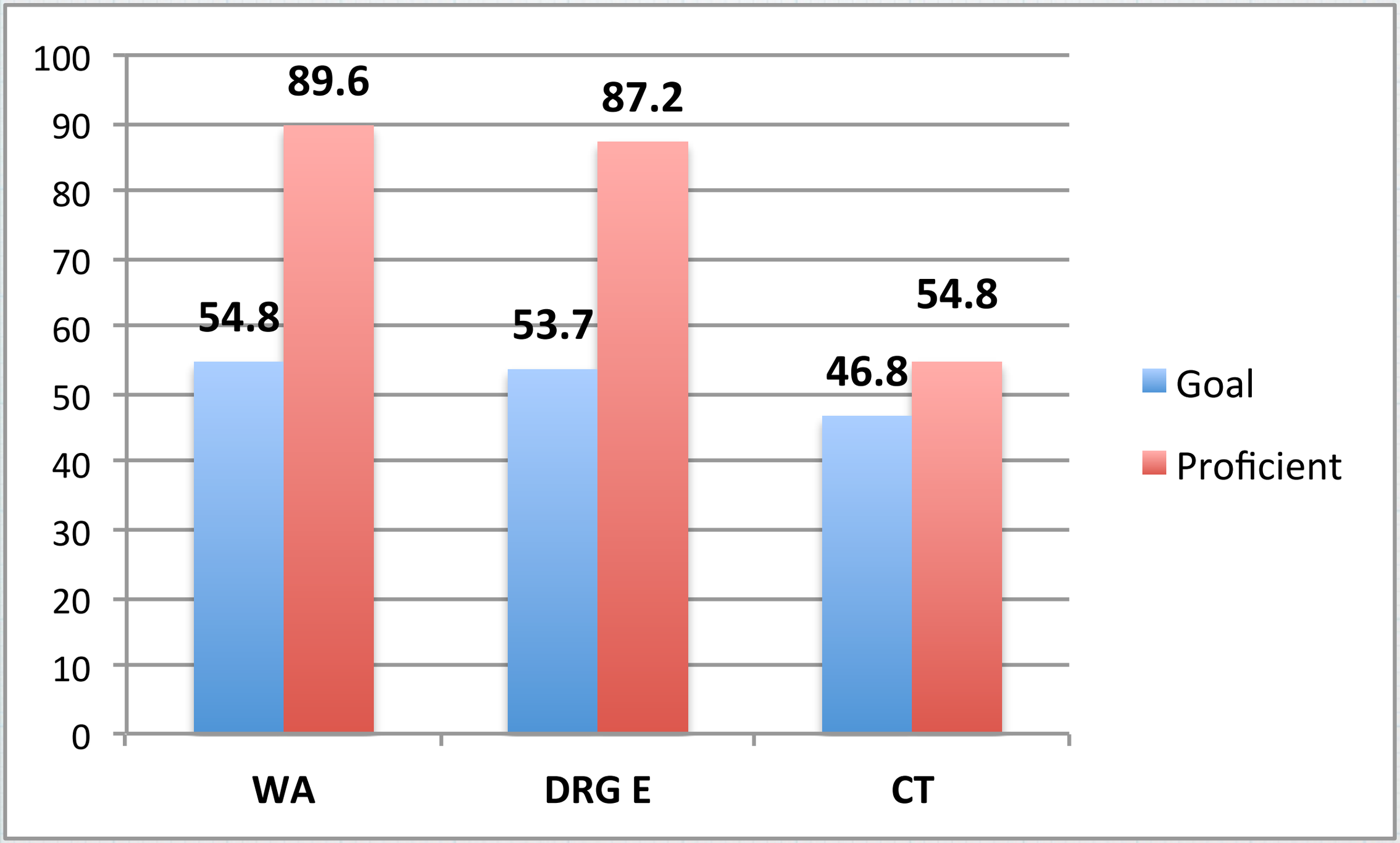
* On the Math subtest, students scored comparatively low in the skill category "Algebra and Functions," but were slightly above the national and state average.

* On the Writing subtest, students scored the lowest in the category "Recognizing Correctly Formed Sentences," but were slightly above the national average and well above the state.

