

## **High-Poverty Saint Paul Public Schools are Beating the Odds**

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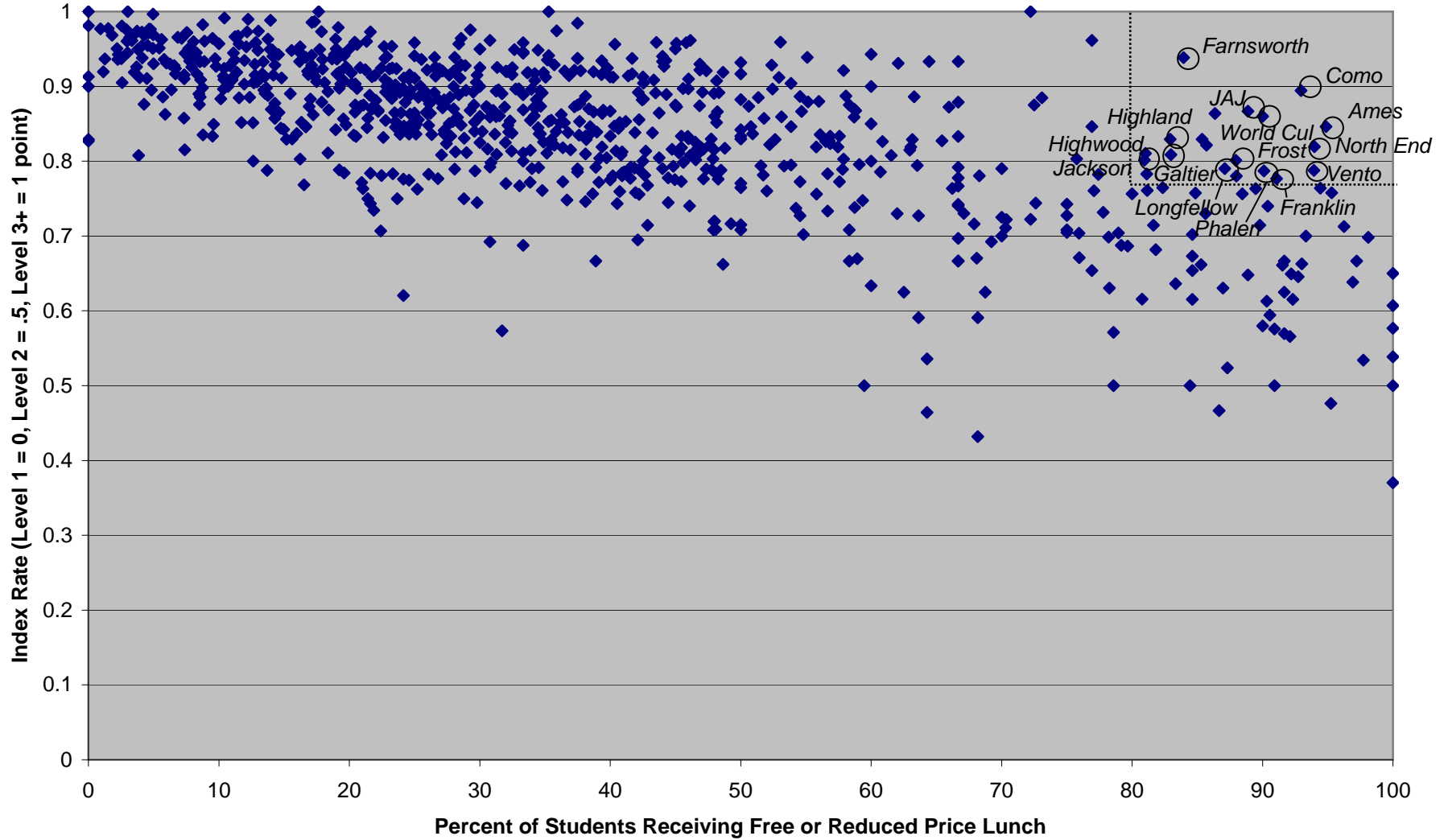
We have some good news to share that confirms what you already know, that Saint Paul Public Schools are “beating the odds.” For this study, we looked at the MCA scores of all of the “high poverty” schools in Minnesota in which 80% or more of the students receive free or reduced-price lunch. Although Saint Paul Public Schools comprise **33%** of the high poverty schools in Minnesota, we comprise **75%** of the top performing high poverty schools in 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing. That means that out of the top 20 high poverty schools in the state, 15 of them were Saint Paul Public Schools. We also have 50% of the top performing schools in 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading and 5<sup>th</sup> grade math.

