New Jersey Student Learning Assessments
for English Language Arts and for Mathematics
Score Interpretation Guide For Parents
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1.0 General Information for Parents and Educators

1.1 Background
The New Jersey Student Learning Assessments for English Language Arts (NJSLA-ELA) and for Mathematics (NJSLA-M) measures the extent to which students are, or on track to being, college or career ready in each of the two respective areas.

1.2 NJSLA Assessment
The primary purpose of NJSLA is to provide high-quality assessments to measure students’ progress toward college and career readiness.

The Spring 2019 NJSLA assessments were administered to students in grade 3 through high school. English language arts (ELA) assessments focused on reading and comprehending a range of sufficiently complex texts independently and writing effectively when analyzing text. Mathematics assessments focused on applying skills and concepts, understanding multi-step problems that require abstract reasoning, and modeling real-world problems with precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools. In both content areas, students also demonstrated their acquired skills and knowledge by answering selected-response items and constructed response items.

1.3 Confidentiality of Reporting Results
Individual student performance results on NJSLA assessments are confidential and may be released only in accordance with a number of federal laws as presently amended: The 1946 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Program Act, 1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and 1975 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. More specifically, in the reporting of group assessment information, data must be suppressed when it would otherwise be possible to infer the performance of individual students.

In practice, it is common to suppress numbers where a group size is equal to less than ten and to suppress totals when it is possible to calculate back to the results of two students. Precautions are also taken when it is possible to infer individual information because all the students in a district, school, or a population group fall into a category or to a level that has negative connotations associated with it. In the method used by the NJDOE to safeguard confidentiality, suppressed numbers in reports are replaced by asterisks. Whenever any data suppression measures are employed, a statement is needed explaining that it was done to protect student confidentiality. To find more information on access to public records click on the Citizens Guide to OPRA at: https://www.nj.gov/grc/public/citizens/.

1.4 Purpose of this Guide
This guide provides information on the individual student reports, school reports, and district reports provided for NJSLA assessment results. Section 2.0, which outlines and explains elements of the individual student report, may be shared with parents. This section will help parents understand their child’s test results. Section 3.0 outlines and explains elements of the school and district reports. Individual state policies and calculations for accountability reporting may differ from the policies and calculations used for assessment reports.

Sample reports included in this guide are for illustration purposes only. They are provided to show the basic layout of the reports and the information they provide. Sample reports do not include actual data from any test administration.
2.0 Understanding the NJSLA Individual Student Report (ISR)

2.1 Types of Scores on the NJSLA ISR

Student performance on NJSLA assessments is described on the individual student report using scale scores, performance levels, and subclaim performance indicators. State, district, and school average results are included in relevant sections of the report to help parents understand how their child’s performance compares to that of other students. In some instances, a note will appear in place of average results for a school and/or district. This indicates that there are too few students to maintain student privacy and therefore results are not reported.

2.1.1 Scale Score

Not all students respond to the same set of items (same form), so instead of reporting students’ raw scores (actual points earned on test items), scale scores are used to report student performance for NJSLA assessments. Scale scores are obtained by a statistical procedure from the raw score. The purpose of using scale scores is to report scores for all students on the same scale. This allows for an accurate comparison across different tests forms and administration years within a grade or subject and content area.

For example, a student who earns an overall scale score of 800 on one form of the grade 8 mathematics assessment would be expected to earn an overall scale score of 800 on any other form of the grade 8 mathematics assessment. Furthermore, the student’s overall scale score and level of mastery of concepts and skills would be comparable to a student who took the same assessment the previous year or following year and earned a scale score of 800.

Different scale scores are reported for NJSLA assessments:

Overall scale scores: For both English language arts and Mathematics, scale scores range from 650 to 850 for all grades.

Reporting category scale scores: English language arts reports provide separate scale scores for both Reading and Writing for all grades:
- Reading scale scores range from 10 to 90, and
- Writing scale scores range from 10 to 60.

2.1.2 Performance Level

Each performance level is a broad, categorical level defined by a student’s overall scale score and is used to report overall student performance by describing how well students met the expectations for their grade level/course. Each performance level is defined by a range of overall scale scores for the assessment. There are five performance levels for NJSLA assessments:

- Level 5: Exceeded Expectations
- Level 4: Met Expectations
- Level 3: Approached Expectations
- Level 2: Partially Met Expectations
- Level 1: Did Not Yet Meet Expectations

Students performing at levels 4 and 5 met or exceeded expectations, have demonstrated readiness for the next grade level/course and, ultimately, are likely on track for college and careers. Additional information pertaining to the test performance levels can be found in Appendix A.

Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) describe the knowledge, skills, and practices that students should know and be able to demonstrate at each performance level in each content area (ELA and mathematics), and at each grade level/course. PLDs are available under the Test Design and Content Information drop-down menu at https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/manuals/#blueprints.
2.1.3 Subclaim Performance
In addition to receiving scale scores and performance levels, students are also provided information about what they know and can do on the subclaims (key parts) of the assessment. For NJSLA assessments, subclaims are reported using graphical representations. These indicate how the student performed in each subclaim area. Relative to the overall performance of students:

- An up arrow indicates a student’s performance in this subclaim reflects students with overall scale scores in the “Met or Exceeded Expectations” category;
- A bidirectional arrow indicates a student’s performance in this subclaim reflects students with overall scale scores in the “Approached Expectations” category;
- A down arrow indicates a student’s performance in this subclaim reflects students with overall scale scores in the “Did Not Yet Meet or Partially Met Expectations” category.
Understanding the NJSLA Individual Student Report (ISR)

How Did FIRSTNAME Perform Overall?

Performance Level 3

Your child’s score

746

School Average 722
District Average 722
State Average 749

How Students in New Jersey Performed

11% Level 1
14% Level 2
23% Level 3
34% Level 4
18% Level 5

Student Growth Percentile

Your child’s score this year is the same as or better than 43 percent of New Jersey students who had a similar score to your child on the assessment in a previous year(s).

If your child took the assessment several times, under similar circumstances, your child would likely score within the range between the reported scale score plus or minus 6.3 points.
How Did Your Child Perform in Reading and Writing?

**READING**
Your child's score: 55

- **LITERARY TEXT**
  Your child performed about the same as students who **met or exceeded expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can read and analyze fiction, drama, and poetry.

- **INFORMATIONAL TEXT**
  Your child performed about the same as students who **did not yet meet or partially met expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can read and analyze nonfiction, history, science, and the arts.

- **VOCABULARY**
  Your child performed about the same as students who **met or exceeded expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can use context to determine what words and phrases mean.

**WRITING**
Your child's score: 25

- **WRITTEN EXPRESSION**
  Your child performed about the same as students who **approached expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can compose well-developed writing, using details from what they have read.

- **KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE AND CONVENTIONS**
  Your child performed about the same as students who **approached expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can compose writing using rules of standard English.

**LEGEND**
Your child performed about the same as students who:
- Met or Exceeded Expectations
- Approached Expectations
- Did Not Yet Meet or Partially Met Expectations

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**What are the New Jersey ELA/Math assessments?**
The tests measure how well students have learned grade-level material in English language arts and mathematics. Students who meet or exceed expectations are likely on track for the next grade or course and, ultimately, for college and careers. The tests include questions that measure your child's fundamental skills and knowledge, and require students to think critically, solve problems, and support or explain their answers. The tests are one of several ways to help parents/legal guardians and teachers understand how well children are learning. The results also give your school and district important information to make instructional improvements.

**Learn more about the New Jersey ELA/Math assessments**
To learn more about the content of the assessment and access released test questions, visit https://nj.pearsonsupport.com/manuals/#blueprints and https://nj.digitalitemlibrary.com.

**Learn more about New Jersey's college- and career-ready standards**
Explore your school's website or ask your principal for information on your school's assessment schedule, the curriculum chosen by your district, and to learn more about how assessment results contribute to school improvements. You can also learn more about New Jersey's K-12 standards at http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/.
2.3 Sample ISR (Mathematics)

SPRING 2019 NJSLA SCORE REPORT INTERPRETATION GUIDE

Understanding the NJSLA Individual Student Report (ISR)

F I R S T N A M E  M.  L A S T N A M E  
Date of Birth: 12/31/2006  ID: MA08040042  Grade: 7
SAMPLE SCHOOL ONE NAME
SAMPLE DISTRICT NAME
NEW JERSEY
SPRING 2019

GRADE 7 MATH
Mathematics Assessment Report, 2018–2019

This report shows whether FIRSTNAME met grade-level expectations and is on track for the next grade level or course. This assessment is just one measure of how well your child is performing academically.

Visit the NJ Parent Portal at nj-results.pearsonaccessnext.com and use the following code to access your child’s performance results online.

How Can You Use This Report?
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?

How Did FIRSTNAME Perform Overall?

