

# Manitoba Child Health Atlas 2004

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The entire report is available on this WWW site:  
[http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/reports/child\\_inequalities](http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/reports/child_inequalities)

## Education Indicators: Standards Exams for S4 by Winnipeg SES Group

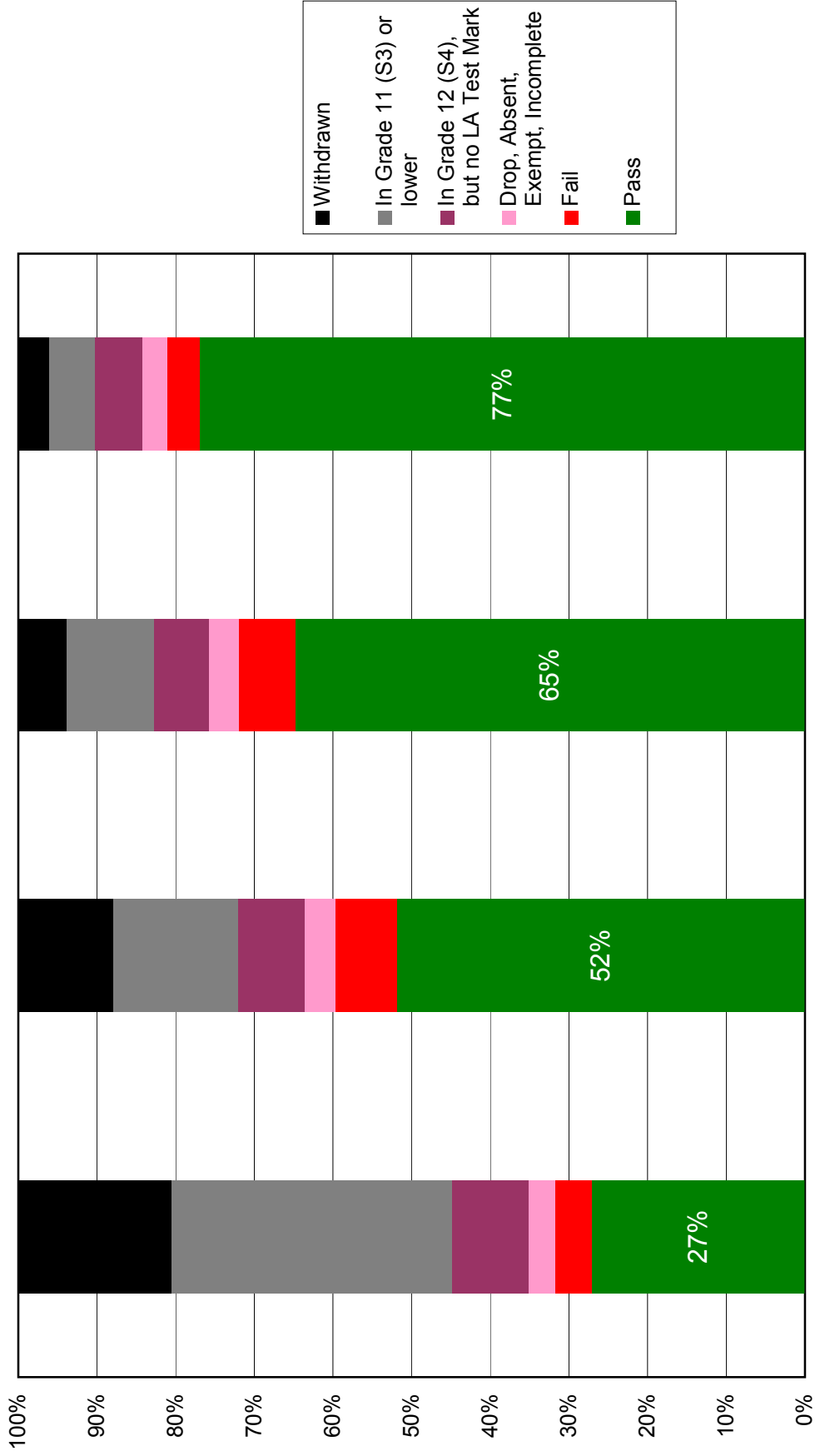
The first graph presented here (Graph - Left Side) reflects what the schools see when they review the performance of students taking the standards tests: 92% of students who live in the High SES areas passed, along with 75% of those from Low SES areas. So, there are systematic differences across the groups, though these differences seem modest. But these numbers do not tell the whole story—they just

report results for those who are in school, in Grade 12, and writing the standards tests. The larger question is: What happens when we focus on who should have been writing the standards test at that time? This very different story is told by the second graph (Graph - Right Side). To develop this graph we first identified all children who were born in Manitoba in 1984, and who remained in Manitoba until 2001/02 (84%). Then, for those residing in Winnipeg in 2001/02, we figured out where they were in the school system at that time (i.e., what should have been their final year in school). The second graph shows this very different reality: in fact only 27% of the youths who lived in the Low SES areas and who should have been writing the standards test that year actually wrote and passed the standards test. The pass rate was over two-and-a-half times higher for students in the High SES group (77%). A very large proportion of the students from the Low SES areas (almost 36%) were behind at least one year (in Grade 11 (S3) or lower), and almost 20% had withdrawn from school (not enrolled in school for at least 2 years). In other words, for all four SES groups, if students were in Grade 12 and wrote the test—the great majority passed. But many of the kids from Low SES areas had not yet made it to Grade 12, and almost one in five were not in school at all.

**Left Side of Graph: Grade 12 (S4) Language Arts Standards Test Performance by Winnipeg  
SES Group, Pass/Fail of test writers, 2001/02**



**Right Side of Graph: Grade 12 (S4) Language Arts Standards Test Performance by Winnipeg  
SES Group, 18 year olds who should have written, 2001/02**



These definitions can be found in the Child Health Atlas Glossary:  
[http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/reports/child\\_inequalities/glossary.shtml](http://www.umanitoba.ca/centres/mchp/reports/child_inequalities/glossary.shtml)

[Standards Tests](#)

[Socioeconomic Status \(SES\)](#)