



The South Carolina Alternate Assessments

Family Reports Interpretive Guide

Understanding Your Child's Test Scores 2017–2018 School Year

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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 were 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.

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 Jason Simpson	Date of Birth: 05/04/2008 Student ID: 123456789 School District: Columbia School: Altova Elementary Grade: 5
Spring 2018	
 The South Carolina Alternate Assessments	
Jason participated in the South Carolina Alternate Assessments during the spring of 2018. This report contains important information about the South Carolina Alternate Assessments and shows Jason's scores in each subject area of the test: Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. You will find an explanation of what each score means and what Jason, and other students who scored at the same level, know and can do.	
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 academic achievement in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Individualized Education Program (IEP) reports and other methods provide parents with information on how students are progressing in the other areas.	
What are the South Carolina Alternate Assessments? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South Carolina Alternate Assessments are a state-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 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. 	
How are scores reported and used? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can contact your child's teacher or school for more information. You can find out more at www.sde.state.sc.us. 	
 The South Carolina Department of Education	

South Carolina Alternate Assessments
Grade 5
Spring 2018 Score Report

Spring 2018
Jason Simpson

The score report may have some sections intentionally left blank when students are not tested in all subjects. ELA and Mathematics are tested in grades 3 through 8. Science is tested in grades 4, 6, and 8. Social Studies is tested in grades 5 and 7. Students in grade 11 are tested in English I, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S History and the Constitution.



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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.



Social Studies

Jason scored at **Level 1** with a scale score of **342** in social studies.

If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 342 – 348.

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.

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.

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.
1	Students performing at Level 1 may demonstrate emerging academic skills and competencies in social studies.

Your Child's 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.

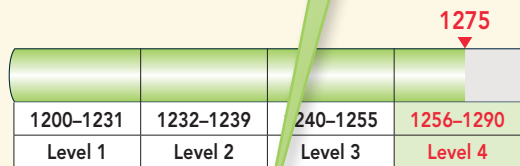
Score Range When interpreting your child's score, consider the measurement error that is associated with any test score. The range is provided to show where your child may score if tested again under similar circumstances.

Spring 2018
Jason Simpson



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:

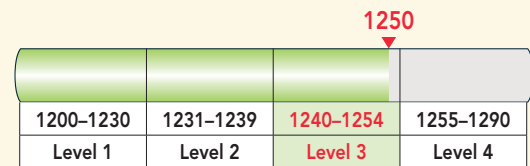
Students performing at Level 4 **demonstrate** and **apply** academic skills in English Language Arts (reading and writing). Students at this level are generally able to answer questions about details from literary and informational texts presenting **detailed** and **implied** complex ideas and relationships,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

- compare characters, settings, and events in a literary text to answer specific questions and summarize the text
- determine the central idea and supporting details in an informational text
- use details to support the author's point of view
- compare and contrast information and events from two informational texts
- use context to define words with multiple meanings



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:

- add, subtract, multiply, and divide with decimals
- identify place values to the hundredths place
- use ordered pairs to locate points on a coordinate plane
- round decimals to the nearest whole number

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 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 Assessments are 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 Assessments 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 Assessments 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).

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.

How do I know which tests were assigned to my students?

Age as of 9/1/17	Tested Grade	SC-Alt Online Assessment			
		SC-ALT	SC-NCSC	Operational Field Test	Independent Field Test
		Student Receives Scores	Student Receives Scores	Student Receives Scores	Student Does NOT Receive Scores
8	3		Grade 3 Math and ELA		
9	4		Grade 4 Math and ELA	Grade 4 Science	
10	5	Grade 5 Social Studies	Grade 5 Math and ELA		Grade 5 Social Studies
11	6		Grade 6 Math and ELA	Grade 6 Science	
12	7	Grade 7 Social Studies	Grade 7 Math and ELA		Grade 7 Social Studies
13	8		Grade 8 Math and ELA	Grade 8 Science	
14	9				
15	10				
16	11			Biology US History Algebra I English I	
17	12				

Additional Resources

Families can visit the South Carolina Alternate Assessments portal (sc-alt.portal.airast.org) to find more information, including additional FAQs.