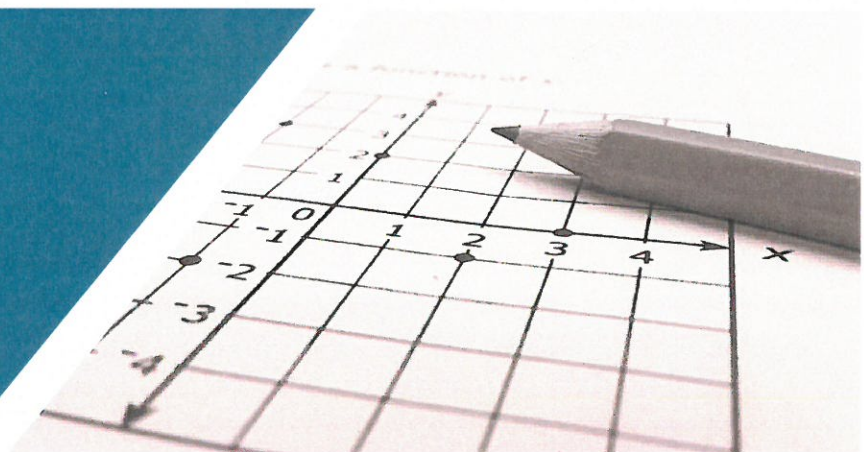
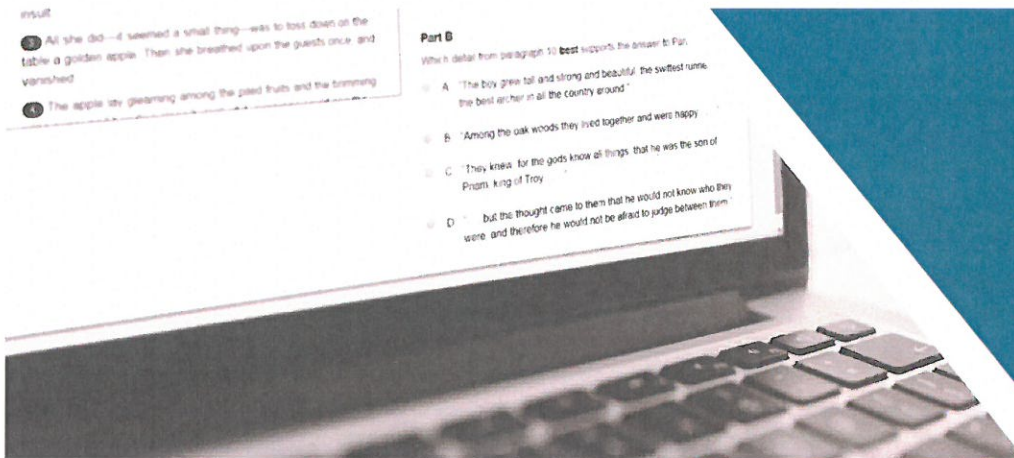
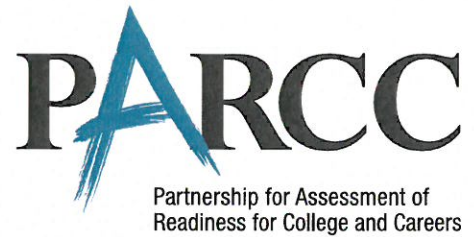


Fall 2014 AND  
Spring 2015



# Score Report Interpretation Guide *For Parents*





## 1.0 General Information for Parents and Educators

### 1.1 Background

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of states developing assessments to measure student achievement in English language arts/literacy (ELA/L) and mathematics based on the learning standards expressed by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for grades 3–8 and high school. Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, and Rhode Island participated in the 2014–2015 PARCC administrations.

### 1.2 PARCC Assessment

The primary purpose of PARCC is to provide high-quality assessments to measure students' progress toward college and career readiness.

The 2014–2015 (fall and spring) administrations of the PARCC assessment included two test windows for the administration of two separate components: the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) assessment. The fall administration was offered in a paper based format, and the spring administration was offered in both paper based and computer based formats. The first window was for administration of the PBA, and the second window was for administration of the EOY. A student must have participated in both windows to receive a summative PARCC score.

The PBA administration occurred after approximately 75 percent of instructional time was complete. The ELA/L PBA focused on writing effectively when analyzing text. The mathematics PBA focused on applying skills and concepts and solving multi-step problems that require abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools.

The EOY administration occurred after approximately 90 percent of instructional time was complete. For the EOY, students demonstrated their acquired skills and knowledge by responding to machine-scored item types.

