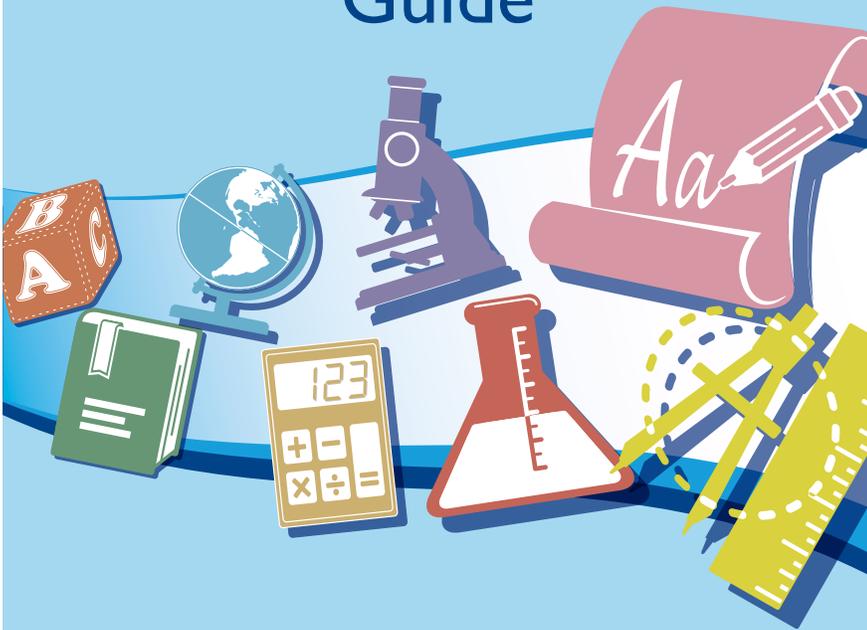


Wyoming Alternate Assessment Family Reports Interpretive Guide



Understanding Your Child's Test Scores 2014–2015 School Year

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Disclaimer: The data in the Family Report sample are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. The student's name on the sample is fictitious, and any similarity to an actual student's name is purely coincidental.

What is the Wyoming Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities?

The Wyoming Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (Wy-ALT) is designed to evaluate the performance of students with diverse and significant disabilities for whom general assessments are not appropriate.

In addition to learning functional life skills, Wyoming believes that all students must have access to, be involved in, and progress in the general academic curriculum. For these reasons, Wyoming's extended Content and Performance Standards were designed to provide meaningful access to academic content for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Additionally, the Wy-ALT provides an opportunity for these students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

In the 2014-2015 school year, students in grades 3-11 were tested on a series of performance tasks in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Science tests were also administered to students in grades 4, 8, and 9-11.

The Wy-ALT can help identify whether students need extra support and practice in ELA, math, or science. Teachers and families can then work together to ensure that students receive the support they need.

Cover Letter The front page of your child's score report includes an important letter from the Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction summarizing the contents of the report and encouraging you to be an active participant in your child's education.

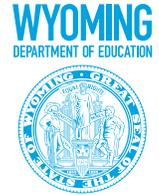
Prepared for

The Family of Jane A. Doe

Test Date: Spring 2015 **Birth Date:** 01/02/2003

School: AIR Elementary School (88)

District: AIR District (1234567)



Grade 5 Alternate Assessment for Students With Significant Cognitive Di

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The main purpose of the Wyoming Assessment System is to provide all students with a challenging and appropriate academic assessment. The Wyoming Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (Wy-ALT) is designed to evaluate the performance of students with disabilities for whom general assessments are not appropriate.

The Wy-ALT represents a change in Wyoming's alternate assessment, which previously required the administration of Student Performance Events (SPEs). The Wy-ALT is aligned to Wyoming's new extended Content and Performance Standards and allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in an appropriately challenging assessment. Jane was tested on a series of performance tasks in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. These tasks are designed to be accessible and engaging to students with diverse and significant disabilities.

The Family Score Report shows Jane's overall scores on the test, the content and skills that were tested in each subject area, and information on what she knows, understands, and can do as well as recommendations for next steps. Jane's teacher is the best person to explain the information contained in this report.