Take a look at the attached scatterplot of 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing results compared with percent low income (page 2). This chart has one dot for each school in Minnesota. There is a big rectangle in the upper right hand corner of the chart to show you where the high performing, high poverty schools are. You can see that in 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing, not only are almost all of the schools in the big rectangle from Saint Paul Public Schools, but that the level of performance is very near the top and comparable with the typical results for schools with much lower poverty rates.

The table on page 3 compares Grade 3 and 5 MCA results in SPPS with those in (a) Minneapolis and other metro districts, (b) charter schools, and (c) schools outside the Twin Cities area. For SPPS at each grade level and subject area, the “20 top schools” percentage is greater than the “All Schools” percentage, indicating that our high poverty schools are beating the odds on the MCA in these grades.

MCA 5th Grade Writing in 2004 - SPPS Compared to All MN Schools - Matched on Percent Low Income (Each School is One Dot)

**SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BEATING THE ODDS IN 2004!**



# Saint Paul Public Schools are Beating the Odds on the MCA

Comparing SPPS and All Other MN Schools With 80% or More Low Income in Grades 3 & 5

**SUMMARY:** There are 23 elementary schools in SPPS that we would call "high poverty" because they have 80% or more low income students. Although SPPS has about a third of all of the "high poverty" schools in Minnesota, **we have 75 percent of the top performing high poverty schools in 5th grade Writing.** We also have 50% of the top performing high poverty schools in 5th grade Math and Reading, and we are well-represented in 3rd grade also.

	All Schools		20 Top Schools in MN		Top 10
	With 80% or More FRL		With 80% or More FRL		Rank of SPPS in top 10
	Number of Schools	Percent of Schools	Number of Schools	Percent of Schools	
<b>Grade 5 Writing</b>					
SPPS	24	33%	15	75%	1-3, 5-6, 8
Mpls & other metro	31	43%	0	0%	none
Charters	10	14%	2	10%	7
Outstate	7	10%	3	15%	4, 9
TOTAL	72	100%	20	100%	
<b>Grade 5 Math</b>					
SPPS	23	32%	10	50%	3, 5, 7-10
Mpls & other metro	31	43%	4	20%	4, 6
Charters	10	14%	1	5%	none
Outstate	7	10%	5	25%	1,2
TOTAL	71	100%	20	100%	
<b>Grade 5 Reading</b>					
SPPS	23	32%	10	50%	3-4, 6
Mpls & other metro	31	43%	4	20%	1, 10
Charters	9	13%	2	10%	8, 9
Outstate	7	10%	4	20%	2, 5, 7
TOTAL	70	100%	20	100%	
<b>Grade 3 Math</b>					
SPPS	23	32%	7	35%	3, 5
Mpls & other metro	28	39%	5	25%	6,9
Charters	14	19%	1	5%	4
Outstate	7	10%	6	30%	1,2,7,8,10
TOTAL	72	100%	20	100%	
<b>Grade 3 Reading</b>					
SPPS	23	32%	9	45%	3,6,8
Mpls & other metro	28	39%	5	25%	4, 7
Charters	14	19%	1	5%	5
Outstate	7	10%	5	25%	1,2,9,10
TOTAL	72	100%	20	100%	

Analyses were conducted using 2004 MCA scores for all MN public schools from MDE website. An index rate was calculated for each school, consistent with the NCLB method (Level 1 = 0 points, Level 2 = .5 point, Level 3 or above = 1 point)