Student Scores Released

Blacks Outside County Do Better

By JOHN MINTER
Staff Writer

Black students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools scored lower overall on the 1990 California Achievement Test than other black students in North Carolina, according to CAT scores released this week by schools officials.

But white Charlotte-Mecklenburg students score higher than other white students in the state. They also scored higher than black students as a group.

"On the face of it, it shouldn't be so," said school board member Joe Martin. "We need to talk about ways to deal with that."

Overall, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg system's 1990 scores are at or just below the state norm.

The CAT is a nationally used, multiple-choice test given each spring to third-, sixth- and eighth-graders in North Carolina. The scores are used to evaluate the performance of individual students, schools and student groups.

■ A complete school-by-school breakdown of California Achievement Test scores for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools is on Page 6B.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg and N.C. school officials are looking for a substitute test that focuses on a student's ability to read. They hope to have a new test in place by 1993.

Pupil assessment specialist Sue Henry and other school officials said they couldn't explain the disparity between black students locally and statewide, but speculated that it could be because of Mecklenburg County's urban character, with its concentrations of poverty.

"That has been there historically," Henry said. "Our black students tend to score below the state and the white students tend to score above. We really can't say for sure where that comes from.

"I know we need to examine our instructional strategies."

While black Charlotte-Mecklenburg third-graders scored in the 36th percentile, with 50 as a national norm, black

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Today's Dropouts May Affect Tomorrow's Scores

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third-graders statewide ranked in the 43rd percentile. Percentile figures for black sixth-graders were 38 locally and 40 statewide; and for black eighth-graders, 35 locally and 39 statewide.

Overall, Charlotte-Mecklenburg third-graders scored in the 62nd percentile, slightly below the 65th percentile ranking for third-graders statewide. Sixth-grade percentiles were 57 for local sixth-graders and 58 statewide; local eighth-graders matched the statewide rank of 56.

CAT score comparisons from the Wake County Schools and the Greensboro City Schools, two other N.C. urban areas, weren't available Friday.

"We need to analyze that information to determine whether we are doing a better job for certain groups of students in certain schools or in certain kinds of programs," Martin said.

Henry said many educators believed that black children weren't doing as well as their white peers on the test because many are poor and live in overcrowded homes with single mothers who dropped out of school.

Some, including school board member Arthur Griffin, disagree. "That's just an excuse," Griffin said.

But Henry said those factors, particularly the education level of parents, are directly related to the low CAT scores of black students.

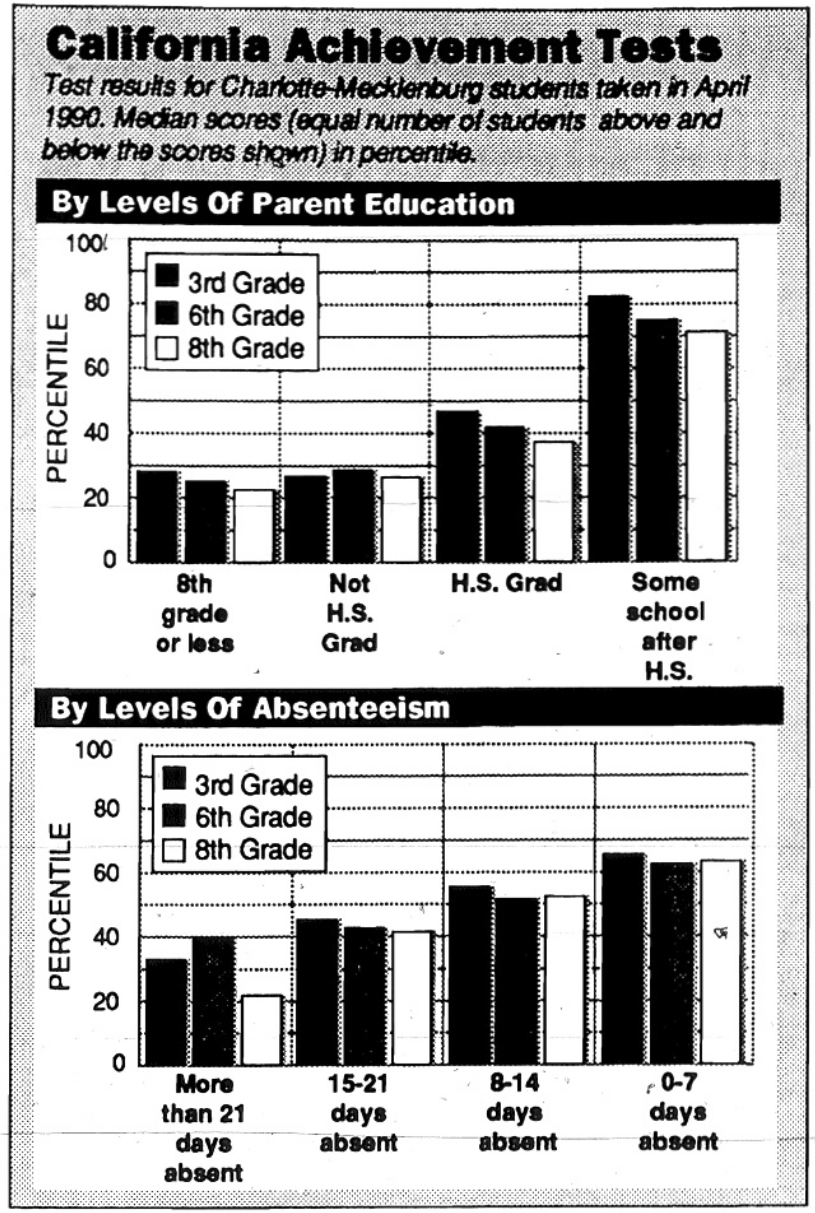
"If you take just those factors, race has nothing to do with it," she said. "A white child in those conditions would have just as difficult a time in school.

