Ohio Graduation Tests Interpretive Guide Family Reports

Understanding Your Student's Test Scores

Spring 2013

Ohio | Department of Education

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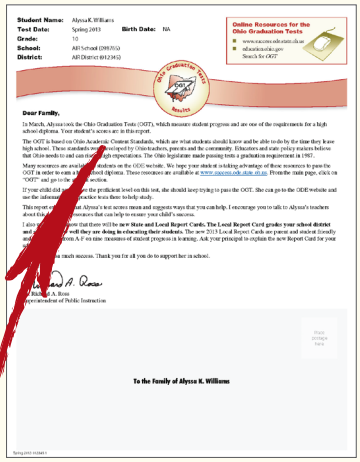
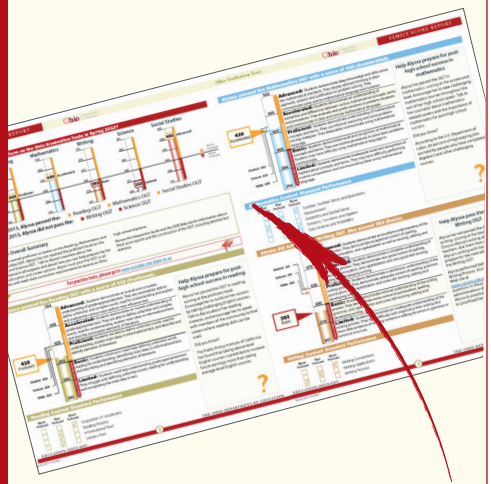
Disclaimer: The data in the Family Report sample are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. The student's name on the sample is fictitious, and any similarity to an actual student name is purely coincidental.

What information is in this guide?

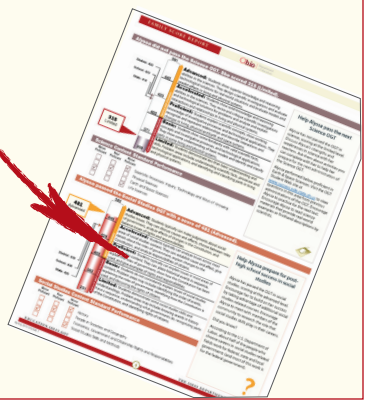
This guide explains what each part of your student's score report means. The following pages show a sample report for a student named Alyssa Williams. Your student's scores and progress are in a report like Alyssa's.



The front page contains an important message from the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction encouraging you to be an active participant in your student's education.



The second, third, and fourth pages have charts showing your student's reading, mathematics, writing, science, and social studies scores.



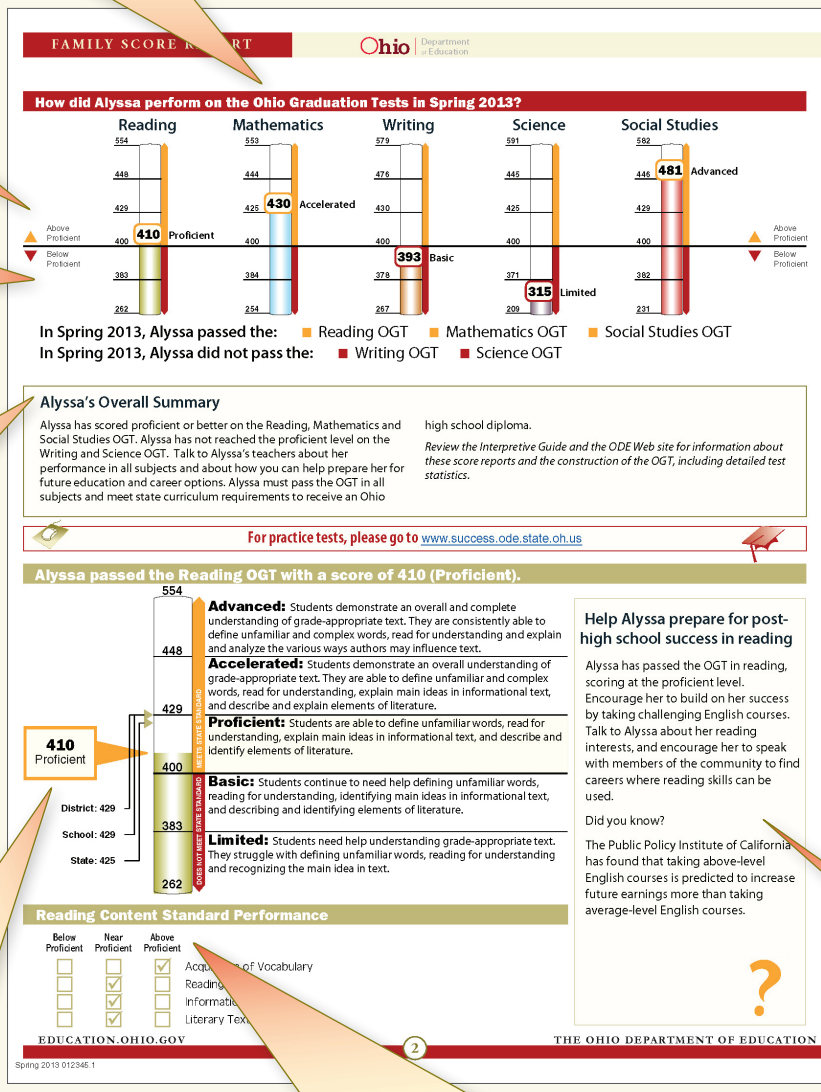
What is in my student's score report?