### 1.3 Confidentiality of Reporting Results

Individual student performance results on PARCC assessments are confidential and may be released only in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g). Aggregated student performance data are made available to the public and do not contain the names of individual students or teachers.

### 1.4 Purpose of this Guide

This guide provides information on the individual student reports, school reports, and district reports provided for PARCC assessment results. Section 2.0, which outlines and explains elements of the individual student report, may be shared with parents. This section will help parents understand their child's test results. Section 3.0 outlines and explains elements of the school and district reports. Individual state policies and calculations for accountability reporting may differ from the policies and calculations used for assessment reports. **Note:** Educators in Washington, DC should refer to [LearnDC.org](http://LearnDC.org) to access the DC score reports.

Note that the sample reports included in this guide are for illustration purposes only. They are provided to show the basic layout of the reports and the information they provide. Sample reports do not include actual data from any administration.

## 2.0 Understanding the PARCC Individual Student Report (ISR)

### 2.1 Types of Scores on the PARCC ISR

Student performance on PARCC assessments is described on the individual student report using scale scores, Performance Levels, and subclaim performance indicators. PARCC, state, district, and school average results are included in relevant sections of the report to help parents understand how their child's performance compares to that of other students. In some instances, a dash (–) will appear in place of average results for a school and/or district. This indicates that there are too few students to maintain student privacy and still report the school or district's results.

#### 2.1.1 Scale Score

A scale score is a numerical value that summarizes student performance. Not all students respond to the same set of test items, so each student's raw score (actual points earned on test items) is adjusted for the slight differences in difficulty among the various forms and administrations of the test. The resulting scale score allows for an accurate comparison across test forms and administration years within a grade and subject area. PARCC reports provide overall scale scores for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, which determine a student's Performance Level. PARCC scale scores range from 650 to 850 for all tests. Additionally, PARCC English language arts/literacy reports provide separate scale scores for both Reading and Writing. PARCC Reading scale scores range from 10 to 90 and PARCC Writing scale scores range from 10 to 60.

For example, a student who earns an overall scale score of 800 on one form of the grade 8 mathematics assessment would be expected to earn an overall scale score of 800 on any other form of the grade 8 mathematics assessment. Furthermore, the student's overall scale score and level of mastery of concepts and skills would be comparable to a student who took the same assessment the previous year or following year.

#### 2.1.2 Performance Level

Each Performance Level is a broad, categorical level defined by a student's overall scale score and used to report overall student performance by describing how well students met the expectations for their grade level/course. Each Performance Level is defined by a range of overall scale scores for the assessment. There are five Performance Levels for PARCC assessments:

- Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations
- Level 2: Partially met expectations
- Level 3: Approached expectations
- Level 4: Met expectations
- Level 5: Exceeded expectations

Students performing at levels 4 and 5 met or exceeded expectations, have demonstrated readiness for the next grade level/course and, ultimately, are on track for college and careers.

Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and practices that students should know and be able to demonstrate at each Performance Level in each content area (ELA/L and mathematics), and at each grade level/course. PLDs are available at <http://avocet.pearson.com/PARCC/Home>.

#### 2.1.3 Subclaim Performance Indicators

Subclaim performance for PARCC assessments is reported using graphical representations that indicate how the student performed relative to the overall performance of students who met or nearly met expectations for the content area.

Students may have subclaim performance indicators of:

- Below Expectations – represented by a down arrow



- Nearly Meets Expectations – represented by a bidirectional arrow
- Meets or Exceeds Expectations – represented by an up arrow

## 2.2 Sample ISR (ELA/L)

**A** **FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME**

Date of Birth: 05/15/2000 ID: 5200154008 **Grade: 7**

SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME

SAMPLE SCHOOL NAME

STATE

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**B**

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS / LITERACY

#### Grade 7 Assessment Report, 2014–2015

This report provides information about how your child performed on the PARCC English language arts/literacy assessment. It shows whether your child met grade-level expectations and if your child is on track for the next grade level.

This test is just one measure of how well your child is performing academically. Other information, such as grades, teacher feedback and scores on other tests will help determine your child's academic strengths and needs.

To learn more about the test, and to view sample questions and practice tests, visit [understandthescore.org](http://understandthescore.org).

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**E**

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS / LITERACY PERFORMANCE

**Level 2**

Your child performed at Level 2 and earned a score of **722**

Students performing at levels 4 and 5 met or exceeded expectations. For a description of each performance level, see page 2.

Child's Score: 722

**F**

**G**

School average	District average	State average	PARCC average
781	767	774	774

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**H**

#### READING

Reading score range: 10 to 90	Average of students just meeting expectations: 50	School average: 71
Your child's score: <b>45</b>	District average: 59	State average: 64

**I**

#### LITERARY TEXT

**↔** In this area, your child did almost as well as students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by showing they can read and analyze grade appropriate fiction, drama and poetry.

