



Monica Goldson, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

You have received your child's individual student report for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). Attached is information and resources about the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) State assessments. These annual exams offer an informative snapshot of a student's achievement and progress. The goal is to ensure every student graduate ready for college, a career, and a successful life. Students in grades 3-8 and high school took the PARCC tests for the first time last spring.

The attached flyer, *Understanding the NEW PARCC Home Score Report for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Tests*, provides answers to some basic questions, including:

- ✓ What information you will find on the PARCC Individual Student Report
- ✓ Where you'll find more information about the PARCC score report
- ✓ How the results will be used

As you review your child's report, please keep in mind:

Your child's PARCC scores cannot be compared with any other tests

It's not only a *new* test, but also a *different* test. It is not possible to score "lower" or "higher" on PARCC relative to any other test your child has taken in the past. This is a fresh start. Our students are setting a new baseline for growth. These new state assessments will allow you to see your child's academic growth from one grade to the next, and progress toward college-and career-readiness for the first time.

PARCC results are not just a set of "numbers," but a roadmap to opportunity

Your child's results provide a useful snapshot to:

- ✓ Identify specific skills where there's a room for growth,
- ✓ Spot strengths your child can build on, and
- ✓ Help a teacher tailor instruction to your child's needs.

Please remember that each state assessment provides just one measure of your child's performance. It is not the *only* indicator of student progress. I strongly encourage you to start a conversation about your child's academic progress by speaking with a teacher, attending a PTA meeting, and browsing the resources created for parents about the curricular standards and PARCC assessments.

Please contact the Testing Office at 301-702-3860, if you require additional information.

Attachment

Sincerely,

Monica Goldson, Ed.D.

Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

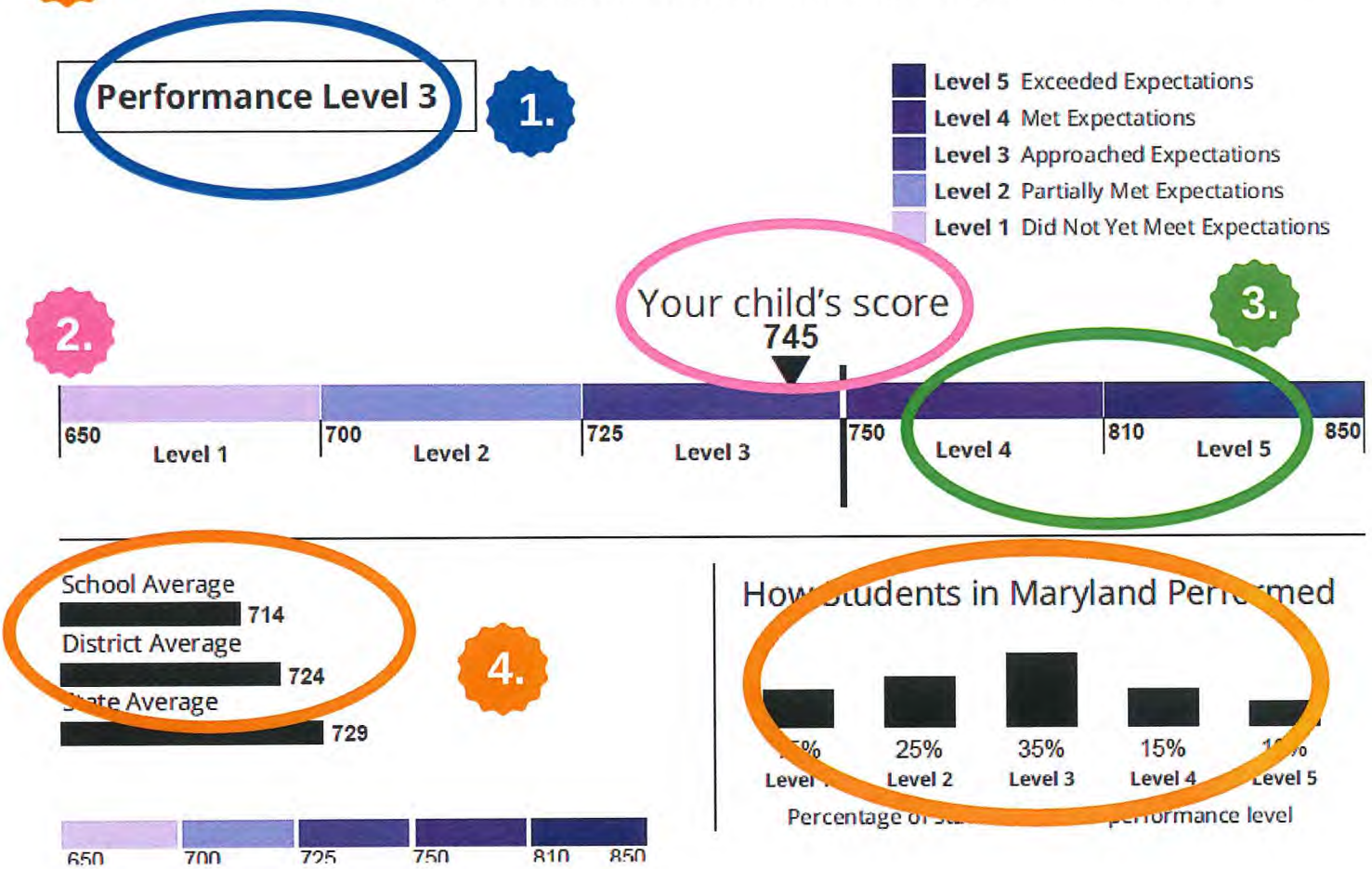
Understanding the New PARCC Home Score Report for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Tests



The 2015-16 school year was the second year of the PARCC assessments for English Language Arts/Literacy and mathematics which align to the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards. The tests measure complex skills such as critical thinking and problem solving, with an emphasis on supporting an argument and synthesis in writing. The PARCC assessments require students to read, write, and reflect; analyze and show results; and utilize information from multiple sources in a real-world context. PARCC scores should be used along with a student's classroom performance, report card grades, and teacher feedback to form a clear picture of a student's progress toward meeting academic standards.

