

Annotated STAAR Report Card

The STAAR report card is now a folded booklet. Browse the different sections of the student report below to get a sense of what the booklet will entail. Each section provides more details on how you can use the new report as a tool to improve student learning and achievement.

Student Report: Front Cover

The STAAR Report Card is now a folded booklet. This is the cover.

Informed Parents. Better Schools.

STAAR Results

STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS



2017 Confidential Student Report




About the STAAR Test

Your child took the STAAR in May 2017. This test asks students to answer questions that measure the knowledge and skills they need to be prepared for college or a career. If you have questions about this report, please talk to your child's teacher or principal, or learn more by visiting www.texasassessment.com.

What the Results Mean

This report shows how well your child did on the assessment. There are 4 levels of proficiency.

MASTERS GRADE LEVEL
 Mastery of the course knowledge and skills is shown — student is on-track for college and career readiness.

MEETS GRADE LEVEL
 Strong knowledge of course content — student is prepared to progress to the next grade.

APPROACHES GRADE LEVEL
 Some knowledge of course content, but may be missing critical elements — student needs additional support in the coming year.

DID NOT MEET GRADE LEVEL
 No basic understanding of course expectations is shown — student may need significant support in the coming year.

From The Commissioner

Tests are a part of life. Our kids will take tests to get a driver's license, to get into college, and even to get certain jobs. As a parent of two myself, I know that no one test can tell me everything about my children. But the STAAR tests have been designed to provide useful information about how much our children have learned academically and how well prepared they are for what comes next.

Students who meet or exceed grade level by high school graduation have more than a 60% chance of passing their college classes, substantially increasing their lifetime earnings and prospects for success. This report is intended to give you information on how well your child learned this year's academic material in school, and how you can help them learn even more.


 Mike Morath, Commissioner of Education

This is an introductory letter about the STAAR test. It includes what we know from research about how the STAAR predicts readiness for what comes next.

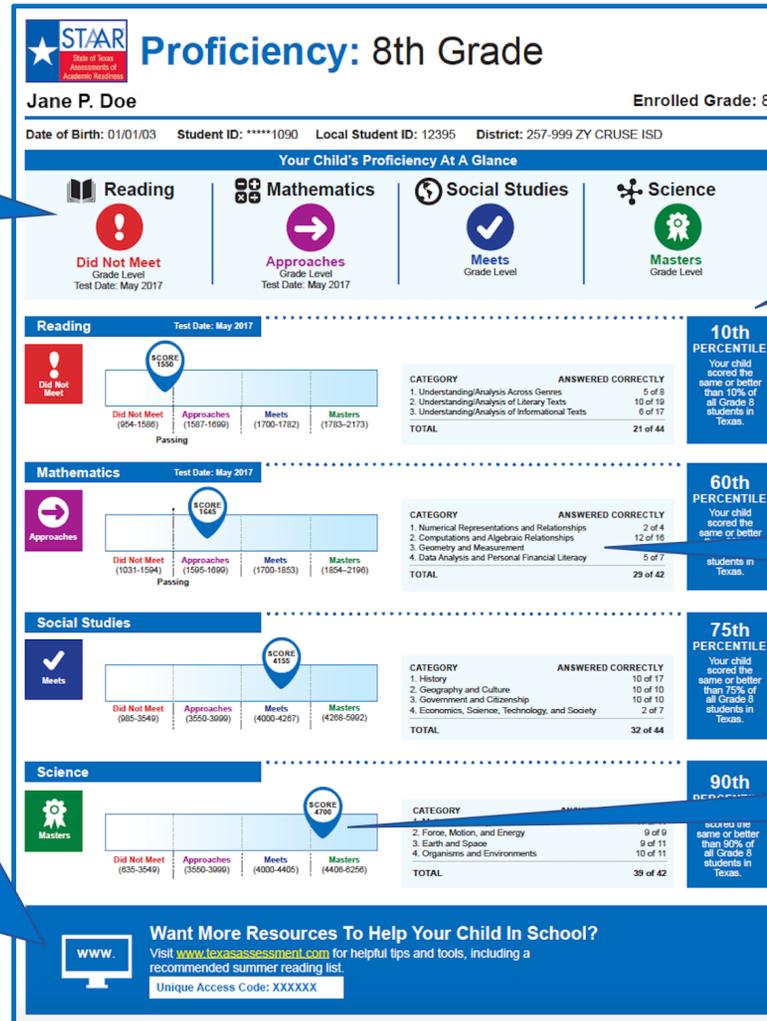
The cover also defines the four levels of performance students can achieve on the STAAR and what each level says about how well students have learned grade level knowledge and skills.

Student Report: Proficiency

The top shows a quick summary of results for all tests the student took that year.

Parents can log in for more information. For example, TexasAssessment.com will include:

- Specific questions that were on that year's STAAR test
- How the student answered
- The right answer
- How students across the state answered
- The knowledge and skills covered by each question.



The score is also put in perspective relative to all the students who took the test.

The score is broken down by major content category for the test.

