

Parent Guide to the PARCC Assessment Score Report

PARCC

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Hannah Berlin, Grade 7

Newark Public Schools
Branch Brook School
New Jersey

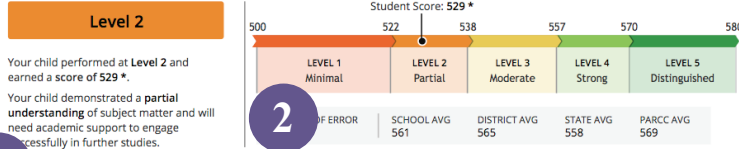
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS / LITERACY

PARCC Assessment, 2014 - 2015

This is a report of your child's performance on the PARCC Grade 7 English language arts / literacy (ELA/L) assessment. The report provides you with information about your child's overall ELA/L assessment performance, as well as his/her performance in the areas of reading and writing that make up the ELA/L assessment.

1

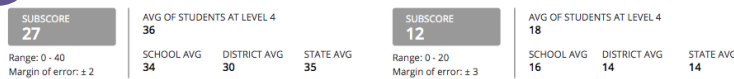
OVERALL PERFORMANCE



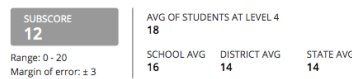
2

3

READING PERFORMANCE



WRITING PERFORMANCE



The information below shows how your child performed in each area within reading and writing compared to students who performed at Level 4 overall. Students who perform at Level 4 demonstrate a strong grasp of grade level subject matter and are well-prepared for the next grade level.

4

LITERARY TEXT

Your child performed at or above students performing at Level 4

At Level 4, students demonstrate strong comprehension of grade-level literary texts such as poetry, fiction, and drama.

WRITING EXPRESSION

Your child performed below students performing at Level 4

At Level 4, students demonstrate strong writing skills where the ideas are well-developed, organized, and clear.

INFORMATIONAL TEXT

Your child performed below students performing at Level 4

At Level 4, students demonstrate strong comprehension of grade-level informational texts about history, science, art, music, as well as literary non-fiction.

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

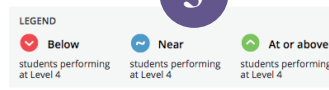
Your child performed near students performing at Level 4

At Level 4, students demonstrate a strong grasp of standard English grammar, spelling, and usage in their writing.

VOCABULARY

Your child performed near students performing at Level 4

At Level 4, students demonstrate ability to use context to determine the meanings of words and phrases.



Page 1 of 2

As a parent, you want test results to provide clear and meaningful information about how your student is learning and whether your student is mastering the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in school and in life. The PARCC assessment and score reports were built by educators to do just that.

The reports provide information about your child's readiness. They highlight clear and detailed information about your student's performance on the PARCC English language arts and mathematics assessments. Because these new tests measure grade-level subject knowledge and skills, such as problem solving, critical thinking, and communications, you will know that the performance reflected on the score report is a strong indicator of your student's academic progress and readiness for the next step.

They provide actionable information. The reports are designed to give you relevant information to help you work with teachers and school officials to decide how best to support your student's needs and strengths.

They provide a frame of reference. The score reports provide more information than just a number and overall score; they also break down students' performance in sub-categories of each test. And the report shows how students' progress compares to that of other students in the same grade – at their school, within their district, and across state and national levels.

1

Student Performance Overview – Students receive a numerical score and, based on that score, are ranked in five performance levels, with Level 1 indicating the greatest need for improvement and Level 5 indicating the strongest performance. This section of the report provides your student's overall score and performance level for the English language arts or mathematics tests.

2

Score Comparisons – Unlike many previous state test score reports, PARCC score reports show how your student is performing compared to students in the same grade at the same school, across the school district, across the state, and across the states administering the PARCC assessment.

3

Reading and Writing Performance – The report for the English language arts test will show your student's overall performance in two main sub-categories: reading and writing. This section includes the average scores of students who performed at Level 4, as well as average scores for the school, district, and state.

4

Detailed Breakdowns – The score report also provides information about your student's performance on specific skills within reading and writing, so you can clearly see where your student is excelling or needs improvement. Each area includes a description of the skills that demonstrate a clear understanding of grade-level standards.

