

Delaware ELA and Mathematics Assessments Family Report Interpretive Guide



Delaware
Department of Education

Understanding Your Child's 2022-2023 Score Report

What Is the Purpose of the Delaware Smarter Balanced Assessments?

What is the DeSSA ELA and Mathematics Assessment?

The DeSSA ELA and Mathematics Assessments measure students' mastery of the state content standards in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics for grades 3–8.

The assessments include:

- Writing at every grade.
- Questions that require students to think deeply and solve 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 and Mathematics Assessment represents only one of several measures to gauge academic progress.

What do the results of the DeSSA ELA and Mathematics assessments mean, and how are they used?

The DeSSA ELA and Mathematics results summarize a student's abilities as they relate to the end of grade-level expectations for ELA and Mathematics. The assessments are one of the many tools used by teachers to help identify each child's strengths and weaknesses, so they can focus their instruction to meet the specific needs of their students.

For help in understanding your child's scores and this report, contact your child's teacher or school principal.

Table of Contents

What Is the Purpose of the Delaware System of Student Assessment?1

What Is in My Child's Family Report?.....2–4

Glossary of Terms/Definitions.....5

Frequently Asked Questions.....5

Additional Resources.....5

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

Cover Letter

The first page of your child's family report includes an important letter 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. 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,

Mark Holodick
Secretary of Education

Assessment Overview

This defines what knowledge and skills your child that were assessed in the ELA/Literacy and Mathematics tests.

English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessment Overview

The overall ELA/literacy and Math scale score are reported as well as the associated performance level ranging from four Levels. The tests assess mastery of grade level ELA/Literacy and Math in four areas of knowledge and skills aligned to the Delaware Core Standards.

Knowledge and Skills Assessed*

English Language Arts/Literacy

Reading

Students can read closely and analytically to comprehend a range of increasingly complex literary and informational texts.

Listening

Students can employ effective speaking and listening skills for a range of purposes and audiences.

Writing

Students can strengthen writing by revising, editing, and rewriting a range of text.

Research/Inquiry

Students can also analyze and integrate evidence-based information to support analysis and research.

Mathematics

Concepts and Procedures

Students can explain and apply mathematical concepts and interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with precision and fluency.

Problem Solving and Modeling & Data Analysis

Students can solve a range of complex, well-posed problems in pure and applied mathematics, making productive use of knowledge and problem-solving strategies. Students can analyze complex, real-world scenarios and can construct and use mathematical models to interpret and solve problems.

Communicating Reasoning

Students can clearly and precisely construct viable arguments to support their own reasoning and to critique the reasoning of others.

What are the key features of the assessments?

- Includes questions that measure critical thinking so students can demonstrate their research, writing, and problem-solving skills.
- Untimed so students can take breaks and do their best.
- Includes accessibility resources and accommodations – such as Braille – for those who need them.
- Developed with input from K-12 teachers, higher education faculty, and other experts.
- Families can view sample questions by accessing the practice tests on the DeSSA portal at <http://de.portal.cambiumast.com/students.html>

Visit <https://education.delaware.gov/digital-de/> to find resources and information about how you can support your child's learning at home.

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.

Student, Demo

Student ID: 999999 | Student DOB: 12/1/2010 | Enrollment: Grade: Grade 05
Date Taken: 5/9/2023

Grade 5 ELA - Summative 2022-2023

Demo District
Demo School

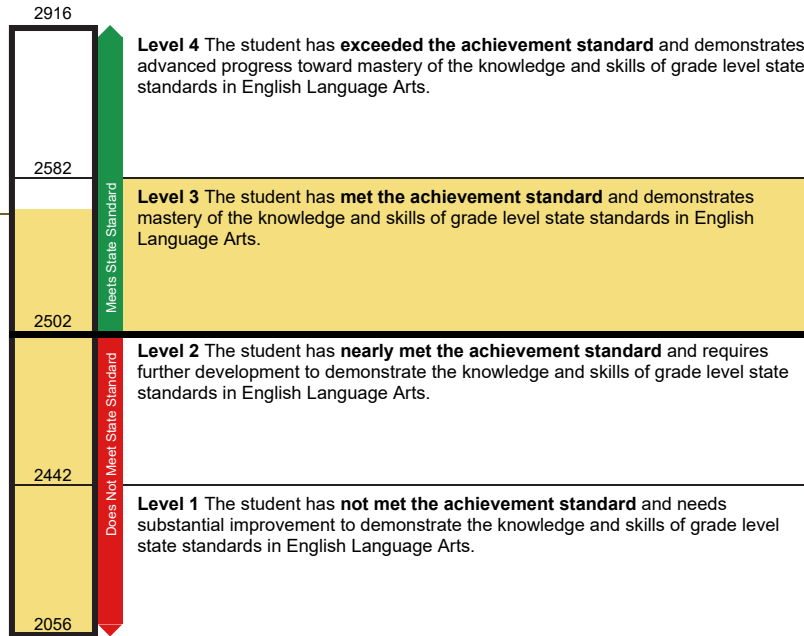
Scale Score: 2567±35 Performance: Level 3

Your Child's Score

Inside the report, you will see your child's score in ELA.

