



Our Students. Their Moment.

**New York State Testing Program  
Common Core  
English Language Arts Test**

**Understanding the  
English Language Arts Parent Report**

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THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY  
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## New York State Testing Program Common Core English Language Arts Test

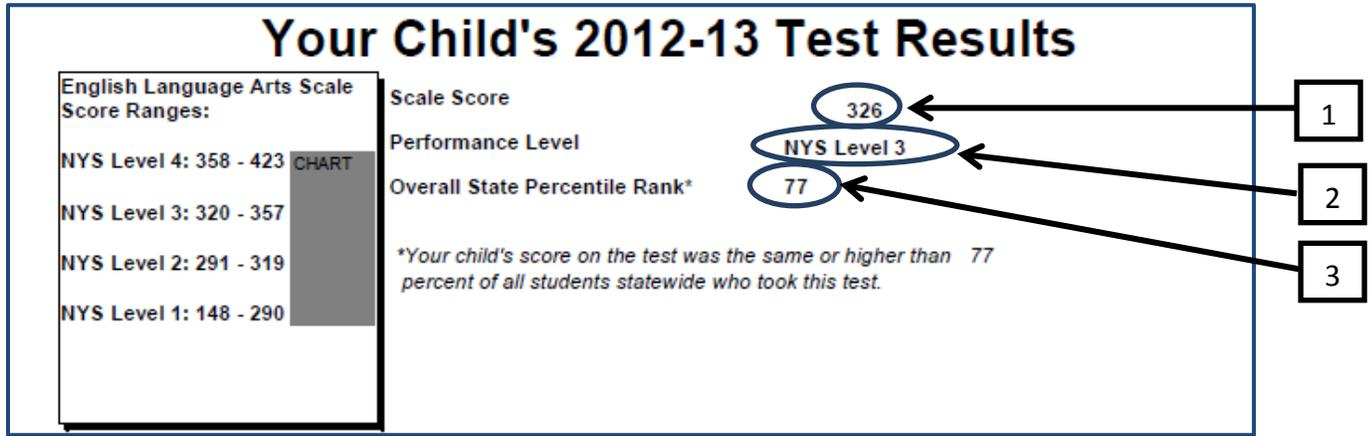
### Understanding the English Language Arts Parent Report

With the adoption of the New York P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) in English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy and Mathematics, the Board of Regents signaled a shift in both instruction and assessment. In Spring 2013, New York State administered the first set of tests designed to assess student performance in accordance with the instructional shifts and the rigor demanded by the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). To aid in the transition to new tests, New York State released a number of resources during the 2012-2013 year, including test blueprints and specifications, sample questions, and criteria for writing test questions. Now that we have administered the first tests, we are providing this document to explain reports that families receive for both the Spring 2013 ELA and Mathematics tests. These annotated score reports will help students, families, educators, and the public better understand how to interpret the 2013 score reports.

#### *Understanding the ELA Parent Report*

Each year, students in grades 3–8 take the ELA Common Core Test. After the test, families receive a report that explains how their child performed. This document explains the parts of that score report. This document uses a grade 3 score report as an example. For ELA, the same subscores are reported across all grades: **Reading** and **Writing from Sources**. There is only one difference in the ELA score reports across grades 3 – 8: the total number of possible points per subscore. The number of subscore points for each grade are presented in Table 1 at the end of the document as a reference.

**Note:** The scale score and "Points Earned By Your Child" for subscores are provided for illustrative purposes only. All other reported numbers reflect actual state performance.



1

**Scale Score:**

The *Scale Score* is determined by the number of points your child earned on the test. The number of points have to be on a scale so that the test results mean the same thing year after year even though different students are taking the test with different questions. The higher the number of points your child earned, the higher his or her scale score. Scale scores are most meaningful when they are associated with a performance level.

Table 2 provides the range of scale scores for each grade, as well as the scale score your child would need to meet their grade level performance expectations and to be on track for college and career readiness.

**Table 2:** Range and Proficiency Level of Scale Scores Across Grades

	Grade					
	3	4	5	6	7	8
Range of Scale Scores	148–423	139–412	116–425	112–412	103–413	100–417
Scale Scores Greater than or Equal to this Value are Proficient	320	320	320	320	318	316

2

**Performance Level:**

Students are assigned a *Performance Level* based on how they perform on the test. There are four possible performance levels: NYS Level 1, NYS Level 2, NYS Level 3, and NYS Level 4. Each student is assigned to a performance level based on the scale score earned. For a full description of each performance level, please refer to the bottom of page 1 on the Parent Report.

