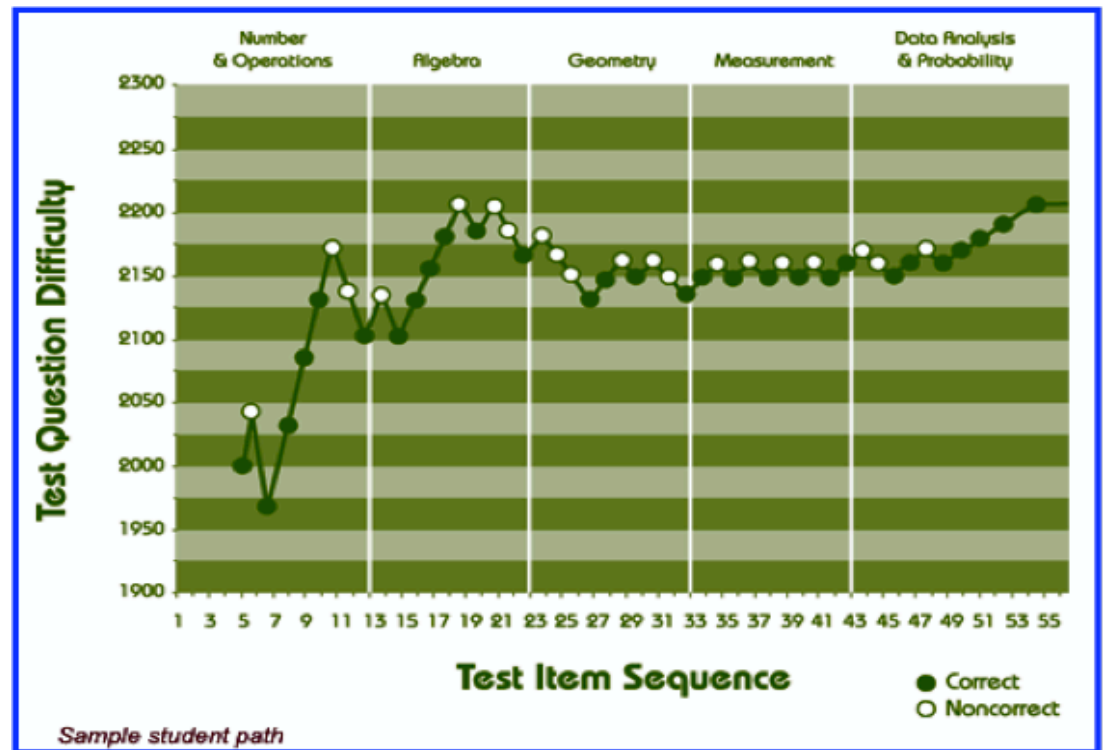This guide to District 39's assessment tool, Scantron's Performance Series for reading and math, explains the tests and how to interpret your child's results. Performance Series is a web-based, computer-adaptive test that is used for instructional purposes and for monitoring each student's academic growth over time. Two distinct benefits over other forms of standardized testing are that the test automatically adapts to your child's instructional level, and that results are available instantaneously.

Each year students in grades 2-8 take the reading and math portions of the test. These tests are administered three times per year. During a three week testing period, test sessions are scheduled for each class. Each test typically takes from 45 minutes to one hour to complete. In conjunction with other classroom, district, and state tests, these assessments are used in evaluating a child's achievement. Multiple assessments should be used to determine a child's overall strengths and weaknesses, not a sole measure. Specific questions about your child's overall performance in school should be discussed with your child's classroom teacher.

What is a Computer-Adaptive Test?

Many of you may be familiar with the traditional bubble answer sheet from Scantron, but this test is a different type of assessment administered completely on the computer.

Unlike other forms of assessment, Performance Series computer-adaptive tests continually adjust based on your child's answers. All tests begin in relation to a student's grade level. As the student answers each question, however, the test program adapts according to his or her response. Question difficulty decreases with incorrect responses and increases with correct responses, thus individualizing every testing experience. As a result, your child avoids both questions that are too easy and questions that are too challenging.

