

# Delaware ELA/Literacy and Math Assessment Interpretive Guide



## Understanding Your Child’s Test Scores Spring 2021

### What is the ELA/Literacy and Math Assessment?

The ELA/Literacy and Math Assessments measure students’ mastery of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics for grades 3–8.

The assessments include:

- Writing at every grade.
- New question types that require students to think more deeply and solve more complex problems.
- Performance tasks such as reading several different documents and writing short essays based on them.
- Computer-adaptive technology that makes the assessments more accurate.

The ELA/Literacy and Math Assessment represents only one of several measures to gauge academic progress.

### Table of Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| What Is the ELA/Literacy and Math Assessment?..... | 1   |
| What’s in my child’s score report?.....            | 2–3 |
| Glossary of terms/definitions.....                 | 4   |
| Frequently asked questions.....                    | 4   |
| Additional resources.....                          | 4   |

*Disclaimer: The data in the Family Report sample are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. The student’s name on the sample is fictitious, and any similarity to an actual student name is purely coincidental.*

**Cover Letter** The front page of your child's score report includes an important letter from the Delaware Secretary of Education, Susan Bunting, summarizing the contents of the report and encouraging you to be an active participant in your child's education.

## English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Assessment

Enclosed is a valuable academic checkup for ELA and Math based on the state's yearly tests, which are given in the spring. These tests are one measure for determining your child's progress in school; others include grades, classroom assignments, district-wide tests and more.

Delaware's goal is for all students to demonstrate progress in each grade so they graduate from high school ready to succeed in college, career, and life. The term "assessment" in education refers to any check of student performance – from in-class quizzes to end-of-year tests. Regular assessments let students, teachers and families know if a student is doing well in a subject or needs extra support. Teachers then use this information to tailor each student's instruction.

Delaware has rigorous academic standards - or learning goals - for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. Teachers use these standards to help guide their teaching. To measure how well students in grades 3-8 are mastering the English language arts and mathematics standards, the state assessments go beyond multiple-choice and short answer responses, and focus on writing, problem-solving and critical thinking to more accurately measure student progress.

Please read this report carefully and talk to your child's teachers about how you can support your child's continued learning. Visit <https://education.delaware.gov/digital-de/> for more information.

Sincerely,

**Susan Bunting**  
Secretary of Education

**Your Child's Score** Inside the report, you will see your child's score in ELA/literacy and mathematics.

How did Jane do on the **Mathematics** assessment?

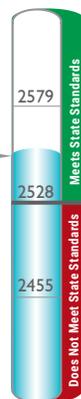
**Level 3**  
**2553**

**How does this compare?**

Jane's Mathematics score is 2553.  
Jane **meets** the mathematics standard for **fifth** graders.

**Note:** For more information about the student score report, school and district average scores, please visit <https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Student-Assessment-Performance/ms6b-mt82>.

Jane's  
Score:  
2553



**Level 4:** The student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrates advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills\* of grade level state standards in Mathematics.

**Level 3:** The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrates mastery of the knowledge and skills\* of grade level state standards in mathematics.

**Level 2:** The student has nearly met the achievement standard and requires further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills\* of grade level state standards in mathematics.

**Level 1:** The student has not met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills\* of grade level state standards in mathematics.

\*Please see chart on cover page for Knowledge and Skills Assessed.

**Achievement Levels** If your child's score is a 3 or 4, then your child met Delaware's proficiency standards in that subject. If your child's score is a 1 or 2, then your child did not meet Delaware's proficiency standards in that subject.

If your child has a score for ELA/literacy or mathematics in the box above but does not have information reported below for the different areas of the assessment, this means that your child started but did not finish the test.

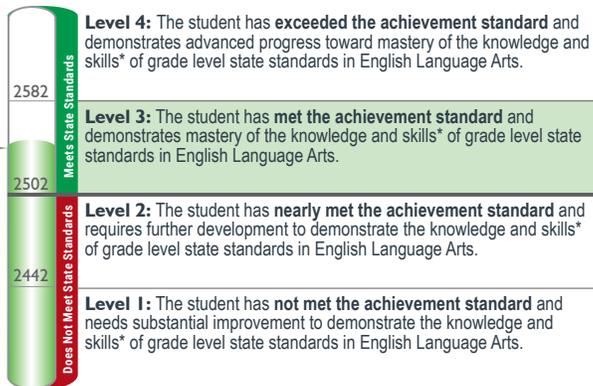
ELA/Literacy and Mathematics Assessment

How did Jane do on the English language arts/literacy assessment?