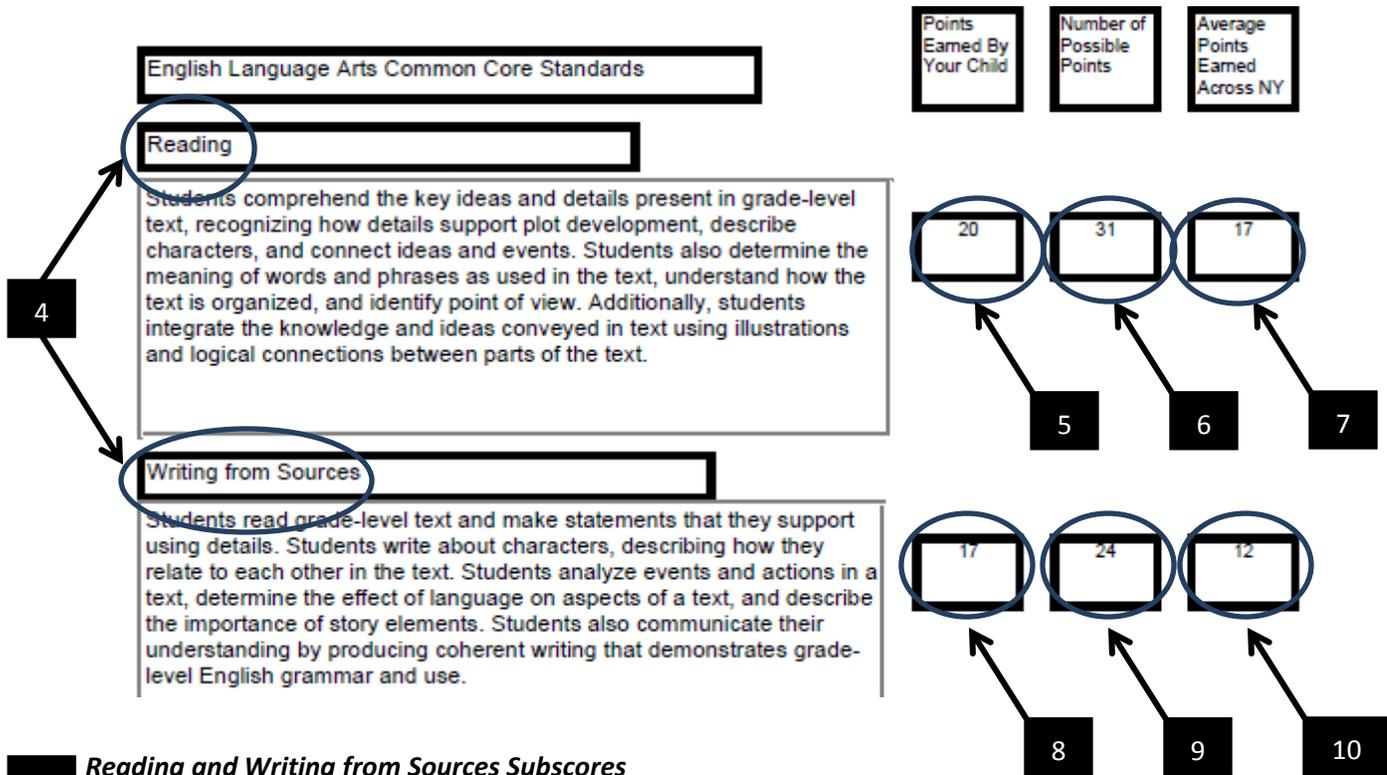
For a detailed description of the skills, knowledge and practices that are typical of students at each performance level, please visit <http://www.engageny.org/resource/performance-level-descriptions-for-ela-and-mathematics>.

3

**Overall State Percentile Rank:**

*Overall State Percentile Rank* compares your child's score to the rest of the students who took the same subject area test this year. Percentile ranks are reported on a scale of 1-99. If your child has an *Overall State Percentile Rank* of 77, it means that your child's scale score was the same or higher than 77% of all students who took the same test. The higher the *Overall State Percentile Rank*, the better your child did compared to other students.

