OFFICE OF THE STATE
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

DC CAPE
DC COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In spring 2026, your child took part in the District of Columbia's statewide assessment system, the DC Comprehensive Assessments of Progress in Education (DC CAPE). This system includes tests in English language arts (ELA), math, and science, and is designed to measure the knowledge and skills most essential for student success - such as writing, problem-solving, and critical thinking that build confidence and support learning in each subject area.

We know that assessment scores do not tell your child's entire academic story. The results are one of several measures - including report card grades, classroom performance, and teacher feedback - that together create the full picture of your child's progress in school. Within that picture, annual assessments are designed to help you and your child's teachers better understand the progress your child has made on the state content standards for ELA, math, and/or science during the past year. Assessments also help the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), the state education agency for the District of Columbia, to better understand what resources schools need to support all learners.

You will receive a score report from your child's school for each assessment your child completed. This guide will walk you through the important takeaways from your child's score report and provide you with resources to help your child improve in the coming year. If you haven't received your child's score report(s) by November, please contact the school that your child attended in the 2025-26 school year and request a copy. Your child's score on the ELA, math, and/or science assessment is broken down to reflect areas in which they are doing well or need more support. Your child's teachers can use this information to provide additional support or more challenging work when needed. You can also use this information to focus learning time at home.

Ultimately, OSSE's goal is to ensure that students are prepared to be successful in school and to pursue their dreams and aspirations. We are leveraging all available resources while holding ourselves and our schools accountable to ensure the best for our students. If you have general questions or want more information about the DC CAPE assessments, please visit https://osse.dc.gov/dccape or have a discussion with your child's teachers. You can also use the resources included in this guide.

At OSSE, we know that all students can learn and achieve at high levels. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you to help your child succeed.

Thank you,

Antoinette S.Mitchell, Ph.D.
District of Columbia State Superintendent of Education

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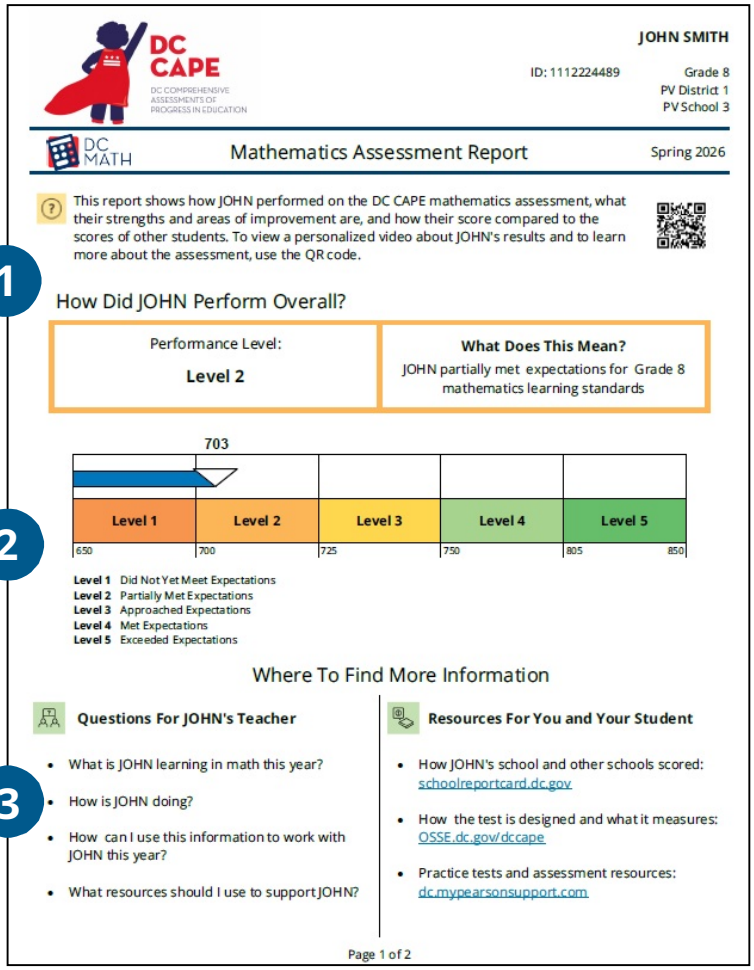
BREAKING DOWN THE SCORE REPORT: FRONT

This guide will walk you through the most important takeaways you can learn from your child's score report. It also provides you with helpful resources to help your child improve their performance in the coming year.



1) Description of Assessment

At the top of the report is a brief description of the assessment. You may scan the square shaped QR code using a smartphone camera to access the Family Portal to view assessment results and resources to support your child's learning journey.

