

# Interpretive Guide to Spring 2019 Standards Based Assessment Reports for Schools and Districts

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The purpose of this guide is to assist teachers and school administrators in understanding the information in the Standards Based Assessment (SBA) test score reports. This guide defines assessment terms and points out areas where judgment is needed when comparing test scores. The guide also describes group Summary Reports that are available online. Only the Student Report Labels and the Student Reports for Parents are printed and mailed to districts.

## Assessment Terms

**Criterion Referenced Assessments:** Provide information about student or group mastery of a defined set of standards. The New Mexico academic content standards are measured by the criterion referenced assessment called the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment. Results are presented using proficiency levels (please see definition below).

**Proficiency levels:** Student performance on the SBA is classified into four proficiency levels: *Beginning Step*, *Nearing Proficiency*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*, except for Writing which has two proficiency levels: *Nearing Proficiency* and *Proficient*. Each proficiency level describes what a student knows and can do on state content standards in a certain subject area and grade level. New Mexico students are expected to perform at the Proficient level.

**Scaled Score:** Provides a consistent measure of student performance regardless of which form of a test is administered. Scaled scores are computed from raw scores in a way that is similar to converting inches to centimeters; the length measured has not changed, only the units of measurement used to describe it. SBA scaled scores range from 0 to 80 and Proficient performance is 40 in all grade levels and content areas. The first digit(s) in a scaled score indicate the grade level. For example, scaled scores in grade 4 range from 400 to 480.

**Raw Score:** Indicates the number of points earned by a student on a subject where correct multiple-choice items are worth 1 raw score point, short-answer items up to 2 raw score points, and open-ended items are worth up to 3 or 4 raw score points, depending on the grade level. SBA raw scores are only provided at the reporting category level on the District Report of Schools and at the standard/strand, benchmark and performance standard levels on the Item Plot reports.

**Reporting Category:** A reporting category is made up of several content standards grouped together. To see a chart of the Content Standards that are grouped in each Reporting Category, see the SBA Assessment Blueprints found at <http://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment/standards-based-assessment-sba/sba-teacher-resources/>

## Comparing Test Scores

**Standard Error of Measurement:** It is widely recognized that a student's test performance varies within a range, depending on testing conditions on a certain day. The Standard Error of Measurement (SEM) is an estimate of that variability and it ranges from 1.4 to 10 scaled score points across SBA content areas and grade levels. Therefore, a student's actual achievement is reported in a scaled score range. For example, a student receiving a scaled score of 520 on the grade 5 Spanish reading test would be best characterized as having an actual result within a range of 516 to 524, which is an actual score plus or minus a four-point SEM. When monitoring student growth, a score difference is probably not significant unless it is lower or higher than the range specified in the report.

**Group and Item Level Comparisons:** A certain measure of caution is warranted when evaluating results based on a group of students or a subset of items. Average scores or percentages based on small group sizes or a few test questions can be misleading. That is, the smaller the sample or number of items, the less reliable an inference becomes. Special procedures are also applied to protect confidentiality when a score is based on fewer than 10 students. For example, the public version of the Performance by Subgroup Category Report does not disclose results for small groups.

**Raw Score Comparisons:** Raw score results should not be compared across grade levels or across test administrations, even within the same subject. This is because raw scores are not corrected for differences in item difficulty from one test to another. Refer to scaled scores for such comparisons.

# Spring 2019 Standards Based Assessment Reports

Reports are only available online except for Student Report Labels and Student Reports to Parents which are printed and shipped to districts. All online reports can be printed locally.

## Student Report Label *(printed and shipped only)*

Individual student results by proficiency level and scaled scores by content area

students tested, the number with valid scores, the average scaled score, percent of students at each proficiency level, and percent with No Score

- Average points earned by reporting category

## Student Report to Parents (English or Spanish)

- Individual student results including proficiency level and scaled score by content area, reporting category performance indicator compared to minimally proficient students, and points earned compared to points possible within each reporting category tested.
- This report is also available (online only) re-collated by content area and grade as the **Student Report to Teachers**

## Item Types:

- **MC** – Multiple Choice: 0-1 point each
- **SA** – Short Answer: 0-2 points each
- **OE** – Open Ended: 0-3 or 0-4 points each

## Student Roster Report

- Alphabetical list of all students by grade within a school
- Includes each student's name, date of birth, state student ID number, test language, gender, ethnicity, and identification as a student with disabilities or gifted, enrolled in Title I or bilingual education, identified as migrant, economically disadvantaged (District Use-A, label masked for federal confidentiality requirements), ELL, and/or FAY for the school and district
- Individual student results including proficiency level and scaled score by content area

Report Title	Distribution and Format
Student Results Label	One printed copy
Student Report to Parent	Two printed copies and also posted online
Student Roster Report	Online
Student Report to Teachers – by <i>Subject</i>	Online
Performance by Subgroup Category Report	Online
Item Plot Report	Online
District Summary Roster	Online
District Report of Schools	Online

## Performance by Subgroup Category Report

- Separate report for each content area tested at that grade level, by test language
- Total number of students reported, total number of valid scores of the total number reported, average scaled scores and percent of students in each proficiency level and percent with no score
- Comparisons of school percent's Proficient or Advanced to district and state averages

## Notes for Spring 2019:

- **Science SBA** at grades 4, 7 and High School (HS) was offered as both an online test and a paper-based test.
  - **High School (HS)** refers to **grade 11** students taking the Science SBA.
  - **High School Students:** All **grade 11** students in public schools, charter schools, and state educational institutions must take all three sessions of SBA Science for accountability purposes. The test should also be administered to students above grade 11 who have not previously taken the high school Science SBA test. Grade 11 students with significant cognitive disabilities take the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA).
- **Spanish Reading SBA** Assessment was a paper-based test only at grades 3-8 and High School (HS).
  - **High School (HS)** refers to **grades 10-11** students taking the Spanish Reading SBA.
  - **High School Students:** All students in **grades 10-11** at public schools, charter schools, and state educational institutions who qualify for testing in Spanish must take the Spanish Reading SBA test for accountability purposes. The test should also be administered to students above grade 11 who require a Spanish test and have not previously taken the high school Spanish Reading SBA test.

## District Summary Roster

- Alphabetical list of schools tested within the district, by grade and test language
- Average scaled score of each content area
- Percentage of Students reaching Proficient and Advanced proficiency levels of each content area

## Item Plot Reports

- Separate reports for the school and district levels
- Reports include results for science at High School (HS)
- Separate Spanish Reading Assessment reports include results for reading at High School (HS)
- Total possible points by content area with number of items and average points earned by item type: multiple choice (MC), short answer (SA) and open ended (OE) items.

## District Report of Schools

- Alphabetical list of schools within a district, by grade and test language
- Total Test Scores columns show the number of