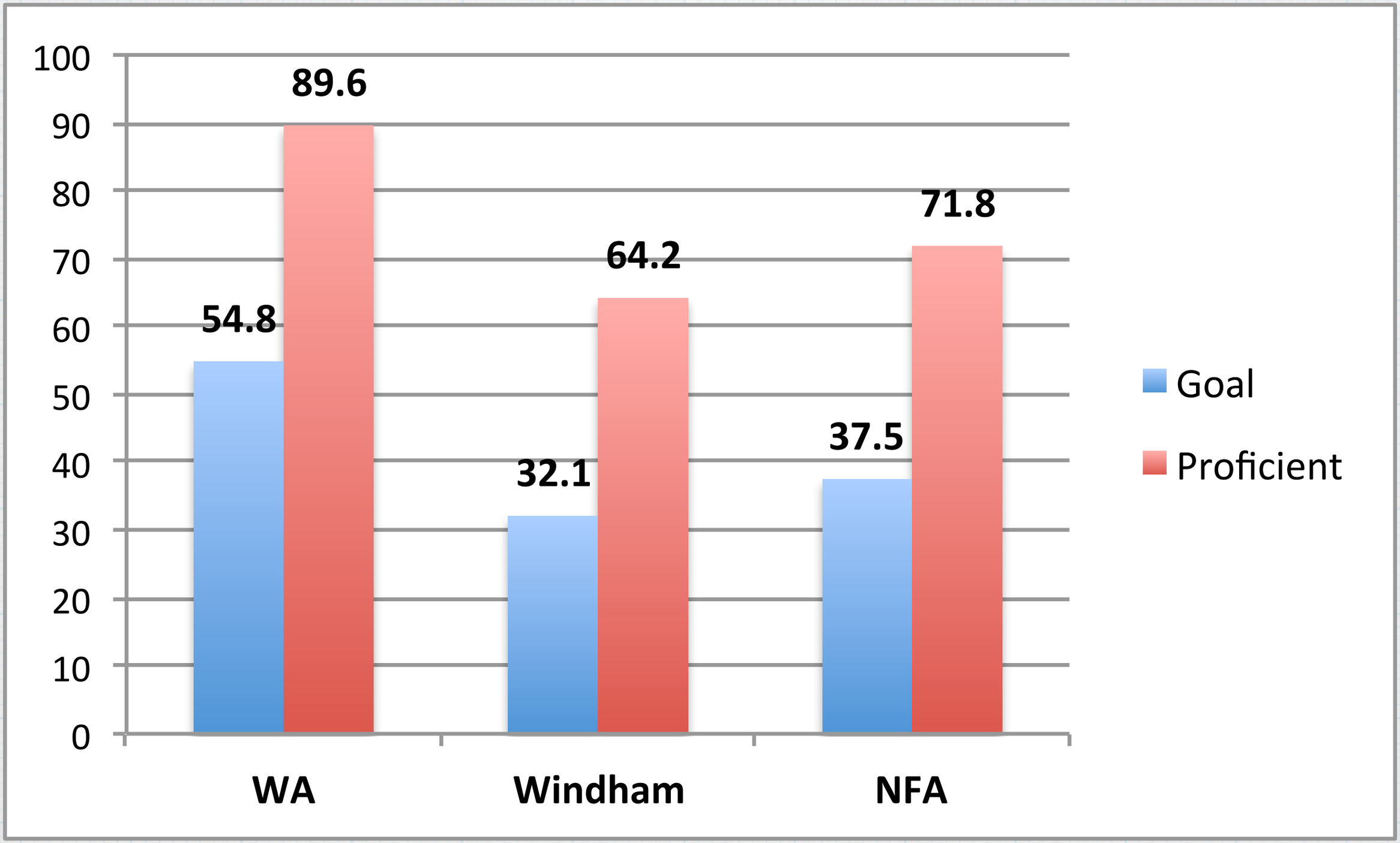
WA CAPT Results: 5-Year Trend



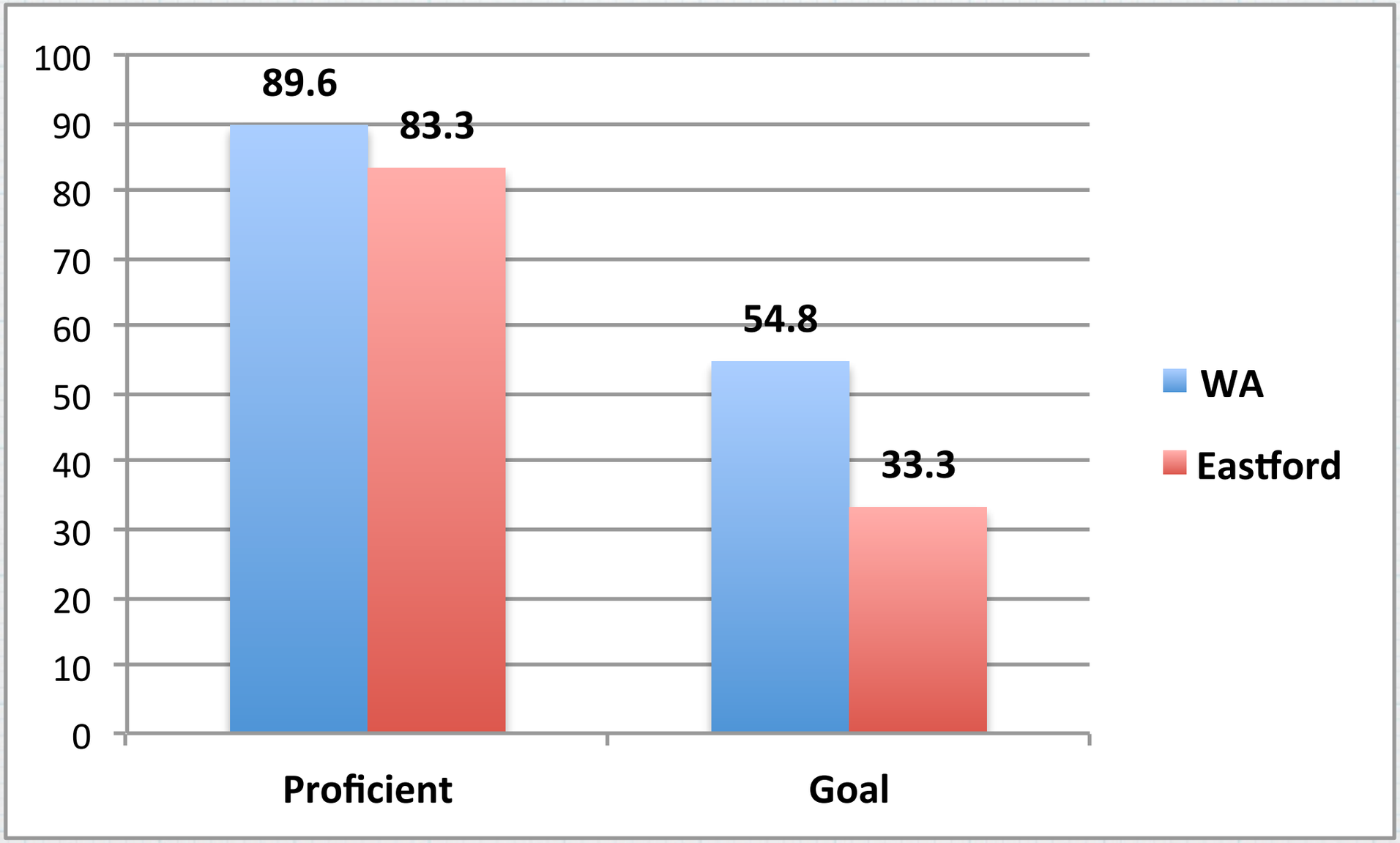
WA Compared to CT and DRG E



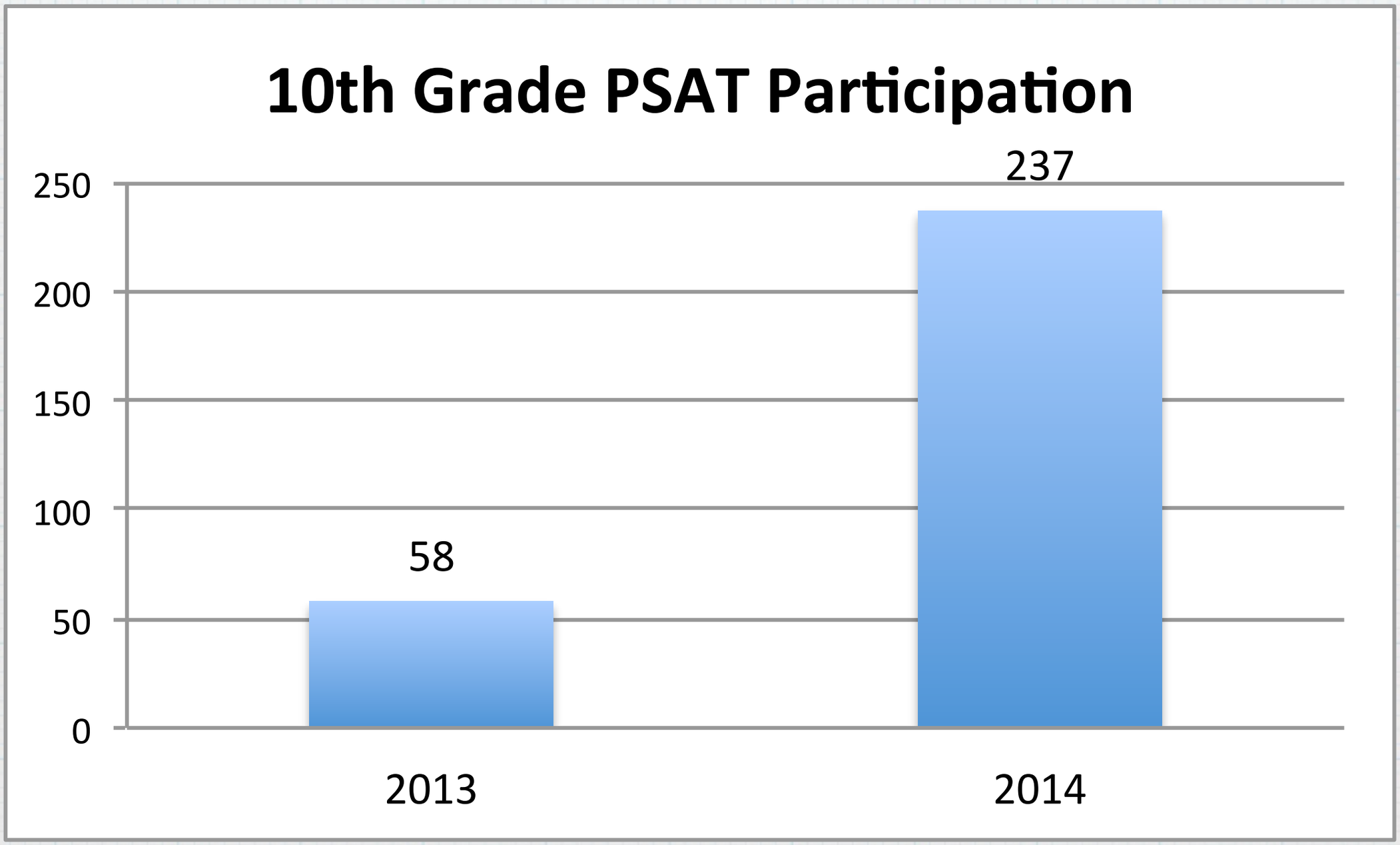
WA Compared to Area School Districts



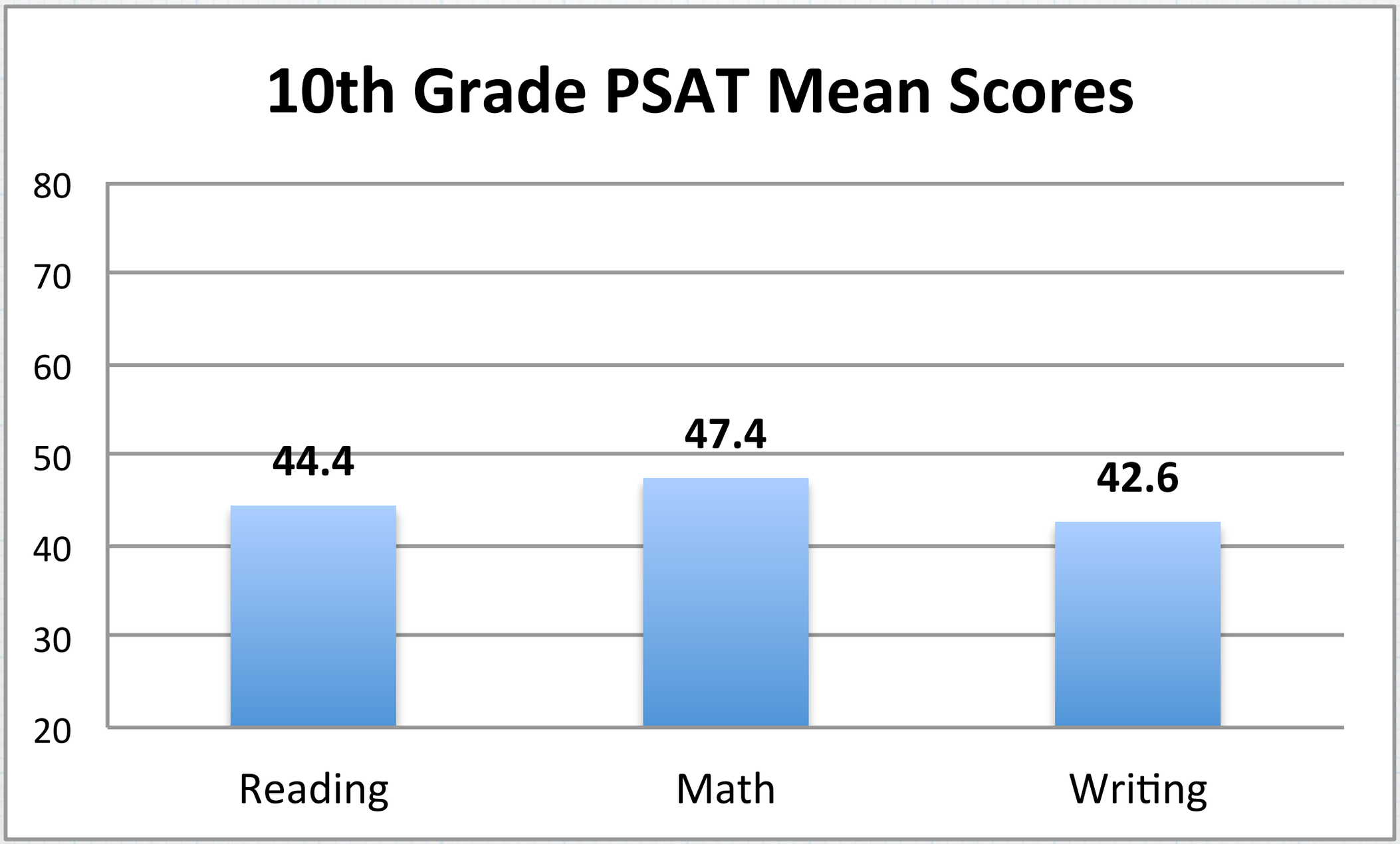
Eastford Students on the Science CAPT



