

2016 Parent Guide

Understanding the Kansas Assessment Program Score Report

Dear Parents:

Thank you for supporting your child's participation in the 2016 Kansas Assessment Program.

While assessments are an important tool to help teachers, parents, and students gauge a student's progress, it is essential to remember they are just one of several measures teachers consider. Your student's teachers use classroom interaction, homework, assessments and many other strategies throughout the year to identify learning and achievement levels.

The Kansas State Board of Education's new vision for education — Kansas leads the world in the success of each student — reduces what many have considered an overemphasis on state assessments and increases focus on the needs of the whole child. As we work toward this vision, you will see schools focus on areas such as kindergarten readiness, Individual Plans of Study focused on career interest, high school graduation rates, postsecondary completion, and social/emotional growth.

Assessments will continue to serve a role in helping to inform about your child's academic readiness, but the State Board and the Kansas State Department of Education believe it is time to minimize the assessment footprint on Kansas. We want the goals of each student — from the 5-year-old kindergarten student all the way to the high school graduate focusing on a career, college, or the military — to be important.

As you review your child's report, please take the opportunity to contact your child's school, teacher or principal to have them explain these results to you in detail.

Kansas students, teachers and parents are among the best in the nation, and we all share in the responsibility of making every child successful by achieving their desired future.

Thank you for being a positive part of your child's education, and thank you for your continued support of Kansas schools.



Sincerely,

Dr. Randy Watson
Kansas Commissioner of Education



Understanding the 2016 Kansas Assessment Program

The Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) is a set of untimed, computerized tests in English language arts; mathematics; science; and history, government, and social studies. The test content fully aligns to the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards as well as Kansas's content standards. The Center for Educational Testing & Evaluation at the University of Kansas develops each assessment.

Test Purpose

The Kansas Assessment Program provides parents, educators, and policymakers with one piece of information about student learning. KAP meets federal and state accountability requirements.

Test Content

In 2016, all students in grades 3–8 and grade 10 took assessments in English language arts and mathematics. Students in grades 6, 8, and 10 also took a history, government, and social studies assessment. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 participated in a field-test science assessment, which will not be scored.

Test Format

Computerized tests allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in various ways. KAP uses technology-enhanced items that ask students to do more than choose the right answer from a list. For example, students may be required to order items, create categories, label areas, plot graphs, select multiple options, and create written responses.

How is the KAP scored?

First, we add the points your student earned on the test questions without deducting points for incorrect answers. Some questions are worth more than one point. Next, we convert this raw score to a scaled score that has the same meaning for all versions of the test. KAP scaled scores range from 220 to 380 and are divided into four performance levels.

We use the same process to calculate your student's performance in different categories of each subject-area test, such as Reading Informational Texts in English language arts or Algebra in mathematics.

How should you use KAP results?

Use these scores to help

- » identify your student's relative strengths and limitations
- » indicate your student's progress toward meeting state curriculum standards
- » compare your student's performance to other students in the school, district, and state

How can you help your student improve his or her KAP score?

- » Encourage your student to do her or his best on the assessments.
- » Talk with the classroom teacher(s) about ways to develop your student's critical thinking skills.
- » Ask your student questions that require explanations and can't be answered with a single word.
- » Establish time for your student to read and provide engaging and appropriately challenging reading materials.
- » Have your student write lists, letters, stories, or podcast scripts.
- » Solve math problems with your student using everyday materials, such as road maps, sporting event results, or recipes. Have your child explain the solution to the problem.
- » Use the information on the back of the report to identify specific areas your student needs additional support. Ask the classroom teacher(s) how to practice these skills at home.

Student Report Walkthrough

1 The overall score represents your student's performance across all sections of the test. In math, the overall score is the same as the score displayed on the meter. In English language arts, the overall score combines your student's scores on the reading, writing, and listening section and the on-demand writing task.

Students must complete both sections of the English language arts test to receive an overall score.

2 The meter shows where your student's score falls within the range of possible scores. The segments of the meter represent the four performance levels. The regions differ in size because the score ranges for performance levels are not equal. Your student's numeric score is displayed above the meter.

3 Additional meters show the median scores of students in the school, district, and state. A median score is the middle score when scores are ordered from lowest to highest; a median score is an accurate representation of an average score.

A small percentage of students may also have these notifications:

INCOMPLETE SCORE

The student did not complete all sections of the assessment.

TRANSFERRED STUDENT

The student was not enrolled in the reporting school at the end of the year.

4 This list describes the skills your student has likely mastered, based on his or her performance level score.

5 On English language arts reports, the colored circle indicates your student's score on the on-demand writing task. Students' writing samples are awarded from 1 to 4 points. The writing task score is included in the Overall English Language Arts score.

STUDENT REPORT: MATTHEWS, ZOE
 GRADE: 4 English Language Arts / STATE ID: 0000000000
 SCHOOL: School Name here
 DISTRICT: District name here / #D0000

2015 - 2016


The KAP assessments measure students' understanding of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards at each grade. The English language arts questions ask students to select the right answer, organize information, and respond to a writing prompt. The overall score combines a score from the reading, writing, and listening section and a score from the on-demand writing task section.

