



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In spring 2017, your child took the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. For the third year in a row in DC, the PARCC assessment has measured the knowledge and skills that matter most for students — skills like writing, problem-solving, and the fundamental skills that lead to confidence and success in mathematics and ELA. You will receive a score report for each assessment your child completed.

The enclosed 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.

We know that PARCC 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 a full picture of your child's progress. Within that picture, the PARCC assessment is designed to help you and your child's teachers better understand the progress he or she made last school year.

Students take the PARCC assessment in ELA and mathematics. In each subject, the score has been broken down to reflect areas in which your child is doing well or needs more support. This information can be used to guide teachers' instruction so that they can provide additional support or more challenging work when needed. It can also be used 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 <http://osse.dc.gov/parcc> or have a discussion with your child's teacher.

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.

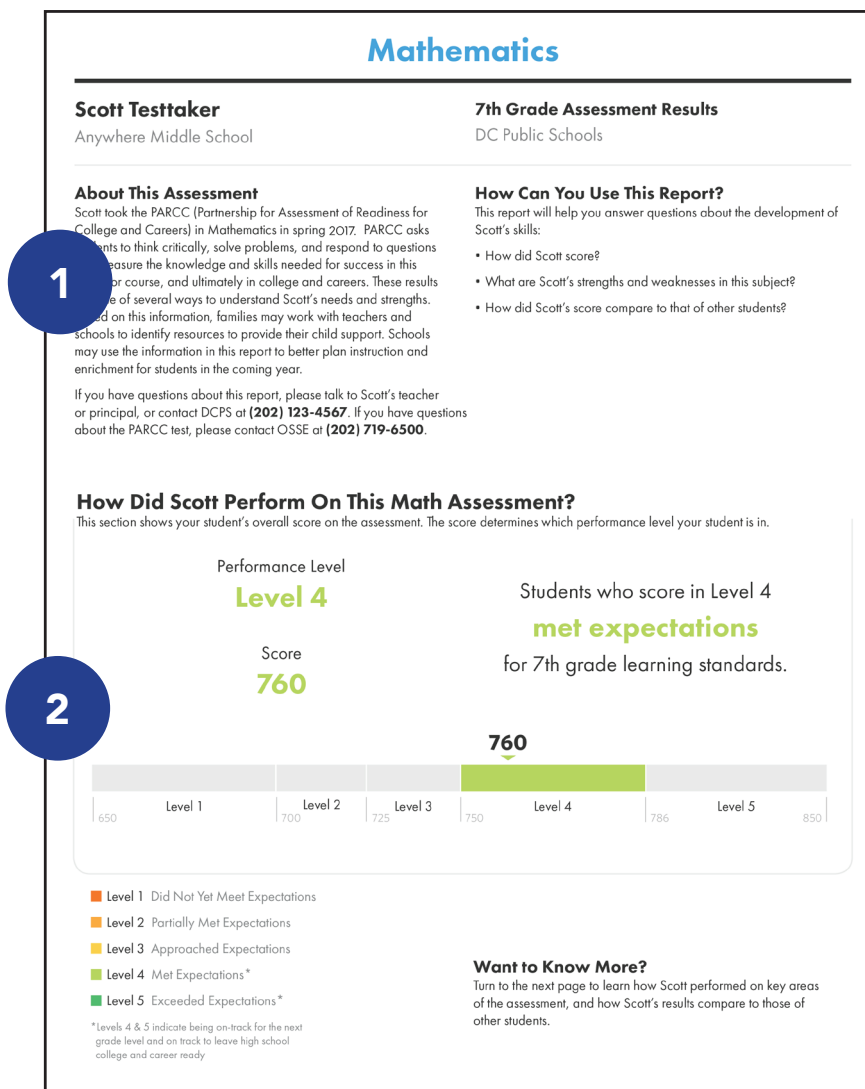
Thank you,

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.



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.

