

Principal: **Cassandra L. Cole**
 School type: **Charter**
 Grade range: **9–12**
 Enrollment: **152**
 Address: **1722 Holly Street**
 City: **Kansas City**
 Phone: **816-471-2582**
 Fax: **816-471-2139**

Alta Vista Charter School

School Performance Report 2003–04

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Alta Vista is an at-risk charter high school. We work diligently to improve student achievement and strive for excellence in education. Many students are working significantly below grade level upon entering our school, and as a result, we have been labeled a school of improvement. Because Alta Vista does not have a feeder middle school, there is no accountability for middle schools that promote students working significantly below grade level. However, our staff is working hard to address the needs of low-performing students.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

This report summarizes how this school and its students are performing. As you read this, ask yourself: How did this school do compared with previous years and with other schools in the city and state? Why might this be happening, and what is the school doing to help all students in all subjects? Discuss questions like these with other parents and with the school's advisory committee, teachers and principal. Improving schools is everyone's responsibility. Having good information and honest conversations are important first steps.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Missouri Assessment Program Scores, Spring 2004

The state requires students in grades 10 and 11 to take the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP). The test measures how well students meet the state standards, which explain what students should know and be able to do in math, science, social studies and communication arts. Students' MAP scores fall into one of five categories: Advanced, Proficient, Nearing Proficient, Progressing or Step 1.

TOTALS

Percentage of students scoring at Advanced or Proficient

	This School	District High Schools	State High Schools
Grade 10			
Math	0%	2%	15%
Science	0%	1%	7%
Grade 11			
Communication Arts	3%	6%	22%
Social Studies	3%	N/T	19%

MAP scores include all students. Additional MAP scores are on next page.



Student Performance (continued)

GRADE 10**Math**

Grade 10 students are tested, for example, on whether they can analyze data, solve problems using a system of equations, use scale drawings and determine simple probabilities.

Percentage of students scoring at Advanced or Proficient

	This School	District High Schools	State High Schools
Total	0%	2%	15%
Black	*	1%	2%
White	*	7%	18%
Hispanic	0%	1%	8%
Asian	*	11%	34%
Female	0%	2%	14%
Male	0%	2%	16%
Low Income	0%	1%	5%
Not Yet English Proficient	*	0%	6%
Learning Disabled	*	1%	1%
Percentage of students taking test	96%	95%	98%

Science

Grade 10 students are tested, for example, on whether they can illustrate the transfer of heat energy, explain the conservation of momentum and use data to justify conclusions.

Percentage of students scoring at Advanced or Proficient

	This School	District High Schools	State High Schools
Total	0%	1%	7%
Black	*	0%	1%
White	*	6%	9%
Hispanic	0%	2%	3%
Asian	*	3%	11%
Female	0%	0%	5%
Male	0%	2%	9%
Low Income	0%	1%	2%
Not Yet English Proficient	*	0%	1%
Learning Disabled	*	0%	1%
Percentage of students taking test	96%	95%	98%

GRADE 11**Communication Arts**

Grade 11 students are tested, for example, on whether they can explain research ideas and identify multiple perspectives in their reading and whether they can offer specific support for their ideas and have an individual style and voice in their writing.

Percentage of students scoring at Advanced or Proficient

	This School	District High Schools	State High Schools
Total	3%	6%	22%
Black	*	4%	7%
White	*	20%	25%
Hispanic	5%	0%	15%
Asian	*	14%	37%
Female	5%	7%	27%
Male	*	5%	18%
Low Income	3%	4%	10%
Not Yet English Proficient	*	0%	7%
Learning Disabled	*	2%	2%
Percentage of students taking test	100%	95%	98%

Social Studies

Grade 11 students are tested, for example, on whether they can discuss different cultures and religions; make predictions about events, people, places and actions in history; and explain political systems.

Percentage of students scoring at Advanced or Proficient

	This School	District High Schools	State High Schools
Total	3%	N/T	N/T
Black	*	N/T	5%
White	*	N/T	21%
Hispanic	6%	N/T	14%
Asian	N/T	N/T	30%
Female	5%	N/T	15%
Male	*	N/T	23%
Low Income	3%	N/T	10%
Not Yet English Proficient	N/T	N/T	8%
Learning Disabled	*	N/T	4%
Percentage of students taking test	100%	N/R	19%

Legends used in this school performance report:

* = Too few students were tested to be statistically significant.