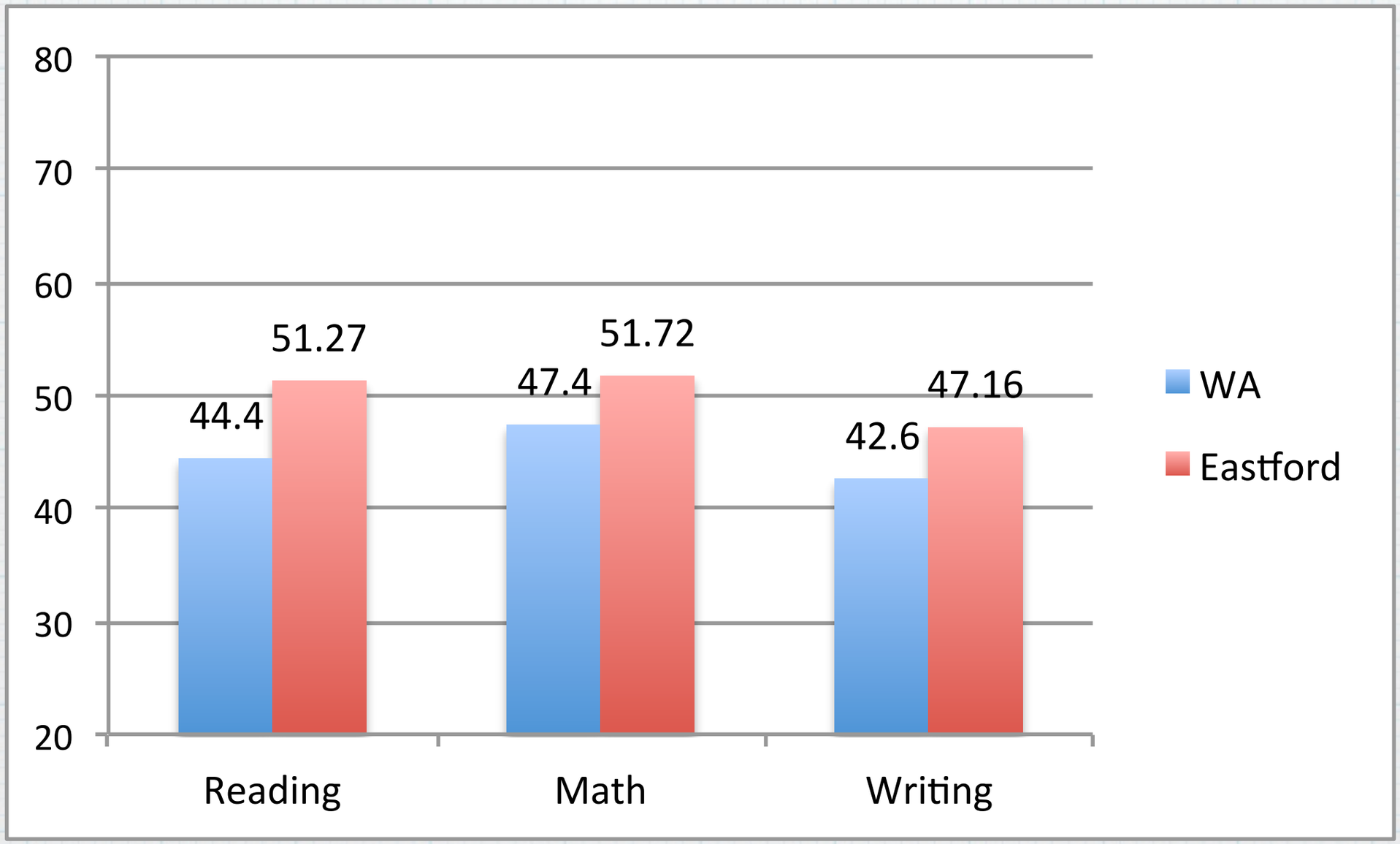
Sophomore PSAT Results



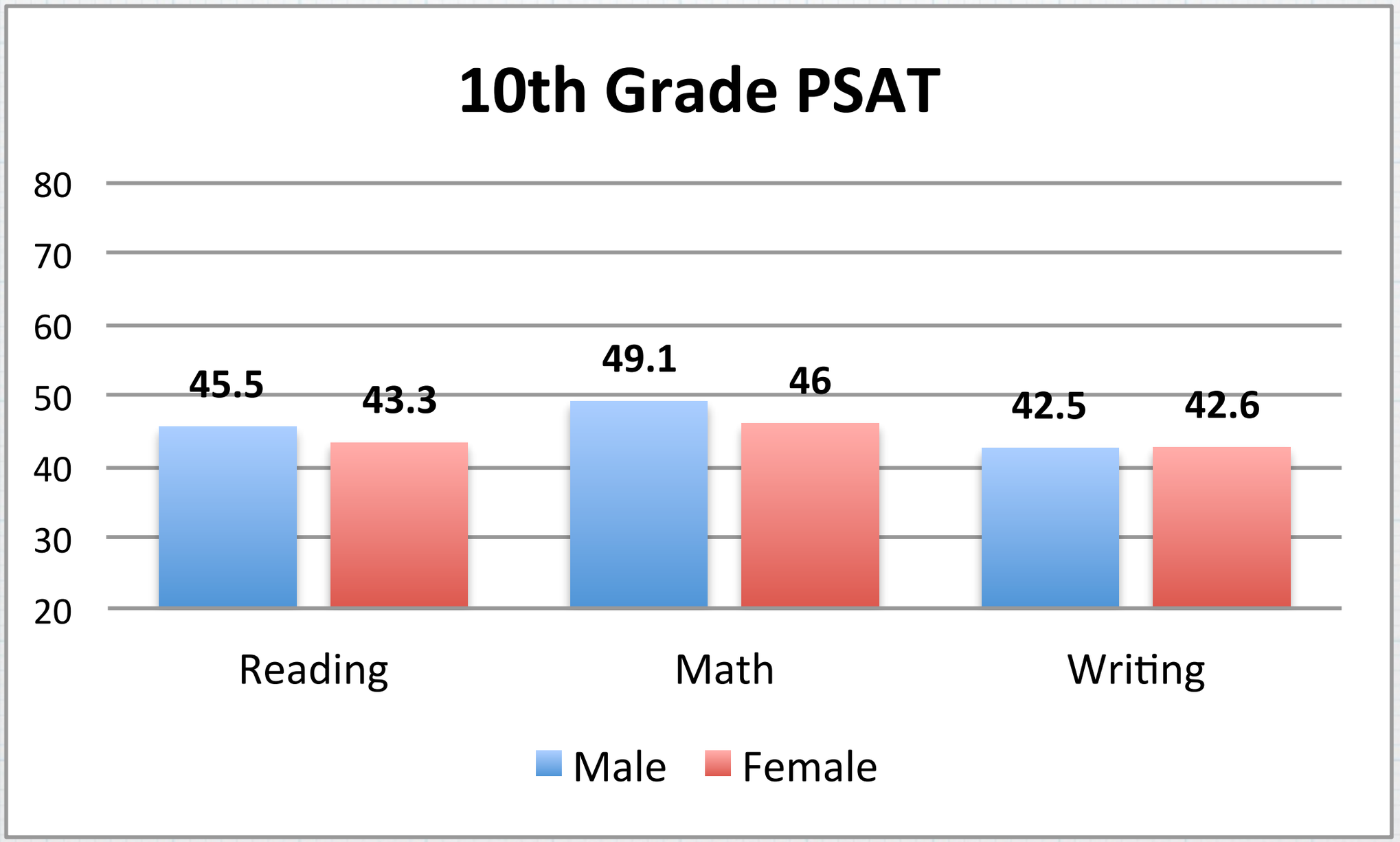
Sophomore Scores



Comparative Scores



Mean Scores Disaggregated by Gender



Comparative Strengths 10th Grade PSAT

* On the Reading Subtest, students scored the highest