



# The South Carolina Alternate Assessments

## Family Reports Interpretive Guide

### Understanding Your Child's Test Scores 2016–2017 School Year

#### Table of Contents

What are the South Carolina Alternate Assessments?.....	1
What's in My Child's Score Report?.....	2–3
Frequently Asked Questions.....	4
Additional Resources.....	4

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

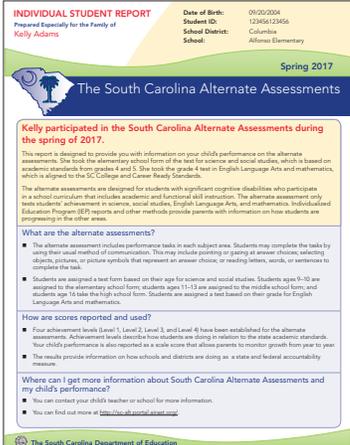
## What Are the South Carolina Alternate Assessments?

The South Carolina Alternate Assessments are a task-based assessment system that was developed to meet the needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the general assessment program even with appropriate accommodations.

The alternate assessments are based on alternate achievement standards. They are aligned to the state academic content standards for science and social studies and aligned to the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

Students are assigned a test form for science and social studies based on their age. Students ages 9–10 are assigned to the elementary school form; students ages 11–13 are assigned to the middle school form; and students age 16 take the high school form. For ELA and mathematics, students are assigned a test based on their grade.

The primary purpose of the South Carolina Alternate Assessments is to ensure that these students have the opportunity to participate in a challenging standards-based curriculum that encourages high academic expectations.



**INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT**  
Prepared Especially for the Family of  
**Kelly Adams**

Date of Birth: 06/20/2004  
Student ID: 123456123456  
School District: Columbia  
School: Allenton Elementary

Spring 2017

**The South Carolina Alternate Assessments**

**Kelly participated in the South Carolina Alternate Assessments during the spring of 2017.**

This report is designed to provide you with information on your child's performance on the alternate assessments. She took the elementary school form of the test for science and social studies, which is based on alternate achievement standards from grades 4 and 5. She took the grade 4 test in English language arts and mathematics, which is aligned to the SC College and Career Ready Standards.

The alternate assessments are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in a school curriculum that includes academic and functional skill instruction. The alternate assessment only tests student achievement in science, social studies, English Language Arts, and mathematics. Individualized Education Program (IEP) reports and other methods provide parents with information on how students are progressing in the other areas.

**What are the alternate assessments?**

- The alternate assessment includes performance tasks in each subject area. Students may complete the tasks by using their usual method of communication. This may include pointing or gazing at answer choices, selecting objects, pictures, or picture symbols that represent an answer choice, or reading letters, words, or sentences to complete the task.
- Students are assigned a test form based on their age for science and social studies. Students ages 9–10 are assigned to the elementary school form; students ages 11–13 are assigned to the middle school form; and students age 16 take the high school form. Students are assigned a test based on their grade for English language arts and mathematics.

**How are scores reported and used?**

- Four achievement levels (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4) have been established for the alternate assessments. Achievement levels describe how students are doing in relation to the state academic standards. Your child's performance is also reported as a scale score that allows parents to monitor growth from year to year.
- The results provide information on how schools and districts are doing as a state and federal accountability measure.

**Where can I get more information about South Carolina Alternate Assessments and my child's performance?**

- You can contact your child's teacher or school for more information.
- You can find out more at <http://doe.sc.gov/alternate-assessments>

The South Carolina Department of Education

South Carolina Alternate Assessments  
Grades 4–5  
Spring 2017 Score Report

**Your Child's Score** Inside the report, you will see your child's performance on the South Carolina Alternate Assessment for each subject assessed at your child's grade level. The scale score provides precise information about the student's performance and can be used for performance comparison within the same grade level.

Spring 2017  
Kelly Adams

The South Carolina Alternate Assessments



## Science

Kelly scored at **Level 1** with a scale score of **270** in science.

If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 267 – 273.

### What your child's Science performance level means:

Students who score at Level 1 should be able to:

- use senses to observe the outcome of a simple scientific investigation;
- sequence growth patterns;
- observe and record daily weather conditions;
- recognize the sun and moon and relate them to day and night;
- recognize that objects move when force is applied.

4	Students performing at Level 4 demonstrate and apply academic skills and competencies in science.
3	Students performing at Level 3 demonstrate increasing academic skills and competencies in science.
2	Students performing at Level 2 demonstrate foundational academic skills and competencies in science.
<b>1</b>	Students performing at Level 1 may demonstrate emerging academic skills and competencies in science.

