

NEW MEXICO STUDENT REPORT TO PARENTS



CCYY NEW MEXICO STANDARDS BASED ASSESSMENT

For the family of:
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM M
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

Date of Birth: MM/DD/YY
 Grade: 03
 District: MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
 School: MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM
 Test Date: MM/CCYY

Dear Parents,

The information in this packet is individually designed to tell you about your child's performance on the CCYY New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA). The SBA measures a student's knowledge and skills against standards in writing. Content standards describe what students should know and what they should be able to do in each subject area.

In this packet, you will find your student's scores in writing and information about how your student is performing. Your student's scores on the SBA will help you and your child's teachers plan instruction that will meet your child's needs.

If you have any questions about the report, please talk with your child's teacher or principal. Teachers and principals are resources that can help explain scores and offer strategies that will improve your child's skills.

A strong partnership between parents and teachers is necessary for every child's academic growth. By working together, we can help all children succeed in school.

VERONICA C. GARCÍA, Ed.D.
 Secretary of Education

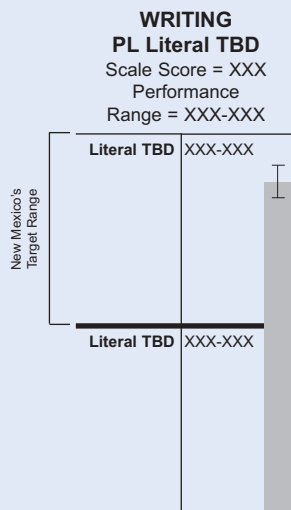
Your Child's Performance on the Standards Based Assessment (SBA)

Your child's score has two parts. First, your child's score is reported as a scale score. Second, the score is mapped to a performance level that describes your child's knowledge and skills in writing.

There are two performance levels: PL Literal TBD, and PL Literal TBD. The performance levels identify a student's knowledge and skills in writing. Specific information about your student's scores and performance level for writing is shown on the following page. The goal is that all New Mexico students become Proficient or Advanced in all tested subjects.

Reading the Results

The chart below shows your child's scores in writing. The shaded bar shows your child's score mapped to the performance level. The bracket at the top of the shaded bar shows the range of where your child's scale score could fall. The following page gives an in-depth look at your child's performance in writing. The top section of the page shows the performance level your child earned. The box below each performance level category describes the knowledge and skills students must have at that level and what skills they must learn to go to the next level. The bottom section of the page provides the number of points your child earned compared to the points possible on the standards that make up the content area.



Possible Reason for No Score in a Content Area

1* = Withdrew Before Test Completion 2* = Non-Allowed Modification 3* = Language Exempt for Reading Only 5* = Parental Refusal 6* = Other Non-Completion 7* = Test Irregularities
 DNA = Did Not Attempt INC = Incomplete Attempt

ABOUT THE NEW MEXICO STANDARDS BASED ASSESSMENT

1. Why are the standards based assessments given?

The New Mexico Standards Based Assessments (SBA) are required by New Mexico state law and the federal law No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

NCLB has three very important, related requirements:

- A. Each state must establish clear expectations for what students should be taught and should be learning in each grade for each content area. In New Mexico, these expectations are called the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards. They can be found at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/nmStandards.html>.
- B. Each state must create state-level assessments that align with content standards. New Mexico has been nationally recognized as one of only 11 states to have state-level assessments well aligned to content standards.
- C. Third, each state must decide what level of performance on the assessment is recognized as Proficient. Each state must also establish “cut-points” for the other three levels of performance: Beginning Step, Nearing Proficiency, and Advanced. New Mexico students should be performing at the Proficient or Advanced levels.

It is important to understand that performing at the Proficient or Advanced level represents a high standard. The assessments are challenging because we must be sure that New Mexico students are prepared for success in career or college.

2. How can I use this report to help my child improve his or her performance?

Review your child's performance levels and scores in reading, mathematics, and social studies (if administered). Discuss these with your child. Talk with your child's teacher about what you can do together to improve skills and performance.

Other tools and suggestions for parents can be found on the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) homepage <http://www.ped.state.nm.us>. The School, Community & Parent Toolkit located under the STARS icon on the NMPED homepage has an excellent section called “Family Tools” that is full of suggestions and resources for helping your child succeed academically.

3. Where can I find sample test items that show the types of questions used on the test?

The **Released Items** section on the New Mexico PED website is particularly useful. Released items are actual test questions at each grade and in each content area that are released from the test each year for use as **samples for parents and teachers**. You can use them to both understand the content and format of the test yourself and to work through together with your child. The tests contain both traditional multiple choice questions as well as the more challenging “short answer” and “open ended” questions where students have to write out the answers to questions and explain their thinking. Depending on the complexity of the question, students earn either 2 points (short answer question) or 4 points (open ended question). About half of the points that make up the total test scores in each content area are from these types of test questions.

Released Items for most grades are available on the Assessment and Accountability Division webpage (<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/AssessmentEvaluation/index.html>). These items are in PDF format for ease of printing.

