



# 2017 Parent Guide

## Understanding the Kansas Assessment Program Score Report

### Dear Parents:

Thank you for supporting your child's participation in the 2017 Kansas Assessment Program.

While assessments are an important tool to help teachers, parents and students gauge a student's progress, it is essential to remember they are just one of several measures teachers consider. Your student's teachers use classroom interaction, homework, assessments and many other strategies throughout the year to identify learning and achievement levels.

The Kansas State Board of Education's vision for education — Kansas leads the world in the success of each student — reduces what many have considered an over-emphasis on state assessments, and increases focus on the needs of the whole child. As we work towards this vision, you will see schools focus on areas such as kindergarten readiness, Individual Plans of Study focused on career interest; high school graduation rates; postsecondary completion; and social/emotional growth.

Assessments will continue to serve a role in helping to inform your child's academic readiness, but the State Board and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) believe it's time to minimize the assessment footprint on Kansas. We want the goals of each student — from the 5-year-old kindergarten student all the way to high school graduates focusing on career, college or military — to be important.

Parents of 10th grade students will see a new ACT predictive measure added to their child's assessment report this year. The Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation has produced a report that correlates with or predicts a likely range of ACT scores based on how the student performed on the state assessment.

As you review your child's report, please take the opportunity to contact your child's school, teacher or principal to have them explain these results to you in detail.

Kansas' students, teachers and parents are among the best in the nation, and we all share in the responsibility of making every child successful by achieving their desired future.

Thank you for being a positive part of your child's education, and thank you for your continued support of Kansas schools.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Randy Watson".

Dr. Randy Watson  
Kansas Commissioner of Education



## Understanding the 2017 Kansas Assessment Program

The Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) is a set of untimed, computerized tests in English language arts, mathematics, and science. The test content fully aligns to the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards as well as Kansas's content standards. The Center for Educational Testing & Evaluation at the University of Kansas develops each assessment.

### Test Purpose

The Kansas Assessment Program provides parents, educators, and policymakers with one piece of information about student learning. Additionally, KAP meets federal and state accountability requirements.

### Test Content

In 2017, all students in grades 3–8 and grade 10 took assessments in English language arts and mathematics. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 also took a science assessment.

### Test Format

Computerized tests allow students to demonstrate their knowledge in various ways. KAP uses technology-enhanced items that ask students to do more than choose the right answer from a list. For example, students may be required to order items, create categories, label areas, plot graphs, select multiple options, and create written responses.

### How are KAP assessments scored?

First, we add the points your student earned on the test questions without deducting points for incorrect answers. Some questions are worth more than one point. Next, we convert this raw score to a scaled score that has the same meaning for all versions of the test. KAP scaled scores range from 220 to 380 and are divided into four performance levels.

We use the same process to calculate your student's performance in different categories of each subject-area test, such as Reading Informational Texts in English language arts or Algebra in mathematics.

### How should you use KAP results?

Use these scores to help

- » identify your student's relative strengths and limitations
- » indicate your student's progress toward meeting state curriculum standards
- » compare your student's performance to other students in the school, district, and state

### How can you help your student improve his or her KAP score?

- » Encourage your student to do her or his best on the assessments.
- » Talk with the classroom teacher(s) about ways to develop your student's critical thinking skills.
- » Ask your student questions that require explanations and can't be answered with a single word.
- » Establish time for your student to read and provide engaging and appropriately challenging reading materials.
- » Have your student write lists, letters, stories, or podcast scripts.
- » Solve math problems with your student using everyday materials, such as road maps, sporting event results, or recipes. Have your student explain the solution to the problem.
- » Use the information on the back of the report to identify specific areas your student needs additional support. Ask the classroom teacher(s) how to practice these skills at home.

## Student Report Walkthrough

1 The level score corresponds to the numbered score on the meter. This score represents your student's performance across all sections of the test, which are described on the back of the report.

Reports for students in grades 4–8 will also show the student's score in the previous year.

2 The meter shows where your student's score falls within the range of possible scores. The segments of the meter represent the four performance levels. The regions differ in size because the score ranges for performance levels are not equal. Your student's numeric score is displayed above the meter.

3 Additional meters show the median scores of students in the school, district, and state. A median score is the middle score when scores are ordered from lowest to highest; a median score is an accurate representation of an average score.

4 This list describes the skills your student has likely mastered, based on his or her performance level score.

5 This section shows the range of possible level scores and what they mean about your student's progress toward meeting state curriculum standards.

### STUDENT REPORT: Matthews, Zoe

GRADE: 10 English Language Arts / STATE ID: 000000000

SCHOOL: Marysville High

DISTRICT: Lorem ipsum Lorem ipsum orem / #D0511



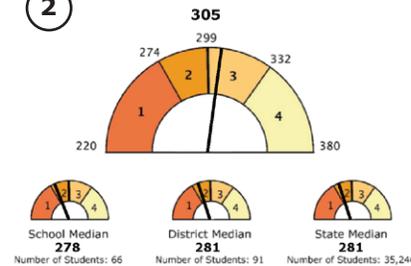
The KAP assessments measure students' understanding of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards at each grade. The English language arts assessment asks students to read and answer questions about literary passages, informational texts, and writing samples. Students demonstrate their knowledge and skills related to reading and writing by selecting the right answer and sorting, matching, labeling, and ordering information.