Your Child's Level →



## Social Studies

Kelly scored at **Level 1** with a scale score of **270** in social studies.

If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 267 – 273.

### What your child's Social Studies performance level means:

Students who score at Level 1 should be able to:

- identify self from others;
- respond appropriately to a person of authority in the home or at school;
- follow rules;
- engage in turn-taking;
- begin to distinguish between past and present.

4	Students performing at Level 4 demonstrate and apply academic skills and competencies in social studies.
3	Students performing at Level 3 demonstrate increasing academic skills and competencies in social studies.
2	Students performing at Level 2 demonstrate foundational academic skills and competencies in social studies.
<b>1</b>	Students performing at Level 1 may demonstrate emerging academic skills and competencies in social studies.

Your Child's Level →

**What This Result Means** This section provides parents information on what students generally know and are able to do at your child's attained performance level.

**Performance Levels** Your child's demonstration of the skills and knowledge required by the assessment is reported as an achievement level ranging from 1 to 4.

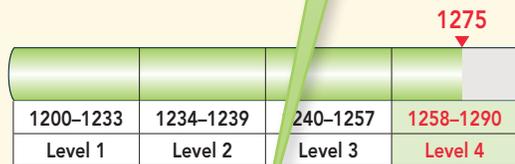
**Score Range** When interpreting your child's score, consider the measurement error that is associated with any test score. The range is provided to show where your child may score if tested again under similar circumstances.

Spring 2017  
Kelly Adams



## English Language Arts

Your child's scale score is **1275**  
Your child's performance level is **Level 4**



If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 1263 – 1287.

### What your child's ELA performance level means:

Students performing at Level 4 **demonstrate** and **apply** academic skills in English Language Arts (reading and writing). Students at this level are generally able to answer questions about details from literary and informational texts presenting **detailed** and **implied** complex ideas and relationships, for example to:

- determine the theme and supportive details of a literary text and use details to describe character traits
- determine the central idea in an informational text
- explain the purpose of text features and use them to locate and answer questions in an informational text



## Mathematics

Your child's scale score is **1250**  
Your child's performance level is **Level 3**



If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 1238 – 1262.

### What your child's Mathematics performance level means:

Students performing at Level 3 demonstrate **readiness to apply** basic academic skills in mathematics. Students at this level are generally able to solve real-world problems using mathematical language and symbols, for example to:

- solve multiplication word problems
- show division by separating objects into equal groups
- round to the nearest 10, 100, or 1000
- identify equivalent fractions and compare fractions with different denominators
- use data given to create a picture or bar graph

## Glossary of Terms/Definitions

**Performance Level:** An achievement level that corresponds to a score range determined by standard-setting committees

**Performance Level Descriptors:** Detailed explanations of proficiencies and skills that correspond to each performance level for each grade/grade-band and subject

**Scale Score:** A numerical value that is on a common scale so that children's scores can be compared over multiple test administrations

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How are scores reported and used?

The South Carolina Alternate Assessment scores are one source of information regarding student performance on academic skills. They provide an opportunity to track student progress from year to year and provide accountability information for state and federal reporting.

Each family receives an individual student report that provides information on their child's achievement in each content area. Scores are reported as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4. The information related to what your child knows and can do in each of these levels is the most important information to you.

The South Carolina Alternate Assessment is also a state and federal accountability measure, and the results provide information on how schools and districts are doing as well.

The South Carolina Alternate Assessment only tests a student's achievement in academic subjects such as ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies. IEP (individualized education program) reports and other methods provide parents and teachers with information on how students are progressing in the other areas in which they receive instruction.

The South Carolina Alternate Assessment results reflect a snapshot in time and are not to be used as the sole measurement of a student's performance or ability. These results should be used to represent one of many components of a student's overall abilities.

### What does my child's performance level tell me?

There are four performance levels of achievement in each subject area, which tell you your child's demonstration of the skills and knowledge required by the assessment. Performance level descriptors for all content areas are available on the portal ([sc-alt.portal.airast.org](http://sc-alt.portal.airast.org)).

### What if there are blanks or is no score on the score report?

If your child's test was invalidated in a particular subject, no score will appear on the report. Instead the student report will show "Your child's test was invalidated." The student label will show "NV" for not valid. In instances where a student does not have a score for a particular subject, the student report will show "Your child did not receive a score in <<subject>>." The student label will show "NT" for not tested. You can contact your child's school for more information.

## Additional Resources

Families can visit the South Carolina Alternate Assessment portal ([sc-alt.portal.airast.org](http://sc-alt.portal.airast.org)) to find more information, including additional FAQs.