**J**

#### INFORMATIONAL TEXT

**↓** In this area, your child did not do as well as students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by showing they can read and analyze grade-appropriate non-fiction, including texts about history, science, art, and music.

**K**

#### VOCABULARY

**↓** In this area, your child did not do as well as students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by showing they can use context to determine what words and phrases mean in grade-appropriate texts.

**L**

#### WRITING

Writing score range: 10 to 60	Average of students just meeting expectations: 35	School average: 34
Your child's score: <b>32</b>	District average: 36	State average: 37

**M**

#### WRITING EXPRESSION

**↔** In this area, your child did almost as well as students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by showing they can compose well-developed, organized, and clear writing, using details from what they have read.

**N**

#### KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

**↑** In this area, your child did as well as or better than students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by showing they can compose writing using the rules of standard English, including those for grammar, spelling, and usage.

**LEGEND**

**↓** Below Expectations

**↔** Nearly Meets Expectations

**↑** Meets or Exceeds Expectations

To see selected questions from the test, visit [understandthescore.org](http://understandthescore.org).

Page 1 of 2

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FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME

Date of Birth: 05/15/2000 ID: 5200154008 Grade: 7

SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME

SAMPLE SCHOOL NAME

STATE

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS / LITERACY

### Grade 7 Assessment Report, 2014–2015

#### HOW CAN I USE THIS REPORT TO HELP MY CHILD?

Use the report to start a discussion with your child's teacher(s) about his/her academic strengths and areas for improvement. You could ask:

- What can we do at home, in class and at school to help continue building my child's knowledge and skills in areas where he/she exceeds the expectations?
- What can we do at home, in class and at school to help support my child, where the expectations of the grade level were not met?

**What are the PARCC tests?** The tests measure how well students have learned grade-level material in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. Students who meet or exceed expectations are on track for the next grade level and, ultimately, for college and careers. The tests include questions that measure your child's fundamental skills and knowledge, and require students to think critically, solve problems and support or explain their answers. The test is one of several ways to help parents and teachers understand how well children are learning.

**What do the performance levels mean?** The performance levels listed below describe how well students met the academic expectations for their grade level.

- Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations
- Level 2: Partially met expectations
- Level 3: Approached expectations
- Level 4: Met expectations
- Level 5: Exceeded expectations

**How do the test scores this year compare to those in past years?** The knowledge and skills tested this year are different - and in some cases more rigorous - than in the past. If your child's score is different than you expected, meet with your child's teacher to understand what that means and how you can help your child improve his or her performance.

**How will my child's school use the test results?** Results from the test give your child's teacher information about his/her academic performance. The results also give your school and school district important information to make improvements to the education program and to teaching.

**How can I use the reading and writing scores?** The best way to make sense of these scores is to compare them to the average for students who met the expectations and the average for students in your child's school, district, and state. Also, look at the information below the scores. How is your child doing in each area of reading and writing? Ask your child's teacher how you can give your child more opportunities to be challenged and how you can support his/her academic needs.

**Probable range.** The probable range in the score on this test is plus or minus 7 points. This is the amount of change that would be expected in your child's score if he/she were to take the test many times. Small differences in scores should not be over interpreted.

For information and resources, including sample PARCC test questions and the PTA's Guide to Student Success, visit [understandthescore.org](http://understandthescore.org).



## 2.3 Sample ISR (Mathematics)



FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME

Date of Birth: 08/09/2000 ID: 5200154019 Grade: 11

SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME

SAMPLE SCHOOL NAME

STATE



### MATHEMATICS

#### Algebra I Assessment Report, 2014–2015

This report provides information about how your child performed on the PARCC mathematics assessment. It shows whether your child met grade-level expectations and if your child is on track for college and careers.

This test is just one measure of how well your child is performing academically. Other information, such as grades, teacher feedback and scores on other tests will help determine your child's academic strengths and needs.

To learn more about the test, and to view sample questions and practice tests, visit [understandthescore.org](http://understandthescore.org).

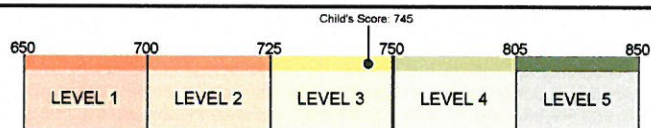
#### MATHEMATICS PERFORMANCE



##### Level 3

Your child performed at Level 3 and earned a score of 745

Students performing at levels 4 and 5 met or exceeded expectations.  
For a description of each performance level, see page 2.