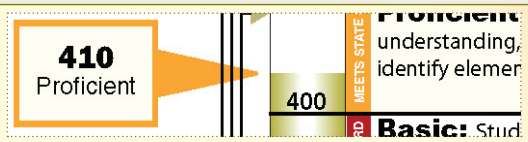
The five subject areas in the Family Report provide detailed information about your student's **performance** on each of the tests. If your student did not take the OGT in one or more subjects in spring 2013, the report will not display scores for those subjects. Your student must pass the OGT once in all subjects and meet state and district curricular requirements to be eligible for a high school diploma. Check with your student's teacher to confirm which requirements he or she has met and which still need to be met.

Scores above 400 are passing performance levels and meet the state graduation standard on each test.

Scores below the 400 mark will require re-taking the OGT.

A brief description of your student's **performance in each subject area** is provided.

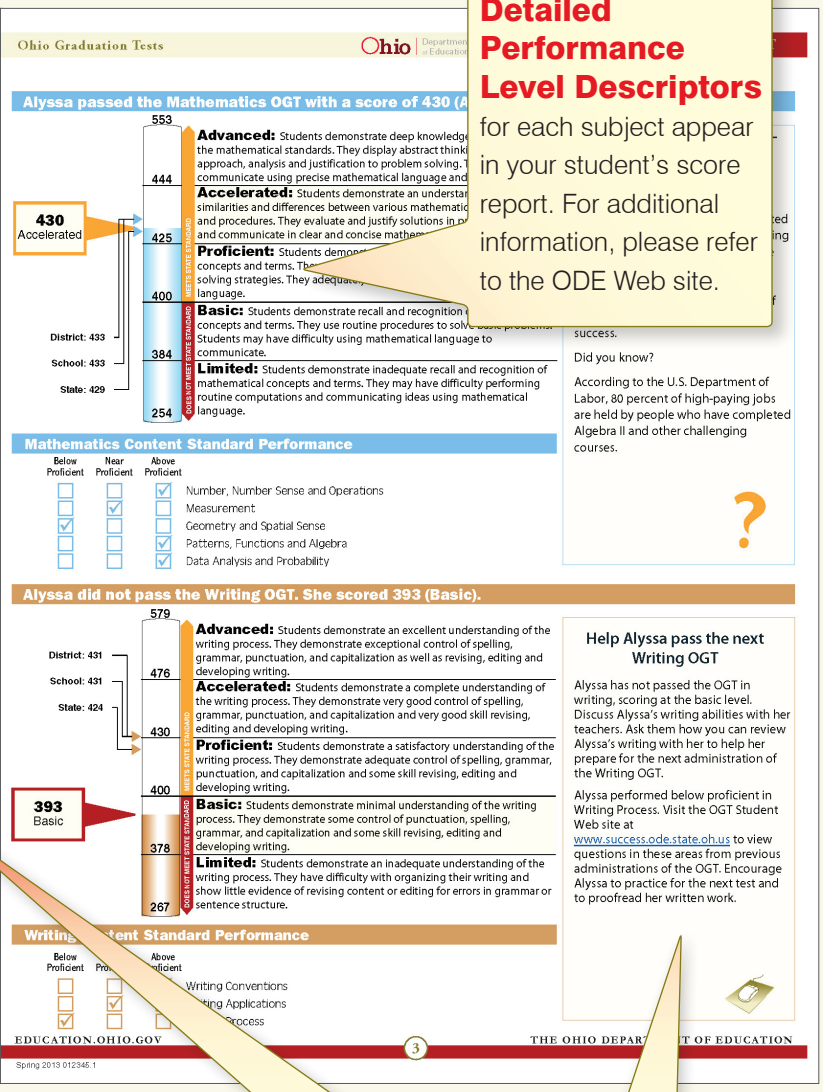




In each of the subject sections, your student's **current score** and **performance level** are shown in a box with an arrow pointing to the shaded portion of the barrel graph. Average scores for all of the students in the same grade at your student's school (School Average) and school district (District Average), as well as for all of the students in the same grade in Ohio public schools (State Average), are provided for comparison.

Check marks indicate your student's **performance** (Below Proficient, Near Proficient, or Above Proficient) **within each content standard**. The mid-range content standard "Near Proficient" is typical of the performance of students just above proficient, that is, those who earned a scaled score of approximately 400.

