



# Individual Student Report Interpretive Guide for Parents

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NSCAS General Summative

English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science

Spring 2019

# Introduction

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## Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)

This past spring, your child took the NSCAS General Summative tests. The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), pronounced “EN-skass,” is a statewide assessment. These tests measure student performance against Nebraska’s content area standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3–8, and in Science for grades 5 and 8. Once your child completed the NSCAS General Summative tests, the results were calculated, and a score was generated and reported in the form of an Individual Student Report (ISR).

This guide provides an example report and explains the data it contains to help you understand your child’s report. If you have questions after reading this guide and looking at your child’s ISR, you can find more information under the **Parents/Students** tab of the Nebraska Community Portal at <https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska>. If you need further information, please contact your child’s teacher or school.

## Achievement Levels

Students’ performance on the NSCAS General Summative assessment is reported as a scale score and achievement level. **Scale scores** are a numeric representation of the students’ performance in each content area. Each grade will have a different range of scale scores. **Achievement levels** are used to help make the scale scores easy to understand. Achievement levels are written descriptions that let you know how well your child performed on each section of the test.

### Achievement Levels for ELA and Mathematics:

- **Developing:** Developing learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student may need additional support for academic success at the next grade level.
- **On Track:** On Track learners demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.
- **CCR Benchmark:** CCR Benchmark learners demonstrate advanced proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level, as specified in the assessed

Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards. These results provide evidence that the student will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.

## Achievement Levels for Science:

- **Below the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects unsatisfactory performance on the standards and insufficient understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Below the Standards level inconsistently draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.
- **Meets the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects satisfactory performance on the standards and sufficient understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Meets the Standards level generally draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.
- **Exceeds the Standards:** Overall student performance in science reflects high academic performance on the standards and a thorough understanding of the content at grade level. A student scoring at the Exceeds the Standards level consistently draws on a broad range of scientific knowledge and skills in the areas of inquiry, physical, life, and Earth/space sciences.

## Individual Student Report (ISR)

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) show a student's performance on the NSCAS ELA, Mathematics, and Science tests. Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 present sample reports for Page 1 and Page 2. Explanations for the different parts of the report are listed below.

### 1 Identification Information

Student identification information is provided at the top-right corner of the report on both pages. This includes the document title, student name, student identification number, grade, and the district and school in which the student was enrolled.

### 2 Report Introduction

This section has a description of the NSCAS. It also explains what the scores and achievement levels mean. Scale scores are your child's test scores. Achievement levels are a summary of how well your child performed on each section of the test.

### 3 Overall Performance

Your child's scale score and achievement level for each content area is provided, along with comparisons to school and state averages. The scale score range is also shown.

**Note:** Score ranges for each content area are scaled separately; therefore, the scale scores for one content area cannot be compared to another content area. Instead, use the corresponding Achievement Level for this purpose.

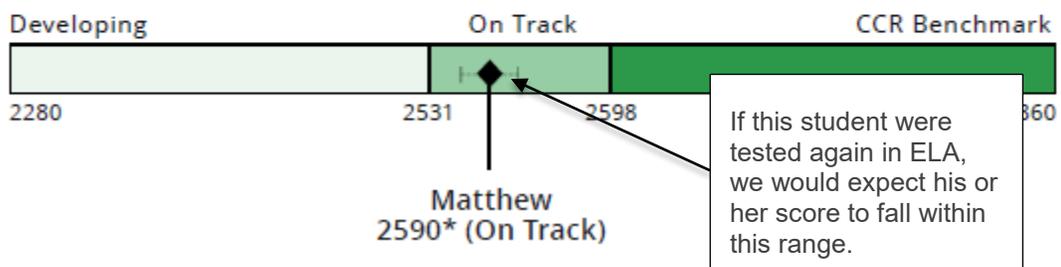
### 4 Performance by Content Area

The last section on Page 1 and all of Page 2 provides your child's current achievement level scores on the different reporting categories within each content area.

Each scale score is shown with a range. If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect your child's score to fall within the range shown in the graphic below.

#### CURRENT YEAR'S DETAILS

Matthew is On Track in ELA. This means Matthew is meeting grade level expectations and will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.



### 5 Reporting Categories

Reporting category scores provide more insight into your child's performance in different areas and can help inform teachers on how to address learning needs. Teachers use these scores for instructional planning. You can use these scores to understand your child's learning needs by looking at which categories your child may need to work on.

All of the reporting categories scores combined are used to produce the score shown under Current Year's Details. This score is **not** an average of the reporting category scores. The overall score is affected by how many questions your child answered in each reporting category, so some categories will have more weight than others.

## **6 Historical Score Data**

This graph shows your child's current and previous years' scores in the content area, as indicated by the black diamonds and lines. The green On Track band shows the score range for a student meeting grade-level expectations.

Your child will not have previous years' data if he or she has not taken an NSCAS test before this year.

If you have questions on this report or would like to know how you can use its results to help your child learn, please discuss those questions with your child's teacher.

