

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In spring 2022, your child took the statewide assessments in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and/or mathematics. Our annual assessments measure the knowledge and skills that matter most for students – skills like writing, problemsolving and other fundamental skills that lead to confidence and success in ELA and mathematics.

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 you can learn from your child's score report and provides you with resources to help your child improve in the coming year. If you haven't received your child's score reports, please contact the school that your child attended in the 2021-22 school year and ask for a copy.

Please note that your child's score, as well as the district and state averages, may look lower than you expected this year. This is the first year that statewide assessments were given since the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which brought significant challenges that impacted instruction and students' learning. This year's results will inform schools' decisions about how best to support academic recovery and establish a new performance baseline from which to build.

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 and math during the past year. Assessments also help us to better understand what resources schools need to support the needs of all learners.

Your child's score on the ELA and math assessments is broken down to reflect areas in which they are doing well or need more support. Next year, 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, our goal is to ensure that students are prepared to be successful in school and pursue their dreams and aspirations. If you have general questions or want more information about the assessments, please visit our website at <u>osse.dc.gov/parcc</u> or have a discussion with your child's teacher. You can also use the resources on page 4 of this guide.

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

Thank you,

Dr. Christina Grant DC State Superintendent of Education









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. At the bottom of the paragraph is contact information should you have any questions about this report.

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.

BREAKING DOWN THE SCORE REPORT: BACK

3) 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.



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

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

5) 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.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Below are several useful resources to help your child grow in ELA and mathematics, as well as useful tips for discussing the score and with your child's teacher.

Want to learn more about DC's PARCC Scores or the PARCC assessment?

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

- <u>OSSE.dc.gov/parcc</u> for DC-specific information on the score reports, PARCC assessments and the Common Core State Standards.
- <u>OSSE.dc.gov/parcc</u> for information on how your student's school and other schools in DC performed.
- <u>OSSE.dc.gov/parcc</u> for information on the assessments and resources for parents and students.
- <u>DC.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/</u> offers practice tests and sample questions for students from grades 3 through 11.
- <u>CoreStandards.org</u> 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 these 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 to the extent that they are meant to be informative recommendations:

- <u>GreatSchools.org</u> features content and grade-specific videos so you can conduct lessons and exercises with your child at home.
- <u>BeALearningHero.org</u> has a wealth of resources for parents, including the Skills
- Builder page and Learning Tools page, which customize resources for DC based on grade, subject and content area.

Interested in talking to your child about their score?

Parents 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 (e.g., 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:

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