"If you dropped out of school yourself, you are going to be less comfortable going into the school," Henry said. "You are more likely to have negative concepts of school. You are less likely to have books in the home.

"That's why we really need to address our dropout problem, because those are the parents of tomorrow."

Here's a summary of this year's results:

- Scores increased at every grade level during the past four years, except for sixth-grade language scores, which remained stable.
- Overall scores continued to be above the national norm.
- Black scores, since 1988, have risen three points at both the third grade and the sixth grade and fell two points at the eighth grade. White students' scores rose four points at the third grade, two points at the sixth grade and two points at the eighth grade.



GEORGE BREISACHER/Staff

Charlotte Observer, June 30, 1990

1990 Charlotte-Mecklenburg California Achievement Test Scores By School

School	Grade	Anticipated* Score	Reading			Language			Mathematics			Total Battery		
		1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
K-3 Schools														
Albemarle Road	3	42	52	53	49	58	66	56	57	61	56	56	59	55
Beverly Woods	3	67	69	72	76	79	81	78	77	84	84	77	80	82
Huntingtowne Farms	3	50	67	67	65	74	76	70	84	80	82	76	74	74
Idlewild	3	43	48	58	55	57	66	84	55	55	76	54	61	78
Lansdowne	3	62	69	74	73	81	81	84	85	85	91	80	84	86
McAlpine	3	59	64	63	66	71	73	69	73	73	77	72	70	73
McKee Road	3	69			78			88			93			91
Olde Providence	3	74	76	78	69	92	87	85	94	92	87	91	90	82
Park Road	3	59	57	61	58	64	76	68	71	73	80	68	70	67
Pineville	3	57	73	66	56	74	75	62	79	74	67	79	74	61
Piney Grove	3	70	59	72	69	64	82	71	71	81	86	67	82	79
Rama Road	3	66	71	77	63	86	81	72	83	81	79	82	83	73
Shamrock Gardens	3	36	34	45	48	48	60	59	39	61	54	39	52	54
Winterfield	3	42	45	56	48	52	59	54	55	64	65	50	58	55
3-6 School														
Tryon Hills	3	29	31	45	32	43	51	37	59	58	43	46	46	35
Tryon Hills	6	42	36	30	34	47	43	40	53	49	58	44	39	41
4-6 Schools														
Barringer	6	67	59	66	67	65	65	66	67	75	81	66	69	72
Billingsville	6	63	56	75	66	65	79	73	87	85	84	72	82	75
Marie G. Davis	6	55	54	60	58	66	71	67	67	59	69	62	66	65
Druid Hills	6	48	42	52	53	51	61	59	45	60	59	47	59	55
First Ward	6	62	68	61	74	77	66	70	80	71	81	76	67	75
Amay James	6	43	47	52	45	54	56	51	54	66	50	52	57	49
Lincoln Heights	6	50	46	55	48	60	61	53	59	62	69	56	57	55
Nations Ford	6	56	54	63	58	54	60	65	61	68	68	56	62	66
Oaklawn	6	50	39	53	50	50	66	67	58	71	72	48	62	59
Sterling	6	69	63	68	69	71	68	70	71	73	78	69	68	73
K-5 Schools														
Allenbrook	3	27	54	54	35	59	63	48	73	64	56	58	61	43
Ashley Park	3	29	37	38	36	46	49	42	51	74	55	43	50	42
Berryhill	3	37	42	49	39	53	62	49	54	53	55	50	56	45
Collinswood	3	44	43	63	59	52	77	65	60	74	68	49	72	68
**Irwin	3	43	62	58	50	67	63	52	75	70	62	72	61	53
Oakdale	3	45	55	54	54	67	58	66	65	68	77	62	60	68
Paw Creek	3	53	54	71	59	60	74	61	71	81	71	67	74	62
Pawtuckett	3	38	43	47	49	45	61	49	53	57	43	45	50	42
Thomasboro	3	41	49	50	51	51	59	60	62	55	76	55	51	61
Tuckaseegee	3	56	44	60	47	50	68	67	58	70	77	47	68	61
Westerly Hills	3	43	36	46	40	36	62	35	48	62	59	41	52	43