in "Determining the Meaning of Words," and "Reasoning and Inferencing."

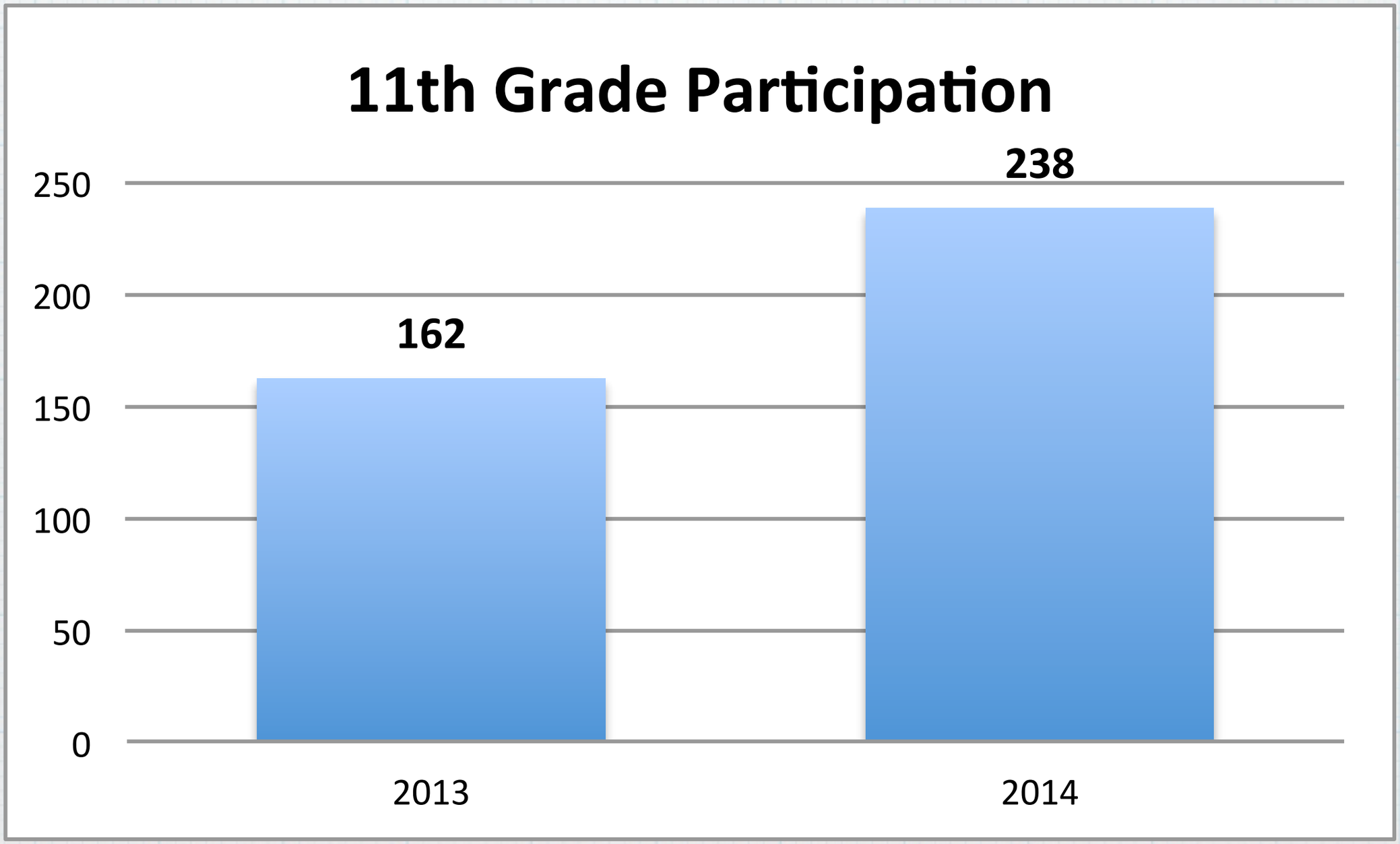
* On the Math subtest, students scored the highest in "Number and Operations" (integers, fractions, decimals and order of operations-multiplication, division, addition, etc).