School average	District average	State average	PARCC average
781	767	774	774



#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S MATHEMATICS SCORE

##### MAJOR CONTENT

↓ In this area, your child did not do as well as students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by solving problems involving arithmetic operations on polynomials, linear, quadratic, and exponential equations, an understanding of functions, and interpreting algebraic expressions, functions, and linear models.

##### EXPRESSING MATHEMATICAL REASONING

↓ In this area, your child did not do as well as students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by creating and justifying logical mathematical solutions and analyzing and correcting the reasoning of others.

11

##### ADDITIONAL & SUPPORTING CONTENT

↑ In this area, your child did as well as or better than students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by solving problems involving properties of rational and irrational numbers, writing algebraic expressions in equivalent forms, systems of equations, interpreting data, and linear, quadratic, and exponential models.

For a list of the major and additional content at each grade level, see [parconline.org/math](http://parconline.org/math).

##### MODELING & APPLICATION

↔ In this area, your child did almost as well as students who met the expectations.

Students meet expectations by solving real-world problems, representing and solving problems with symbols, reasoning quantitatively and strategically using appropriate tools.

##### LEGEND

↓ Below Expectations   ↔ Nearly Meets Expectations   ↑ Meets or Exceeds Expectations

To see selected questions from the test, visit [understandthescore.org](http://understandthescore.org).



FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME

Date of Birth: 08/09/2000 ID: 5200154019 Grade: 11

SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME

SAMPLE SCHOOL NAME

STATE

## MATHEMATICS

### Algebra I Assessment Report, 2014–2015

#### HOW CAN I USE THIS REPORT TO HELP MY CHILD?

Use the report to start a discussion with your child's teacher(s) about his/her academic strengths and areas for improvement. You could ask:

- What can we do at home, in class and at school to help continue building my child's knowledge and skills in areas where he/she exceeds the expectations?
- What can we do at home, in class and at school to help support my child, where the expectations of the grade level were not met?

**What are the PARCC tests?** The tests measure how well students have learned grade-level material in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. Students who meet or exceed expectations are on track for the next grade level and, ultimately, for college and careers. The tests include questions that measure your child's fundamental skills and knowledge, and require students to think critically, solve problems and support or explain their answers. The test is one of several ways to help parents and teachers understand how well children are learning.

**What do the performance levels mean?** The performance levels listed below describe how well students met the academic expectations for their grade level.

- Level 1: Did not yet meet expectations
- Level 2: Partially met expectations
- Level 3: Approached expectations
- Level 4: Met expectations
- Level 5: Exceeded expectations

**How do the test scores this year compare to those in past years?** The knowledge and skills tested this year are different - and in some cases more rigorous - than in the past. If your child's score is different than you expected, meet with your child's teacher to understand what that means and how you can help your child improve his or her performance.

**How will my child's school use the test results?** Results from the test give your child's teacher information about his/her academic performance. The results also give your school and school district important information to make improvements to the education program and to teaching.

**How can I use the mathematics scores?** The best way to make sense of these scores is to compare them to the average for students who met the expectations and the average for students in your child's school, district, and state. Also, look at the information below the scores. How is your child doing in each area of mathematics? Ask your child's teacher how you can give your child more opportunities to be challenged and how you can support his/her academic needs.

**Probable range.** The probable range in the score on this test is plus or minus 9 points. This is the amount of change that would be expected in your child's score if he/she were to take the test many times. Small differences in scores should not be over interpreted.

For information and resources, including sample PARCC test questions and the PTA's Guide to Student Success, visit [understandthescore.org](http://understandthescore.org).



## 2.4 Description of Individual Student Reports

### 2.4.1 General Information

#### A. Identification Information

An Individual Student Report lists the student's name, date of birth, state student ID, grade level when assessed, district name, school name, and state. The grade level when assessed is also shown in a colored box on the left side of the report.

#### B. Description of Report

The description of the report provides the content area (English language arts/literacy or mathematics) assessed, grade level/course assessed, and assessment year. It also provides a general overview of the assessment and score report.

#### C. How to Use the Report

This section provides direction for how parents can use the report to start a discussion with their child's teacher(s). It is important for parents and educators to have regular check-ins to ensure students are learning the necessary skills to stay on track. Parents can use the information in the report to understand their child's strengths and needs and to work with educators to identify resources to support his or her education.