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		1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
K-6 Schools														
Bain	3	55	59	69	69	70	73	73	80	82	85	73	77	80
Bain	6	59	67	71	65	67	71	69	76	72	74	72	72	74
Briarwood	3	39	50	63	54	60	81	66	62	78	68	54	79	66
Briarwood	6	45	42	62	48	46	65	50	44	70	55	43	65	49
Bruns Avenue	3	***		***	***		***	***		***	***		***	***
Bruns Avenue	6	59	60	61	60	59	62	62	52	63	63	52	61	64
**Chantilly	3	33	30	50	32	49	66	29	50	52	41	42	52	33
**Chantilly	6	35	40	41	30	42	44	37	59	62	50	46	50	38
Clear Creek	3	51	60	71	64	70	73	79	79	82	81	70	81	77
Clear Creek	6	54	66	67	58	72	69	62	70	73	68	73	69	64
Cornelius	3	53	62	71	70	72	63	75	75	73	80	72	71	76
Cornelius	6	67	72	61	68	70	71	68	71	67	86	75	69	75
Cotswold	3	68	56	79	83	75	90	92	73	87	96	66	85	94
Cotswold	6	62		83	80		87	89		90	88		88	85
Davidson	3	67	70	84	68	67	91	84	83	86	86	73	88	77
Davidson	6	76	74	77	82	68	68	81	62	72	87	76	71	88
Derita	3	38	48	45	48	49	49	45	49	55	63	46	53	51
Derita	6	37	47	44	47	50	51	48	52	70	56	43	51	49
Devonshire	3	26	42	52	31	44	59	35	45	53	39	47	54	31
Devonshire	6	50	53	55	51	62	60	51	58	61	62	56	60	54
Dilworth	3	51	65	73	69	71	76	63	78	68	72	72	76	70
Dilworth	6	65	59	66	63	64	69	65	57	73	69	65	70	68
Eastover	3	45	63	79	50	79	84	70	83	90	68	76	88	65
Eastover	6	48	63	71	50	76	74	56	74	63	60	75	70	51
**Elizabeth	3	71	65	74	83	84	89	93	78	85	94	76	84	94
**Elizabeth	6	68	77	75	70	81	78	82	83	86	92	83	82	84
J.H. Gunn	3	40	58	57	55	66	72	71	68	64	73	63	62	67
J.H. Gunn	6	57	63	68	61	67	69	59	55	76	69	62	74	66
Hickory Grove	3	51	67	59	51	71	66	63	80	82	78	75	69	65
Hickory Grove	6	63	71	54	54	73	61	59	75	67	71	75	60	59
Hidden Valley	3	29	34	43	44	31	48	40	52	63	55	32	47	43
Hidden Valley	6	36	40	40	39	49	48	43	59	70	61	47	48	43