	Below Proficient	Near Proficient	Above Proficient
Acquisition of Vocabulary	☐	☐	☑
Reading Process	☐	☑	☐
Informational Text	☐	☑	☐
Literary Text	☐	☑	☐



Detailed Performance Level Descriptors for each subject appear in your student's score report. For additional information, please refer to the ODE Web site.

Recommendations are provided to assist you and your student with ways of improving his or her performance.

NOTE: The highest and lowest possible scores may vary across test administrations. It is possible that the highest and lowest possible scores in your student's Family Report will not match those in the sample report in this guide.

What are the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT)?

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The Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) are standards-based tests that measure the level of reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies skills expected of students by the end of 10th grade.

Why does my student have to take the OGT?

Ohio law requires students to take and pass all required parts of the OGT to earn a diploma.

When does my student take the OGT?

Your student has the opportunity to take the OGT several times before graduation: spring of the 10th grade and fall and spring of the 11th and 12th grade. Two optional administrations occur during the summer before the 11th and 12th grades.

What can I do if my student passed all but one OGT?

Ohio law requires most students to pass in all OGT subjects. However, there is an Alternative Pathway to Graduation if the student meets these criteria: ① Failed to pass in one subject by 10 points or less. ② Has a 97 percent school attendance rate in each of the last four school years, excluding any excused absences. ③ Has not been expelled from school in any of the last four school years. ④ Has a grade point average of at least 2.5 out of 4.0 in the subject area of the failed OGT as determined by the conversion chart adopted by the State Board of Education. ⑤ Has completed the high school curriculum requirements in the subject area of the failed test. ⑥ Has taken advantage of any intervention programs provided by the school district or school in the subject area of the failed OGT and has a 97 percent attendance rate, excluding any excused absences, in any of those programs that are provided at times beyond the normal school day, school week or school year, or has received comparable intervention services from a source other than the school district or school. ⑦ Holds a letter recommending graduation from each of the student's high school teachers in the subject area of the failed OGT and from the student's high school principal.

Who do I talk to about the Alternative Pathway to Graduation?

The school counselor should be able to tell you if this is a possibility. You may also read more information on the ODE Web site. Search for "Alternative Pathway."

Frequently Asked Questions

What kind of questions are on the OGT?

The OGT includes multiple-choice questions and short-answer and extended response questions. To see sample test questions for each subject, please ask your student's teacher about the booklet "*A GUIDE to the OHIO GRADUATION TESTS for Students and Families*" or refer to the ODE Web site.

How long will students have to take each test?

Students have up to two and one-half hours to take each of the tests.

How were the tests developed?

Committees of parents, educators and other Ohioans review all test questions for every test. Questions are reviewed to ensure they are fair to all students.

What if there is no score or blanks in the Score Report?

If your student did not take or does not have a valid score for one or more of the tests in spring 2013, the report will say "DNA" in the box next to the barrel chart. In addition, the section under "…Content Standard Performance" will be blank for the subject. Please contact your student's school if you have a question or concern about these statements.

Glossary of Terms/Definitions

Content Areas—Content areas are also known as subjects; e.g., reading, mathematics, writing, science, and social studies.

Content Standards—Content Standards are the major topics tested within each subject; e.g. Ohio Content Standards for mathematics are Number, Number Sense and Operations; Measurement; Geometry and Spatial Sense; Patterns, Functions and Algebra; and Data Analysis and Probability.

Performance Standards—Performance Standards are the levels of proficiency, adopted by the Ohio Department of Education, that a student must achieve on the Ohio Graduation Tests in order to meet graduation requirements.

Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)—There are five Performance Level Descriptors or levels of proficiency in each subject area. Three of the performance levels (Advanced, Accelerated, and Proficient) are above the 'passing' score of 400. Two Performance Level Descriptors (Basic and Limited) are below the 'passing' score. Each subject area has its own specific descriptions of each of these performance levels.

Reporting Results— Results are reported using a scaled score for overall achievement as well as for the number of points received for each of the content standards in each subject area.

Raw Scores—A student's raw score is the sum of the points he or she has earned.

Scaled Scores—Because raw scores may not be comparable across test administrations, they are converted to scaled scores for reporting purposes. Since all test administrations within the same subject are equated to the same scale, scaled scores allow comparisons between different students taking different administrations of the test. Scaled scores are not comparable across different subjects.

Additional Resources

The Ohio Department of Education's Web site:
education.ohio.gov

Ohio's Academic Standards:
www.OhioAcademicStandards.com

Additional Information on OGT:
education.ohio.gov. Search for "OGT."

Ohio's Success Portal:
education.ohio.gov

Your child's teacher is an excellent resource—Ask your child's teacher for additional information about the specific tasks, the challenge level of the skills and tasks, and what you can do to help your child improve.