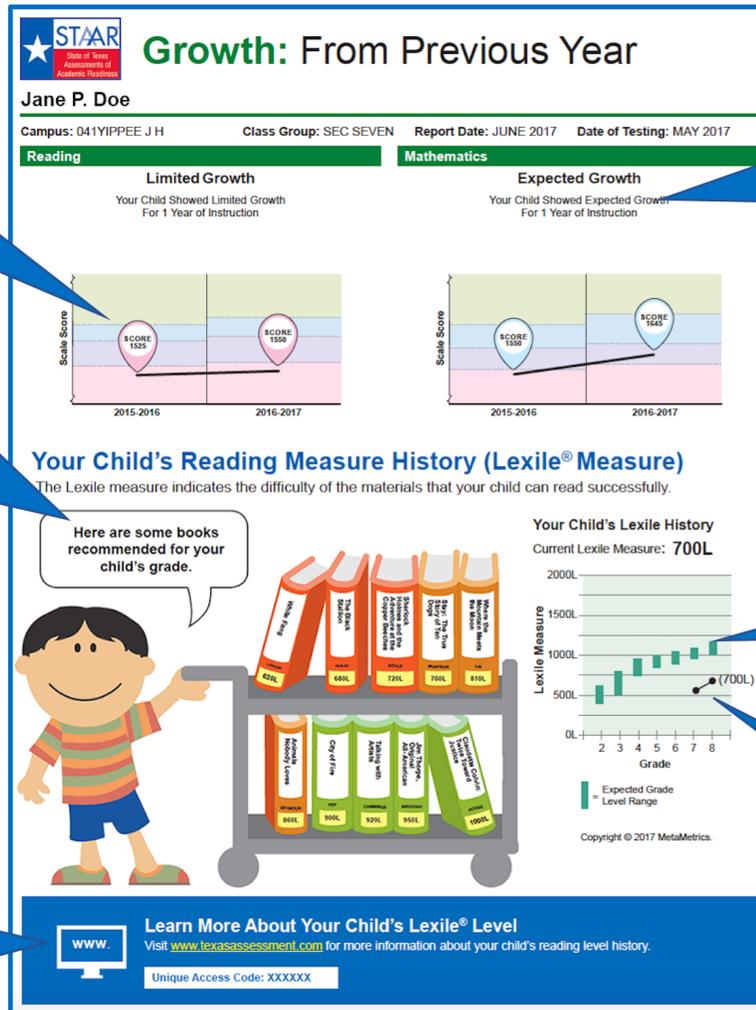
For each test, you can see the student's exact score.

Student Report: Growth

For reading and math, parents can see student gains. The color bands correspond to each performance level.

Lexile is a widely used measure of reading level. There are many resources to help parents support student growth in reading based on Lexile levels. The report includes summer reading material organized by Lexile.

Parents can log on to TexasAssessment.com for more resources on using Lexiles to boost their child's reading level.



Parents are given context about their child's growth within a school year. Specifically, was the growth:

- Limited
- Expected
- Accelerated

Parents are also shown the Lexile level typical for students of the same grade.

The report shows changes in a student's Lexile level over time.

Student Report: Back Cover

The report provides recommendations and suggests resources for parents. For high school students, the report covers how to plan for college and careers.

Parent Resource Tool

2017 Confidential Student Report

Reading

Strategies to improve your child's grade 8 reading understanding

- Understanding/Analysis Across Genres**
 - When your child comes across a word he/she does not know while reading, have a printed or digital dictionary available for him/her to look up the meaning of the word on his/her own. This is a free dictionary app: www.dictionary.com/apps.
 - Have your child read books that have also been made into movies — discuss how they are similar and different.
- Understanding/Analysis of Literary Texts**
 - Discuss with your child the book he/she is reading. Your child should be able to summarize and paraphrase his/her books. If your child is struggling with this, have him/her take notes on sticky notes throughout the book to help him/her summarize as he/she reads.
- Understanding/Analysis of Informational Texts**
 - Have your child look up and share with you informational or news stories he/she finds interesting. Ask your child questions about what other texts, stories, or events he/she connects to after reading this piece. Your child should be able to make connections between a non-fiction piece, a fiction piece, and/or a real-world event.
- Writing Composition, Revision and Editing**
 - Writing is not assessed for this reporting category in grade 8. However, your child should still practice writing at home and in school often. Make writing a regular part of his/her routine. For example, your child can write short stories and read them aloud. Your child can also write letters or emails to friends and family.

Mathematics

Strategies to improve your child's grade 8 math understanding

- Numerical Representations and Relationships**
 - Foster Effective Study Strategies: Help your child learn how to study effectively for mathematics tests. This means working through problems, not just reading through them or skimming the review sheet. The more problems your child practices, the more he/she will internalize the various components. This increases speed and understanding so he/she can be better prepared to adjust the steps when required.
- Computations and Algebraic Relationships**
 - Calculate The Odds: If your school is holding a raffle, discuss the details with your child. Have your child find out how many tickets will be sold and how many prizes will be awarded. Then have your child determine your probability of winning if you buy a ticket — or 10 or 20.
- Geometry and Measurement**
 - Have your child discuss a problem that was easy and a problem that was difficult. Ask your child to explain key features of the difficult problem to you. Ask your child to jot down any part of the problem that was challenging to ask the teacher.
- Data Analysis and Personal Financial Literacy**
 - If your child has a cell phone, discuss the details of the phone bill and how much the charge is per text or per minute of usage.

Meeting with Your Child's Teacher

Things to do before the conference:

- Check your child's grades and relevant test scores.
- Ask your child if there are any questions he/she would like you to ask the teacher.
- Write down any special notes you want to make sure to mention that could impact your child at school (ex. major changes at home, special interests, allergies, etc.).
- Talk to any other parents, guardians, or caregivers about questions they would like to have asked.
- Pre-write your questions so you don't forget any, and make sure to bring a way to take notes!

Sample questions you can ask your teacher:

- What does my child seem to be the most interested in at school?
- Does my child have good friends in class and at school?
- What is the most important thing that I can be doing to prepare my child for high school?
- Is my child giving his/her best effort?
- What could my child be doing that he or she is not already doing?
- How is my child's work completion in your class?

For more information, visit www.texasassessment.com.

The report card provides tips to maximize the impact of parent-teacher conferences.