Performance Level 2

Your child’s score

722

May need additional support to meet expectations at the next grade level or course

School Average 724
District Average 724
State Average 739

How Students in New Jersey Performed

Percentage of students at each performance level

Student Growth Percentile

Your child’s score this year is the same as or better than 43 percent of New Jersey students who had a similar score to your child on the assessment in a previous year(s).

If your child took the assessment several times, under similar circumstances, your child would likely score within the range between the reported scale score plus or minus 6.1 points.
How Did Your Child Perform in Areas of Mathematics?

MAJOR CONTENT
Your child performed about the same as students who did not yet meet or partially met expectations. Students meet expectations by solving problems involving proportional relationships, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with rational numbers, and linear expressions, equations, and inequalities.

EXPRESSING MATHEMATICAL REASONING
Your child performed about the same as students who approached expectations. Students meet expectations by creating and justifying logical mathematical solutions and analyzing and correcting the reasoning of others.

ADDITIONAL & SUPPORTING CONTENT
Your child performed about the same as students who met or exceeded expectations. Students meet expectations by solving problems involving circumference, area, surface area, volume, statistics, and probability.

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.

What are the New Jersey ELA/Math assessments? The tests measure how well students have learned grade-level material in English language arts and mathematics. Students who meet or exceed expectations are likely on track for the next grade or course and, ultimately, for college and careers. The tests include questions that measure your child's fundamental skills and knowledge, and require students to think critically, solve problems, and support or explain their answers. The tests are one of several ways to help parents/legal guardians and teachers understand how well children are learning. The results also give your school and district important information to make instructional improvements.

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To learn more about the content of the assessment and access released test questions, visit https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com/manuals/#blueprints and https://nj.digitalitemlibrary.com.

Learn more about New Jersey's college- and career-ready standards
Explore your school's website or ask your principal for information on your school's assessment schedule, the curriculum chosen by your district, and to learn more about how assessment results contribute to school improvements. You can also learn more about New Jersey's K-12 standards at http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccc/.
Understanding the NJSLA Individual Student Report (ISR)

This report shows whether FIRSTNAME met grade-level expectations and is on track for the next grade level. This assessment is just one measure of how well your child is performing academically.

Visit the NJ Parent Portal at nj-results.pearsonaccessnext.com and use the following code to access your child's performance results online.

82t86Sw5mWrc

How Can You Use This Report?

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?
Understanding the NJSLA Individual Student Report (ISR)

GRADE 7 MATH
Mathematics Assessment Report, 2018–2019

This report shows whether FIRSTNAME met grade-level expectations and is on track for the next grade level or course. This assessment is just one measure of how well your child is performing academically.

How Can You Use This Report?
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?

Visit the NJ Parent Portal at nj-results.pearsonaccessnext.com and use the following code to access your child’s performance results online.

VgsdyXWBYXDS
2.4 Description of Individual Student Reports

2.4.1 General Information

A. Identification Information
An Individual Student Report lists the student’s name, date of birth, state student ID, grade level when assessed, district name, school name, and state. The grade level when assessed is also shown on the left side of the report.

B. Description of Report
The description of the report provides the grade level/course assessed, content area (English language arts or mathematics) assessed, and assessment year. It also provides a general overview of the assessment and score report.

C. How to Use the Report
This section provides guidance for how parents can use the report to start a discussion with their child’s teacher(s). It is important for parents and educators to have regular check-ins to ensure students are learning the necessary skills to stay on track. Parents can use the information in the report to understand their child’s strengths and needs and to work with educators to identify resources to support their education.

D. The Parent Portal Access Code
The Parent Portal can be used by parents and guardians to view individual student test results. They will use the code printed on the ISR to access to their students' results online.
Understanding the NJSLA Individual Student Report (ISR)

How Did FIRSTNAME Perform Overall?

Performance Level 3

Your child's score: 746

650 700 725 750 785 850

Level 5: Exceeded Expectations
Level 4: Met Expectations
Level 3: Approached Expectations
Level 2: Partially Met Expectations
Level 1: Did Not Yet Meet Expectations

May need additional support to meet expectations at the next grade level
On track for the next grade level

School Average: 722
District Average: 722
State Average: 749

How Students in New Jersey Performed

11% 14% 23% 34% 18%
Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

Percentage of students at each performance level

Student Growth Percentile

Your child's score this year is the same as or better than 43 percent of New Jersey students who had a similar score to your child on the assessment in a previous year(s).

If your child took the assessment several times, under similar circumstances, your child would likely score within the range between the reported scale score plus or minus 6.3 points.
Understanding the NJSLA Individual Student Report (ISR)

How Did FirstName Perform Overall?

