



Parent Guide: English Language Arts/Literacy Student Score Report

Overview

The state Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) English Language Arts (ELA) test measures how well students are meeting grade-level expectations and developing college and career readiness skills, such as critical thinking, persuasive writing, and problem-solving. Students, parents, and educators can use these test scores as one way to learn about students' academic strengths and academic needs. Educators use assessments to adjust their teaching to meet students' needs. Parents receive one report for ELA and one for mathematics.

How can I use my child's score report?

One way to use the reports is to bring them to check-ins with your child's teachers. It is important to have regular check-ins with teachers to help ensure your child is staying on track.

- Ask your child's teachers: What do you see as my child's academic strengths and areas for improvement?
- How will you use these test results to help my child make progress this school year?

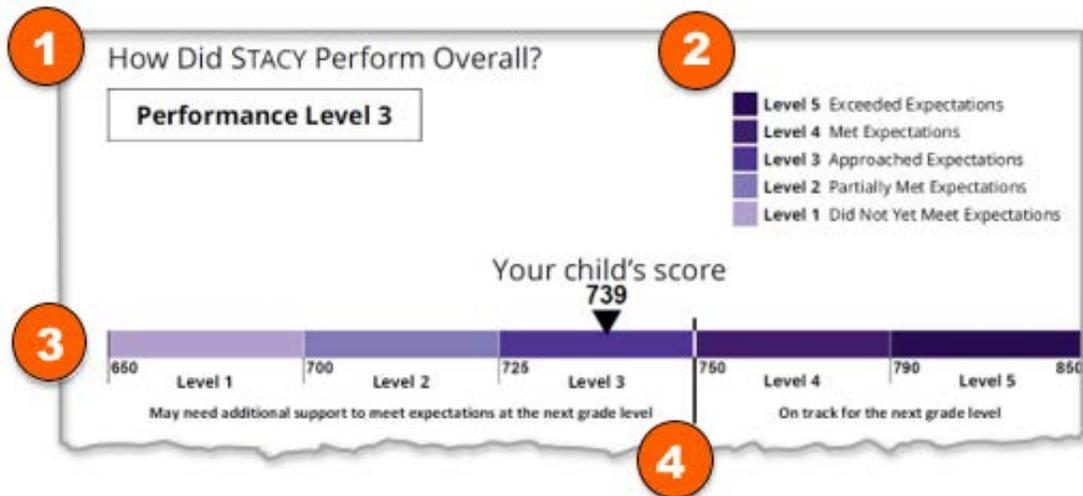
Ask your child's principal or teacher for information on the school curriculum and the types of learning experiences provided to students. You may also wish to ask how test results are used to make decisions about school improvements.

How will my child's school use the results?

The test results provide just one measure – a snapshot in time – of student achievement. Although schools should never make important decisions about students based on one measure alone, the tests provide families with objective information about whether their child is academically on track, and they help educators compare the performance of their students with others across the state and with other states that participated in the PARCC assessments.

Schools and districts can use the report information to better plan instruction, support, and enrichment for students. Teachers can use this information to personalize instruction to meet individual student needs. Parents can use this information to understand their child's needs and strengths and work with his/her teachers and school to support their child at home.

Key Information in the Score Report



1 How did your child do overall?

Your child's score (see below) fits into one of five performance levels. Level 1 is the lowest performance level; Level 5 is the highest. See #2 for an explanation of what each level means.

2 What does each performance level mean?

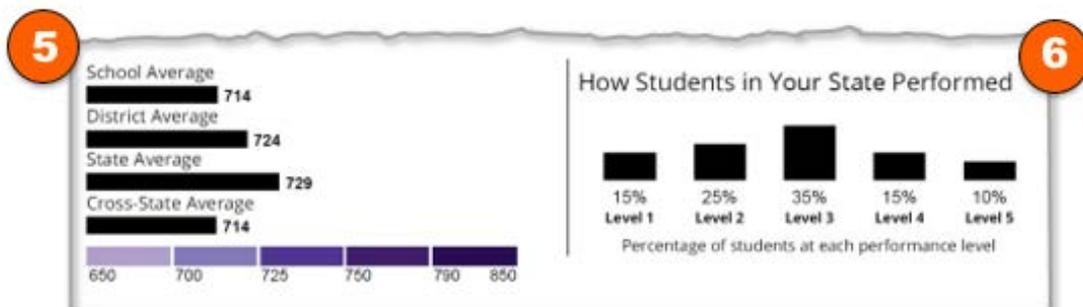
Level 4 is the target. It shows that your child has met expectations and is well prepared for the next grade level. Levels 1, 2 and 3 show a child did not fully meet expectations. Level 5 shows the child did better than what is expected for the grade level.

3 What was my child's score?

The purple bar graph shows the score ranges for each performance level. In addition to the exact score, the black triangle shows how close your child's score is to the next performance level.

4 Is my child on track?

The words under the purple bar graph show that students who score at Level 1, 2 or 3 may need extra help to be successful at the next grade level. Students performing at Level 4 or Level 5 are on track for the next grade level.

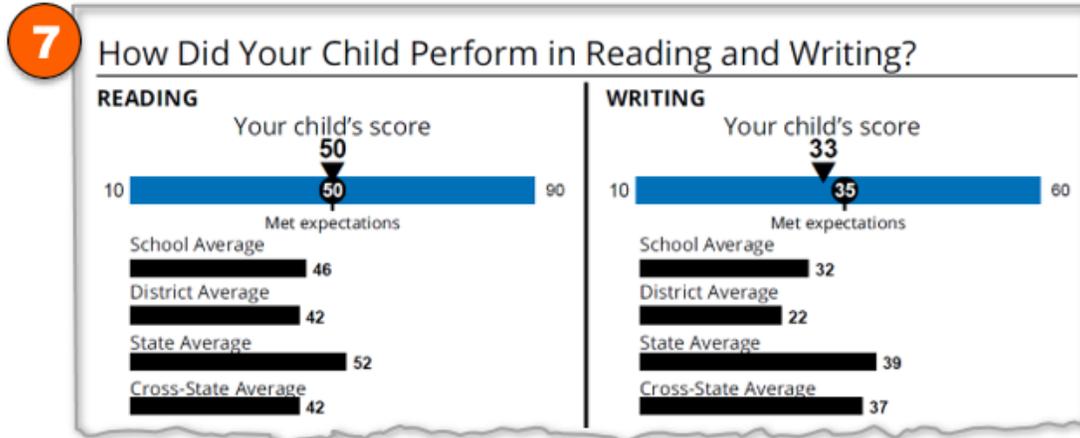


5 How do I compare scores?

Unlike many previous state test score reports, PARCC score reports show how your student is performing compared to the average for students on the same test in the school, district, and state.

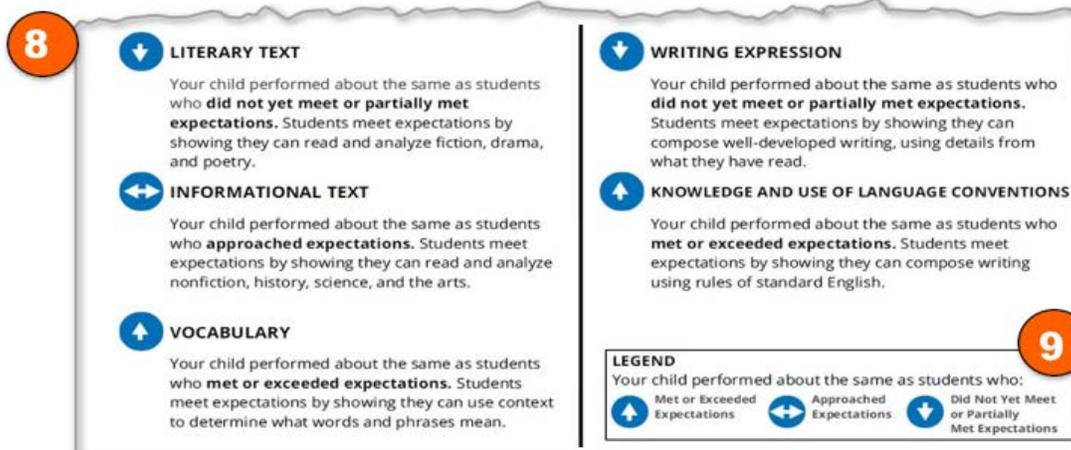
6 How did students in my state do?

This shows the percentage of students at each performance level in your state. This gives you a sense of how students are doing overall in your state, and how your child's performance compares. The report also includes a Student Growth Percentile which compares your child's score this year to New Jersey students who had a similar score to your child on the assessment in a previous year(s).



7 How did my child do in reading and writing?

Your child received a sub-score on a set of questions in each area. Students who met expectations score at least 50 in reading and 35 in writing. Higher scores show your child exceeded expectations, while lower scores show he/she has not fully met the expectations. You can also see the average score for students in the school, district, and state. These sub-scores do not add up to the overall score.



8 How did my child do in different areas of reading and writing?

This section shows where your child is excelling and where he/she needs extra support. Each area, such as *vocabulary* and *writing expression*, includes a description of what it looks like to meet the expectations.

9 What do the arrows mean?

The arrows give you a quick rundown on how your child is doing compared to students who are meeting expectations. The legend explains that in words.

Where can I find more resources?

- UnderstandTheScore.org – View sample test questions and learn more about how parents and teachers can use the information from the score reports.
- [National Parent Teacher Association \(PTA\) State Assessment Guides](#) – Learn more about grade-level expectations and view the PTA’s parent guides for student success.
- [Learning Heroes](#) – Tips on how to help your child succeed in school.
- [GreatSchools Test Guide for Parents](#) – Find out what skills your child should learn at each grade level and how you can help at home.