### English Language Arts Score: Level 3

1



2



#### Students who perform at this level can typically

- ▶ read and understand moderately complex grade-level texts
- ▶ summarize themes
- ▶ identify implied or clear details to support an idea
- ▶ determine meanings of more difficult words and complex figurative language
- ▶ identify literary elements and text structures and their impact on meaning
- ▶ determine point of view or purpose
- ▶ revise or edit a text to use academic language and correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- ▶ organize a text using sequence and logic
- ▶ determine if information is relevant
- ▶ use strategies to elaborate on ideas and structure texts

3

#### Standard error of measurement for this report:

Student—8.0 | School—3.5 | District—3.2 | State—0.2  
The standard error indicates how much a student's score might vary if the student took many equivalent versions of the test (tests with different items but covering the same knowledge and skills).

#### Performance Level Descriptions

**Level 1:** A student at Level 1 shows a limited ability to understand and use the English language arts skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.

**Level 2:** A student at Level 2 shows a basic ability to understand and use the English language arts skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.

**Level 3:** A student at Level 3 shows an effective ability to understand and use the English language arts skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.

**Level 4:** A student at Level 4 shows an excellent ability to understand and use the English language arts skills and knowledge needed for college and career readiness.

For more details about how your student performed on specific types of test questions, see the back of this report. →

5

If your student did not take the test, did not complete enough of the test, transferred schools during testing, or a special circumstance prevented your student's test from being scored, the score report you receive will not display a score and will be missing most other elements shown in this guide. Please contact your district test coordinator, principal, or student's teacher for specific information about your student's assessment.

6 This page shows your student's relative strengths and weaknesses on the different areas of the test. Each category represents a group of test items that assess related skills. All subjects have main categories (with all-caps titles). In math and English language arts, some of the main categories are broken down further into subcategories. In math and science, each category includes a different set of items. In English language arts, some items will be counted in multiple categories within the main groups of OVERALL READING and OVERALL WRITING. For example, an item that asks about the main idea of a story will be counted in OVERALL READING, READING: Literary Texts, and READING: Main Idea.

7 The symbols compare your student's performance in each category to the performance of students who received the minimum Level 3 score.

8 Your high school student's scores on the KAP math and ELA assessments are one indicator of whether he or she is on track for success on the math, reading, and English portions of the ACT. Visit this website for more information about comparing KAP and ACT scores.

9 For further information about the standards, assessment program, and tests, please visit these websites.

STUDENT REPORT
STUDENT: Matthews, Zoe  
STATE ID: 00000000
GRADE: 10 English Language Arts

6

### Your student's performance

+ Exceeds
= Meets
- Below
✖ Insufficient Data

**OVERALL READING**

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** The reading portion requires students to read and analyze literary and informational texts and answer questions related to main ideas, text structure, language use, word meanings, and making and supporting conclusions.

**READING: Literary Texts**

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** This portion requires students to answer questions based on literary texts (such as stories and poems).

**READING: Informational Texts**

- **In this area, your student performed below students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** This portion requires students to answer questions based on informational texts (such as science articles and historical speeches).

**READING: Making and Supporting Conclusions**

= **In this area, your student performed as well as students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to read literary and informational texts and then make conclusions and use details and evidence to support ideas.

**READING: Main Idea**

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to read literary and informational texts and then determine central ideas, key events, and topics and identify supporting details.

---

**OVERALL WRITING**

- **In this area, your student performed below students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** The writing portion requires students to read short writing samples and answer questions related to revising, editing, vocabulary, and language use.

**WRITING: Revising**

- **In this area, your student performed below students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to revise provided text by applying writing skills, including using specific story-telling strategies, revising text into a logical order, adding context and detail, and identifying words or phrases to strengthen the text.

**WRITING: Editing**

= **In this area, your student performed as well as students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to clarify messages in a variety of texts by following grade-appropriate grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling rules.

**WRITING: Vocabulary and Language Use**

+ **In this area, your student performed better than students who received the minimum Level 3 score.** These questions require students to revise texts by using accurate language and vocabulary that is appropriate to a text's purpose and audience.

7

**Additional Resources**

ACT Scoring	Student's actual KAP grade 10 ELA score	Student's projected ACT reading score	Student's projected ACT English score
To get an idea of how your high school student may perform on the ACT based on this KAP score, refer to this chart. For more information, go to <a href="http://ksassessments.org/act">ksassessments.org/act</a> .	Level 1: 220–268	1–17	1–15
	Level 2: 269–299	17–23	15–22
	Level 3: 300–333	23–30	22–30
	Level 4: 334–380	30–36	30–36

For sample test questions, go to [ksassessments.org/interactive-demos](http://ksassessments.org/interactive-demos).  
For information on the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards, visit [ksde.org](http://ksde.org).  
To learn about the Kansas Assessment Program, go to [ksassessments.org](http://ksassessments.org).  
To discover more about this score report, see the 2017 Parent Guide at [ksassessments.org/pg](http://ksassessments.org/pg) and in Spanish at [ksassessments.org/pg-esp](http://ksassessments.org/pg-esp).

8

© 2017 The University of Kansas

9

© 2017 The University of Kansas