



Family Guide to Student Reports

Spring 2023 AK STAR Assessments

English Language Arts and Mathematics

The Purpose of the AK STAR Assessments

Alaska has implemented an innovative approach to a balanced assessment system called the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR). This balanced approach connects the MAP Growth interim assessment taken in fall and winter to the spring AK STAR assessment, which is made up of a grade-specific summative component combined with a growth component. The summative component addresses the breadth and depth of the [Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards](#) while the growth component includes instructional areas in Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics.

AK STAR is administered to all students in grades 3–9 and is an adaptive assessment designed to meet the educational needs of students in Alaska. The adaptive assessment tailors the difficulty of test items to each student's individual performance level, providing test items at grade level, as well as above and below grade level. This unique assessment provides students with both a summative achievement level (Advanced, Proficient, Approaching Proficient, or Needs Support) and a MAP Growth score, just like students receive in fall and winter.

AK STAR assessments also provide information to parents, educators, policy makers, and communities about how Alaska's schools and districts are performing. They provide information to help schools improve and to meet the State Board of Education's Mission, "An excellent education for every student every day."

The [Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards](#) are used to drive curriculum, instruction, and assessment goals and actions. The standards provide the foundation for the curriculum, instruction, and assessment activities in schools and classrooms throughout Alaska.

What's Next? - Next Steps in English Language Arts Learning and Mathematics

The English Language Arts (ELA) assessment encompasses reading, writing, and language. Items in the reading portion of the AK STAR assessment are derived from reading passages that represent various genres of both literary and informational texts at a student's grade level. The mathematics assessment includes questions that cover various mathematical concepts and require students to not only understand the content but also apply it to solve problems and explain their thinking.

The full list of performance expectations and achievement examples is available on the [AK STAR Assessment Results](#) webpage.

As a family member, you can connect with your student’s teacher to identify and discuss areas of strength or areas of need. The Individual Student Report provides student-level data to support student’s progress, performance, and identify content domains for which students were able to successfully answer related questions. It can help to answer, “is my student on track?” and “what are my student’s relative strengths and suggested areas of focus?”.

You may also want to visit the DEED (Department of Education and Early Development) website for resources such as the [AK STAR practice tests](#) and the [Alaska English Language Arts and Mathematics Standards](#) – these standards provide information on what your student should know and be able to do.

Learn more about Alaska’s statewide assessments at the [AK STAR Families and Community](#) site and the [AK STAR Assessment Results](#) site.

What will I see on the AK STAR reports?

The following is a brief description of what is included in the student report. A detailed annotated description is provided on page 3.

Page 1

- Overview and questions about AK STAR and MAP Growth

Page 2

- English Language Arts student report
- Scale score; comparison with school, district, and state
- Performance by instructional area

Page 3

- Mathematics student report
- Scale score; comparison with school, district, and state
- Performance by instructional area

Page 1: Overview

- Report Information:** Student, school, and district information along with the term of administration
- AK STAR Introduction:** A short summary of the summative assessment and additional context for interpretation
- AK STAR Achievement Levels:** A breakdown and generic description of each achievement level applicable to all grade levels
- MAP Growth Introduction:** A short description of the MAP Growth assessments, links for more information, and additional context for interpretation

PAULSON, ALICIA
AKSID: 123456
Grade: 5
School: ABILENE MIDDLE SCHOOL
District: PLEASANT VALLEY USD
2023 Individual Student Report

1 **What is AK STAR?**

The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) is designed to streamline the testing experience for grades 3-9 in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. This balanced approach connects fall or winter MAP® Growth™ interim assessments to the spring AK STAR, which is made up of a grade-specific summative component combined with a growth component. With this approach, Alaska has a comprehensive assessment system that improves efficiency and cohesion and drives student outcomes by prioritizing teaching and learning.

2 **What do the AK STAR scores mean?**

Summative Component

- The summative component addresses the breadth and depth of Alaska grade-level content standards, by showing what a student knows and can do by designating one of the four achievement levels.
- The summative component measures student understanding of what they have learned over time. Summative scale scores describe student performance based on Alaska grade-level standards.

3 **What are the Achievement Levels for the Summative Component of AK STAR?**

Needs Support	Approaching Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
Student may partially meet the standards but needs support to master the knowledge and skills of current grade level content.	Student partially meets the standards and may have gaps in knowledge and skills but is approaching mastery of some grade level content.	Student meets the standards and demonstrates mastery of the knowledge and skills of most grade level content.	Student meets the standards and demonstrates mastery of the knowledge and skills on a range of complex grade level content.

For more information on what a student in this grade level can do at each achievement level visit <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/achievement> or the QR code.

4 **Growth Component (Powered By MAP® Growth™)**

- The growth component provides teachers with actionable evidence to help inform instructional strategies regardless of how far students are above or below grade level.
- The growth component measures what a student knows at that time, and then is compared to their previous MAP® Growth™ assessments, either fall or winter, to provide a conditional growth score.
- Growth uses a Rasch unit (RIT) scale and compares a student at that point in time to all other students in the nation who took MAP® Growth™.