How to Read Your Student's Score Report

1. Overall Performance- Students receive an overall score in each subject that falls into one of five performance levels. Performance levels range from Level 1 which indicates that a student has not yet met grade level expectations to Level 5 which indicates that the student has exceeded the grade level expectations.
2. Score Range- This scale includes the score ranges for each performance level and shows where your student's score falls within that range.
3. On Track for College and Career- Students scoring a 4 or 5 meet or exceed grade-level expectations and are on track to be ready for college-level coursework when they graduate from high school.
4. Overall Score Comparisons – This section shows how your student is performing compared to students in the same grade at the same school, across the school district, and around the state. It also details the percentage of students who achieved at the different performance levels.



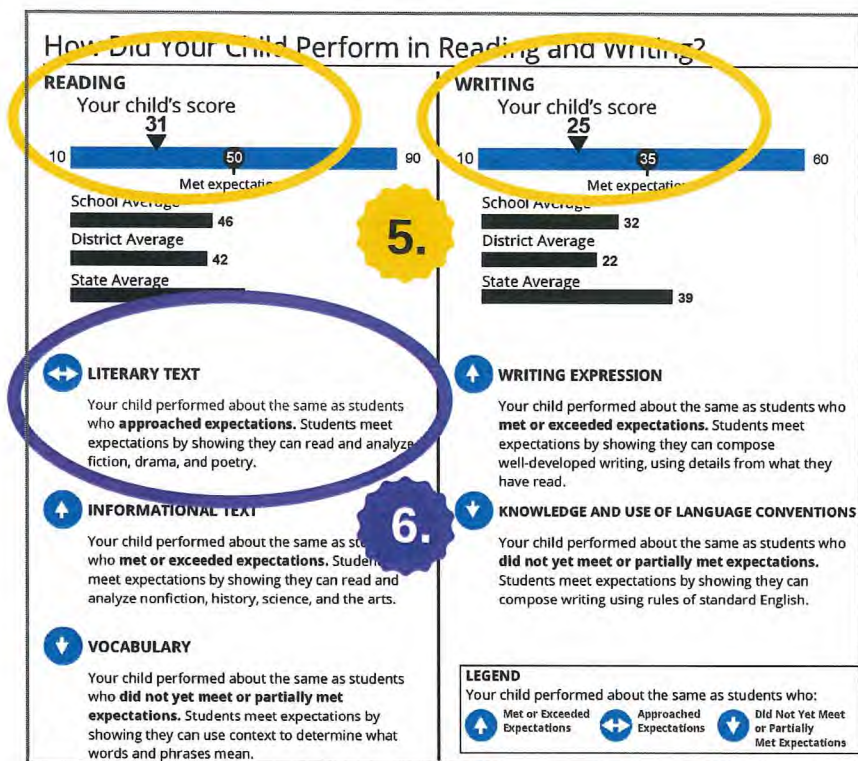
How to Read Your Student's Score Report Continued....

5.

Reading/writing performance- The English Language Arts report compares your student's score in reading and writing. It shows your student's numerical score for a sub-set of questions in those categories. The score range is provided above your student's individual score for reference. This section also includes the average scores for the school, district, and state.

6.

Score Breakdown- The score report provides a breakdown of your student's performance on specific skills sets, so you can see where your student is excelling or needs improvement. Each area includes an arrow comparing your student's performance to students who met expectations. It also includes a description of the skills that demonstrate a clear understanding of grade-level standards.



Perform in Areas of Mathematics?

EXPRESSING MATHEMATICAL REASONING

Your child performed about the same as students who **did not yet meet or partially met expectations**. Students meet expectations by creating and justifying logical mathematical solutions and analyzing and correcting the reasoning of others.

MODELING & APPLICATION

Your child performed about the same as students who **did not yet meet or partially met expectations**. Students meet expectations by solving real-world problems, representing and solving problems with symbols, reasoning quantitatively, and strategically using appropriate tools.

(excerpt of mathematics report)



marylandpublicschools.org
marylandassessments.org

Facts about Assessment and Testing in Maryland

- Federal law requires that all students in grades 3-8 and high school take an annual statewide assessment.
- Maryland educators are highly involved in the development and improvement of the tests, from analyzing the items to reviewing them for appropriateness. Maryland is also a member of PARCC's governing board, helping guide the direction of the tests.
- Parents of students with disabilities should be contacted by their child's IEP or 504 team to discuss allowable accessibility features and accommodations.
- Scores demonstrate a student's understanding of grade-level subject standards at the end of the school year.
- The score reports are a tool teachers use to plan instruction and enrichment for students in the coming year that prepare students for their next steps.
- Families can use the scores to start a conversation with the child's teachers and school officials about the child's academic strengths and areas for improvement.
- Together everyone can decide how best to support the student's learning needs both in school and at home.

Helpful Websites

- Understand the Score- understandthescore.org
- Be a learning hero- bealearninghero.org/learning-tools/skill-builder
- Great Kids- greatschools.org/gk/common-core-test-guide
- PARCC practice tests- parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests
- Achieve resources on standards- achieve.org/files/ResourcesforParentsandFamiliesonCCSSv2.pdf