Performance Level 2

Your child's score

Level 1 700 Level 2 725 Level 3 750 Level 4 786 Level 5 850

School Average 724
District Average 724
State Average 739

Student Growth Percentile
Your child's score this year is the same as or better than 43 percent of New Jersey students who had a similar score to your child on the assessment in a previous year(s).

How Students in New Jersey Performed

Percentage of students at each performance level

8% Level 1 22% Level 2 33% Level 3 33% Level 4 4% Level 5

If your child took the assessment several times, under similar circumstances, your child would likely score within the range between the reported scale score plus or minus 6.1 points.
2.4.2 Overall Assessment Scores

E. Overall Scale Score and Performance Level
This section of the report provides the student’s overall scale score and performance level (refer to Section 2.1). Students receive an overall scale score and, based on that score, are placed in one of five performance levels, with Level 5 indicating the student exceeded expectations and Level 1 indicating the student did not yet meet expectations.

F. Graphical Representation of Overall Performance: Overall Scale Score and Performance Level
This graphic provides an illustration of the five performance levels and where the student’s overall scale score is positioned along the performance scale. The student’s score is indicated by the black triangle positioned along the range of overall scale scores that define each performance level. The ranges of overall scale scores are indicated underneath the graphic. The scale score needed to reach Performance Level 2 is 700, for Performance Level 3 it is 725, and for Performance Level 4 it is 750 for all grade levels/courses in both ELA and mathematics. The scale score needed to reach Performance Level 5 varies. Refer to Appendix A for the full list of scale score ranges for each performance level.

G. Average of School, District, and State
The average overall scale scores of the school, district, and state are shown below the overall scale score and performance level graphic. This allows for comparing a student’s overall scale score to the average overall scale score of students at the school, district, and state levels for the same grade level/course and content area.

H. Percentage of Students at Each Performance Level
This section provides a bar graph showing the percentage of students within the state who performed at each of the five performance levels.

I. Student Growth Percentile (SGP)
Overall scale scores and performance levels provide information on how the student performed on the assessment. Student growth percentiles (SGP) offers an opportunity to look at how much progress the student made in the past year. Looking at both the overall scale score and SGP provides a more comprehensive picture of what the student learned from one year to the next.

SGP measures a student’s growth on the assessment over the past year(s) compared to the student’s “academic peers”. A student’s “academic peers” refers to all other students in New Jersey in the same grade and assessment subject that had similar historical assessment results. In other words, students are only compared to others based on their score history.

SGPs range from 1 to 99, higher numbers represent higher growth and lower numbers represent lower growth. If the student’s growth percentile is 80, it means that the student scored better than 80 percent of the student’s academic peers on this year’s NJSLA in the specific content area. Because students are only compared with other students who performed similarly in the past, all students, regardless of their scale scores, can demonstrate high or low growth.
The meaning of SGPs can be illustrated by understanding how an athlete improves over a specific period of time. For example, over a five-month period, athlete A improved their 100m run by 2 seconds while athlete B improved 0.5 seconds. It seems that athlete A has made greater improvement; however, athlete A is a novice while athlete B is a professional runner. To determine the significance of the progress each athlete made, the athletes should be compared with a group of athletes with similar performance records. As the result, athlete A is a beginner who had room for improvement while athlete B is a veteran who, even while performing at their peak, was able to improve. This illustrates the scores (e.g., running time) and growth (e.g., changes in running time relative to peers) provide different but complementary information.

In general, scores may be categorized into low, typical, and high growth (see figure 1). Low growth is a student who falls below the 35th percentile. Typical growth are students who fall between the 35th and 65th percentiles. High growth is a student who is above the 65th percentile. A student may have high growth but may not have reached proficiency.

![Figure 1. Relationship between Student growth percentiles overall scale score.](image)

**J. Probable Range**

No test provides a perfect measurement of proficiency for a student. The standard error of measurement (SEM) provides an estimate of the score range that a student would likely fall within if the student were assessed multiple times under similar circumstances for the same subject. The probable range can be obtained by adding and subtracting the SEM from the scale score (range = scale score ± SEM).
How Did Your Child Perform in Reading and Writing?

**READING**

Your child’s score: **55**

- **Met expectations**
- **School Average:** 40
- **District Average:** 40
- **State Average:** 48

**WRITING**

Your child’s score: **25**

- **Met expectations**
- **School Average:** 27
- **District Average:** 27
- **State Average:** 36

**LITERARY TEXT**

Your child performed about the same as students who **met or exceeded expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can read and analyze fiction, drama, and poetry.

