Data on the academic performance of St. Louis area students are available by school district. For the Missouri portion of the region, for example, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education makes available a variety of data for each Missouri school district (see: http://dese.mo.gov/schooldata/ftpdata.html) From a regional perspective Table 1 provides an example of academic performance of 2009 eighth graders on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) communications/arts and math tests. MAP tests are the mandatory assessments conducted annually of all students in the State of Missouri. Student scores are aggregated into four categories, below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced.

As Table 1 shows, for the students in schools in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County required to take the MAP tests, the percentage of proficient and advanced students on the 2009 communications/arts test ranged from 5.9 to 76.8 percent, with less than 50 percent of the students in these two preferred categories in 18 of the 34 districts. On the 2009 math test the percentage of proficient and advanced students ranged from 4.9 to 72.7, with less than 50 percent of the students in these categories in 19 of the 34 districts.

These data are just one indicator of performance. Data are available for multiple years, multiple grade levels, for science in addition to communication/arts and math, and for additional counties in the St. Louis region.

To view the table, return to the Metropolitan Mirror page and click the link for the 2009 Academic Performance Tables.