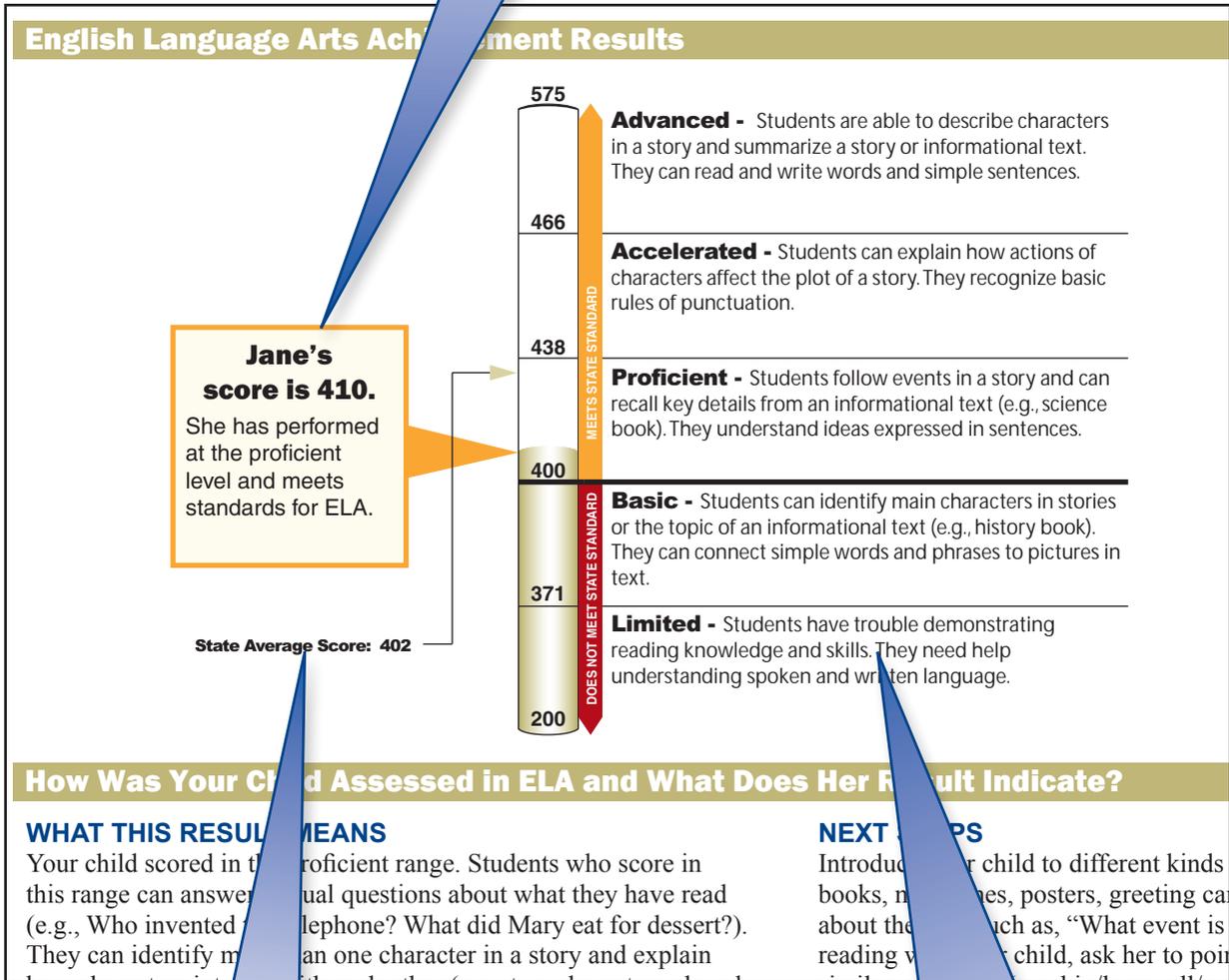
Talk with Jane's teacher and use these test results to help make sure that Jane receives a challenging and appropriate academic program. Doing so is an important step in ensuring her success.