**Level 3**  
**2542**

**How does this compare?**  
Jane's ELA/literacy score is 2542.  
Jane **meets** the ELA/literacy standard for fifth graders.

Jane's Score: 2542



**Note:** For more information about the student score report, school and district average scores, please visit <https://data.delaware.gov/Education/Student-Assessment-Performance/ms6b-mt82>.

\*Please see chart on cover page for Knowledge and Skills Assessed.

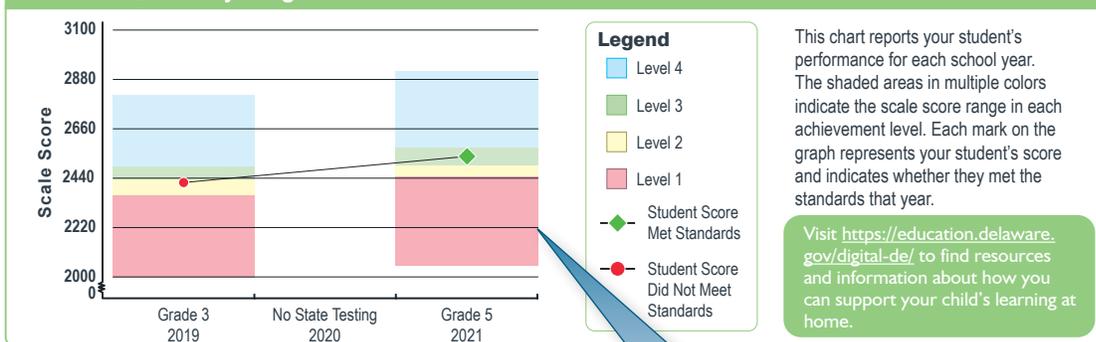
**Writing Performance**

This represents your student's performance on the ELA/Literacy Writing Dimensions. Note that the written response is only one part of the student's overall ELA/Literacy performance.

Jane's Writing Performance

| Essay       | Organization/Purpose   | Evidence/Elaboration   | Conventions   |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| Informative | The informational response has an effective structure including a clear topic or controlling idea, logical development, and various transitions to clarify ideas. The response has an effective introduction and conclusion and creates a sense of completeness. (4 out of 4 points) | The informational response provides adequate elaboration to support the topic or controlling idea including adequate facts and details cited from sources, some elaborative techniques, and general language appropriate for the audience and purpose. (3 out of 4 points) | The informational response shows an adequate understanding of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling. (2 out of 2 points) |

Jane's ELA/Literacy Progress



2

**Trend Chart** The report shows your child's performance on the test this year compared to performance on the same subject in previous years. The years shown in the chart may vary for a variety of reasons including name changes, invalid tests, and students not taking a test in a given year. The shaded areas shown in the chart correspond to the four Achievement Levels of the test. A green diamond (◆) indicates a year in which your child met the achievement standard. A red circle (●) indicates a year in which your child did not meet the standard.

## Glossary of Terms/Definitions

**Achievement Level:** A proficiency level that corresponds to a score range determined by groups of Delaware educators and parents. Cut scores for achievement levels differ by grade and subject

**Score:** A numerical value that is on a common scale so that children's scores can be compared over time and across grade levels

**Standards:** Expectations for what Delaware children should know and be able to do

**Subject:** Grade-level content (ELA/literacy or mathematics) that is assessed

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Are my child's scores good enough?

While it is the goal of the school to have your child achieve at the highest level possible, at a minimum, children are expected to perform at the Meets Standard level in each subject at each grade level.

### How are students prepared for online testing?

A practice test is available for families to try out the online testing system at <https://de.portal.cambiumast.com/>. To use the practice test, you will need to install a free Mozilla Firefox browser on your home computer. The latest version of Adobe Flash must also be installed on the computer. A link to download the browser can be found on the website with the practice test.

### How are accommodations provided for students with disabilities and English language learners?

Most accommodations that are provided to students with disabilities and English language learners in classes are also available for the Delaware System of Student Assessments (DeSSA). Therefore, decisions for your child concerning accommodations that were chosen by ELL, 504, and IEP teams during the school year will continue to be used for the administration of the DeSSA. For more information, please contact your child's school.

## Additional Resources

Visit <https://de.portal.cambiumast.com/>  
for more information on DE reports.