



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Dear Parents,

This spring, your child participated in the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment in English language arts and math. The new assessment, which replaced the DC CAS assessment in reading, composition and mathematics, is more rigorous and presents a fuller picture of student learning.

Your child's score, as well as the school and district averages, may look different this year. That is because the new test measures more complex, real-world skills, such as critical thinking, writing, and problem solving. But just as we saw improvement over time on DC CAS, we are confident our results will improve in future years.

It's important to remember that standardized test scores provide only one measure of student learning. When combined with other measures, such as teacher observations and in-class work, the PARCC test provides a more comprehensive picture of student performance.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that all students are set up to be successful in college and beyond, and that will remain the focus for the District of Columbia this school year.

We will be working hard to keep you informed about how the District is supporting our teachers and students, and we will provide opportunities for discussion and feedback during the school year.

In December, you will receive your child's scores on the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. You will receive one report for English language arts and a separate report for math.

This guide will walk you through the top 5 things you will learn from your child's score report, in addition to providing resource that you can use to help your child improve his/her performance in the coming year.

If you have general questions or want more information about the assessments, please visit our website at <http://osse.dc.gov/parcc>.

Thank you,

Hanseul Kang
Superintendent



Breaking Down the Score Report

At the top of the report is a brief description of the assessment. At the bottom of this paragraph, note the contact information in case you have any questions about this report.

1

English Language Arts & Literacy

Scott Testtaker Anywhere ES	5th Grade Assessment Results DC Public Schools
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About This Assessment Scott took the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) in English Language Arts & Literacy in Spring 2015. This test was given for the first time in 2015 and is different from the DC CAS. PARCC asks students to answer more challenging and real-world questions that measure the knowledge and skills needed for success in their grade, and ultimately in college and careers.	How Can You Use This Report? This report will help you answer questions about the development of Scott's ELA skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did Scott perform?• How well did Scott learn specific knowledge and skills in this subject?• How did Scott perform compared to other students?
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If you have questions about this report, please talk to your student's teacher or principal, or contact DCPS at (800) 555-1234. If you have questions about the PARCC test, please go to parcconline.org, or contact OSSE at (800) 555-1234.

How Did Scott Perform On This ELA Assessment?

This section gives detail on your student's overall score on the assessment. The score determines which performance level your student is in.

Performance Level
Level 2

Score
721

Students who score in Level 2
Partially Met Expectations
for 5th grade learning standards

650 1 700 2 725 3 750 4 790 5 850

Levels 4 & 5 indicate being on track for college and career readiness

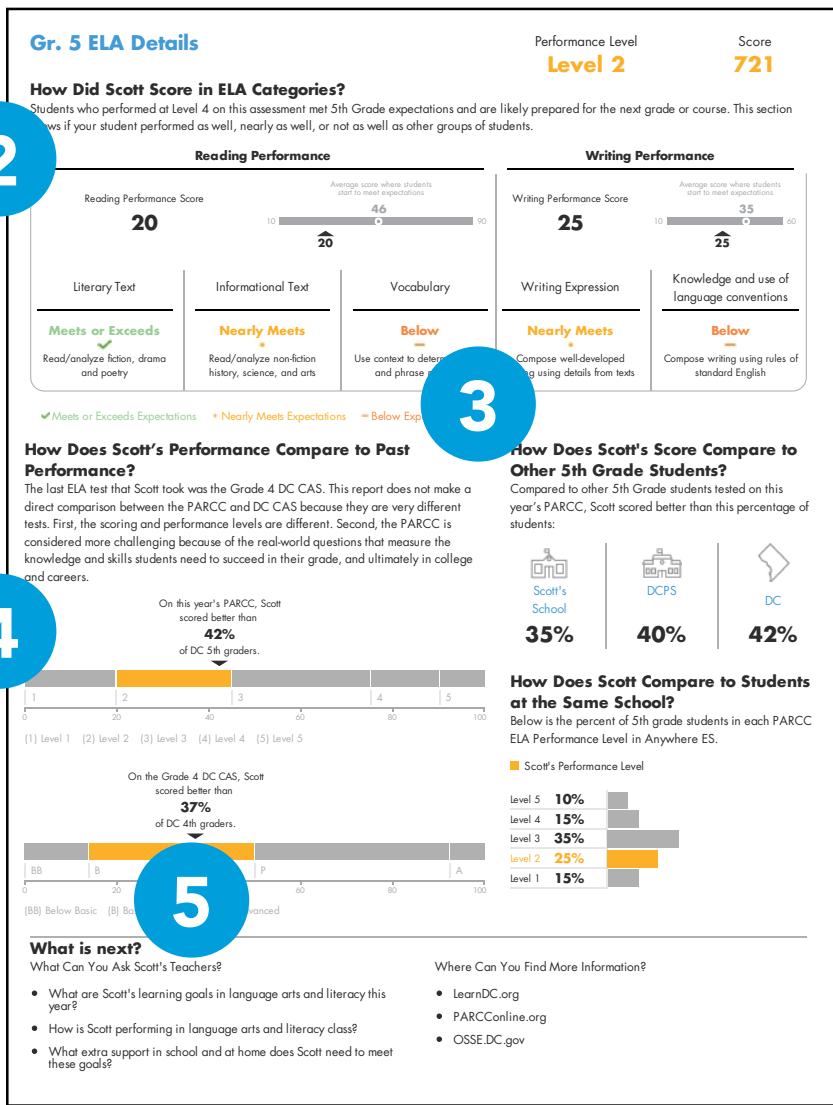
Level 5	Exceeded Expectations
Level 4	Met Expectations
Level 3	Approached Expectations
Level 2	Partially Met Expectations
Level 1	Did Not Meet Expectations

Want to Know More?
Turn to the next page to learn about Scott's performance compared to other students, and how well Scott has learned certain ELA skills and knowledge.

1) 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 college and career readiness. Students scoring below a level 4 may still be developing grade-level skills and knowledge. It's important to remember that these tests are only one of several measures of how well a student is progressing against the standards.





2) How well did your student learn specific knowledge and skills?

Students receive more detailed information in several sub-categories about their strengths and where they might need additional support. While numerical scores are not given for sub-categories, the report shows whether students Meet or Exceed Expectations; Nearly Meet Expectations; or fall Below Expectations.

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

This report shows how your student's performance relates to his/her past performance on the DC CAS by looking at where your child falls relative to his/her peers this year compared with last year.

4) How does my child's results compare to past performance?

The PARCC assessment sets a new baseline and your child's test results should not be directly compared to his/her past results on DC CAS. PARCC requires students to explain their answers and to apply real-world knowledge and skills, including critical thinking, analysis, and writing, which is different than the DC CAS. This report shows how your student's performance indirectly compares to his/her past performance on the DC CAS by looking at where your child falls among his/her peers.

5) What's next?

The information in the score report is designed to both measure student progress and provide guidance for skill building. The score report provides a few questions you can ask your child's teacher about his/her performance. On the next page, you can learn about more resources to help your child, as well as useful tips for discussing the score report with your child and with your child's teacher.



Want to learn more about your child's score report?

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.
- PARCCOnline.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.
- HomeworkHelpDesk.org offers real-time Q&A with teachers who can help parents and students with homework questions.
- PARCCOnline.org also offers practice tests and sample questions for students from grades 3 through 11.

How do I talk to my child about his/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
- This is a new test, and it will take all students time to get used to it
- Focus on strengths
- Discuss strategies for addressing areas of growth (e.g., online practice, working with a teacher)

How do I talk to my child's teacher about his/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?