N/T = No test was offered.

N/R = Data were not available or not reported.

Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100 percent.

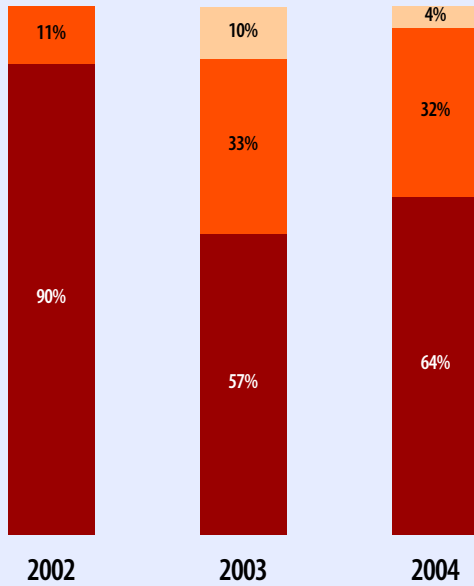
Student Performance (continued)

MAP Scores, Three-Year Trends, 2002–04

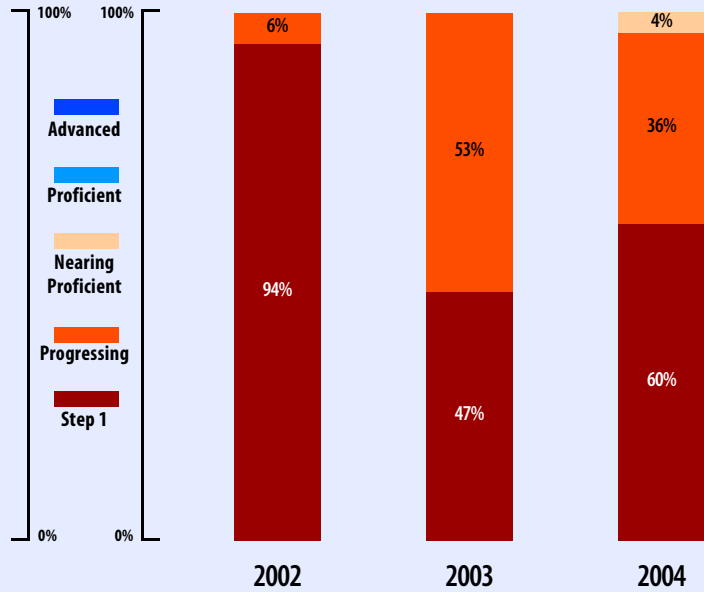
The three-year trend charts show percentages of all students who took the test. The goal is to have all students reaching Proficient or Advanced by 2014. Schools should be reducing steadily the percentage of students in the lowest categories (Step 1 and Progressing) and increasing the percentage in the Nearing Proficient, Proficient or Advanced groups. In other words, the bars at the bottom should be getting smaller each year — and the bars at the top larger. Not all schools will have students scoring in all five categories.

