

PARENT GUIDE TO PARCC STUDENT REPORTS

SPRING 2015 ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS TESTS

This past spring, your child took new statewide tests in math and English language arts known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) tests. These tests were designed to match the new, more rigorous standards that are guiding classroom instruction and focus on the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and reasoning skills students need in today's world.

During the week of November 9, 2015, you will receive a report that outlines how your child performed on these tests. The report includes:

- An overall score in math and in English language arts
- How your child is performing in comparison to other students in the same school, district, and state
- A breakdown of how well your child performed in different subcategories within each subject area

Your child's score, as well as the school and district results, may look lower this year because the tests measured more complex skills. A low score does not mean your child did not improve or learned less. It simply means that the expectations have been raised for all students.

The test is just one measure of how well your child is performing academically. Other sources of information, such as grades, teacher feedback, and scores on other tests, are important measures in understanding your child's progress.

HOW TO READ THE STUDENT REPORT

At the top of each report, your child will receive overall performance information, which consists of his or her overall achievement level, overall scale score, and a description of the type of support your child will need based on their performance on the test. This section will also include the district and state performance averages so you can see how your child compares to other students in the same grade and subject area.

| OVERALL STUDENT PERFORMANCE | | DISTRICT AVERAGE | STATE AVERAGE | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| LEVEL 2 APPROACHING BASIC | SCORE 714 | LEVEL 3 BASIC | SCORE 731 | LEVEL 3 BASIC | SCORE 743 |
| Your student scored 714 on a scale of 650 to 850, and performed at the Approaching Basic level. Students performing at this level will need significant support to be prepared for further studies in this content area. | | | | | |

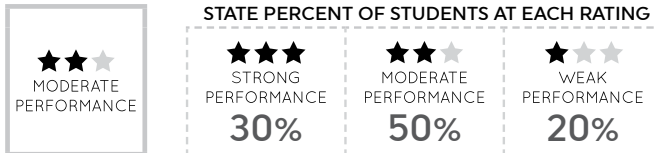
The following chart outlines what each of the newly defined **ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS MEANS IN TERMS OF HOW WELL YOUR CHILD MET THE EXPECTATIONS FOR THAT GRADE AND SUBJECT:**

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 | ADVANCED (790-850) | Exceeded expectations |
| 4 | MASTERY (750-789) | Met expectations |
| 3 | BASIC (725-749) | Approached expectations |
| 2 | APPROACHING BASIC (700-724) | Partially met expectations |
| 1 | UNSATISFACTORY (650-699) | Did not meet expectations |




Your child's performance will also be broken down into subcategories within each subject. In each subcategory, your child will be provided a rating of one to three stars, with a description of your child's performance in this specific area and the support needed moving forward.


READING PERFORMANCE




LITERARY TEXT

 STRONG PERFORMANCE In this area, your student is able to read and analyze grade-appropriate fiction, drama, and poetry very well and is prepared for further studies.

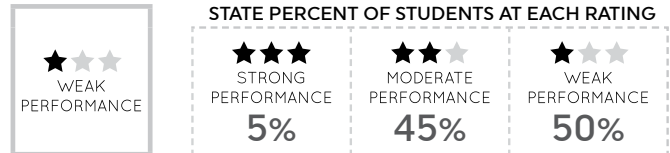
INFORMATIONAL TEXT

 MODERATE PERFORMANCE Your student can read and analyze grade-appropriate non-fiction, including texts about history, science, art, and music. Your student may need additional support to be fully prepared for further studies.


VOCABULARY

 WEAK PERFORMANCE Your student will need significant support in using context to determine what words and phrases mean in grade-appropriate texts.


WRITING PERFORMANCE



WRITTEN EXPRESSION

 MODERATE PERFORMANCE Your student can compose well-developed, organized, and clear writing, using details from what he/she read, but may need additional support to be fully prepared for further studies.

KNOWLEDGE & USE OF LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

 STRONG PERFORMANCE Your student can compose writing using the rules of standard English (including those for grammar, spelling, and usage) and is prepared for further studies.

LEGEND

 STRONG PERFORMANCE
Prepared for further studies

 MODERATE PERFORMANCE
May need additional support to be fully prepared for further studies

 WEAK PERFORMANCE
Will need significant support for further studies

HOW TO USE THE RESULTS

The scores and ratings will be used to help teachers identify when students need additional support or more challenging work in each subject area. The information will also be used to measure how well schools and districts are helping students achieve higher expectations.

As a parent, you can use the test results to guide a discussion with your child's teacher(s) about additional supports or enrichment that may be needed in class and at home.

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTED QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN DISCUSSING THE RESULTS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER(S):

- Where is my child doing well and where does he or she need improvement?
- What can be done in the classroom to help improve his or her area(s) of weakness?
- What can be done to appropriately challenge my child in areas where he or she exceeds the expectations?
- How can I help support my child's learning at home?
- How do we ensure that my child continues to progress?

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

Below is a list of helpful resources that can be referenced once you receive your child's student report.

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S FAMILY SUPPORT TOOLBOX: Offers parents information on academic standards, test results, and links to 2014-2015 practice tests and assessment guides for the 2015-2016 assessments. <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/parents-students>

UNDERSTAND THE SCORE: Online resource for parents to help support their child's learning at home. <http://understandthescore.org/help-your-child/resources-for-parents/>

GREAT KIDS MILESTONES: A free online collection of videos that shows what success looks like in reading, writing, and math for students in grades K-5. <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones/>

"BE A LEARNING HERO" LEARNING TOOLS: Search by state, grade, and subject to find learning activities in math and English you can use at home with your child. <http://bealearninghero.org/learning-tools>

PTA PARENT GUIDES: Contain overviews of the standards in every grade and suggested activities for your child. <http://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/family-support-toolbox-library>

COMMON SENSE MEDIA: A collection of the best apps, websites, and games in English and math at different grade levels. <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

For information on these reports and other assessment information, contact us at:

Or follow on social media:

