

A FAMILY GUIDE TO YOUR CHILD'S STATE TEST SCORES



Each year, your child takes a state test in math and English language arts to measure how well he or she is meeting the expectations of the grade level. The test matches the content and skills that are taught in the classroom everyday and measures real world skills like critical-thinking, problem-solving and writing. It is one of several measures to help you better understand if your child is on track to succeed in the next grade.

What should I take away from this report?

- The score report helps you understand your child's academic progress towards the grade level expectations in both subjects. It also breaks down each subject into categories of skills to provide you with a better understanding of how your child performed in different areas of math and English.

What does my child's test score mean?

- Your child's score indicates how well your child met the expectations of the grade level. You will also be able to see how your child did in comparison to peers across the grade, school, district, and in some cases, state.

What resources are available to help my child?

- Skill Builder: Contains helpful resources that match the test categories in math and English to support your child at home. <http://belearninghero.org/skill-builder>
- GreatSchools State Test Guide: Find parent-friendly information on academic standards and activities to match the categories in both subjects and at every grade level. <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/>
- PTA Parents' Guide to Student Success: See an overview of the learning goals and suggested activities for your child in every grade. <http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3816>

How will my child's score be used?

- Teachers will use scores to guide their instruction so they can provide additional supports in the areas where students need improvement or more challenging work in areas where they excel. Scores will also be used to measure how well schools, districts and states are doing against the standards.

What if my child did well on his or her report card last year, but not as well on the state test?

- The state test isn't meant to tell the whole story. It is meant to be combined with other measures, including report card grades, classroom performance and teacher feedback to give you a more complete picture of your child's performance. Report card grades include multiple sources of information, including participation, work habits, group projects, and homework. Although these are all important in determining a child's academic progress, they are not reflected on the test, so there may be some differences. To further explore your child's academic performance, talk with his or her teacher.

How can I use these test results to help my child improve?

- You can use your child's scores to locate supplemental activities designed specifically for each category at every grade level. You can also use the test results to guide a discussion

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with your child's teacher(s) about additional supports or challenges that may be needed in class, as well as other ways to support your child at home.

- To find resources designed specifically for the test categories, visit:
<http://belearninghero.org/skill-builder> or <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/>