Sincerely,

Jillian Balow



Your Child's Score Inside the report, you will see your child's performance on the Wy-Alt. All students in grades 3–11 are assessed in ELA and mathematics. If your child is eligible for the science assessment, his or her performance on that assessment is also reported.



Comparison Scores Your child's score on a subject assessment is compared with the average score for the state of Wyoming for that assessment.

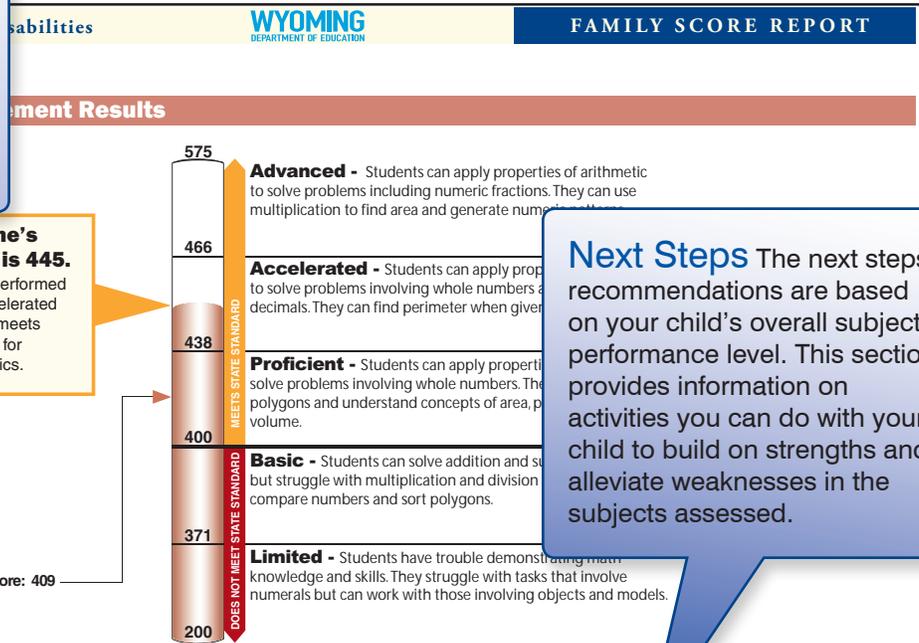
Performance Levels If your child's score is in the Advanced, Accelerated, or Proficient range in a subject, then your child has met Wyoming's content standards for that subject. If your child's score is in the Basic or Limited range, then your child did not meet Wyoming's proficiency standards for that subject in this administration of the Wy-ALT.

What This Result Means

This section provides parents information on what students generally know and are able to do at your child's attained performance level.

Jane's score is 445.
She has performed at the accelerated level and meets standards for mathematics.

State Average Score: 409



Next Steps The next steps recommendations are based on your child's overall subject performance level. This section provides information on activities you can do with your child to build on strengths and alleviate weaknesses in the subjects assessed.

How Was Your Child Assessed in Mathematics and What Does Her Result Indicate?

WHAT THIS RESULT MEANS

Your child scored in the accelerated range. Students who score in this range can solve addition and subtraction problems involving multi-digit numbers including decimals (e.g., $1.50 - 0.25 = 1.25$). They can add and subtract fractions with support of models (e.g., given models, they can solve $1/2 + 1/4 = 3/4$). They can find the perimeter when given the side lengths of a figure. They can solve addition and subtraction measurement word problems (e.g., The school is 4 miles away. I've walked 2 miles. How much farther do I need to walk?).

NEXT STEPS

Strengthen your child's understanding of fractions as part of a whole and practice writing the fractions. Use groups of objects to demonstrate the presence of fractions in everyday things, then practice writing the actual numerical fractions (e.g., cut an orange into four equal parts to show that each part is a quarter; point out that one shoe represents half of a pair of shoes and that each shoe represents the fraction, one-half). Ask your child's teacher about other ways that you can continue your child's learning at home.

