

Hawai'i State Science Assessment Family Report Interpretive Guide



Understanding Your Child's 2015–2016 Assessment Scores

What Is the Purpose of the HSA Science Assessments?

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The Hawai'i State Science Assessments (HSA Science) are designed to measure student performance in the content standards that help guide your child's daily instruction throughout the school year. The HSA Science is a great asset in our statewide assessment program, offering scoring based on the accuracy of student responses and a mechanism to measure what students know, understand, and can do.

In the spring of school year 2015–2016, a Science assessment was administered in grades 4 and 8. Students who took the Science assessment are receiving this report.

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

Cover Letter

The first page of your child's family report includes an important letter from the Superintendent of the Hawai'i State Department of Education summarizing the contents of the report and encouraging you to be an active participant in your child's education.

Dear Doe Family:

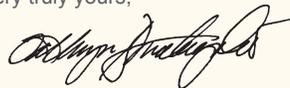
The Hawai'i Department of Education is pleased to send you this report about Jane's performance on the Online Hawai'i State Science Assessment. The Science Assessment is designed to test students on the Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards, Third Edition (HCPS III) learned in the previous school year. The standards describe what students should know and be able to do in science.

Students take each assessment up to three times during the school year. This report shows Jane's best performance on the Science Assessment, which counts as her official score.

In addition to showing how well Jane did on the assessment, this report compares her score with those of other students in her school, her complex area, and the state. On the bottom of pages 2 and 3, the report also shows whether or not Jane reached proficiency in the different areas of science and suggests how you may help her to further her knowledge and skills.

This report is a starting point for a discussion with Jane's teacher. You may use it to talk about how you can support your child's learning at home. Informed students, parents, and schools working together provide the best education for our students.

Very truly yours,



Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent of Education

Jane's Science Score

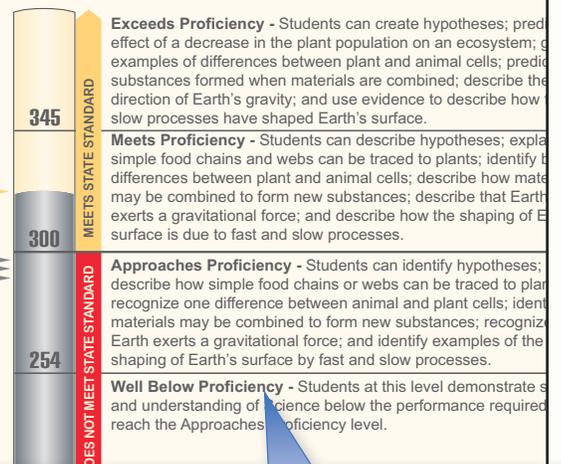
325
Meets Proficiency

How does Jane's score compare?

Jane's Science score is 325. This score is higher than the average score of fourth graders in her school, higher than that of fourth graders in her complex area, and higher than that of fourth graders statewide.

Jane's Score: 325

State Average: 297
Your Complex Area: 295
Your School: 290



Performance Levels

If your child's score is in the Exceeds Proficiency or Meets Proficiency range in a subject, then your child has met the Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards, Third Edition (HCPS III). If your child's score is in the Approaches Proficiency or Well Below Proficiency range, then your child has not met the standards for that subject.

Your Child's Score

On the second page of the report, you will see your child's overall score and performance level.

