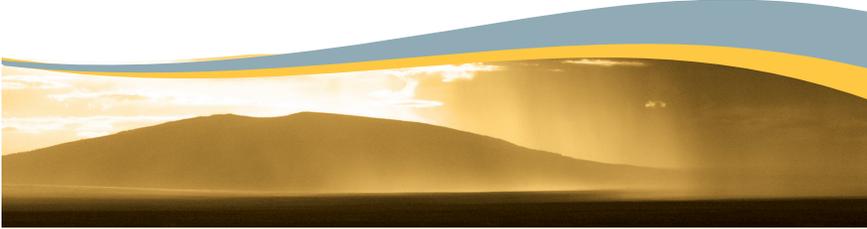




New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA)



Family Reports Interpretive Guide

Understanding Your Child's Test Scores 2019

Table of Contents

What is the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment?	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.

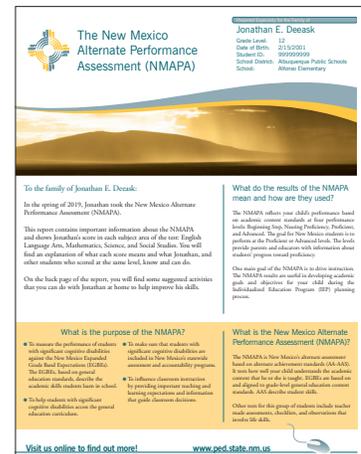
What is the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment?

The purpose of the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA) is to maximize access to the general education curriculum for students with significant cognitive disabilities, to ensure that all students with disabilities are included in New Mexico's statewide assessment and accountability programs, and to direct instruction in the classroom.

The NMAPA is only for those students with an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) documenting significant cognitive disabilities and adaptive behavior deficits that require extensive support across multiple settings (e.g. home, school, and community).

In spring, English Language Arts and Mathematics are administered to students in grades 3-8 and 10-11. Science is administered to students in grades 4, 7, and 11. Social Studies is administered to students in grade 11. In fall, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and/or Social Studies are administered to students in grades 12 who need to meet graduation requirements.

This test was designed to assist educators, parents, and related service providers with determining the level of academic skill the students have attained up to the point of assessment.



New Mexico Alternate Performance
Assessment
Grade 12
Spring 2019 Score Report

What This Result Means

This section provides information on what students generally know and are able to do at the student's attained performance level.

Your Student's Score

Each student's performance on the NMAPA is reported as a score between 100 and 900. Higher scores indicate higher performance; lesser scores reflect lower performance.

English Language Arts

Jonathan scored in the Advanced range. Students who score in this range should be able to:

- read and understand a short story;
- recognize and recall the details of a story (including character, setting, and plot) and make predictions;
- use context clues to understand the meaning of unknown words.

Below is a description of the areas tested:

Reading

- Reading is defined by receiving information, recognizing high-frequency words, understanding symbolic information, and reading comprehension. Symbolic information may be presented as patterns in books, drawings, pictures, icons, picture-symbols, words, and sentences.
- Your child may receive information through one of the five senses. This information

can be shared in many ways, including listening to text read aloud, oral reading, using signed language, or silent reading.

- Reading comprehension includes understanding the main idea, details, plot, characters, and conflict of a story. It also includes interpretation and use of written material, including newspapers, signs, and books.

Literature and Media

- Students use language, literature, and media to gain and show awareness of cultures around the world.
- Students find and choose which types of literature to use, based on the purpose and function of each type. For example, if a student wanted to know the capital of another country, he or she would use a nonfiction text.

Writing

- Students use grammatical and language rules to communicate. For example, students arrange written symbols correctly on a page (e.g., top to bottom, left to right).
- Students are able to compose sentences with clear ideas and supporting details.

900

Advanced: Students performing at this level demonstrate expanded academic skills and competencies in reading, writing, and communication.

487

Proficient: Students performing at this level demonstrate developing expanded academic skills and competencies in reading, writing, and communication.

479

Nearing Proficiency: Students performing at this level demonstrate beginning expanded academic skills and competencies in reading, writing, and communication.

411

Beginning Step: Students performing at this level may demonstrate some emerging expanded academic skills and competencies in reading, writing, and communication.

100

Your Child's Score: 500

Mathematics

Jonathan scored in the Proficient range. Students who score in this range should be able to:

- identify numerals from 0 to 100;
- complete patterns;
- perform basic calculations;
- compare math quantities up to 50 (e.g., equal, greater, less, fewer);
- identify and use graphs.

Below is a description of the areas tested:

Number and Operations

- Students understand numbers ways of representing numbers, and the relationships among numbers.
- Students understand the meaning of operations. For example, students understand the symbol "+" means add, combine, or put together.

Algebra

- Students understand patterns, relations, and functions. For example, students sort math pictures and objects into sets.

Students represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols. For example, students are able to distinguish quantities of objects (e.g., equal, more, less).

Students use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships. For example, students are able to use objects to represent numbers.

Geometry

Students analyze characteristics and properties of two- and

three-dimensional shapes.

- Students specify locations and describe spatial relationships. For example, students follow directions from one location to another.
- Students apply transformations. For example, students recognize objects that are the same shape.

Measurement

- Students understand how to measure an object and what units should be used.

900

Advanced: Students performing at this level demonstrate expanded academic skills and competencies in mathematics.