* On the Writing subtest, students scored the highest in the category, "Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs" (how to order elements of a sentence or paragraph to improve clarity, meaning, and progression of ideas).

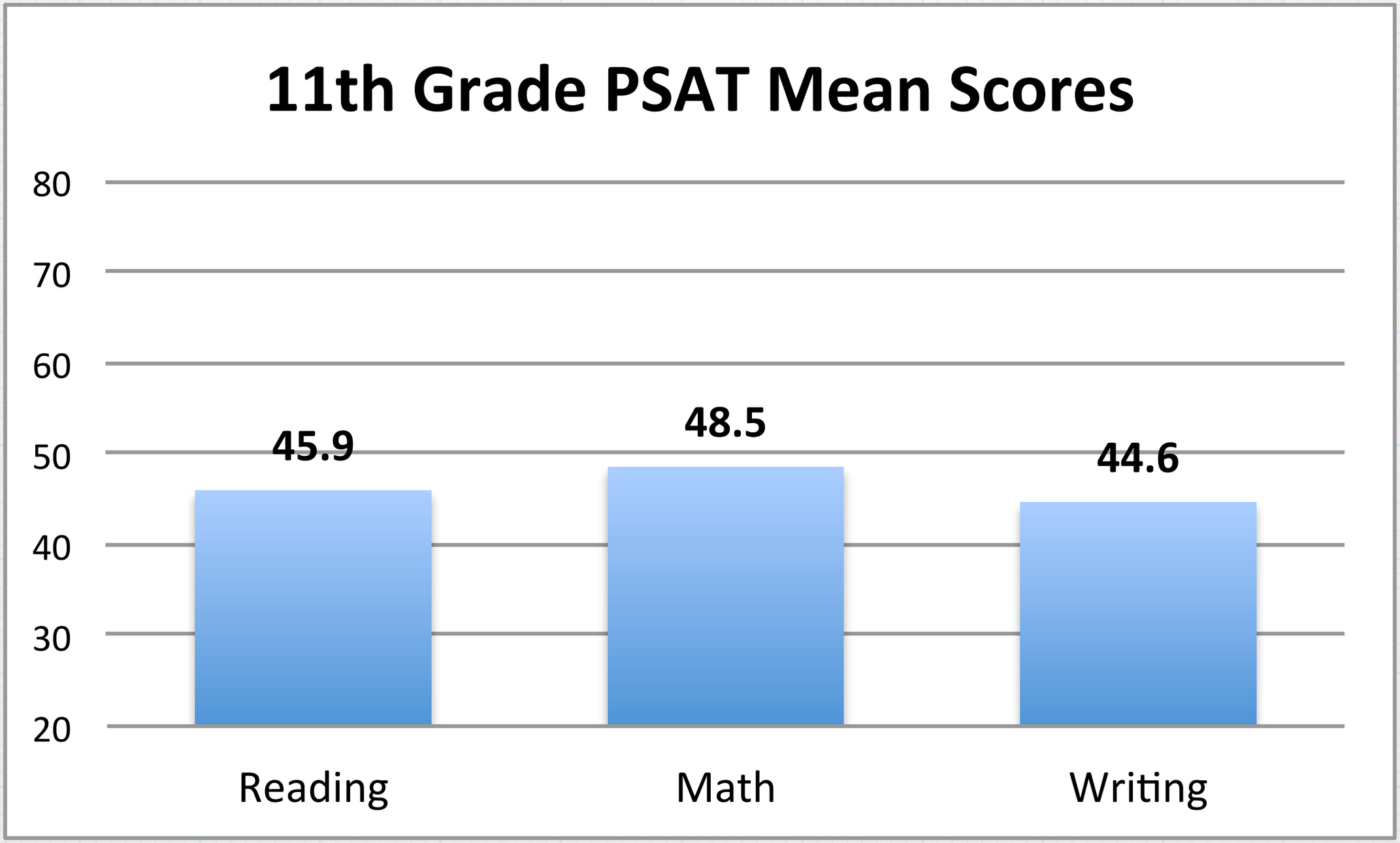
Comparative Weakness 10th Grade PSAT

* Students scored below the state and national averages in the category, "Author's Craft" on the Reading subtest. They were very slightly higher than state and national averages in "Understanding Literary Elements" and "Organization and Ideas" (understand organization of a reading passage and identify main and supporting ideas).
* On the Math subtest students were weakest in "Geometry and Measurement," and "Communication" (expressing math ideas precisely and coherently using language of mathematics).
* On the Writing subtest students were weakest in "Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words", "Managing Phrases and Clauses", and "Recognize Correctly Formed Sentences."