Figure 1.1. Sample Report—ISR, Page 1



**1** 2019 INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT  
**KHATOON, AANI FATIMA**  
 ID: 123456789 Grade: 05  
 District: Lake County Unified School District  
 School: Wilbur Wright Elementary School

**2**

**What Is NSCAS?**

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) General Summative test is given once a year. This report shows your child's scores for the spring 2019 test. NSCAS provides valuable information to teachers and schools as they prepare students for success.

**What do the scores mean?**

These scores indicate how well your child is meeting grade-level expectations. For each subject, you will see your child's performance within each reporting category. This detail yields deeper and more precise insights into your child's performance and learning needs.

**What are the Achievement Levels?**

Each score corresponds to an Achievement Level. Achievement Levels are a summary of your child's grade-level performance based on Nebraska's rigorous content area standards.

**Need more Information?**

See the Parent Interpretive Guide: <https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska>

**What should I do with this?**

Like classroom performance and report cards, these test results are just one useful indicator to help parents and teachers see where to focus their efforts. We encourage you to talk with your child's teacher.

To see sample test questions, visit <https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska/practice-tests>

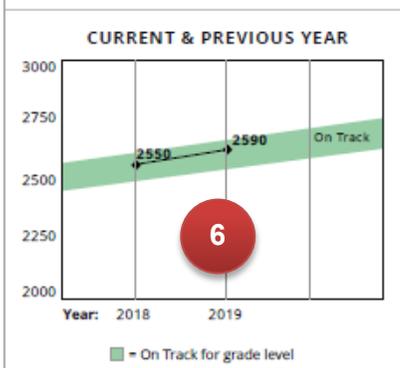
**Aani Fatima Khatoon's Overall Performance**

**3**

Content Area	Student's Scores	Possible Range	School Average	State Average
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS	<b>2590</b>	2280 - 2860	2503	2531
MATHEMATICS	<b>1050</b>	1020 - 1510	1211	1241
SCIENCE	<b>150</b>	0 - 200	85	102

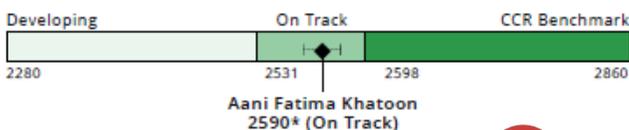
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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) Aani Fatima Khatoon's Achievement Level = On Track**

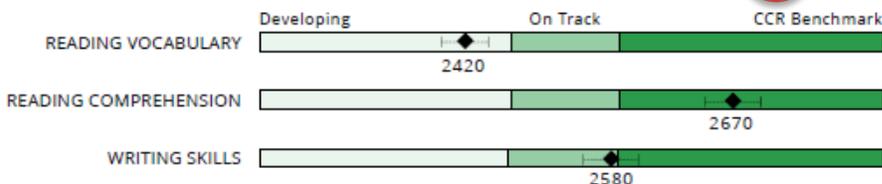


**CURRENT YEAR'S DETAILS**

This score falls in the On Track range for ELA, which indicates that a student is meeting grade level expectations and will likely be ready for academic success at the next grade level.



**CONTENT AREA: REPORTING CATEGORIES**



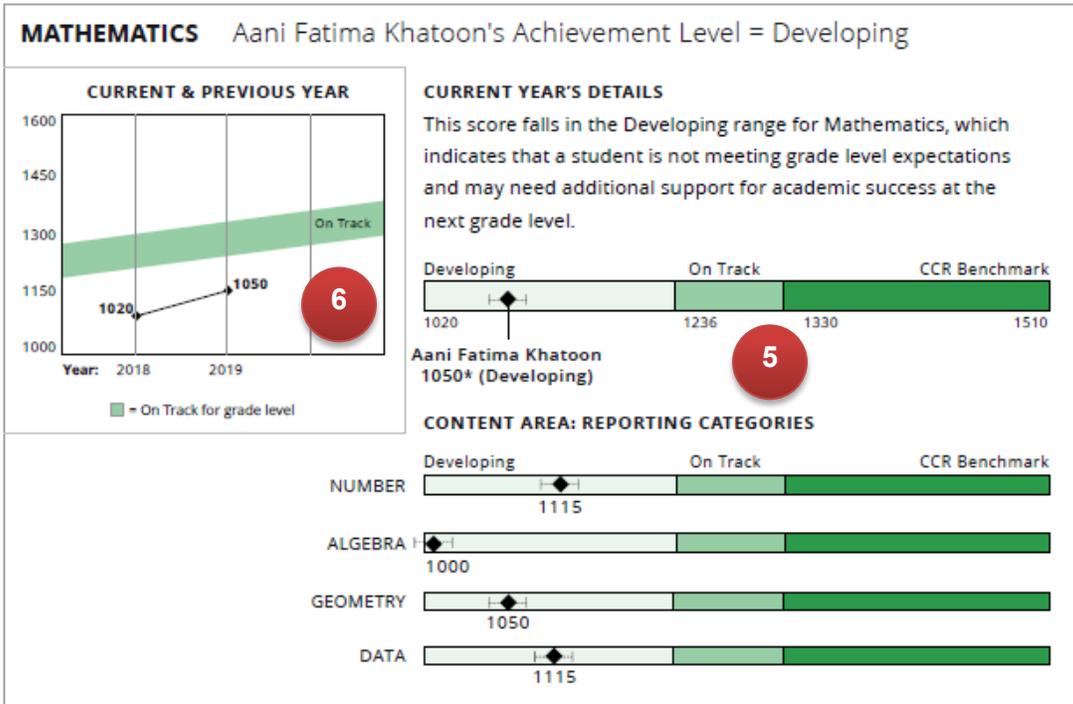
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\* If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect your child's scores to fall within the range shown by the |-----|

