



What can parents/guardians do to help students?

- ✓ Ask a teacher about the student's strengths and weaknesses.
- ✓ Ensure that the student is completing homework daily.
- ✓ Read with the student.

What if a student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or is an English Language Learner (ELL)?

All students participate in the DC-CAS. Students with IEPs either take the DC-CAS with accommodations or they complete an alternative assessment. ELL and Linguistically and Culturally Diverse students are able to receive accommodations depending upon their language level. Teachers and principals can explain a student's accommodations.

Where can you get more information?

- ✓ Talk to the school's counselor or administrator.
- ✓ Ask a teacher about when and how they are teaching different material tested on the DC-CAS.
- ✓ Access the D.C. Learning Standards, Curriculum Guides and Parent Guides at: www.k12.dc.us/dcps/standards2005/standardsHome.htm

Prepared by the District of Columbia Public Schools
Office of Family & Community Engagement

What types of questions are on the DC-CAS?

- **Constructed response** – Students compose answers to questions.
- **Multiple choice** – Students select one answer from 4 choices.

How is this test different from other tests?

DC-CAS is a **criterion referenced test** so it measures a student's knowledge and skills. A **norm referenced test**, like the SAT9 that students took previously, compares students to other students.



DC-CAS

A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE STUDENT REPORT

What is the DC-CAS?

The District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DC-CAS) is a test taken each April by DCPS students to measure their knowledge and skills in math, reading, science and writing.

Who takes the DC-CAS?

All students in grades 3 through 8 and 10.

Why do students take the DC-CAS?

No Child Left Behind legislation requires that states administer a test to assess students' math and reading proficiency. The scores help schools and teachers identify areas in which students need more help or practice, as well as areas where they excel and need additional challenges. DC-CAS is NOT used to label students and will not keep a student from graduating or moving to the next grade.

2. What do the performance levels mean?

There are four performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic. Each level represents a range of scores and tell us how the student did compared to what is expected of students in that grade.

Performance Levels:

Advanced – Student shows in-depth understanding of academic knowledge and skills. This is the highest level of achievement.

Proficient – Student shows competency in the academic knowledge and skills. This is where a student should be.

Basic – Student shows some academic knowledge and skills.

This suggests a student is in need of academic assistance.

Below Basic – Student shows very limited academic knowledge and skills. This suggests a student is in need of substantial academic assistance.

1. How did the student perform on the test?

The check marks show the level at which a student scored in math and in reading.

District of Columbia

Student Report

Grade: 10

Purpose
This report provides individual student results on the DC-CAS for the parent(s) or guardian(s). The report provides information about the general skills a student has and how the student's performance compares to the performance of all District of Columbia students.



Test Date: 04/17/07

District: DCPS
State: DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Performance Levels	Criterion-Referenced Assessment		Content Areas Results			
	Reading	Mathematics	Results by Percent Correct	# Possible Points	Student's % Correct	State % Correct
Advanced	✓ Score Range: 970-999	Score Range: 971-999	Reading Content Area Strands			
			1. Language Development	9	78	53
			2. Informational Text	18	94	58
			3. Literary Text	27	96	56
Proficient	Score Range: 950-969	Score Range: 951-970	Mathematics Content Area Strands			
			1. Number Sense and Operations	14	57	50
			2. Patterns, Relations, and Algebra	20	50	41
			3. Geometry	8	75	41
			4. Measurement	8	50	41
			5. Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability	10	70	48
Basic	Score Range: 940-959	Score Range: 939-950	Student's Scale Score		977	955
Below Basic	Score Range: 900-939	Score Range: 900-932				

Performance levels show the degree of student mastery of the content areas. The levels are "Below Basic", "Basic", "Proficient", and "Advanced". The performance level indicates your child can perform the majority of what is described for that level. Your child may also be capable of performing some of the competencies described in the next higher level, but not enough to have reached that level of performance.

Please see the reverse side of this report for Performance Level Descriptors.

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CTBID: [redacted]

6. How does the student compare to others in the state?

The third column shows the statewide average for all students in D.C. at this grade level. By comparing the student's "% correct" with the state's "% correct," we can see if the student scored above or below the state average.

5. What were the student's strengths and weaknesses?

The second column shows how the student did on each topic on the test. 100% is the highest possible score.

3. What are the student's test scores?

The test scores are reported as scaled scores and are created using a mathematical formula. Scaled scores make it possible to compare the scores of different students.

4. How close was the student to the next level?

The score range shows the lowest and highest scores within each level. Compare this to the student's scaled score to see how close the student is to the next level.