

## A Family Guide to Understanding Results from California's New Testing System

Last spring, students in grades 3-8 and 11 took online tests in English-language arts and mathematics using a computer. These tests are called the Smarter Balanced Assessments (sometimes referred to as the SBAC assessments) and they are part of California's new testing system called the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or CAASPP. This edition of the *Family Guide* focuses on helping parents and guardians understand their child's results from the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Other information about the testing system and can be found on the California Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caaspp15rpttalkpts.asp>

### Individual Student Reports Are Customized for Each Child

Each child who took the online tests will receive a Student Report with information about how he or she did in English-language arts and mathematics, and science if your child was in 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade last year. Most schools will send home the Student Report in August.

### Results Will Show Overall Student Achievement for English-Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics

The front page of the Student Report will provide an overall score and an achievement level for each subject area.

#### Overall Score

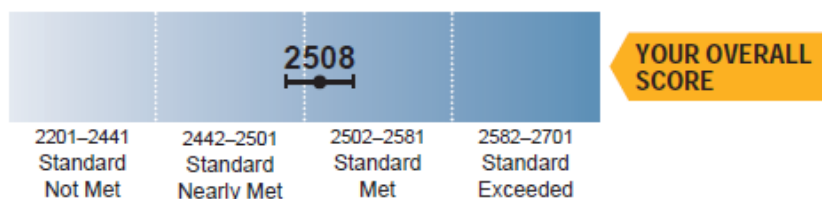
In each subject area, your child receives a four-digit score that ranges from 2,000 to 3,000 points. This is the overall score, also called a scale score. The scale score range is the same for all grade levels. It is important to understand that your child's information is for his or her grade level only.

#### Achievement Levels

Overall scores are grouped into categories called achievement levels. Each child will receive an overall achievement level for English-language arts/literacy and an overall achievement level for mathematics. There are four achievement levels for the overall score: Standard Exceeded, Standard Met, Standard Nearly Met, and Standard Not Met. The range of overall scores for each achievement level is also printed on the Student Report. To learn more about how the achievement levels were determined, go to <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-levels/>.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

Juan's overall score is: **2508**

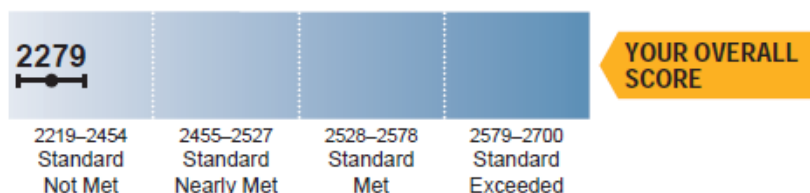


Juan met the achievement standard and demonstrated the knowledge and skills in English language arts/literacy needed for success in future coursework.

Juan's performance on the four areas that comprise this overall score can be seen on the back of this report.

### MATHEMATICS

Juan's overall score is: **2279**



Juan did not meet the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills in mathematics needed for success in future coursework.

Juan's performance on the three areas that comprise this overall score can be seen on the back of this report.

## Results Also Provided For Sets of Skills within English-Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics

Within each subject area there is additional information for each set of skills that was measured. These sets of skills are called “claims.” There are four claims in English-language arts/literacy and three in mathematics. Your child will receive one of three possible achievement levels for each claim: Above Standard, At or Near Standard, or Below Standard. In the picture below you can see each claim, the description of that claim, and the achievement level.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

Juan’s overall score is: 2508

| AREA   | PERFORMANCE                |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Reading</b><br><i>Demonstrating understanding of literary and non-fiction texts</i> | <b>Above Standard</b>      |
| <b>Writing</b><br><i>Producing clear and purposeful writing</i>                        | <b>At or Near Standard</b> |
| <b>Listening</b><br><i>Demonstrating effective communication skills</i>                | <b>At or Near Standard</b> |
| <b>Research/Inquiry</b><br><i>Investigating, analyzing and presenting information</i>  | <b>Below Standard</b>      |

### MATHEMATICS

Juan’s overall score is: 2279

| AREA   | PERFORMANCE           |
|--|-----------------------|
| <b>Problem Solving &amp; Modeling/Data Analysis</b><br><i>Using appropriate tools and strategies to solve real world and mathematical problems</i> | <b>Above Standard</b> |
| <b>Concepts &amp; Procedures</b><br><i>Applying mathematical concepts and procedures</i>   | <b>Below Standard</b> |
| <b>Communicating Reasoning</b><br><i>Demonstrating ability to support mathematical conclusions</i>   | <b>Below Standard</b> |

## For High School Students Results Provide Important Information for College Preparation

For students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, results from the Smarter Balanced tests will also be used for the Early Assessment Program (EAP). The EAP is used by the California State University (CSU) and some community colleges to determine whether a student is ready for college level English and math courses. More information about the EAP can be found on the CSU’s Web site at <https://www.calstate.edu/eap/> or on the California Community Colleges Web site at [www.cccco.edu/eap](http://www.cccco.edu/eap).

## Test Results Only One Measure of Student Achievement

You receive information about how your child is doing in school through grades on tests and classroom assignments, as well as by talking with your child’s teacher. The new test results will give you another piece of information about how well your child is learning what is expected for his or her grade. Think of the test results as one part of an academic “wellness” check for your child – similar to when you take your child to the doctor for their annual checkups. The test results, combined with all the other information you have about your child, give you a good sense of where your child is doing well and where he or she might benefit from some extra help.

## Results Set New Starting Point for Student Achievement

The Smarter Balanced assessments are very different from the old exams. Because of those differences, we can’t make any comparisons between new and old. This year’s results set a new starting point for schools across California; one against which we can measure improvement in student achievement for years to come. This year’s results can help guide discussions between parents and teachers, and help teachers and schools understand where their students are succeeding and where they might need additional help.