GRADE 10

Math

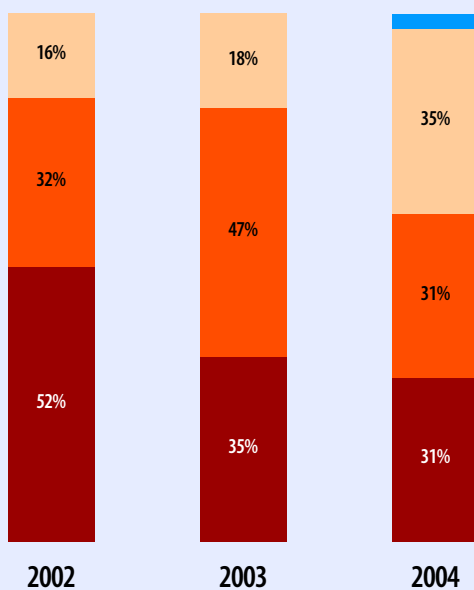


Science

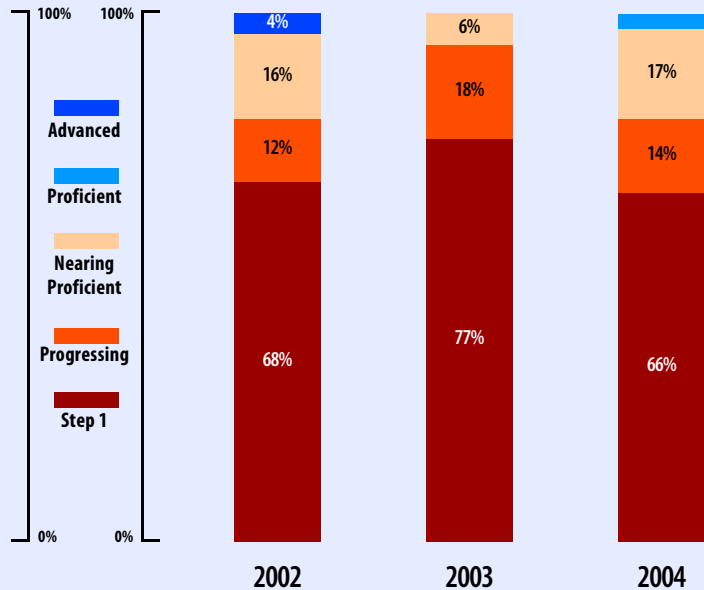


GRADE 11

Communication Arts



Social Studies



ACT Scores, Fall 2003

ACT is a college entrance exam that can be used to predict student success in college. Not all students are required to take the exam.

	School	District	State
Percentage of graduates scoring above average	N/R	11%	33%
Percentage of graduates tested	N/R	48%	60%

ACT Scores, Percentage of Students Scoring Above Average, Three-Year Trends, 2002–04



Dropout Rate, 2003–04 School Year

The dropout rate is the number of students who dropped out of grades nine through 12 last year, divided by the average number of students enrolled in grades nine through 12. Note that the dropout rate is calculated based on annual enrollment and does not reflect the percentage of students who entered ninth grade but dropped out before completing 12th grade.

	School	District	State
Percentage of students who dropped out	32%	9%	4%

Graduation Rate, Spring 2004

The graduation rate is the number of students who graduate divided by the number of graduates plus the number of students who drop out. For example, let's say 320 students graduated from a school, and 180 dropped out. $320 \div (320 + 180) = .64$

Therefore, the graduation rate would be 64 percent.

	School	District	State
Percentage of students who graduated	40%	64%	85%

Students Pursuing College, Spring 2003

Students who learn more earn more. These data show how many graduates enrolled in two- or four-year colleges, according to their parents.

	School	District	State
Percentage of college-enrolled students			
Two-year college	33%	10%	27%
Four-year college	5%	17%	39%

TEACHERS

Research shows that an effective teacher has a huge impact on student success in school. The state requires that schools report how long teachers have been in the classroom and whether they have an advanced college degree.

One of the challenges many schools face is a shortage of qualified teachers. These schools have been forced to hire teachers lacking full credentials. These teachers receive temporary credentials.

	School	District	State
Average years of experience	5	15	13
Percentage of teachers with a master's degree or higher	12%	37%	48%
Percentage of certified teachers	80%	90%	97%
Percentage of teachers with temporary credentials	0%	6%	2%
Percentage of teachers with no credentials	20%	4%	2%

EXPENDITURES, 2003–04

Schools spend most of their money on teachers, but teachers' salaries can vary based on their experience. In addition, schools with students who need more help often get extra funding. The combined effect, school by school, causes schools' funding levels to differ.

	School
Expenditures in 2003–04	\$758,130

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Safety and Discipline

Students learn best when they feel safe in school. Suspensions and expulsions can vary from school to school, based on how individual principals and teachers handle discipline. At some schools, security staff patrol hallways daily. Students who ignore safety codes are required to take anger-management classes and are trained in conflict resolution. More severe cases result in suspension or expulsion.

NUMBER OF EXPULSIONS PER 100 STUDENTS

	School	District	State
2003–04	1	0	0

NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS PER 100 STUDENTS

	School	District	State
2003–04	7	8	2

Students are suspended for a variety of reasons, including: assault, threatening other students and school staff, pulling the fire alarm.