#### D. Explanation of Individual Student Report

The second page of the report provides information regarding the assessment and report, including:

- Description of PARCC tests
- Performance Level names
- How test scores this year compare to test scores in past years
- How results are used by the school
- How parents can use the scores
- The probable range of scores
  - The probable range is based on the standard error of measurement, which reflects the variability that would be expected in a student's score if he/she were to take multiple administrations of the assessment. The probable range of scores differs across forms and across level of performance within forms.

### 2.4.2 Overall Assessment Scores

#### E. Overall Scale Score and Performance Level

This section of the report provides the student's overall scale score and Performance Level (refer to Section 2.1). Students receive a numerical overall scale score and, based on that score, are ranked in one of five Performance Levels, with Level 5 indicating the student exceeded expectations and Level 1 indicating the student did not yet meet expectations.

#### F. Graphical Representation of Overall Performance: Overall Scale Score and Performance Level

This graphic provides an illustration of the five Performance Levels and where the student's overall scale score is positioned along the performance scale. The student's score is indicated by the black dot positioned along the range of overall scale scores that define each Performance Level. The ranges of overall scale scores are indicated at the top of the graphic. The scale score needed to reach Performance Level 2 is 700, for Performance Level 3 it is 725, and for Performance Level 4 it is 750 for all grade levels/courses in both ELA/L and mathematics. The scale score needed to reach Performance Level 5 varies. Refer to **Appendix A** for the full list of scale score ranges for each Performance Level.

## **G. Average of School, District, State, and PARCC**

The average overall scale scores of the school, district, state, and PARCC consortium are shown below the overall scale score and Performance Level graphic. This allows for comparing a student's overall scale score to the average overall scale score of students at the school, district, state, and PARCC consortium levels for the same grade level/course and content area.

### **2.4.3 Performance by Reporting Category**

**Note:** For mathematics, reporting categories are not included. For this reason, there are no markers for H and I on the sample Mathematics ISR.

## **H. Reporting Category**

For English language arts/literacy, there are two reporting categories, Reading and Writing. The bold heading indicates the claim (Reading or Writing) being reported.

### **I. Performance by Reporting Category Scale Score**

For English language arts/literacy, student performance for each reporting category is provided as a scale score (refer to Section 2.1.1) on a different scale from the overall scale score. For this reason, the sum of the scale scores for each reporting category will not equal the overall scale score. For reference, this section includes the range of possible scale scores for each reporting category (i.e., 10–90 for Reading and 10–60 for Writing).

Important to the PARCC assessments is the ability to compare student performance to a variety of reference points. Listed to the right of the individual student's scale score are the average scale scores of all students in the same grade at the school, district, and state levels. The "Average of students just meeting expectations" is the scale score in Reading/Writing that students who just achieve Level 4 on the entire test are expected to obtain.

### **2.4.4 Performance by Subclaim Category**

## **J. Subclaim Category**

Within each reporting category for English language arts/literacy are specific skill sets (subclaims) students demonstrate on the PARCC assessments. Subclaims are provided for mathematics but are not listed under reporting categories as they are for English language arts/literacy. Each subclaim category includes the header identifying the subclaim, an explanatory icon representing the student's performance, and an explanation of whether students have met the expectations of the subclaim.

## **K. Subclaim Performance Indicators**

A student's subclaim indicator represents how well the student performed in a subclaim category relative to how well the reference group performed in that same subclaim category.

Subclaim categories are not reported using scale scores or Performance Levels.

To determine a student's subclaim performance, the performance of all students in the PARCC consortium taking the same test form whose overall scale score identified them as having just achieved Performance Level 3 (i.e., overall scale score = 725) or having just achieved Performance Level 4 (i.e., overall scale score = 750) were considered, as described below. Once these reference groups were identified, their average performance in each subclaim was noted.

- Below Expectations – represented by a down arrow
- Nearly Meets Expectations – represented by a bidirectional arrow
- Meets or Exceeds Expectations – represented by an up arrow



## L. Description of Subclaim Performance Indicator Graphics

Student performance for each subclaim is marked with a subclaim performance indicator.

- An up arrow for the specified subclaim for “Meets or Exceeds Expectations” indicates that the student’s performance for the subclaim was equal to or better than the average performance of students who just achieve Performance Level 4 (i.e., students whose overall scale score is 750).
- A bidirectional arrow for the specified subclaim for “Nearly Meets Expectations” indicates that the student's performance was below the average performance of students who just achieve Performance Level 4 (i.e., students whose overall scale score is 750) but better than or equal to the average performance of students who just achieve Performance Level 3 (i.e., students whose overall scale score is 725).
- A down arrow for the specified subclaim for “Below Expectations” indicates that the student’s performance for the subclaim was below the average performance for students who just achieve Performance Level 3 (i.e., students whose overall scale score is 725)..