MAP® Growth™ Score Key

Low	Low Avg	Avg	High Avg	High
Less than 21st percentile	21st - 40th percentile	41st - 60th percentile	61st - 80th percentile	Greater than 81st percentile

For more information on AK STAR, please visit education.alaska.gov/akstar. 1 of 3

Pages 2 and 3: Achievement details for English Language Arts and Mathematics

- Scale Score section:** A short description of the student's achievement level along with a visual representation of the student's score - the student's scale score is above the bar
- Median Comparison Table:** A comparison of the student's score to the median scores at school, district, and state levels
- MAP Growth:** MAP Growth RIT scores (if available) for related instructional areas, and comparison to the previously taken MAP Growth RIT score
- Instructional Area:** A learning area (e.g., Geometry) within a subject (e.g., Math)

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English Language Arts

Summative Component Score: Proficient

This score falls in the **Proficient** range for English Language Arts, which indicates that the student meets the standards and demonstrates mastery of the knowledge and skills of most grade level content.

1608*

*If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect the student's scores to fall within the dotted range shown.

NS	AP	P	A
Needs Support 1420 - 1575	Approaching Proficient 1576 - 1595	Proficient 1596 - 1625	Advanced 1626 - 1780

6 **Comparison to State, District, and School Performance**

Scale Score Median Comparisons	# Tested	Non-Proficient				Proficient			
		NS	AP	P	A	NS	AP	P	A
Alicia		1608							
School Median Score	7	1601							
District Median Score	567	1595							
State Median Score	6,233	1595							

7 **Growth Component Scores (Powered By MAP® Growth™)**

Reading Overall RIT			Language Usage Overall RIT		
229 RIT Score +19 from Fall	82nd Achievement Percentile	89th Conditional Growth High	220 RIT Score -2 from Fall	74th Achievement Percentile	68th Conditional Growth High Avg
Reading Instructional Area RIT			Language Usage Instructional Area RIT		
218 Literary Text	230 Informational Text	224 Vocabulary	220 Language: Grammar	210 Language: Mechanics	222 Writing: Write/Revise

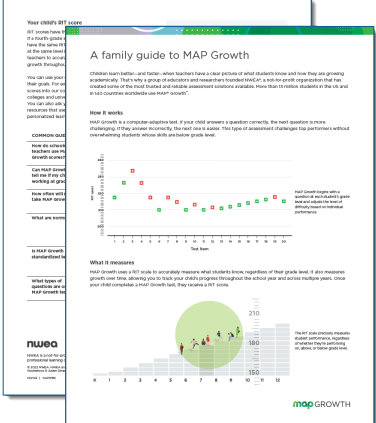
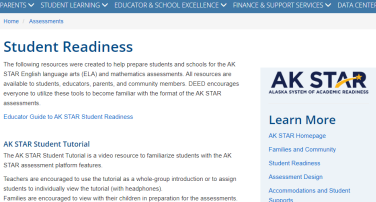
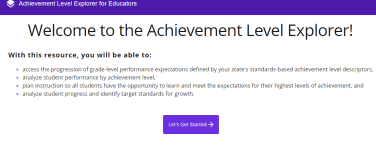
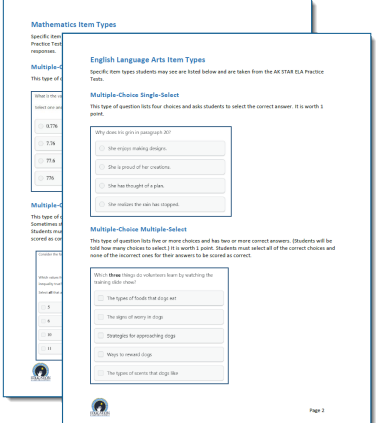
8 **MAP® Growth™ Score Key**

Low	Low Avg	Avg	High Avg	High
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For more information, contact your student's school. 2 of 3

Resources

Select the preview image or use the underlined text to visit each resource.

Preview	Link and Description
	<p>MAP Suite Family Toolkit</p> <p>The MAP Suite Family Toolkit includes videos, fact sheets, guides, and an FAQ to help families understand the basics of the MAP Growth assessment: what it is, what it measures, how it works, and what a RIT score is.</p>
	<p>AK STAR Student Readiness Resources</p> <p>The AK STAR Student Readiness Resources page includes the Educator Guide to Student Readiness, the AK STAR Student Video Tutorial, and the AK STAR Practice Test.</p>
	<p>Achievement Level Explorer Tool</p> <p>The Achievement Level Explorer tool allows families to see the progression of grade-level performance expectations defined by your state's standards-based achievement level descriptors.</p>
	<p>ELA and Math Assessment Item Types</p> <p>The ELA and Math Assessment Item Types document shows examples of the types of items students might see in the AK STAR assessments. These sample items are taken from the AK STAR ELA and Math Practice Tests.</p>

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