Score
2567 ±35

Child Do on the Test?



Information on Standard Error of Measurement

A student's score is best interpreted when recognizing that the student's knowledge and skills fall within a score range and not just a precise number. For example, 2300 (±10) indicates a score range between 2290 and 2310.

Writing Performance

Your student's performance on the ELA Essay Writing Dimensions can be found on page 3. Note that the essay is only one part of your student's overall ELA performance. Students who score zero points on the Writing Dimensions (because their response did not meaningfully address the topic/purpose of the prompt or was directly copied from the source material) may still perform well enough on other sections of the test to meet the overall ELA proficiency standard.

How Did Your Child Perform on the Essay?

Essay	Raw Score	Conventions	Evidence/Elaboration	Organization/Purpose
Informational	8 out of 10 points	The informational response shows an adequate understanding of correct sentence formation, punctuation, capitalization, grammar usage, and spelling. (2 out of 2 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 has a recognizable structure including a clear topic or controlling idea, adequate development, and some varied transitions to clarify ideas. The response has an adequate introduction and conclusion and a sense of completeness. (3 out of 4 points)

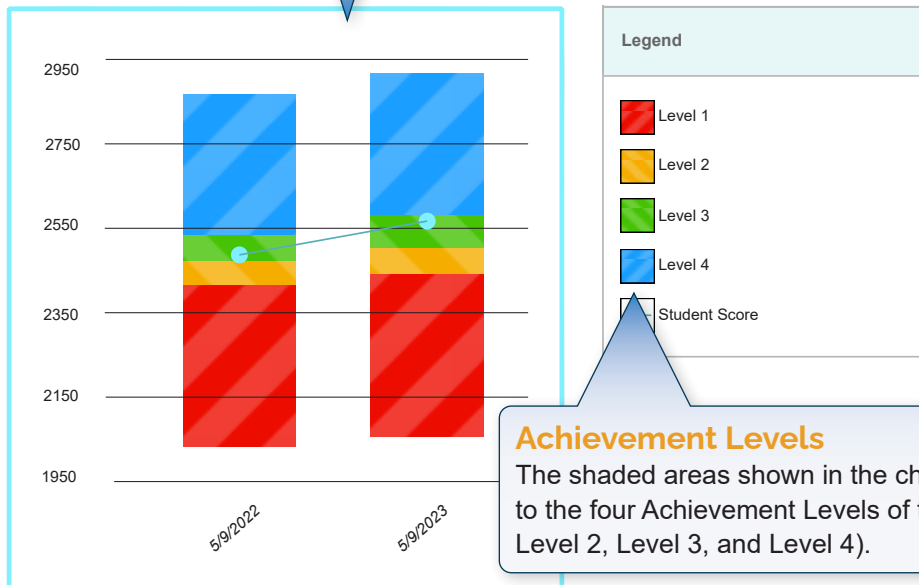
Your Child's Progress

The chart below reports your child's performance over time. The shaded areas in multiple colors indicate the scale score range in each achievement level. Each mark on the graph represents your child's score and indicates whether he or she met the standards that year.

Your Child's Progress

Longitudinal Trend Chart Information

The chart below reports your child's performance over time. The shaded areas in multiple colors indicate the scale score range in each achievement level. Each mark on the graph represents your child's score and indicates whether he or she met the standards that year.



Achievement Levels

The shaded areas shown in the chart correspond to the four Achievement Levels of the test (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4).

Your Child's Progress

Date	Test Reason	Test Label	Scale Score	Performance Level
5/9/2022 12:00:00 AM	Spring 2022 (Smarter Summative)	Grade 4 ELA - Summative	2487 ± 29	Level 3
5/9/2023 12:00:00 AM	Spring 2023 (Smarter Summative)	Grade 5 ELA - Summative	2567 ± 35	Level 3

Glossary of Terms/Definitions

Achievement Levels: Achievement levels represent the level of mastery with respect to the Delaware state content standards.

Achievement Levels Descriptors: These descriptors are a summary of what students within each achievement level are expected to know and be able to do.

Scale Scores: Scale scores are the basic units of reporting. They are statistically adjusted to account for differences in difficulty. The ELA and mathematics scale scores are on a vertical scale so that comparisons can be made between scores that span multiple grades.

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

Threshold Scores: On the ELA and mathematics scale, three threshold (minimum) scores distinguish four achievement levels for each subject; Exceeded (Level 4), Met (Level 3), Nearly Met (Level 2), or Not Met (Level 1).

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/>. You can access the practice test through any standard browser when using a Chromebook, Mac, or PC device. The practice test site can also be accessed using the Safari browser on iOS mobile devices. Android mobile devices are not supported.

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

[DeSSA ELA and Mathematics Family Portal Resources for Students and Families](#)



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