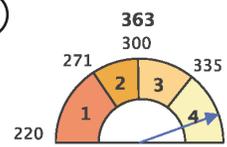
Overall English Language Arts Score: Level 4



Your student's performance level from last year is not available.

Reading, Writing, and Listening Score

2



363

1	2	3	4
220	271	300	335

School Median
317
Number of Students: 88

District Median
313
Number of Students: 242

State Median
303
Number of Students: 37,199

Students who score at this level can typically

- ▶ read and understand very complex grade-level texts
- ▶ summarize and analyze themes, point of view, and purpose
- ▶ use implied and clear details to support or refute an inference or conclusion
- ▶ interpret and analyze literary devices and word choice and their impact on meaning and tone
- ▶ revise and edit a text to use challenging vocabulary and correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- ▶ organize details or elaborate on ideas for a purpose
- ▶ show understanding of text structure
- ▶ use evidence to support or elaborate on ideas

On-Demand Writing Task Score



4

Your student's on-demand writing task score is a 4. On-demand writing tasks ask students to engage with texts and other resources and then compose a related writing sample.

Students who perform at this level can typically

- ▶ maintain a setting and characters in narrative writing or maintain a clear main idea in informational and opinion writing
- ▶ use significant descriptions and supporting evidence and details
- ▶ clarify relationships and use appropriate transitions
- ▶ follow complex grammar, punctuation, and spelling rules

Performance Level Descriptions *(applies to all scores)*

<p>Level 1: A student at Level 1 shows a limited ability to understand and use the reading, writing, and listening skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.</p>	<p>Level 2: A student at Level 2 shows a basic ability to understand and use the reading, writing, and listening skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.</p>	<p>Level 3: A student at Level 3 shows an effective ability to understand and use the reading, writing, and listening skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.</p>	<p>Level 4: A student at Level 4 shows an excellent ability to understand and use the reading, writing, and listening skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.</p>
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For more details about how your student performed on specific types of test questions, see the back of this report. →

6 This list describes the likely characteristics of your student's writing sample, based on her or his score.

7 This section shows the range of possible level scores and what they mean about your student's progress toward meeting state curriculum standards.

8 This page shows your student's relative strengths and weaknesses on the different areas of the test. Each category represents a group of test items that assess related skills. Both math and English language arts have main categories (with all-caps titles). Some of the main categories are broken down further into subcategories. In math, each category includes a different set of items. In English language arts, some items will be counted in multiple categories within the main groups of OVERALL READING and OVERALL WRITING. For example, an item that asks about the main idea of a story will be counted in OVERALL READING, READING: Literary Texts, and READING: Main Idea.

9 The symbols compare your student's performance in each category to the performance of students who received the minimum Level 3 score.

10 For further information about the standards, assessment program, and tests, please visit these websites.

STUDENT REPORT

STUDENT: MATTHEWS, ZOE
STATE ID: 000000000

GRADE: 4 English Language Arts

8

Your Student's Performance

9

+ Exceeds
 = Meets
 - Below
 ✖ Insufficient Data

OVERALL READING

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** The reading portion requires students to read and analyze literary and informational texts and answer questions related to main ideas, text structure, language use, word meanings, and making and supporting conclusions.

READING: Literary Texts

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** This portion requires students to answer questions based on literary texts (such as stories and poems).

READING: Informational Texts

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** This portion requires students to answer questions based on informational texts (such as science articles and historical speeches).

READING: Making and Supporting Conclusions

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to read literary and informational texts and then make conclusions and use details and evidence to support ideas.

READING: Main Idea

= **In this area, your student performed as well as students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to read literary and informational texts and then determine central ideas, key events, and topics and identify supporting details.

OVERALL WRITING

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** The writing portion requires students to read short writing samples and answer questions related to revising, editing, vocabulary, and language use. (This portion does not include the on-demand writing task.)

WRITING: Revising

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to revise provided text by applying writing skills, including using specific story-telling strategies, revising text into a logical order, adding context and detail, and identifying words or phrases to strengthen the text.

WRITING: Editing

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to clarify messages in a variety of texts by following grade-appropriate grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules.

WRITING: Vocabulary and Language Use

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to revise texts by using accurate language and vocabulary that is appropriate to a text's purpose and audience.

OVERALL LISTENING

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** The listening portion requires students to listen to a recording and show understanding by interpreting the speaker's point of view, identifying central ideas and supporting evidence, and making conclusions.

Standard error of measurement for this report:
 Student — 15.7 | School — 4.0 | District — 2.6 | State — 0.2
 The standard error indicates how much a student's score might vary if the student took many equivalent versions of the test (tests with different items but covering the same knowledge and skills).

Additional Resources
 For sample test questions, go to ksassessments.org/practice-tests
 For information on the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards, visit ksde.org
 To learn about the Kansas Assessment Program, go to ksassessments.org
 To discover more about this score report, see the 2016 Parent Guide at kap.cete.us/pg

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