FAMILY Report

Jane's Science Score

325
Meets Proficiency

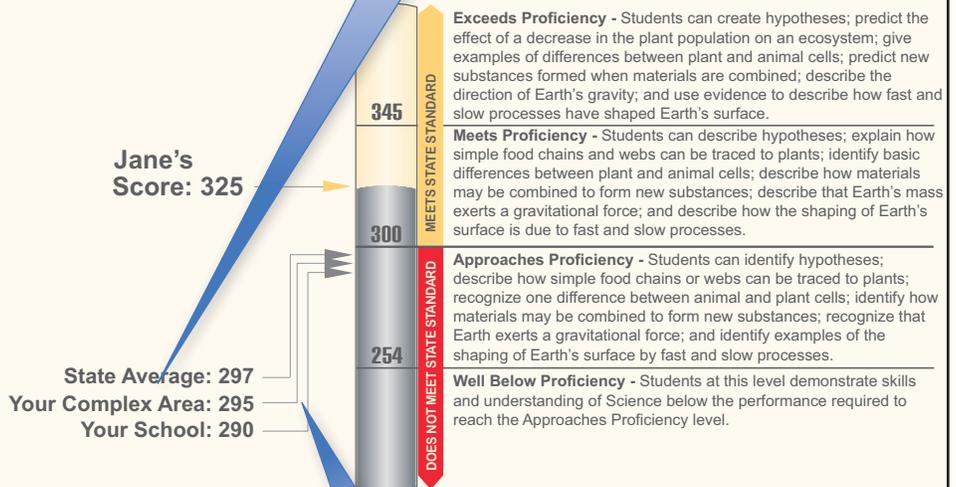
How does Jane's score compare?

Jane's Science score is 325. This score is higher than the average score of fourth graders in her school, higher than that of fourth graders in her complex area, and higher than that of fourth graders statewide.

A student's test score can vary if the test is taken several times. If your child were tested again, it is likely that Jane would receive a score between 300 and 350.

Comparison Scores

Your child's score is compared with the average score of students who took the Hawai'i State Science Assessment. For purposes of confidentiality and privacy, the average score for the complex area will not be displayed if fewer than 10 students within the complex area completed the assessment.



Go to www.alohahsap.org to see a complete listing of knowledge and skills for each level.

Cut Scores

Three cut scores were determined for each subject assessed. The displayed values indicate the minimum score a student must achieve to place in the Approaches Proficiency, Meets Proficiency, or Exceeds Proficiency categories.

Your Child's Likely Range

This text explains the range in which your child might score if he or she retook the assessment.

Has Jane Reached Proficiency in the Three Different Areas of Science?

Science

Discover how science is used in the world. The science that we use are interrelated.

The test does not always tell if a student has learned to mark for this area of Science.

Students may be able to describe observations and inferences, and describe how the use of technology has influenced Hawai'i's economy, demography, and environment.

Next Steps

Your child can observe the melting of water. Ask your child to make a hypothesis about the ice cube is melting. (e.g., "If I put the ice into the glass of water, then it will melt.") Ask her to test her hypothesis by putting the ice into the water and recording what she observes.

For example, help your child draw a food web using one plant and four animals that live in the ocean. Talk about how the plant is an important part of the food web (e.g., almost all animals' food can be traced back to plants). In addition, ask your child how one of the ocean animal's body parts helps it survive in the ocean (e.g., sea turtles have paddle-like front arms for swimming).

Life Science

Understand the interrelationships of organisms; understand the structures and functions of living organisms; understand the impact of genetics and biological evolution on the unity and diversity of organisms.

No The score is below the Meets Proficiency range for this area of Science.

Students may have difficulty explaining the role of plants in a food chain (diagram), identifying some differences between plant cells and animal cells, and describing how different organisms need specific environmental conditions to survive.

For example, help your child draw a food web using one plant and four animals that live in the ocean. Talk about how the plant is an important part of the food web (e.g., almost all animals' food can be traced back to plants). In addition, ask your child how one of the ocean animal's body parts helps it survive in the ocean (e.g., sea turtles have paddle-like front arms for swimming).

Similar Schools

The Similar Schools chart shows how the performance of the HSA Science Assessment takers in your child's school compares with the performance of HSA Science Assessment takers in the other schools across the state. School similarity is determined using three criteria: percentage of (1) disadvantaged students; (2) English language learners; and (3) students with disabilities. The performance of similar schools is mapped into the following three categories: percentage of (1) similar schools that did not do as well as the student's school; (2) similar schools that had about the same average score as the student's school; and (3) similar schools that did better than the student's school.

