

# Student Report to Parents

## 2017 New Mexico Standards Based Assessment



For the family of:

**Name Not Provided**

**Date of Birth:** 09/05/2005

**Grade:** 4

**District:** Demonstration District A

**School:** Demonstration School 1

**Test Date:** Spring 2017

Dear Parents,

This report tells you about your child's performance on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA). Beginning with the spring 2016 administration, science and Spanish reading are assessed by the SBA. English language arts/literacy and mathematics are assessed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). As required by the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, the New Mexico SBA measures how well a student has gained the knowledge and skills required in the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards. The SBA measures the state content standards as outlined in the Assessment Frameworks. The assessment is challenging because we must be sure that New Mexico students are prepared for success in a career or at college.

Your child's performance on this test 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. Use teachers and principals as resources who can help explain scores and offer strategies that will improve your child's skills. It is New Mexico's goal for all students to reach the Proficient proficiency level.

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.

## What is the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment?

The SBA Science test is given to all New Mexico students in grades 4, 7, and 11. It has questions that measure how well students are learning the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards.

There are three types of science questions. For multiple-choice questions, worth one point each, students read a question and then choose the best of four answer choices. For short-answer questions and open-ended questions, students write out their responses and/or make a chart, diagram, illustration or graph to support their answers. Short-answer questions are simpler than open-ended items and are worth up to two points each. Open-ended items are worth up to three or four points each. Approximately 80 percent of the SBA science questions are multiple-choice and 20 percent are short-answer or open-ended questions.

## How are the SBA results reported?

SBA science results are reported based on four proficiency levels for: *Advanced, Proficient, Nearing Proficiency* and *Beginning Step*. The goal is for all New Mexico students to reach the Proficient or Advanced proficiency levels in the subject.

You will find your child's score reported as a scaled score. Scaled scores provide a way to compare student performance across years for a given subject. The scaled score range will always be 0-80 and the place on the scale where Proficient begins is always at 40. The scaled score will include the grade level and then the scaled score. For example, a fourth-grade student whose scaled score is 439 is Nearing Proficiency, while another fourth-grade student whose scaled score is 440 is Proficient.

Groups of New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards are combined to create reporting categories. For example, a number of specific learning standards related to Earth Science are grouped together into one science reporting category. Reporting categories show whether your child performed on target, strongly, or weakly for each reporting category tested. The section titled "*A Closer Look at Your Child's Performance*" will help your child's teacher focus on areas where your child may need the most support.

## How can I be more involved?

These scores provide important information about your child's academic performance in the subjects tested by the SBA. Teachers will use student, school, and district test results to review curriculum and make improvements to teaching practices in your child's classroom. Along with regular teacher observations, classroom exams, report cards, and evidence of your child's daily schoolwork, use these results to follow how well your child is doing in school. Your child's future academic achievement depends on your support. Here are some suggestions to assist your child with his or her academic success:

- Maintain regular contact with your child's teachers to find out how you can support your child's work in school.
- Ensure that your child gets enough rest, eats properly, and arrives at school on time every day.
- Talk to your child about subjects in which he or she may need to improve and how you can help.
- Follow homework assignments and make sure your child has the resources needed to complete them.
- Stay involved with your child's learning by talking about what he or she is studying. Not only does this help you follow his or her progress, but it helps your child remember what he or she is learning.
- If your child has a disability or is an English Language Learner, ask his or her teacher how testing fit into your child's IEP, 504 Plan, or ELL Plan.

## Where can I find more information?

For general information: <http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/parents.html>

This "Released Items" section of the PED website provides actual test questions from past years:  
<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/AssessmentEvaluation/SBA/index.html>

# Science Results for Name Not Provided

Your child's Science scaled score of **444** is in the **Proficient** proficiency level. The small light gray bar on the chart shows a probable range of scores of **441–447** that your child would likely receive if he/she took this test many times. The chart also shows how your child performed compared to other grade 4 students at the school, district, and state levels. A full list of the Proficiency Level Descriptors can be found at <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/AssessmentEvaluation/SBA/index.html>.

At the **Proficient** level, these are some of the things students are expected to know and to do: describe scientific concepts and processes relating to their environments, the solar system, and Earth; begin to use the scientific method; identify logical conclusions from observations; analyze data, understand relationships, and communicate findings using basic mathematical and scientific skills, vocabulary, and tools; interpret charts, tables, and graphs, and explain how science influences decisions made in everyday life.

To achieve the next level, **Advanced**, these are some of the things students are expected to know and to do: explain and apply scientific concepts and processes; come up with logical conclusions from observations and understand that theories can change based on new information and discoveries; analyze and evaluate data; construct and interpret charts, tables, and graphs, and examine and interpret how science influences decisions made in everyday life.

|                            | Scaled Score Range | Your Child | School | District | State |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|----------|-------|
| <b>Advanced</b>            | 456-480            |            | 3%     | 5%       | 6%    |
| <b>Proficient</b>          | 440-455            |            | 60%    | 53%      | 38%   |
| <b>Nearing Proficiency</b> | 430-439            |            | 26%    | 28%      | 34%   |
| <b>Beginning Step</b>      | 400-429            |            | 11%    | 14%      | 23%   |

The shaded row indicates your child's proficiency level.

## A Closer Look at Your Child's Performance

This area provides information about how your child performed in each Reporting Category that was tested compared to students who are just reaching Proficient. Based on this test and the definition of Proficiency for the SBA, your child is stronger in areas marked with ★, on target in areas marked with ✓, and weaker in areas marked with ×. We recommend you consider these test results together with other information about your child's knowledge and skills in Science that his or her teacher can provide to help your child focus on areas where he or she may need the most support.

| Reporting Category                                | Points Earned | Points Possible | Performance Indicator |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Nature of Science: Scientific Thinking & Practice | 6             | 12              | ✓                     |
| Nature of Science: Science & Society              | 10            | 10              | ★                     |
| Physical Science                                  | 9             | 13              | ✓                     |
| Life Science                                      | 8             | 16              | ✓                     |
| Earth Science                                     | 3             | 9               | ×                     |

- × Weaker
- ✓ On track
- ★ Stronger