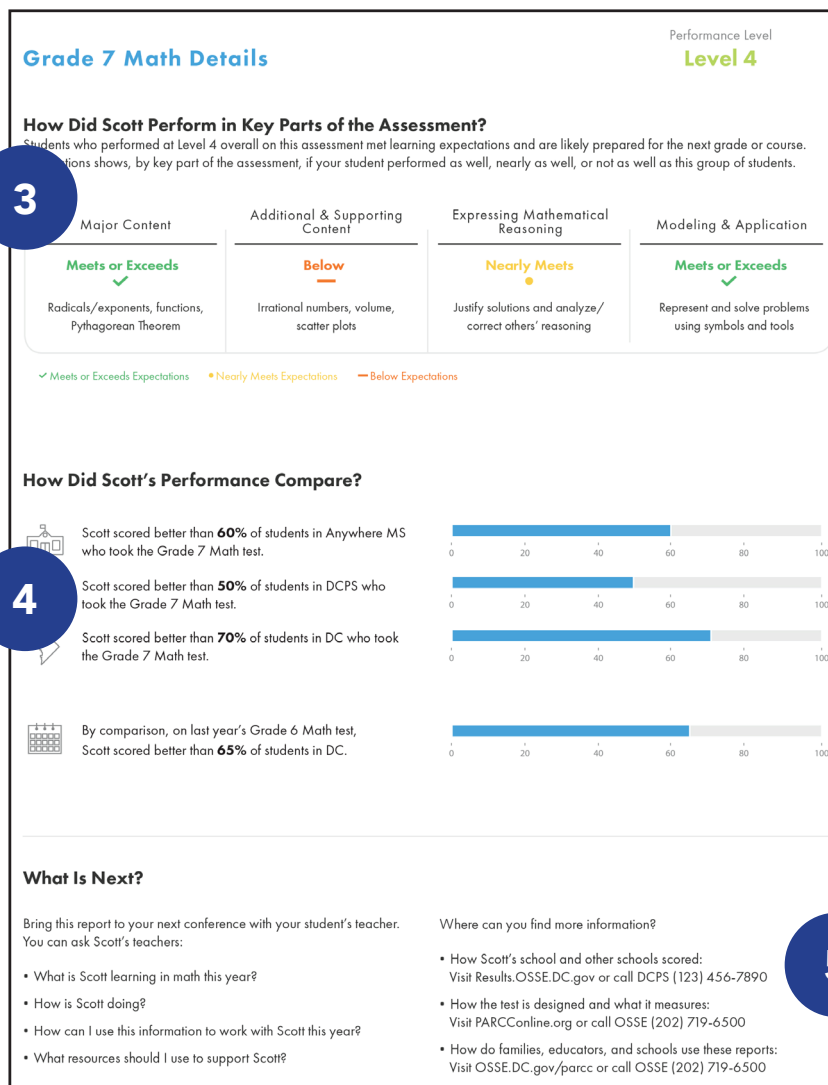
2) How did your child perform overall?

Your child's score falls into one of five 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 4 or 5 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 and to leave high school college and career ready. 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 student learn specific knowledge and skills?

Students receive more detailed information in several components about their strengths and where they might need additional support. While numerical scores are not given for each component, the report shows whether your student meets or exceeds expectations; nearly meets expectations; or is below expectations.



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. Additionally, the report shows how your child's score last year compared to students taking the test across DC.

5) What's next?

The information in the score report is designed to both measure student progress 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 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:

- OSSE.dc.gov/parcc for DC-specific information on the score reports, PARCC assessments and the Common Core State Standards.
- Results.OSSE.dc.gov for information on how your student's school and other schools in DC performed.
- PARCC-assessment.org for information on the assessments and resources for parents and students.
- 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 these assessments to help your child improve academically:

- 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, including the Skills Builder page and Learning Tools page, which customize resources for DC based on grade, subject and content area.
- PARCC.Pearson.com also offers practice tests and sample questions for students from grades 3 through 11.

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:

- 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?