Average Class Size

The smaller the class size, the more one-on-one attention students receive from teachers. Research shows that individual attention can improve student learning.

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIOS*

	School	District	State
2003–04	20:1	17:1	19:1
2002–03	14:1	17:1	18:1
2001–02	18:1	17:1	18:1

*Includes only classroom teachers.

Attendance

Students who come to school every day have a better chance to learn.

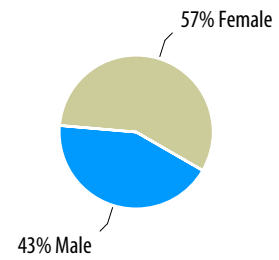
AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

	School	District	State
2003–04	90%	91%	94%

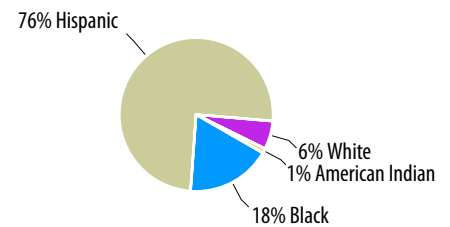
STUDENTS

Total Enrollment: 152

Gender

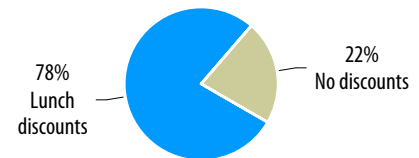


Ethnicity



Family Income

Students from low-income households are eligible to receive free and reduced-price lunches.



IS YOUR SCHOOL MAKING “ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS”?

All schools in Missouri must show that they have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) in communication arts and math, according to federal rules passed in January 2002. The school as a whole must meet these goals and so must each group of students: white, black, Hispanic, Asian, low income, special education and students learning to speak English. If even one group of students doesn't meet the communication arts or math target, the school does not make AYP. Also, at least 95 percent of students in each group must be tested.

If a school receives Title I funds from the federal government and doesn't make AYP two years in a row, it must give students a chance to transfer to another school. If a school doesn't make AYP three years in a row, it must provide free tutoring services to students. The rules are complicated. We recommend talking to the principal to learn more.

AYP AT A GLANCE

	Yes / No
Did your school make AYP in communication arts?	No
Did your school make AYP in math?	No
Did your school make AYP by testing at least 95 percent of students in each group?	N/R
Does your school need to offer students a chance to transfer?	Yes
Does your school need to offer free tutoring service?	Yes

CELEBRATIONS

- We offer small class sizes with a student-teacher ratio of 20 to 1.
- We graduated our largest class — 42 students — in 2002–03.
- We graduated more Latino students than any other high school in the district in 2002–03.
- We received an early college program planning grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

DISCLAIMER: We have tried to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this report, but much of it is based on self-reports from the schools and district. Therefore, we make no representation or guarantee that the information is correct or reliable. Before making decisions using this information, you should visit the school and ask the principal to review and comment on the content of the report. Neither the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation nor the Partnership for Children makes any express or implied warranties with respect to this report or the information contained in it, and neither they nor their employees or contractors are responsible for any errors or omissions or for any damages caused by the use of the information contained herein.

For definitions of N/T, N/R and *, see the legend on page 2.

USING THIS REPORT

This report shows where this school is succeeding and where there is room for improvement. Please use this information to ask educators how the school plans to improve and how you can help. Think about bringing together other parents to talk about what's inside this report. Ask teachers to get involved.

No single report, however, can tell the whole story of a school's educational program or the people who work and learn there. Find out firsthand by visiting the school and taking an active role in student learning. Studies show that when parents are involved, students do better in school.

For more information, contact:

Cassandra L. Cole, Principal
Alta Vista Charter School
1722 Holly Street
Kansas City, MO 64108-2217
ccole@guadalupecenters.org
816-471-2582

Data supplied by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education unless otherwise noted. More data about this school can be found on the department's website: <http://www.dese.state.mo.us/planning/profile/building/arsd0480781925.html>.

Prepared by KSA-Plus Communications and School Wise Press. Published by Partnership for Children with support from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

The school performance reports would not have been possible without the cooperation and assistance of the Kansas City, Missouri School District and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

© 2004 Partnership for Children. Permission is granted to copy and disseminate this report for educational and tax-exempt purposes only.