

Interpretive Guide of Student Test Reports

Ohio educators, with input from parents and other members of the community, have defined standards which describe what students are expected to know and do at each grade level. These standards, the Ohio Academic Content Standards, have been developed in reading, mathematics, writing, social studies, and science. Statewide achievement tests in each of these areas are currently administered or are currently being developed. These achievement tests measure student progress toward grade level academic content standards. By meeting grade-level expectations, students will likely be on track for continued success at the next grade level.

When all the tests have been developed, the Ohio Achievement Tests will include assessments in reading and mathematics at each grade in grades 3 through 8, writing at grade 4 and grade 7, and social studies and science at grade 5 and grade 8.

In March 2005, the following Ohio Achievement Tests were administered to students:

Grade 3: Reading and Mathematics

Grade 4: Reading and Writing

Grade 5: Reading

Grade 7: Mathematics

Grade 8: Reading and Mathematics

Information on your child's performance on these tests is on the Student Test Report that is distributed to parents. The following information explains the test scores on the Student Test Report.

What your child's scores mean

- *Achievement Test Scores* — On the front of the Student Test Report are test scores that measure your child's overall performance. A single scaled score number in the circle on the front of the report represents your child's overall score on the subject listed above it. (If the student has taken more than one test, separate boxes will report each achievement test.)

In the test score box in the middle of the page, each test score is classified as belonging to one of five *performance levels*: Limited, Basic, Proficient, Accelerated, and Advanced. Each of these five performance levels is listed with its score range. To the right of this list is your child's numerical score in an oval. Below the oval is your student's performance level. For example, if the score in

the oval is 400, the term “Proficient” will appear below the oval. The score in the oval is a scaled score.

Scaled scores allow educators to make meaningful comparisons between student performance across years, even though different test questions are used to test students each year. For example, a scaled score of 413 on the Ohio Grade 3 Reading Achievement Test given in 2004 refers to the same level of performance as a score of 413 on the same test given to Ohio students in 2005. (Keep in mind, however, that scaled scores *cannot* be used to compare test performance on different subjects or among different grade-level tests within a single subject.)

- **Content Area Scores** — Your child’s scores on each of the content areas measured by the test appear on the back of the Student Test Report. Content area scores represent the total number of points your child earned for correct answers. The reading achievement tests measure four content areas, the mathematics achievement tests measure five content areas and the writing test measures two content areas.

The table on the back of the form lists all the content area standards that the test is measuring. The first column gives for each standard the total number of points that represents a *perfect* score. The second column contains in parentheses a set of numerical ranges that indicates approximately how many points in each section of the test a minimally proficient student would likely have to earn.

Your child’s scores for each content section are in the third column. By contrasting the numbers in the first two columns, you can easily get a sense how he or she performed. To illustrate how your child’s performance compares with that of a student just above the cutoff point between the Basic and Proficient levels, Xs are placed in one of the last three columns to indicate whether each one of your child’s scores is below, at or above the beginning of the Proficiency range.

More resources for families

The back of these Student Test Reports presents some parental resources for more information about Ohio’s academic content standards, the design of the tests and the achievement test scoring process. An additional resource is your child’s teacher, who can discuss the test scores and suggest classroom resources to ensure your child’s academic success.