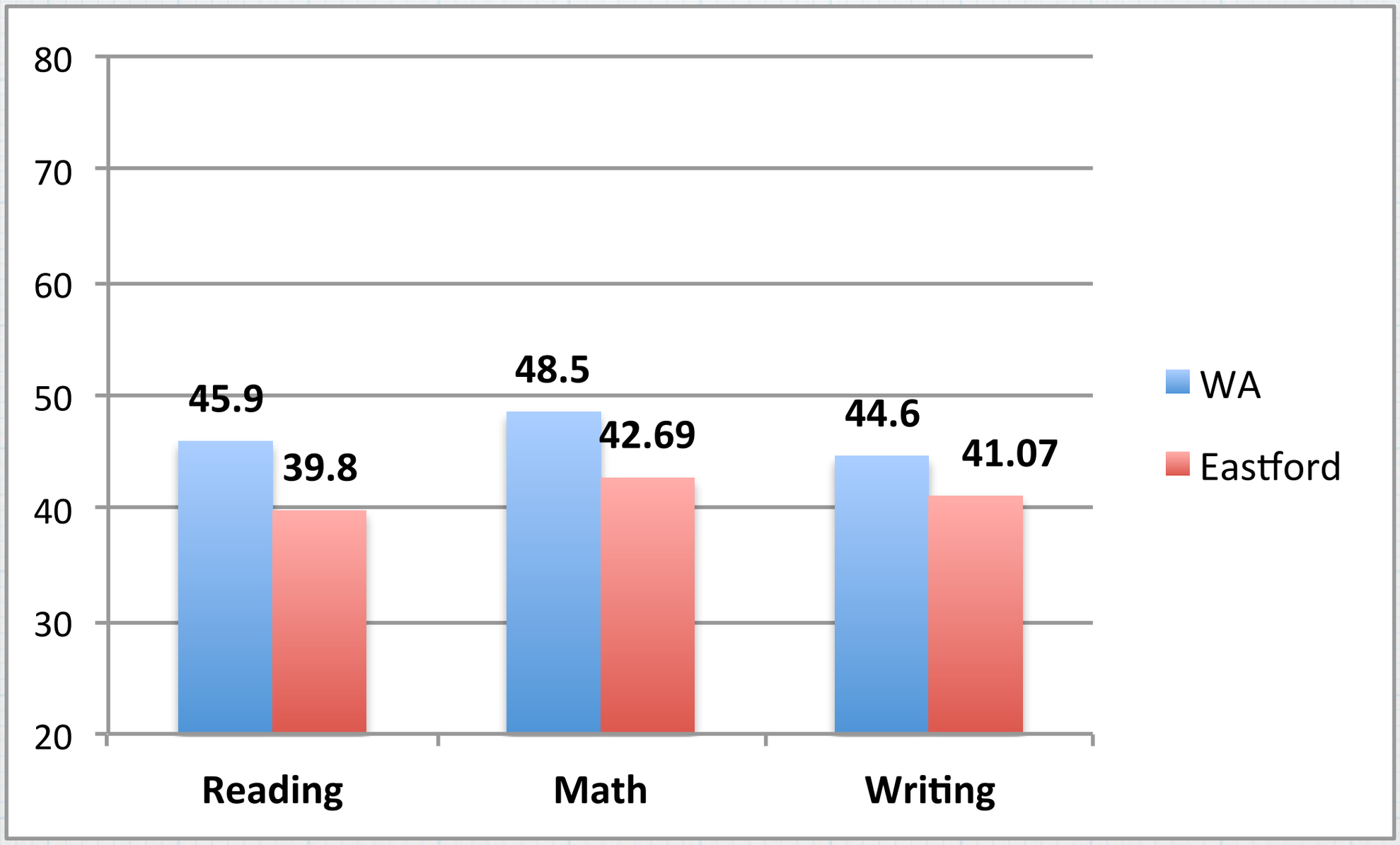
PSAT Participation by Juniors



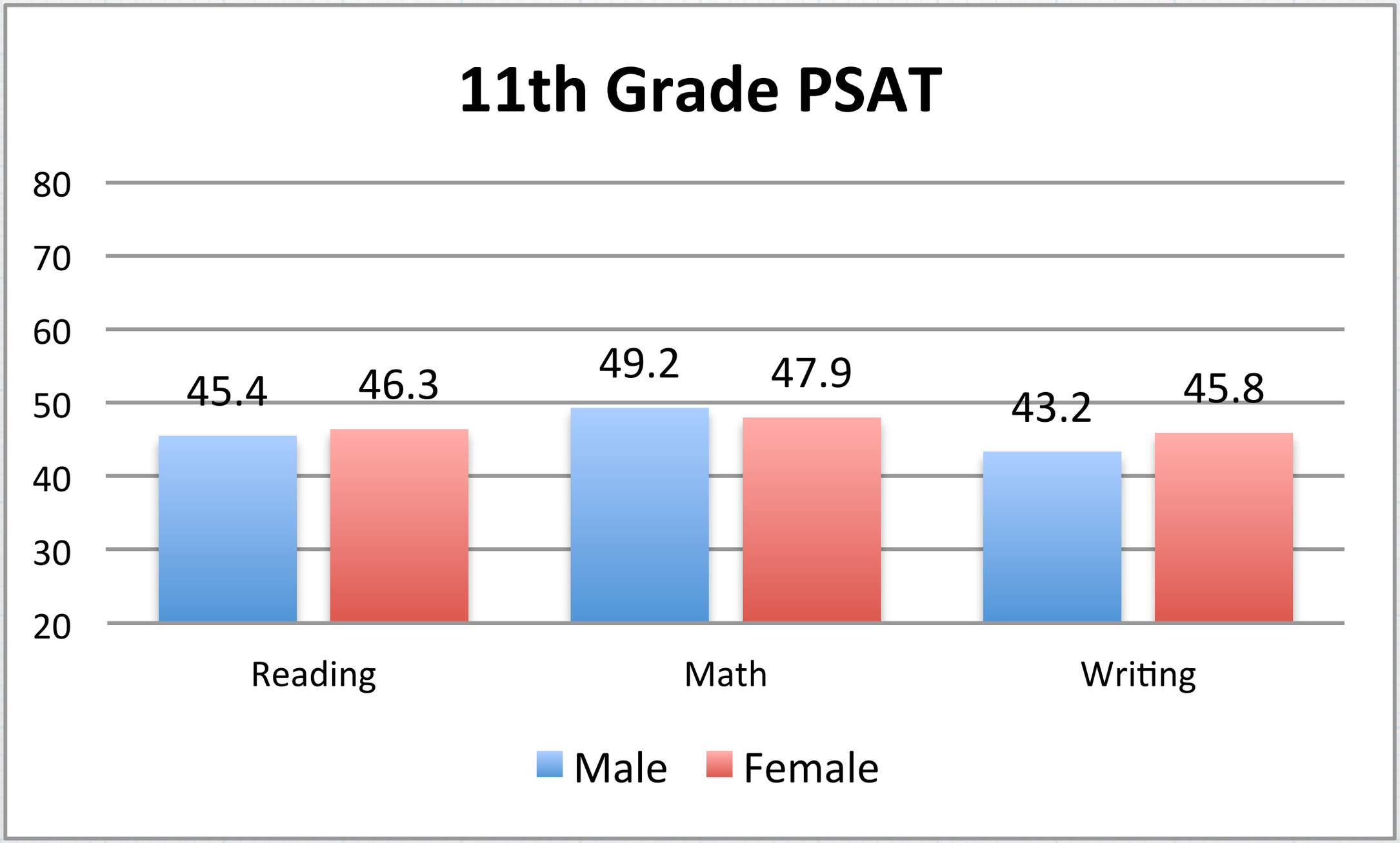
PSAT Mean Scores



Comparative 11th Grade PSAT Scores



Mean Scores Disaggregated by Gender



Comparative Strengths 11th Grade PSAT

* Students scored the highest in the category"Determining the Meaning of Words" on the Reading subtest (slightly below the national average and slightly above the state).

* Students were slightly higher than the state and national averages in the categories "Data, Statistics, and Probability," "Representation," and "Connections" on the Math subtest. They scored the highest in "Numbers and Operations" and "Reasoning."

* Students scored the highest in "Manage Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs" on the Writing subtest. They were slightly above both the state and national average in the "Recognize Correctly Formed Sentences" skill category.