Counting and Cardinality Counting and Cardinality skills are based on understanding numbers. Tested skills include reading and writing numerals, understanding counting sequences (e.g., "when given a number like 7, continue to count forward: 8, 9, 10..."), counting objects, and comparing numerals and/or groups of objects.	Measurement and Data Measurement and Data skills are based on understanding measurement. Tested skills include describing and comparing measurable parts of objects, relating measurement to arithmetic, working with time and money, understanding geometric measurement (e.g., area), and representing or interpreting data.
Operations and Algebraic Thinking Operations and Algebraic Thinking skills are based on representing and solving problems. Tested skills include understanding and applying properties of operations, solving and representing word problems and number sentences, and understanding arithmetic patterns (e.g., even + even = even).	Geometry Geometry skills are based on understanding shapes. Tested skills include identifying and composing shapes, distinguishing defining attributes (e.g., types of triangles), using coordinate graphs, solving problems involving geometric measurement, and understanding congruence and similarity.
Number and Operations in Base Ten Number and Operations in Base Ten skills are based on understanding place value. Tested skills include using understanding of place value to perform arithmetic (e.g., $12 + 23 = (10 + 20) + (2 + 3) = 30 + 5 = 35$) and compare numbers (e.g., $20 < 50$ because $2 < 5$).	Number and Operations - Fractions Number and Operations - Fractions skills are based on understanding fractions. Tested skills include understanding fractions as numbers (e.g., one-fourth = $1/4$), applying properties of operations to fractions, comparing fractions, and translating between fractions and decimals (e.g., $1/2 = 0.5$).

EDU.WYOMING.GOV

Content Strands Assessed This section describes what areas were tested for each subject administered.

Glossary of Terms/Definitions

Content Strand: A content subset within a subject

Performance Level: A proficiency level that corresponds to a score range determined by a committee of Wyoming educators

Performance Level Descriptors: Detailed explanations of proficiencies and skills that correspond to each performance level for each grade/grade-band and subject

Score: A numerical value that is on a common scale so that children's scores can be compared over multiple test administrations

Standards: Grade-band content that is assessed for accountability purposes

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my child participate in standards-based instruction and assessment?

In addition to learning functional life skills, Wyoming believes that all students must have access to, be involved in, and progress in the general academic curriculum. For these reasons, Wyoming's extended Content and Performance Standards were designed to provide meaningful access to academic content for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Additionally, the Wy-ALT provides an opportunity for these students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

How is the alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities?

The Wy-ALT is designed to be accessible to students with diverse and significant disabilities. First, the test contains performance tasks that range in complexity. Second, the test uses picture symbols and stimuli to engage students in the content. Third, the test allows students to complete the tasks using their preferred method of communication (e.g., pointing, eye gaze, assistive technology, oral response, sign language). Fourth, two types of scripted test items are used: engagement, where the teacher rates the student's level of involvement; and scaffolded, where students are given multiple opportunities to respond correctly. Finally, there is no time restriction on the assessment; students may stop and resume the assessment at any point.

What does my child's performance level tell me?

The performance levels indicate how often and accurately your child demonstrates the knowledge and skills being tested. Students are expected to demonstrate these skills at a proficient level or higher. Your child's teacher will continue to work with your child to provide access to the general education curriculum and build upon his or her success.

Additional Resources

What are Wyoming's extended Content and Performance Standards and where can I learn more about their effect on my child's education?

Wyoming's extended Content and Performance Standards were created to provide meaningful access to academic instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The extended standards are organized by grade-band. Specific standards are extended across three complexity levels, allowing teachers to adjust for various levels of difficulty. The extended standards serve as the foundation for the development of the assessment tasks for the Wy-ALT. You can learn more about the extended standards by visiting edu.wyoming.gov and searching "extended standards".

Where can I learn more about Wyoming's Alternate Assessment?

Families can visit the Wy-Alt Portal (wyoassessment.org) to find more information, including FAQs and sample tasks for the Wy-ALT. Families are also encouraged to speak with their child's teacher to learn more.