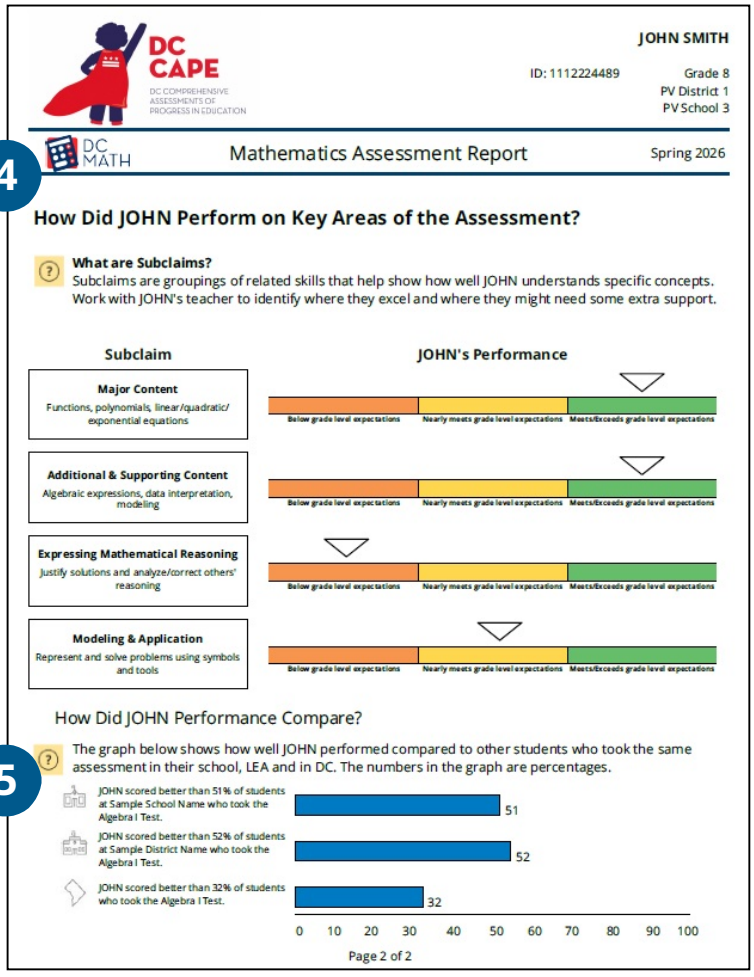
2) How did your child perform overall?

Your child's score falls into one of five performance levels. The performance levels identify if your child has met the expectations for the grade level. A score in Level 4 or 5 means your child has met or exceeded expectations in the subject. It also means they are on track for the next grade level. Students scoring below a Level 4 may still be developing grade-level skills and knowledge.

3) What's next?

The information in the score report is designed to both measure student performance and provide guidance for skill building. This section provides a few questions you can ask your child's teacher about their performance. It also shares where you can find more information.

BREAKING DOWN THE SCORE REPORT: BACK



JOHN SMITH
ID: 1112224489
Grade 8
PV District 1
PV School 3

DC CAPE
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DC MATH Mathematics Assessment Report Spring 2026

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How Did JOHN Perform on Key Areas of the Assessment?

What are Subclaims?
Subclaims are groupings of related skills that help show how well JOHN understands specific concepts. Work with JOHN's teacher to identify where they excel and where they might need some extra support.

Subclaim	JOHN's Performance
Major Content: Functions, polynomials, linear/quadratic/ exponential equations	Below grade level expectations | Nearly meets grade level expectations | Meets/Exceeds grade level expectations
Additional & Supporting Content: Algebraic expressions, data interpretation, modeling	Below grade level expectations | Nearly meets grade level expectations | Meets/Exceeds grade level expectations
Expressing Mathematical Reasoning: Justify solutions and analyze/correct others' reasoning	Below grade level expectations | Nearly meets grade level expectations | Meets/Exceeds grade level expectations
Modeling & Application: Represent and solve problems using symbols and tools	Below grade level expectations | Nearly meets grade level expectations | Meets/Exceeds grade level expectations

How Did JOHN Performance Compare?

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The graph below shows how well JOHN performed compared to other students who took the same assessment in their school, LEA and in DC. The numbers in the graph are percentages.

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4) How well did your child learn specific knowledge and skills?

Students receive more detailed information in several components about their strengths and where they might need additional support. This section shows whether your child performed about the same as students who met or exceeded expectations, approached expectations, or partially met expectations for each key part of the assessment.

5) How did your child perform compared to other students?

This section shows how your child's performance relates to their peers at the school level, the local education agency level, and within the District.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Below are several useful resources to support your child's academic growth in ELA and mathematics, as well as useful tips for discussing the scores with your child and with your child's teacher.

Want to learn more about DC CAPE scores or the assessment?

Visit the following websites for more information on the DC CAPE assessments and the Common Core State Standards:

- OSSE.dc.gov/dccape for information on the assessments, results and resources.
- SchoolReportCard.dc.gov for information on how your student's school and other schools in DC performed.
- DC.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-test/ offers practice test and sample questions for students from grades 3 through high school.
- CoreStandards.org to learn more about the Common Core State Standards.

Now that you have your child's test results, what's next?

There are a number of resources available that will help you use assessments to help your child improve academically. These resources are intended to be helpful tools for the sole purpose of assisting students and families. OSSE and the District do not endorse and/or sponsor any such resources and these are meant to be informative recommendations:

- GreatSchools.org features content and grade-specific videos so you can conduct lessons and exercises with your child at home.
- BeALearningHero.org has a wealth of resources for parents.

Interested in talking about your child about their score?

Caregivers are the experts on talking to their children. Below are a few helpful things to remember when talking about your child's test score:

- Test scores are only one measure of performance.
- Focus on strengths.
- Discuss strategies for addressing areas of growth (eg.,online practice, working with a teacher).

Interested in talking to your child's teacher about their score?

Below are a few questions that can help guide a conversation with your child's teacher:

- How is my child performing in math class? In English language arts?
- What are my child's learning goals in math this year? In reading?
- What extra support in school and at home does my child need to meet these goals?
- Based on your observations, what strengths have you seen in my child that we can build on?What are some areas of growth for my child?