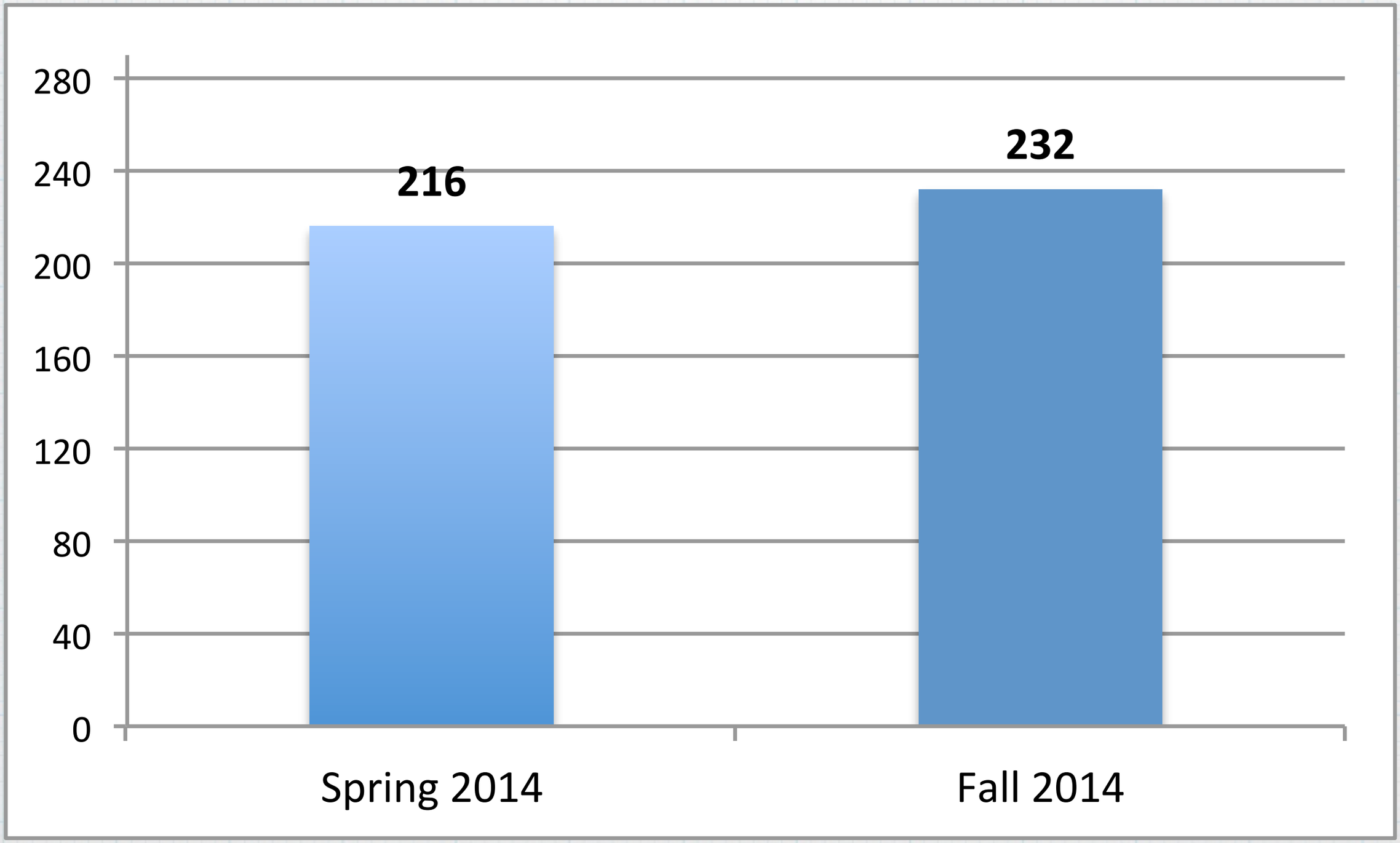
Comparative Weaknesses 11th Grade PSAT

* Scored slightly below the state and national averages in "Reasoning and Inferencing," and "Organization and Ideas" on the Reading subtest. Significantly below both state and national averages in "Understanding Literary Elements."

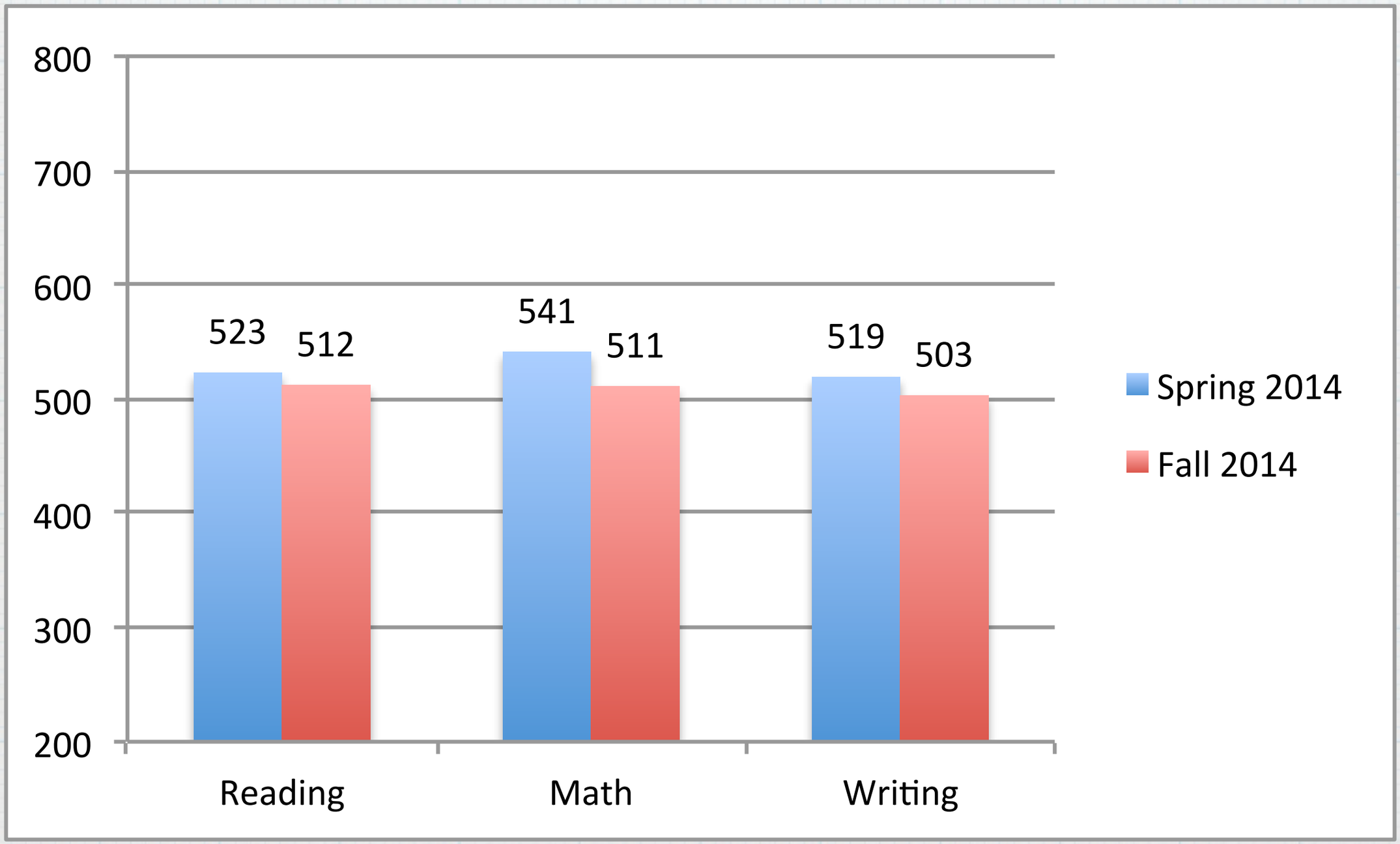
* Students were above the state but slightly below the national average in "Algebra and Functions," "Geometry and Measurement," "Problem Solving," and "Communication."

* Students scored below the state and national averages in the category "Manage Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships between Words," on the Writing subtest.

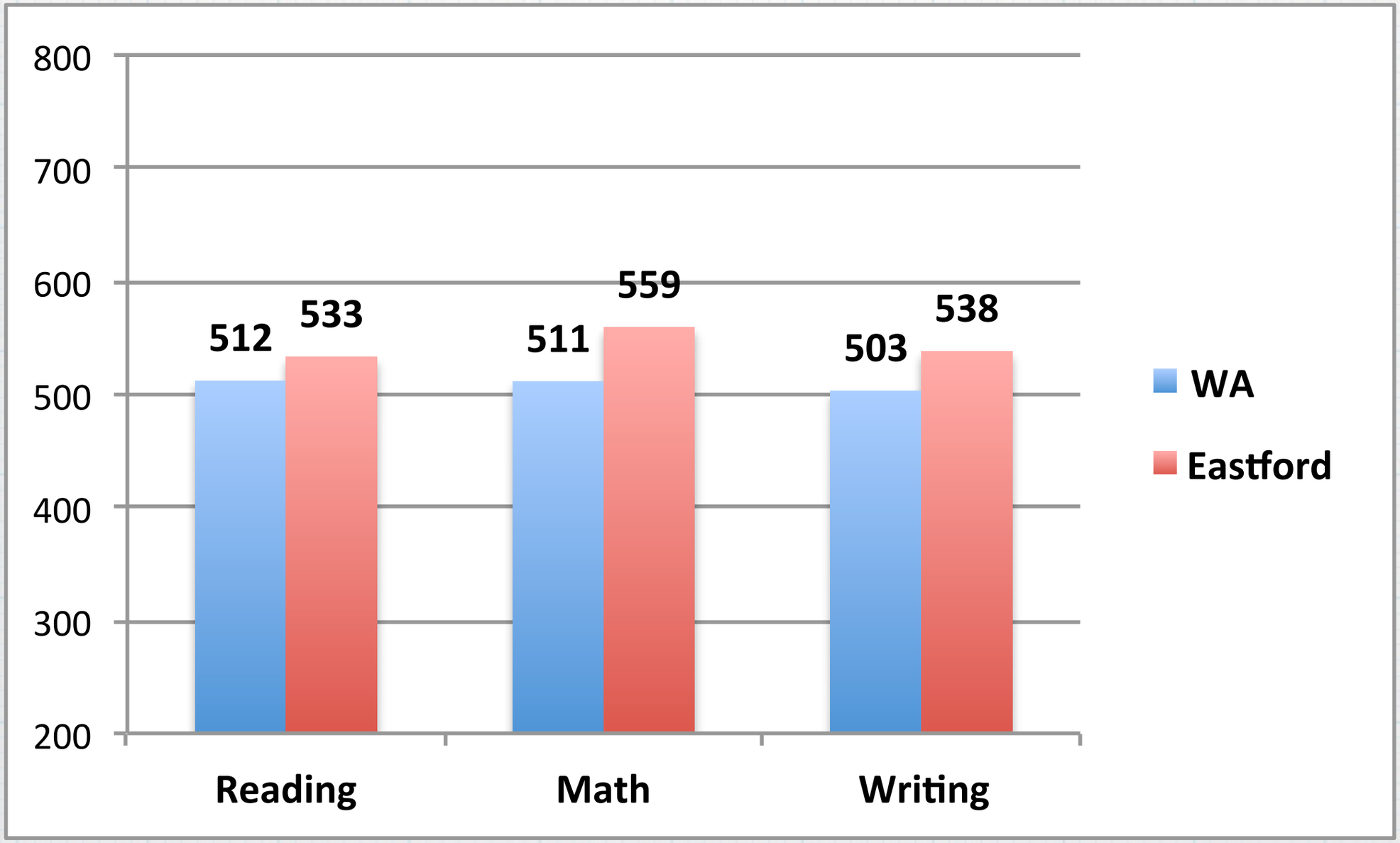
Participation in SATs



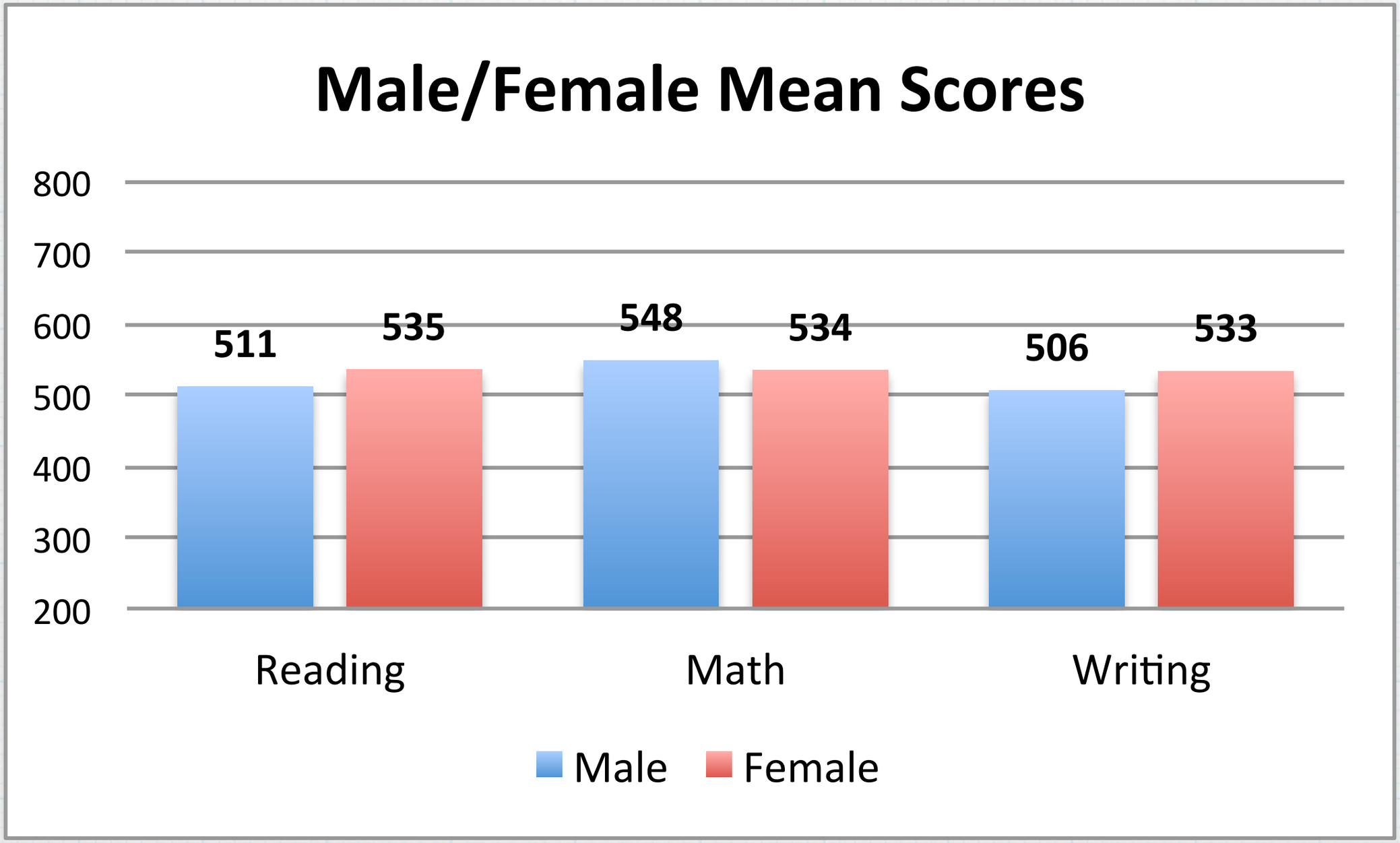
SAT Mean Scores Compared to Previous Year



Comparative SAT Scores



Disaggregated by Gender



SAT
Math Skill Categories

* Algebra and Functions (57% of items in this category were answered correctly).
* Geometry and Measurement (59%).
* Numbers and operations (60%).
* Data analysis—statistics and probability (62%).

Critical Reading Skills

* Determining the meaning of words (54% of questions answered correctly).
* Organization and ideas (59%).
* Reasoning and inference (61%).
* Author's craft (62%).

Writing Skills

* Recognizing correctly formed sentences (48%).
* Managing word choice and grammatical relationships between words (60%).
* Managing grammatical structures used to modify or compare (60%).
* Managing phrases and clauses in a sentence (67%).
* Managing order and relationships of sentences and paragraphs (81%).

Analysis

* SAT scores will likely drop in all areas if juniors don't have additional test preparation.

* 11th grade aggregate PSAT scores are below the state and national averages. This is definitely negative, however, our 11th grade participation in PSATs nearly doubled this year. We have a larger population taking the test than is typical in the state or the nation, so it's logical our scores are lower. Never-the-less, this is an area of concern.

* 10th graders appear to be in good shape to take the PSAT as juniors. They scored higher than both the state and national averages. This is impressive since 92% of all our sophomores took the PSAT, a substantially higher percentage than the state or national average—logically this should result in our scores being comparatively lower since, in theory, most sophomores who take the PSAT are the most motivated and college-oriented. 55.3% of our sophomores are considered on track to be "College-Ready," 18 points higher than the national average.

* Freshmen appear to be in relatively good shape to take the PSAT as sophomores.

More Analysis

* Areas of greatest strength school-wide in Reading: Determining the Meaning of Words and Reasoning and Inferencing.
* Reading Weaknesses: Understanding Literary Elements, Organization and Ideas, Author's Craft (except seniors).
* Math Strengths: Data, Statistics and Probability, Number and Operations, & Reasoning.
* Math Weaknesses: Geometry and Measurement, Communication, Algebra and Functions.
* Writing Strengths: Grammatical Structures to Modify and Compare, Managing Order and Relationships of Sentences and Paragraphs.
* Writing Weaknesses: Recognizing Correctly Formed Sentences, Managing Word Choice and Grammatical Relationships Between Words.

Now What?

* Different departments should use data to build on areas of strength and focus more attention on areas of weakness.
* Data can provide a baseline to track student growth over time—useful for developing meaningful SLOs and school-wide goals.
* Student scores in different categories can be utilized to determine which specific students need remedial help with certain skills—Readistep particularly useful for this. Perhaps consider administering Readistep in 8th grade as a placement tool for classes at WA?
* Students who score high in certain categories can be identified and provided opportunities to enhance their strengths.