5

Explanatory Icons – You can quickly see how your student's performance in each area of the test compares with that of students at Level 4, as these students demonstrate a strong grasp of grade-level standards and are well prepared for the next grade.

The First PARCC Parent Score Report

During the first year of PARCC's administration (2014-2015 school year), you will receive the PARCC score report for your child in the fall. In subsequent years, the goal is to deliver score reports before the end of the current school year. Additional time will be required to prepare the reports in year one because all students' scores must be tabulated to determine score ranges for the five performance levels that help explain how students are performing relative to the standards for their grade level.

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

1. What are the PARCC assessments? The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessments are designed to measure and report the extent to which students in grades 3 - 11 have learned the grade-level material in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that will prepare them for the next grade level and eventually for college and careers.

2. How can I use this report to help my child? Use the report as a springboard for discussion with your child's teacher(s) about his/her academic strengths and areas for improvement.

3. What do the scores on the report mean?

- **Performance Levels.** Your child's overall score falls into one of five performance levels. The levels are an indication to the extent to which your child demonstrated grade-level material. Students achieving levels 4 and 5 have demonstrated a strong grasp of grade-level material and are well-prepared for the next grade level. See examples of the kinds of test questions that students at each performance level can typically answer at <http://www.parcconline.org/examples>.

- **English Language Arts/Literacy Score.** As each performance level contains a range of scores, this shows where within the performance level your child scored.

- **Reading and Writing Subscores.** These scores indicate how your child performed on the reading and writing questions that make up the English language arts/literacy test. The best way to interpret these scores is to compare your child's scale scores to the average scale scores of students in his/her school, district, and state, which are included in this report.

Although Reading and Writing make up the ELA/L assessment, the reading and writing scores DO NOT add up to the overall ELA/L score.

- **Additional information about your child's reading and writing scores.** This section provides information about your child's strengths and areas for improvement. In each area, you can see how your child did compared to students who performed at Level 4 overall in English language arts/literacy.

- **Margin of error.** The amount of change that would be expected in your child's score if he/she were to take the test many times.

Learn more about this report and what it means at www.parcconline.org.

PERFORMANCE LEVEL DEFINITIONS

Below is a brief description of how well students demonstrate understanding of subject matter at each performance level, along with an indication of their academic preparedness for further studies in English language arts/literacy:

- **Level 5:** Student demonstrated a **distinguished understanding** of subject matter and is academically well prepared to engage successfully in further studies.

- **Level 4:** Student demonstrated a **strong understanding** of subject matter and is academically prepared to engage successfully in further studies.

- **Level 3:** Student demonstrated a **moderate understanding** of subject matter and will likely need academic support to engage successfully in further studies.

- **Level 2:** Student demonstrated a **partial understanding** of subject matter and will need academic support to engage successfully in further studies.

- **Level 1:** Student demonstrated a **minimal understanding** of subject matter and will need extensive academic support to engage successfully in further studies.

Page 2 of 2

What now? How the PARCC score reports can be used to enhance your child's education:

- Schools and districts can use the report information to better plan instruction, support, and enrichment for students in the coming year and to strengthen their instructional programs for all students.
- Teachers can use the information to personalize instruction to meet individual student needs.
- Parents can use information to understand their child's needs and strengths and work with their child's school to identify resources to support his or her education.
- It is important to have regular check-ins with teachers to help ensure your child is learning the skills necessary to remain on track.
- If your child is behind in a certain area, work with your child's school and teacher to identify resources for extra help during the summer – for example, summer school, scholastic camps or tutors.
- If your child is excelling in a certain area, work with your child's school and teacher to identify ways to enhance your child's learning and discuss the possibility of advanced coursework for the next school year.

Additional Resources for Parents:

The following resources provide information to help you support your child throughout the school year.

Be A Learning Hero: Tips and resources for math and English <http://bit.ly/1ymC1PL>

PTA "Parents' Guide to Student Success": An easy-to-use overview of the learning goals and suggested activities for your child in every grade. <http://bit.ly/1nO1Vkt>