



**Department of  
Education**

*Carmen Fariña, Chancellor*

# **New York State Testing Program English Language Arts Test**

## *Understanding the English Language Arts (ELA) Individual Student Report*

Each year, New York State administers exams in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics to students across the state in grades 3 through 8. In addition to fulfilling federal and state mandates, these Common Core-aligned exams also help gauge year-to-year progress for students and schools. Families can access student results for these tests via their NYC Schools Account (<https://www.mystudent.nyc/>) or by requesting an Individual Student Report (ISR) from their child's school. This document explains the components of that score report using a grade 3 ISR as an example.

**Page 1: Summary of Student Results**

<p><b>Performance Level</b>          New York State assigns Performance Levels 4, 3, 2, and 1 to scale scores on the test. Students can score a Level 4 through Level 1 on the test, depending on their scale score (see chart below). See the bottom of this page for definitions of each of the four Performance Levels. For your reference, your child's 2014 English Language Arts Performance Level is: X.</p>	<p><b>NYS Level 3</b>  <b>Proficient</b></p>	<p>1</p>
<p><b>Proficiency Rating</b> 2          The Proficiency Rating shows where a student falls within a particular Performance Level. Ratings range from 1.0 to 4.5.</p>	<p>3.3</p>	<p>3</p>
<p><b>Scale Score</b>          Student performance on the test is translated into an overall Scale Score. Scale Scores range from 147 – 429.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;">NYS English Language Arts Grade 3 Scale Score Ranges</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 4: 429 – 358 Level 3: 357 – 320 Level 2: 319 – 291 Level 1: 290 – 147</p> </div>	<p>326</p>	<p>4</p>
<p><b>New York City Percentile Range</b>          The percentile range is displayed in quartiles; it shows whether your child's performance falls in the bottom 25% (0-25%), between 26% and 50%, between 51% and 75%, or in the top 25% (76-100%) of all students in <i>New York City</i> in your child's grade level and on this test.</p>	<p>76-100%</p>	<p>5</p>
<p><b>Overall State Percentile Range</b>          Same as above, except that this range shows how your child performed relative to all students in <i>New York State</i> in your child's grade level and on this test.</p>	<p>76-100%</p>	<p>6</p>

**1** [Performance Level](#)  
 Students are assigned a *Performance Level* based on the Scale Score he or she earned on the test. There are four possible Performance Levels: NYS Level 4 (*above proficient*), NYS Level 3 (*proficient*), NYS Level 2 (*below proficient*) and NYS Level 1 (*well below proficient*). For a complete description of each Performance Level, please refer to the bottom of page 1 on the Individual Student 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>.

**2** [2014 Performance Level](#)  
 If your child has a Performance Level from the 2014 administration of the exam, the score will be listed here. If not, this text will note that no score is available and will direct parents to the child's school if they believe this is an error.

**3** [Proficiency Rating](#)  
 The Proficiency Rating, which can range from 1.0 – 4.5, shows where a student fell within a particular Performance Level. For example, a Proficiency Rating of 2.5 would indicate that a student scored at Performance Level 2 with a scale score that is halfway between the lowest Performance Level 2 score and the lowest Performance Level 3 score. For Performance Level 4, the highest possible Proficiency Rating is 4.5.

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**Scale Score**

The *Scale Score* is determined by the number of points a student earned on the test. The purpose of a Scale Score is to ensure that test results mean the same thing year after year even though the students taking the tests and the tests themselves are different each year. 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. The table below provides the range of Scale Scores for each grade, as well as the Scale Score your child would need to meet the performance expectations of his or her grade level and to be on track for college and career readiness.

*Range and Proficiency Level of Scale Scores Across Grades*

	Grade					
	3	4	5	6	7	8
Range of Scale Scores	147–429	138–423	97–413	117–421	98–414	100–412
Scale Scores Greater than or Equal to this Value are Proficient (Performance Levels 3 & 4)	320	320	320	320	318	316

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**New York City Percentile Range**

The *New York City Percentile Range* shows how a student performed on the test relative to other students who took that test in the same grade level and subject area in New York City public schools. The percentile range is displayed in quartiles. This means that it shows whether your child’s performance falls in the bottom 25% (0-25%) of all students, between 26% and 50%, 51% and 75%, or the top 25% (75-100%) of all students in New York City in that grade level and subject area. For example, if your child scored in the third Citywide quartile (51%-75%), that means that he or she scored the same as or higher than 51% and up to 75% of students in New York City.

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**Overall State Percentile Range**

The *Overall State Percentile Range* shows how a student performed on the test relative to other students who took that test in the same grade level and subject area throughout New York State. This information is displayed in quartiles. For additional information about these quartiles, please refer to the description of the *New York City Percentile Range*.

**Page 2: Additional Information**

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.

**Additional information about your child’s performance**

Points Earned By Your Child	Number of Possible Points	Average Points Earned Across NY
20 8	31 9	17 10
17 11	24 12	12 13
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**Reading**

Students comprehend the key ideas and details present in grade-level text, recognizing how details support plot development, describe characters, and connect ideas and events. Students also determine the meaning of words and phrases as used in the text, understand how the text is organized, and identify point of view. Additionally, students integrate the knowledge and ideas conveyed in text using illustrations and logical connections between parts of the text.

**Writing from Sources**

Students read grade-level text and make statements that they support using details. Students write about characters, describing how they relate to each other in the text. Students analyze events and actions in a text, determine the effect of language on aspects of a text, and describe the importance of story elements. Students also communicate their understanding by producing coherent writing that demonstrates grade-level English grammar and use.

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**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.

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**Points Earned By Your Child on Reading**

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

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**Number of Possible Points on Reading**

*Number of Possible Points on Reading* describes the **total** number of points measuring Reading that is possible to achieve on a particular test. This number can be compared with *Points Earned By Your Child on Reading*. For example, if the *Number of Possible Points on Reading* is 31 and your child answered 20 questions correctly (score of 20 on *Points Earned by Your Child on Reading*), then he or she answered 11 of the 31 Reading questions incorrectly.

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**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 New York State. This number can be used to compare your child's performance to that of the other students throughout the State who took the ELA test in a particular grade. For example, if your child earned 20 points in Reading, he or she has correctly answered three more Reading questions than the average grade 3 student in the State since the *Average Points Earned Across NY on Reading* in that grade is 17. Please note that it is possible to earn more points than average in Reading and still be considered not proficient.

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

*Points Earned by your Child on Writing from Sources* represents the total 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.

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**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 a particular test. This number 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.

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**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 New York State on questions that measure Writing from Sources. This number can be used to compare your child's performance to that of the other students throughout the State who took the ELA test in a particular grade. For example, if your child earned 17 points on questions that measure Writing from Sources, he or she has earned five more Writing from Sources points than the average grade 3 student in the State since the *Average Points Earned Across NY on Writing from Sources* in that grade is 12. Please note that it is possible to earn more points than average in Writing from Sources and still be considered not proficient.