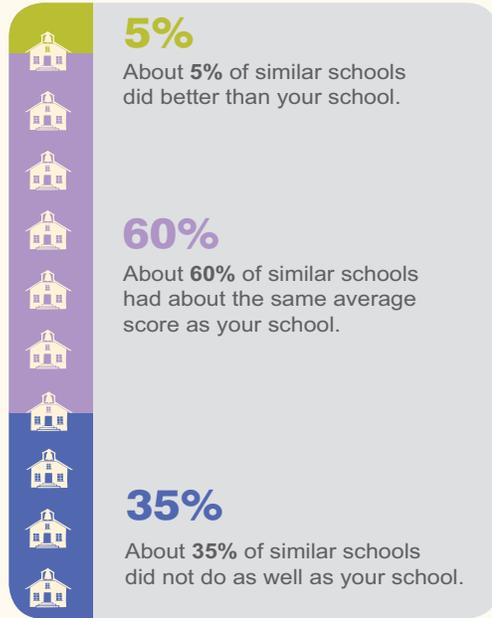
Similar Schools

This chart shows how fourth-grade students in Jane's school did compared with fourth-grade students in other schools when tested on concepts and skills that were taught in the previous years. School similarity is determined using three criteria: percentage of (1) disadvantaged students, (2) English language learners, and (3) students with disabilities.

The schools that were compared with your school were chosen because their fourth-grade students had backgrounds most similar to fourth-grade students in your school. Aloha Elementary School teaches many disadvantaged students and many students with disabilities.

Students come from many different environments. These differences do not necessarily affect student performance. Many issues contribute to student performance, such as administration and oversight, curriculum and content, teaching and testing, professional development, instructional materials, and parent and community support. You may want to contact your parent community networking coordinator to inquire about parent workshops that support the school's ongoing effort to improve student performance.

How your child's school compares



Next Steps

Physical, Earth, and Space Sciences

Understand Earth and its processes, the solar system, and the universe and its contents.

Yes

The score is at or above the Meets Proficiency range for this area of Science.

Students predict the new substances that are formed when some materials are combined, use materials to set up a circuit to create light and sound, describe that Earth exerts a gravitational force toward its center on all objects, use evidence to describe how fast and slow processes have shaped and reshaped Earth's surface, and use evidence to describe the relationship between the sun and Earth's daily rotation and annual revolution.

For example, in a darkened room, use a small lamp to represent the sun and a ball to represent Earth. Ask your child to move (e.g., rotate) the ball to represent alternating day and night. Ask your child to move (e.g., in a circle around the lamp) the ball to represent one year. Finally, ask your child to express the relationship between the motions associated with days and years (e.g., 365 rotations in every revolution around the lamp) by performing both motions at the same time.

Subject Areas Assessed

This section describes what areas were tested. Areas assessed in science vary by grade, with three areas tested at each grade level.

Condensed Performance Level Descriptors

The condensed performance level descriptors provide parents with information on what students at a particular score and level should know and be able to do. Parents can access the complete grade-level specific descriptions and expectations using the link below the student barrel chart.

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.

Glossary of Terms/Definitions

Cut Scores: Selected points on the score scale of the HSA Science assessments, which are used to classify student performance into one of four performance levels.

Performance Level: Performance levels represent levels of mastery with respect to the Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards, Third Edition (HCPS III).

Performance Level Descriptors: These descriptors are a summary of what students within each performance level are expected to know and be able to do.

Scale Scores: Scale scores are statistically converted scores using the number of items students answer correctly and the difficulty of the items presented. Scale scores can be compared over multiple test administrations.

Standards: Grade-level specific (science) content that is assessed for accountability purposes.

Subject Area: A subset of the content knowledge and skills within a subject.

Additional Resources

HSA Science Information and Parent Resources

<http://alohahsap.org/HSA/parent-information-booklets/>