



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In spring 2019, your child took the new DC Science Assessment.

The DC Science Assessment is a new measurement of the scientific knowledge and skills that matter most for students – skills like scientific thinking, problem-solving, and sense-making that lead to confidence and success in science.

You are receiving a score report from your child's school for the DC Science Assessment that your child completed. This guide walks you through 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 have not received your child's score reports, please contact your child's school to ask them for a copy.

Please note that your child's score, as well as the school and district averages, may look lower than you expected this year. This is the first year of the DC Science Assessment and the results establish new performance baselines from which to build. Schools will use these assessment results to inform their planning for curriculum and instruction. We are confident that over time our results will improve, just as we have seen steady improvements on our state assessments for math and English language arts.

It is important to remember that standardized test scores provide only one measure of student learning. 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 standards for science during the past year.

Your child's DC Science Assessment score report breaks down performance 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 may 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 assessment, please visit our website at osse.dc.gov/science or have a discussion with your child's teacher. You can also use the resources on page 4 of this guide to gain a better understanding of the assessment, the Next Generation Science Standards, and learning resources that can be used at home.

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,

Hanseul Kang

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 his or her performance in the coming year.

Science

Scott Testtaker
Community College Preparatory Academy PCS

8th Grade Assessment Results

About This Assessment
Scott took the DC Science Assessment in spring 2019. This assessment is designed to assess student achievement of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These standards ask students to explore three dimensions of science and engineering: specific ideas, practices, and crosscutting concepts. The DC Science Assessment asks students to engage in three-dimensional tasks that require students to make sense of phenomena and address real-world problems.

These results are one of several ways to understand Scott's needs and strengths. Based on this information, families may work with teachers and schools to identify resources to provide their child support. Schools may use the information in this report to better plan instruction and enrichment for students in the coming school year.

If you have questions about this report, please talk to Scott's teacher or principal or contact Community College Prep at (202) 610-5780. If you have questions about the DC Science test, please go to osse.dc.gov/science or contact OSSE at (202) 719-6500.

How Can You Use This Report?
This report will help you answer questions about the development of Scott's skills:

- How did Scott score on this assessment?
- What are Scott's strengths and weaknesses in this subject?
- How did Scott's score compare to that of other students?

How Did Scott Perform on This Science Assessment?
This section shows your student's overall score on the assessment. This overall score determines which performance level your student is in.

Performance Level
Level 2
Score
412

Students who scored in Level 2 **approached expectations** for middle school science learning standards.

300 1 409 2 450 3 484 4 600

Level 1 Partially Met Expectations
Level 2 Approached Expectations
Level 3 Met Expectations
Level 4 Exceeded Expectations

Want to Know More?
Turn to the next page to learn about how Scott performed on key areas of the assessment and how Scott's results compare to those of other students.

*Levels 3 & 4 indicate that the student has met or exceeded the expectations of the NGSS.

1) Description of assessment

At the top of the report is a brief description of the assessment. At the bottom of this 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 four performance levels. The performance levels identify where your child's score falls and if your child has met the expectations for the grade level. A score in Level 3 or 4 means your child has met or exceeded expectations in the subject. It also means he or she is on track for the next grade level. Students scoring below a Level 3 may still be developing grade-level skills and knowledge.

BREAKING DOWN THE SCORE REPORT: BACK

3) How well did your student 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 student performed about the same as students who met or exceeded expectations, approached expectations, or partially met expectations for each key part of the assessment. The biology report does not include this section.

Grade 8 Science Details Performance Level **Level 2**

How Did Scott Perform on Key Parts of the Assessment?
On the Grade 8 DC Science assessment, students are tested in three domain areas of the NGSS middle school standards. This section shows how your student performed by domain.

Physical Sciences	Life Sciences	Earth and Space Sciences
Meets or Exceeds ✓ expectations using Physical Science principles, skills, and behaviors to make sense of phenomena and address real-world problems	Approached ● expectations using Life Science principles, skills, and behaviors to make sense of phenomena and address real-world problems	Partially Met — expectations using Earth and Space Science principles, skills, and behaviors to make sense of phenomena and address real-world problems

✓ Met or Exceeded Expectations ● Approaches Expectations — Partially Met Expectations

How Did Scott's Performance Compare?

- Scott scored better than **50%** of students in Community College Preparatory Academy PCS who took the Grade 8 Science test.
- Scott scored better than **50%** of students in Community College Preparatory Academy PCS who took the Grade 8 Science test.
- Scott scored better than **50%** of students in DC who took the Grade 8 Science test.

What Is Next?

Bring this report to your next conference with your student's teachers. You can ask Scott's teachers:

- What is Scott learning in science this year?
- How is Scott doing?
- How can I use this information to work with Scott this year?
- What resources should I use to support Scott?

Where can you find more information?

- How Scott's school and other schools scored: Visit results.osse.dc.gov or call Community College Prep at (202) 610-5780
- How the test is designed and what it measures: Visit osse.dc.gov/science or call OSSE at (202) 719-6500
- How families, educators, and schools use these reports: Visit osse.dc.gov/science or call OSSE at (202) 719-6500
- Learn more about what your student will be learning in science: Visit www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides

4) How did he or she perform compared to other students?

This report shows how your student's performance relates to his or her peers at the school level, the local education agency level, and within the District.

4

5

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 his or her performance. It also shares where you can find more information.

RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

Below are several helpful resources to help your child grow his or her performance, as well as useful tips for discussing the score report with your child and with your child's teacher.

Want to learn more about Science Scores or the DC Science Assessment?

Visit the following websites for more information on the DC Science Assessment and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS):

- OSSE.DC.gov/science for information on the score reports for the DC Science Assessments.
- Nextgenscience.org to learn more about the NGSS
- NSTA.org/parents/ for resources and frequently asked questions and answers about the NGSS.

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:

- DC.mypearsonsupport.com also offers practice tests for students in grades 5 and 8, and students taking high school biology.
- NGSS.nsta.org/classroom-resources.aspx presents engaging investigations arranged by science domain that can be conducted at home.
- Exploratorium.edu/snacks/ introduces scientific investigations of natural phenomena students can explore using common, inexpensive, readily available materials.
- HowToSmile.org is a project of University of California, Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science and the National Science Foundation that provides families with easy to follow scientific investigations.

Interested in talking to your child about his or her 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 his or her score?

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

- How are science lessons integrating the three dimensions of NGSS science and engineering?
- What are my child's learning goals in science this year?
- How is my child performing in science class?
- 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?