**Note:** The scale score and "Points Earned By Your Child" for subscores are provided for illustrative purposes only. All other reported numbers reflect actual state performance.



**4 Reading and Writing from Sources Subscores**

Subscores are calculated based on points earned on groups of questions on the test that measure similar or related knowledge or skills. Subscores provide additional information about how your child performed. The points from the ELA test are divided into **Reading** and **Writing from Sources**. The **Reading** subscore provides a general sense of your child’s performance on multiple-choice questions that measure **Reading**. These **Reading** questions measure learning standards in both reading and language conventions. The **Writing from Sources** subscore is based on the points your student earned on short (2 point) and extended (4 point) writing questions. **Writing from Sources** questions measure learning standards in writing, reading, and language conventions.

A grade 3 score report is provided as an example. Because the score reports for all grades on the ELA assessment present the same information, these interpretations apply to grades 3 – 8.

For examples of questions from the 2013 ELA test from grades 3 – 8, please visit <http://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-common-core-sample-questions>

**5 Points Earned By Your Child on Reading**

*Points Earned by Your Child on Reading* represents the number of questions measuring reading that your child has answered correctly. Each question that your child answered correctly earns one point. For example, if your child correctly answers 20 questions that measure **Reading**, he or she will have a 20 for *Points Earned by Your Child on Reading*.

**6 Number of Possible Points on Reading**

*Number of Possible Points on Reading* describes the total number of questions measuring **Reading** on the 2013 Grade 3 ELA test. This can be compared with *Points Earned By Your Child on Reading*. For example, if your child correctly answered 20 questions out of 31, the *Number of Possible Points on Reading*, then he or she answered 11 of the questions incorrectly.

**Note:** The scale score and "Points Earned By Your Child" for subscores are provided for illustrative purposes only. All other reported numbers reflect actual state performance.

For more information about how many questions measuring **Reading** were included on the test, please refer to <http://www.engageny.org/resource/test-guides-for-english-language-arts-and-mathematics>.

**7** **Average Points Earned Across NY on Reading**

The *Average Points Earned Across NY on Reading* reports the average number of points earned by students throughout the state. This number can be used to compare how your child compared to the other students who took the ELA test. For example, if your child earned 20 points in **Reading**, he or she has correctly answered three more **Reading** questions than the average student in the state. However, please note that it is possible to earn more points than average in **Reading** and still be considered not proficient.

**8** **Points Earned by your Child on Writing from Sources**

*Points Earned by your Child on Writing from Sources* represents the number of points earned on questions measuring **Writing from Sources**. Questions that measure **Writing from Sources** include two types of constructed-response questions: short-response (maximum of 2 points) and extended-response (maximum of 4 points). Teachers rate each student's response to these questions. The points earned on each question are totaled to determine *Points Earned by your Child on Writing from Sources*.

**9** **Number of Possible Points on Writing from Sources**

*Number of Possible Points on Writing from Sources* describes the total number of points a student can earn on questions measuring **Writing from Sources** on the 2013 Grade 3 ELA test. This can be compared with *Points Earned By Your Child for Writing from Sources*. For example, if your child earned 17 points on questions that measure **Writing from Sources**, and there are 24 possible points on questions that measure **Writing from Sources**, then he or she did not earn 7 of the possible points. These points may have been missed because of the degree to which your child's written responses were developed and/or supported with evidence.

For more information about how many questions measuring **Writing from Sources** were included on the test, please refer to <http://www.engageny.org/resource/test-guides-for-english-language-arts-and-mathematics>.

**10** **Average Points Earned Across NY on Writing from Sources**

The *Average Points Earned Across NY on Writing from Sources* represents the average number of points earned by students throughout the state on questions that measure **Writing from Sources**. This number can be used to compare your child's performance to that of the average ELA test taker in grade 3. For example, if your child earned 17 points on questions that measure **Writing from Sources**, he or she has correctly answered five more **Writing from Sources** questions than the average student in the state. However, it is important to note that is possible to earn more points than average in **Writing from Sources** and still be considered not proficient.

**Table 1. The Number of Possible Subscore Points for ELA**

Grade	Reporting Categories	
	Reading	Writing from Sources
3-4	31	24
5	42	24
6	41	24
7-8	42	24

**Note:** The scale score and "Points Earned By Your Child" for subscores are provided for illustrative purposes only. All other reported numbers reflect actual state performance.