

November 8, 2008

() Action Required
(X) Informational

MEMORANDUM NO. 006-08M TESTING & ASSESSMENT

TO: Local Education School Agencies

CC: Public Charter School Board

FROM: Deborah A. Gist
State Superintendent of Education

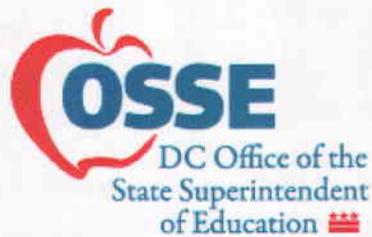
RE: Performance Standard-Setting DC CAS and DC CAS-Alternate Science and DC CAS Composition Assessments

CONTACT: Bill Caritj, Director, Testing & Assessment
(202) 741-0256
Email: Bill.Caritj@dc.gov

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the performance standards, approved by the State Superintendent, for the District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DCCAS) and DC CAS-Alternate (DCCAS Alt) Science and Composition Assessments.

In 2007-2008, DC CAS and DCCAS Alt Science tests were administered for the first time in grades 5 and 8, and DC CAS Biology tests were administered for the first time to all students enrolled in biology classes. As required by the US Department of Education, states must set performance standards for each statewide assessment. Standard-setting is a structured process that uses teacher/administrator panels to recommend performance standards (also known as cut scores).

This memorandum presents the approved performance standards for DC CAS and DC CAS-Alternate Science, Biology and DC CAS Composition Assessments.



DC CAS Science (General Assessment)

DC CAS Science Grade 5

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% Correct	% of Students
Advanced	47-53	88.7%	4.3%
Proficient	36-46	67.9%	28.0%
Basic	20-35	37.7%	49.8%
Below Basic	0-19	-----	17.9

DC CAS Science/Grade 8

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% Correct	% of Students
Advanced	46-53	86.8%	1.4%
Proficient	30-45	56.6%	20.6%
Basic	21-29	39.6%	30.0%
Below Basic	0-19	-----	48.0%

DC CAS Biology

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% Correct	% of Students
Advanced	47-53	88.7%	1.8%
Proficient	29-46	54.7%	33.0%
Basic	22-28	41.5%	23.0%
Below Basic	0-21	-----	42.2%

DC CAS Composition

DC CAS Composition – Grade 4

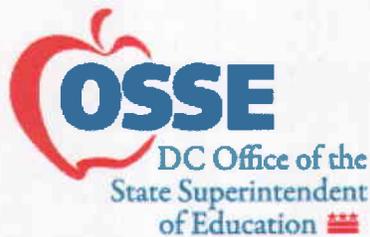
Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% of Students
Advanced	9-10	8%
Proficient	7-8	32%
Basic	4-6	50%
Below Basic	0-3	10%

DC CAS Composition – Grade 7

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% of Students
Advanced	9-10	6%
Proficient	7-8	31%
Basic	4-6	57%
Below Basic	0-3	5%

DC CAS Composition – Grade 10

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% of Students
Advanced	9-10	4%
Proficient	7-8	34%
Basic	4-6	56%
Below Basic	0-3	5%



The State Superintendent has approved the following performance standards (cut scores) for the DC CAS-Alt Science tests.

DC CAS-Alt Science (Alternate Assessment)

DC CAS-Alternate Science Grade 5

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% of Students
Advanced	127-150	40.5%
Proficient	97-126	10.8%
Basic	56-96	8.1%
Below Basic	30-55	40.5%

DC CAS-Alternate Grades 8

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% of Students
Advanced	127-150	17.7%
Proficient	94-126	33.3%
Basic	66-93	14.6%
Below Basic	30-65	34.4%

DC CAS-Alternate Biology

Performance Level	Raw Score Range	% of Students
Advanced	130-150	28.6%
Proficient	91-129	28.6%
Basic	62-90	8.2%
Below Basic	30-61	34.7%

Questions about the performance standards should be directed to Mr. Bill Caritj, Office of Assessment and Accountability at bill.caritj@dc.gov or (202) 741-0256.