Sample student path

What does a child's test look like?

All 2nd through 8th grade students are tested in reading and math; however, the test questions are different for each child based on individual responses. Below are illustrations of test items as they would appear on the computer screen.

Mathematics Sample Item

What is the value of *a* ?

$$3 + a + 4 = 12$$

- A. 3
- B. 7
- C. 5
- D. 4

NEXT ▶   STOP ⬤

Reading Sample Item

A thesaurus is useful when a writer wishes to expand his or her vocabulary. Sometimes the words in a thesaurus are listed alphabetically; other times, an index is needed to locate the appropriate page number. Each entry word is grouped along with its synonyms (a collection of words that share the smae meaning) thereby offering the writer a multitude of choices for conveying ideas. As writers, you want to be sure to read through all the options very carefully. This will help you to select the synonym which best expresses your thoughts. In many thesauri, labels for the part of speech and antonyms (words with meanings that are opposite of the entry word) are listed in each entry as well. By using a thesaurus, you will spice up your writing with strong words, powerful language, and creative appeal!

Which of the following best describes the main idea of this passage?

- A. Sometimes words are listed alphabetically and sometimes you need to use an index.
- B. Synonyms and antonyms are found in a thesaurus.
- C. A thesaurus is different from a dictionary.
- D. A thesaurus is a helpful tool you can use to be a better writer.

NEXT ▶   STOP ⬤

Understanding the Performance Series Report

In Performance Series, scores are reported as <u>Scaled Scores</u> with values ranging from 1300 to 3700. This range of scores allows a child's progress to be monitored from 2nd through 8th grade.
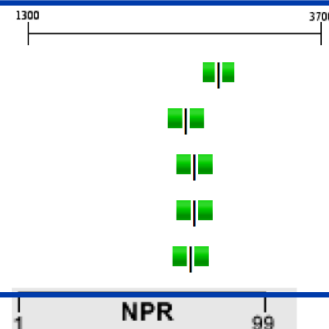
Math Overall

Scaled Score: **2812**
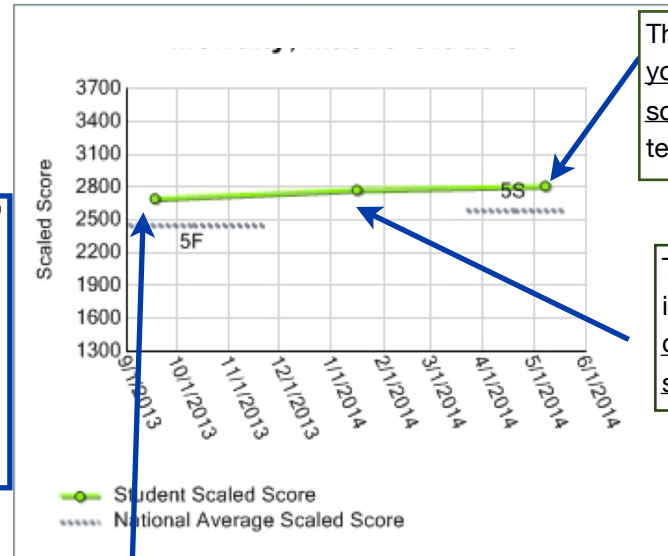Current Year Gains:+**115**
SEM: (53.808)

SIP
0%   100%

Math SIP   77

The Unit Score Range (USR) represents the possible range that a student may score, within each unit, if they were to take the test over again. For example, if a student has a USR of 2447-**2563**-2679 in Number Sense & Operations, it means that there is a strong chance that he/she could score as low as 2447 or as high as 2679, if the test was administered in a similar time period.

Unit Score Range   1300   3700

Number & Operations
2893–**3013**–3133
Algebra
2555–**2689**–2823
Geometry
2654–**2783**–2912
Measurement
2642–**2771**–2900
Data Analysis & Probability
2611–**2740**–2869

NPR
1   99

NPR Grade 5   87

This point indicates <u>your child's scaled score</u> at spring testing.

This point indicates <u>your child's scaled score</u> at mid-year.