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Huntersville	3	56	66	67	75	79	79	83	86	78	88	77	81	87
Huntersville	6	62	62	69	69	71	73	70	84	88	81	73	82	75
Long Creek	3	50	57	53	55	77	62	66	72	66	72	72	61	64
Long Creek	6	51	45	52	49	52	55	49	51	68	67	48	59	50
Mallard Creek	3	57	62	71	70	71	76	85	76	75	77	73	76	75
Mallard Creek	6	55	61	70	63	68	71	77	58	76	75	61	71	72
Matthews	3	63	58	69	70	61	70	76	69	80	85	61	76	77
Matthews	6	75	74	71	69	80	75	71	78	68	81	78	73	76
**Merry Oaks	3	50	33	65	46	35	71	59	42	75	61	35	74	51
**Merry Oaks	6	63	56	60	57	58	59	64	65	58	67	61	58	61
Montclaire	3	48	44	55	46	56	68	60	59	74	59	49	66	51
Montclaire	6	42	46	58	42	60	64	45	61	61	60	54	63	48
**Myers Park	3	76	71	73	78	83	74	86	82	80	88	77	76	87
**Myers Park	6	74	78	73	69	86	78	74	87	83	86	86	81	76
Newell	3	55	65	64	55	70	69	60	71	77	66	66	69	61
Newell	6	62	52	51	65	69	68	64	74	69	66	67	61	67
Oakhurst	3	50	45	51	58	53	61	70	43	68	64	49	62	62
Oakhurst	6	40	32	41	54	43	42	59	56	59	77	41	48	65
Pinewood	3	36	31	54	46	46	52	54	46	56	63	36	45	54
Pinewood	6	49	54	65	48	61	59	51	52	63	63	59	64	52
Reedy Creek	3	60	50	49	60	55	61	67	60	64	74	57	52	65
Reedy Creek	6	53	52	52	54	51	53	49	55	66	69	47	57	56
**Sedgefield	3	43	33	32	34	42	38	39	46	59	63	38	41	45
**Sedgefield	6	49	39	33	31	46	47	47	50	44	59	41	39	43
Selwyn	3	69	69	76	75	71	89	81	88	94	89	79	88	86
Selwyn	6	65	70	75	67	65	73	66	60	82	73	68	80	71
Sharon	3	72	66	83	74	86	83	81	86	93	88	82	89	84
Sharon	6	71	77	75	75	84	80	73	89	86	82	85	79	79
Starmount	3	61	42	66	59	54	66	66	52	70	70	46	71	68
Starmount	6	46	54	49	50	68	52	53	64	56	60	65	51	54
Statesville Road	3	28	47	38	29	47	48	29	58	50	35	46	40	29
Statesville Road	6	46	43	33	40	43	44	38	53	60	63	43	44	45
Steele Creek	3	63	50	53	55	58	65	64	61	67	64	54	61	60
Steele Creek	6	65	66	76	69	75	77	70	85	91	82	74	82	76
Windsor Park	3	32	52	56	47	49	56	59	56	56	74	52	52	61
Windsor Park	6	43	58	46	38	58	51	46	61	50	58	54	50	48

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6-8 Schools														
Coulwood	6	51	46	55	44	50	61	49	49	57	52	48	55	50
Coulwood	8		49	51	48	52	53	54	56	62	54	52	53	53
Northwest	6	43	39	48	39	51	50	40	44	59	45	42	52	38
Northwest	8		46	46	40	55	46	46	53	46	45	52	47	43
Spaugh	6	43	42	53	41	58	54	43	50	53	48	51	50	40
Spaugh	8		39	37	41	41	38	43	36	35	32	36	36	39
Wilson	6	42	40	41	40	44	44	42	45	42	52	41	39	42
Wilson	8		44	43	49	50	41	42	46	45	37	48	42	42
6-9 School														
**Piedmont	6	65	60	66	75	67	69	71	67	70	74	64	66	73
Piedmont	8		71	70	83	61	59	68	62	65	76	64	64	77
7-9 Schools														
Albemarle Road	8		55	54	45	59	53	47	62	54	49	59	52	47
Alexander	8		56	56	67	59	63	65	63	68	66	58	63	63
Carmel	8		71	77	75	73	71	72	75	79	84	75	76	79
Cochrane	8		49	45	43	51	48	43	52	46	44	50	45	43
Eastway	8		48	49	48	44	47	50	45	53	55	45	50	53
Alexander Graham	8		69	64	69	67	66	66	73	77	74	71	71	69
**Hawthorne	8		70	70	74	70	68	72	70	75	80	70	72	76
Kennedy	8		46	44	49	55	45	51	48	46	55	51	44	52
McClintock	8		69	67	69	66	70	70	74	76	75	70	71	72
Northeast	8		57	62	62	59	62	61	66	69	73	61	65	66
Quail Hollow	8		66	65	61	68	62	60	70	66	66	70	65	64
Randolph	8		66	68	69	63	61	73	66	67	74	66	65	74
Ranson	8		48	47	49	46	45	46	51	54	56	46	49	48
Sedgefield	8		55	44	48	57	52	46	53	47	47	57	49	45
Smith	8		49	45	51	49	43	55	54	47	54	50	44	51
Williams	8		48	42	54	46	45	45	46	47	49	46	45	50

**Anticipated scores are national percentiles on the Test of Cognitive Skills, given to third and sixth graders, which measures students' ability to use information. **Results include 8% or more students enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) Program. ***Too few students to analyze statistically.* Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Charlotte Observer, June 30, 1990