**INFORMATIONAL TEXT**

Your child performed about the same as students who **did not yet meet or partially met expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can read and analyze nonfiction, history, science, and the arts.

**VOCABULARY**

Your child performed about the same as students who **met or exceeded expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can use context to determine what words and phrases mean.

**WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

Your child performed about the same as students who **approached expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can compose well-developed writing, using details from what they have read.

**KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE AND CONVENTIONS**

Your child performed about the same as students who **approached expectations**. Students meet expectations by showing they can compose writing using rules of standard English.
How Did Your Child Perform in Areas of Mathematics?

MAJOR CONTENT
Your child performed about the same as students who did not yet meet or partially met expectations. Students meet expectations by solving problems involving proportional relationships, adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with rational numbers, and linear expressions, equations, and inequalities.

EXpressing Mathematical Reasoning
Your child performed about the same as students who approached expectations. Students meet expectations by creating and justifying logical mathematical solutions and analyzing and correcting the reasoning of others.

Additional & Supporting Content
Your child performed about the same as students who met or exceeded expectations. Students meet expectations by solving problems involving circumference, area, surface area, volume, statistics, and probability.

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

Legend
Your child performed about the same as students who:
- Met or Exceeded Expectations
- Approached Expectations
- Did Not Yet Meet or Partially Met Expectations
2.4.3 Performance by Reporting Category

K. Reporting Category
For English language arts, there are two reporting categories: Reading and Writing.

L. Performance by Reporting Category Scale Score
For English language arts, student performance for each reporting category (e.g., Reading and Writing) is provided as a scale score (refer to Section 2.1.1) which is on a scale different from the overall scale score. For this reason, the sum of the scale scores for each reporting category will not equal the overall scale score.

In addition to the reporting category scale score, a measure of student proficiency is also estimated separately for reading and writing. A student needs to reach a scale score of 50 to be considered as having met expectations in reading. For writing, a student needs to reach a scale score of 35 to be considered as having met expectations.

2.4.4 Performance by Subclaim Category

M. Subclaim Category
Within each reporting category for English language arts are specific skill sets (subclaims) students demonstrate on the NJSLA assessments. Subclaims are provided for mathematics but are not listed under reporting categories as they are for English language arts. Each subclaim category includes the header identifying the subclaim, an explanatory icon representing the student’s performance, and an explanation of whether the student has met the expectations of the subclaim.

N. Subclaim Performance Indicators
A student’s subclaim category represents how well the student performed in a subclaim. As with overall and reporting category scores, a measure of student proficiency for each subclaim is estimated on a common, underlying measurement scale. Since a subclaim consists of fewer score points, each subclaim category is defined by three performance indicators. Performance in the Level 1–2 range of that scale is categorized as “Did Not Yet Meet or Partially Met Expectations,” performance in the Level 3 range is categorized as “Approached Expectations,” and performance in the Level 4–5 range is categorized as “Met or Exceeded Expectations.”

O. Description of Subclaim Performance Indicator Graphics
Student performance for each subclaim is marked with a subclaim performance indicator.

- **An up arrow** for the specified subclaim indicates that the student “Met or Exceeded Expectations,” meaning that the student’s subclaim performance reflects a level of proficiency consistent with Performance Level 4 or 5. Students in this subclaim category are likely academically well prepared for further studies.
- **A bidirectional arrow** for the specified subclaim indicates that the student “Approached Expectations,” meaning that the student’s subclaim performance reflects a level of proficiency consistent with Performance Level 3. Students in this subclaim category may need academic support for further studies.
- **A down arrow** for the specified subclaim indicates that the student “Did Not Yet Meet or Partially Met Expectations,” meaning that the student’s subclaim performance reflects a level of proficiency consistent with Performance Level 1 or 2. Students in this subclaim category would have a strong possibility to experience difficulty and would likely need instructional interventions for further studies.
What are the New Jersey ELA/Math assessments? The tests measure how well students have learned grade-level material in English language arts and mathematics. Students who meet or exceed expectations are likely on track for the next grade or course and, ultimately, for college and careers. The tests include questions that measure your child's fundamental skills and knowledge, and require students to think critically, solve problems, and support or explain their answers. The tests are one of several ways to help parents/legal guardians and teachers understand how well children are learning. The results also give your school and district important information to make instructional improvements.

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P. Description of NJSLA Assessments
This section provides a brief description of the NJSLA English Language Arts and Mathematics assessment. To access the content of the assessment, please visit (https://nj.mypearsonsupport.com). To access released test questions, please visit (https://nj.digitalitemlibrary.com).