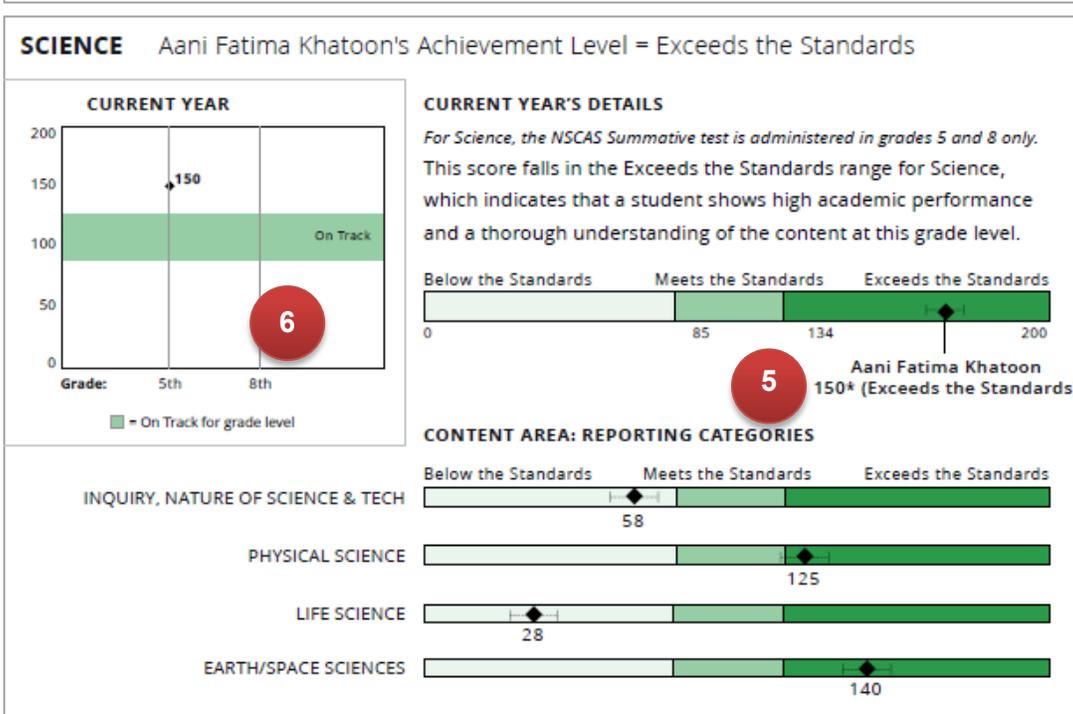
Figure 1.2. Sample Report—ISR, Page 2



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\* If tested again under similar circumstances, we would expect your child's scores to fall within the range shown by the |-----| 2 of 2

## Common Questions

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**How do teachers, district administrators, and state administrators use the General Summative test scores?**

Teachers can use the scores to help them personalize learning and monitor the growth of individual students, ensuring that they are meeting state standards. Principals and administrators can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or entire district in order to target investments in professional learning.

**I see no score for one of my child's tests under Overall Performance, just three letters. What do they mean?**

If your child did not take a test for any reason, a three-letter code called a "Not-Tested Code" (NTC) will appear in your child's report instead of a score. These include **EMW** (medical emergency), **INV** (student's test was invalid), **NLE** (student was not enrolled when the district tested), **PAR** (parent requested that the student not be tested), **SAE** (student was absent during the test window), and **UTT** (district was unable to test student). If a student had an NTC of INV, PAR, SAE, or UTT assigned to his or her test, he or she received the lowest scale score and achievement level for that grade and content area. This automatically assigned score will show on the Scale Score portion of the report.

**How often will my child take NSCAS General Summative tests?**

The NSCAS General Summative test is administered once a year in ELA and Mathematics for grades 3–8, and in Science for grades 5 and 8.

**Is the NSCAS General Summative a standardized test?**

Yes, the NSCAS General Summative is a standardized test. Standardized tests require all test takers to answer a selection of questions from a common bank of questions. Tests are scored in a "standard" or consistent manner, and results fulfill federal guidelines in education. Results also help educators identify student learning strengths and needs so they can tailor instruction to move student learning forward.

**What types of questions are on NSCAS General Summative tests?**

The NSCAS General Summative tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. To see sample item types, please visit: <https://community.nwea.org/community/nebraska/practice-tests>

**Where do I find my child's report if I have not already received it?**

Districts will distribute ISRs to schools for students to take home. If you have moved since the test was given, your report will be delivered to the new school. If you have not received your child's ISR, please contact your child's school.