Student Scaled Score
National Average Scaled Score

took our math performance assessment on 5/8/14.   scaled score was **2812** which corresponds to a Grade 5 Standard Item Pool Score of 77%.

This score is the <u>National Percentile Ranking (NPR)</u> which indicates your child's performance compared to grade level peers nationally.

This point indicates <u>your child's scaled score</u> for the first testing period this year.

Understanding your child's results

Your child's score is shown as a scaled score which is a reliable estimate of his/her skill in reading and math. The scaled scores are a continuum that is independent of grade level. This means that growth throughout the grades is measured along the same scale (1300-3700) from second to eighth grade. You might think of this continuum like the growth chart you use to mark your child's height on each birthday. Like the marks for your child's height on the growth chart, the scaled score tracks academic progress over time.

The chart to the right indicates average ranges for each grade level and subject in the spring of the school year. For example, the chart shows that reading scaled scores for typical fourth grade students would be between 2720-2980. These averages are based on aggregated data over a number of years in District 39.

Your child's report also includes the National Percentile Ranking (NPR) that is common to most standardized tests. This score compares your child's level to those in the norm group at the same grade level. For example, an NPR of 80% would mean that your child's score is at or above 80% of his/her peers in the national norm group.

Unit Score Ranges (USRs) show your child's performance on specific areas of math and reading (such as number sense or vocabulary).

The Standards Item Pool (SIP) score remains a part of this report. This year in District 39, we do not use these scores as they are related prediction of performance on the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests. (SIP scores are grade specific and predict the percentage of grade level questions your child is expected to answer correctly overall on ISAT).

For further information about Scantron's Performance Series, see the website:
http://www.scantron.com/performanceseries/

Spring Scaled Score Average Ranges by Grade Level

Grade 2	Math	Reading
Local Scaled Score Range	2272-2448	2378-2734

Grade 3	Math	Reading
Local Scaled Score Range	2437-2606	2653-2937

Grade 4	Math	Reading
Local Scaled Score Range	2554-2743	2778-3050

Grade 5	Math	Reading
Local Scaled Score Range	2635-2853	2897-3155

Grade 6	Math	Reading
Local Scaled Score Range	2727-2967	2953-3206

Grade 7	Math	Reading
Local Scaled Score Range	2800-3046	3033-3269

Grade 8	Math	Reading
Local Scaled Score Range	2884-3179	3086-3311

Terms and Definitions

Scaled Score (SS)

A scaled score is simply a transformation of a raw score (number correct) into a standard. In this way a comparison can be made of the scaled score from test administration to test administration and from year to year. It is NOT a percentage score. Scaled scores help communicate student performance by indicating performance across years on the same scale. Standard scale **values can range from 1300 to 3700 in Performance Series.**

How do you use this SS?

This score is used to track progress over time, from fall to spring or year to year, as a sort of educational yardstick. In most instances there will be a scaled score increase from test period to test period. In rare cases there may be a mid-year decrease which could be attributed to a variety of factors. The best indicator of your child's academic growth is the comparison of his/her fall to spring scaled scores.

National Percentile Ranking (NPR)

The NPR uses the SS to compare the student to members of the Performance Series norm sample group within the same grade level nationally. The numerical value illustrates the percentage of students that the your child would be expected to score above in norm group comparison.

How would you use the NPR?

For example, an NPR of 74 for a student would mean that his/her score is above 74% of his/her peers in the national norm group. This data is not related to state standards, nor is it comparable over time.

Standard Item Pool Score (SIP)

SIP scores express the percentage of questions a student is predicted to answer correctly on Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT). *These scores do not currently provide District 39 with up-to-date information as we transition from ISAT to PARCC as our state achievement test.*

The Unit Score Range (USR)

The Unit Score Range (USR) represents the possible range that a student may score, within each unit, if they were to take the test again.

How do I use the USR?

*For example, if a student has a USR of 2447-**2563**-2679 in Number Sense & Operations, it means that there is a strong chance that he/she could score as low as 2447 or as high as 2679, if the test was administered in a similar time period.*