532

Proficient: Students performing at this level demonstrate developing expanded academic skills and competencies in mathematics.

506

Nearing Proficiency: Students performing at this level demonstrate beginning expanded academic skills and competencies in mathematics.

450

Beginning Step: Students performing at this level may demonstrate some emerging expanded academic skills and competencies in mathematics.

100

Your Child's Score: 525

- Students understand which tools and techniques should be used to measure an object.

Data Analysis and Probability

- Students formulate questions that can be answered with data. For example, students make lists, charts, plots, and diagrams to display data.
- Students select and use the appropriate methods to analyze data. For example, students can use information from a graph to answer questions about what is being shown.

Performance Levels

The student's demonstration of the skills and knowledge required by the assessment is reported as a performance level (i.e. Beginning Step, Nearing Proficiency, Proficient, or Advanced).

What was Tested?

This section describes the areas that were tested for each subject administered. The areas tested vary by subject. There are three areas tested in English Language Arts, five areas tested in Mathematics, five areas tested in Science, and four areas tested in Social Studies.

Next Steps

On the back of each report, there is supportive information about the next steps you can take with your student based on his or her gradeband and performance level. These suggested activities can help your student's learning and improve his or her skills in each of the areas tested on the NMAPA. Note your child's report may not include all subjects; it will only include activities for the subjects your child was tested in which is based on his or her grade.

How you can help Jonathan at home

You can support your child's learning by doing activities at home together. The following are some suggested activities that you can work on with Jonathan to help him improve his skills in each of the areas tested on the NMAPA.

ELA

- Provide the opportunity for your child to read a recipe, advertisement, schedule, and newspaper and magazine articles.
- Discuss the key features of television news sports, or entertainment reports.
- Help your child write a letter or other communication to friends or family members.

Mathematics

- Help your child create a graph or chart of his or her favorite sports team's results (number of wins/losses, scores).
- Create simple addition or subtraction problems while setting the table, preparing a meal, or driving down a road.
- Before making a purchase, have your child use a calculator and estimate what the total will be.

Science

- Explain to your child that gravity holds us to the Earth and that there is no gravity in outer space. Explain that when astronauts leave their space shuttles, there is no gravity and they have a cord or rope that keeps them attached to the spacecraft.
- Explain to your child that all plants and animals need food and water, and not watering the plant causes it to wilt.

Social Studies

- Talk with your child about important places in your community, New Mexico and the United States.
- Talk with your child about the basic laws that he or she must obey as a member of your home and community.
- Assist your child in describing significant historical events, such as the U.S. Civil Rights Movement or World War II.
- Talk with your child about rights and freedoms given to citizens by the U.S. and New Mexico Constitutions (e.g., the right to vote, freedom of speech, freedom of religion).

More Information about the NMAPA

How is the NMAPA organized?

Each content area assessment (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) on the NMAPA is made up of 15 tasks, which are arranged in order of difficulty. Each task is made up of an average of six questions that the student must answer. These tasks and questions are linked to the grade-level performance standards but are at a less complex level than those required of the general education assessments. Students take 5–7 tasks based on the Student Placement Questionnaire the teacher filled out.

Which tasks does your child have to take?

Your child's teacher completes a survey, called a Student Placement Questionnaire, about your child's academic skills. The overall survey results help the teacher determine the most appropriate starting task for each student.

Why does your child take the NMAPA?

Federal laws require states to create alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS) for students whose significant cognitive disabilities keep them from taking the general district and statewide assessments.

For more information, contact your child's school.

Glossary of Terms/Definitions

Performance Level: An achievement level (i.e. Beginning Step, Nearing Proficiency, Proficient, and Advanced) that corresponds to a score range determined by broad-based committees of educators.

Performance-Level Descriptors: Detailed explanations of the skills that correspond to each performance level.

Score: A numerical value on a common scale from 100 to 900 so that a student's scores can be compared over multiple administrations.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are scores reported and used?

The New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA) tests students' achievement in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The NMAPA does not address other important skills for this student population such as functional life skills. Individualized Education Program (IEP) reports and other methods provide educators and parents with information on how students are progressing in these areas.

Scores from the NMAPA may be used along with other information in evaluating the student's performance on academic content and skills as well as in planning instruction aligned with the academic content standards.

The student's performance on the NMAPA is reported with a score and performance level for each subject area. The scale score may be used to track a student's achievement growth in a subject over two or more administrations.

Users of score report results should remember that test data constitute a single source of information that should be used in conjunction with other relevant information on student performance.

What does my child's performance level tell me?

There are four performance levels in each subject area (Beginning Step, Nearing Proficiency, Proficient, and Advanced) which tell you your student's demonstration of the skills and knowledge required by the assessment. Performance-level descriptors for all content areas are available on the portal (nmapa-portal.org).

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

If your student did not receive a score in a particular subject, the report will include specific text as to why there is no score. Reasons for not receiving a score include: the student was not tested, the student passed in a previous administration, the student had a blank test, the student withdrew before completing the test, the student had a medical emergency, there was a test irregularity, the student was absent, the test was incomplete, the test was invalidated, or other non-completion. Please ask your student's school if you have any questions about your student's test results.

What are the subjects tested at each grade?

Students are tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3–8 and 10–11. Students are tested in Science in grades 4, 7, and 11. Students are tested in Social Studies in grades 11.

Additional Resources

Families can visit the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment portal (nmapa-portal.org) to find more information.