



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In spring 2022, your child took the DC Science assessment. The DC Science assessment is a 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 will receive a score report from your child’s school for the DC Science assessment that 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 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 science during the past year. Assessments also help us to better understand what resources schools need to support all learners.

Your child’s DC Science assessment score report breaks down performance to reflect areas in which your child is doing well or needs 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 <https://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.

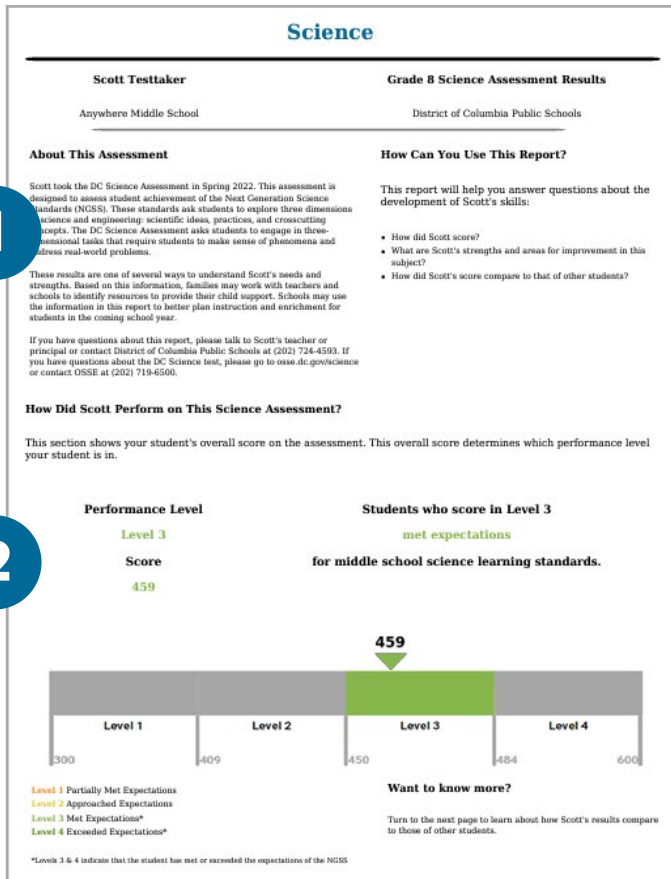
Dr. Christina Grant  
DC State Superintendent of Education

# 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 useful 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 four performance levels. The performance levels identify 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 they are 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 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. The biology report does not include this section.

**Grade 8 Science Details** Performance Level  
Level 3

**How Did Scott Perform On Key Areas of the Assessment?**

Students who performed at Level 4 overall on this assessment met learning expectations and are likely prepared for the grade or course. This section shows if your child performed about the same as students who met or exceeded expectations, approached expectations, or did not yet meet or partially met expectations for each key part of the assessment.

| Physical Sciences  | Life Sciences  | Earth and Space Sciences  |
|--|--|---|
| Expectations using Physical Science principles, skills, and behaviors to make sense of phenomena and address real-world problems | Expectations using Life Science principles, skills, and behaviors to make sense of phenomena and address real-world problems | Expectations using Earth and Space Science principles, skills, and behaviors to make sense of phenomena and address real-world problems |
| Meets or Exceeds<br>✓  | Meets or Exceeds<br>✓  | Nearly Meets<br>●   |

Legend: Exceeded Expectations (green check), Approached Expectations (yellow dot), Partially Met Expectations (red dash)

**How Did Scott's Performance Compare?**

| Comparison Group   | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| Scott scored better than 90% of students in Anywhere Middle School who took the Grade 8 Science test.              | 90%        |
| Scott scored better than 95% of students in District of Columbia Public Schools who took the Grade 8 Science test. | 95%        |
| Scott scored better than 88% of students in DC who took the Grade 8 Science test.                                  | 88%        |

**What Is Next?**

This report is your next conference with your student's teacher. 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.
- Call District of Columbia Public Schools at (202) 724-4593
- How the test is designed and what it measures.
- Visit [www.OSSE.dc.gov/science](http://www.OSSE.dc.gov/science) or call OSSE at (202) 719-6500
- How families, educators, and schools use these reports.
- Visit [www.OSSE.dc.gov/science](http://www.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](http://www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides)

## 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

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Below are several helpful resources to help you child grow their 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 Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Science Assessment and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS):

- [OSSE.DC.gov/science](https://OSSE.DC.gov/science) for information on the score reports, DC Science Assessments.
- [Nextgenscience.org](https://Nextgenscience.org) to learn more about the NGSS
- [nsta.org/parent-q](https://nsta.org/parent-q) for resources and frequently asked questions about the NGSS.

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

There are several resources available that will help you use these assessments to support your child 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:

- [DC.mypearsonsupport.com](https://DC.mypearsonsupport.com) offers practice tests for students in grades 5 and 8, and high school biology.
- [NSTA.org/science-resources-parents](https://NSTA.org/science-resources-parents) provides resources for parents to support NGSS learning.
- [Exploratorium.edu/snacks/](https://Exploratorium.edu/snacks/) introduces scientific investigations of natural phenomena students can explore using common, inexpensive, readily available materials.
- [HowToSmile.org](https://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 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 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?