

## **What does my child's assessment score mean?**

Your child received an overall score, which is reported in one of four levels, with Level 1 being the lowest. Students who score in Level 3 or 4 have met the standard of the grade level in that subject. If your child scored at Level 2, he or she may need additional support or practice. Students scoring at Level 1 will need support to fully comprehend the skills and concepts in that subject this school year.

## **Why does my child's score look different than scores on previous assessments?**

This first year's assessment scores set a new baseline from which progress will be measured. Your child's score, as well as the school and district results, may look lower this year because the assessment measured more complex skills. A low score does not mean your child learned less or did not improve. Previous assessments focused on different skills.

# **Resources**

**Skill Builder** contains helpful resources for you to support your child in Math and English at home.

<http://bealearninghero.org/skill-builder>

**NH Department of Education Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal** provides more information about the assessment and lets parents and students access practice tests.

<http://nh.portal.airast.org/>

**GreatKids State Test Guide for Parents** offers a simple tool to understand your child's scores and learn how you can help at home.

<http://www.greatschools.org/gk/sbac/>

# **A Guide to Your Child's Smarter Balanced Assessment Results**





Last spring, your child took new statewide assessments in math and English language arts called Smarter Balanced. They were designed to match the new, more rigorous state and Manchester academic standards that focus on the critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills students need in today's world.

As teachers and students work on mastering these more complex skills, educators expect that in this first year, scores may appear different than on the previous state test for many students. Although these new assessments cannot be compared to the old state tests, this year's score provides an accurate picture of a student's academic achievement level.

These assessments are only one of several measures -- including classroom assignments, grades, and conversations with teachers -- that should be used to better understand if your child is on track to succeed in the next grade.

## **What types of questions were asked?**

The Smarter Balanced Assessment includes performance tasks, which are multi-step assignments that ask students to apply their knowledge and skills to address real world problems.

In English, students apply their research and writing skills. In math, they solve a complex problem, then describe and defend their solution.

The assessment also includes traditional multiple choice questions, as well as interactive questions that require students to drag and drop their answers into a box, create equations, and fill in the answer.

To see practice tests, visit <http://nh.portal.airast.org>



## **What should I take away from the assessment results?**

The Smarter Balanced Assessment helps you understand your child's academic progress and achievement. In addition to giving you an overall score in math and English, it also breaks down each subject into categories to give you a better understanding of how your child performed in different areas of math and English.

## **How will my child's score be used?**

Scores will be used, with other measures, to better tailor instruction to individual student needs and to determine how well a school, district and the state is doing against the higher standards and helping students learn.