Understanding MCA Scale Scores

What is a scale score and what do the numbers represent?

A scale score is created when there is a conversion of the obtained results onto a standardized scale. MCA scale scores translate the ability level estimated based on the difficulty of items correctly answered onto a common scale for all students tested.

The MCA scale score has two components: the tested grade and the student score.

- The tested grade component is identified by the first digit(s) and represent the grade of the test taken. Depending on the grade, this component will be one or two digits.
- The student score component is identified by the last two digits and represents the score the student earned on the test.

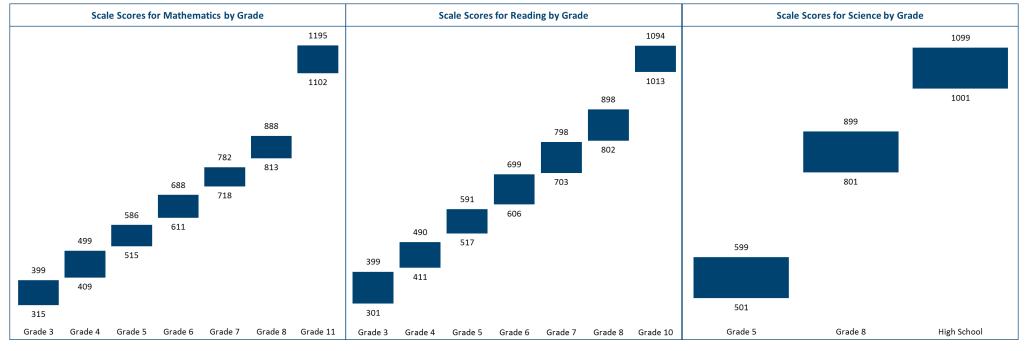
How is the scale score set and what are the ranges?

MCA scale scores are different for each grade, subject, and year. The scale score is created using only the questions that assess grade-level standards; and by setting each component. The tested grade component is set based on the grade of the test the student took. For High School Science, the tested grade component is always a 10, regardless of the grade the student took the assessment in. The student score component is set based on the test and is set differently for each subject.

For Science, the student score component is based on the number of questions the student answered correctly. The range of scores is 1 to 99 for all grades.

For Mathematics and Reading, the student score component is based on a student's item response pattern on the adaptive test. This means the score is based on the difficulty of the questions asked and whether the student answers the questions correctly. The range of scores varies by grade and subject (see graphs below).

For more information about the creation of MCA scale scores, please refer to the help document, Where Do Scale Scores Come From?



Can I compare scale scores from one grade to another?

No, you cannot compare scale scores from one grade to another.

MCA scale scores are based on grade-level content; therefore they are independent from grade to grade and do not overlap. This means that the lowest performing fifth grader will always receive a higher score than the highest performing fourth grader.

Since MCA scale scores are independent, you cannot subtract scale scores from one year to the next. For subtraction to have meaning, students in multiple grades would need to be able to have the same score. For more information about determining if a student has improved from year to year, please refer to the help document, What Are Appropriate Uses of Scale Scores?

How do the MCA scale scores translate into MCA Achievement Levels?

Each grade and subject has four achievement levels:

	Scale Score Rang	ges for Each Ac	hievement Lev	el	
	D	P	■ M	E E	
Grade 3	315 - 339	340 - 349	350 - 366		367 - 399
Grade 4	409 - 439	440 - 449	450 - 466		467 - 499
Grade 5	515 - 539	540 - 549	550 - 563		564 - 586
Grade 6	611 - 639	640 - 649	650 - 662		663 - 688
Grade 7	718 - 739	740 - 749	750 - 760		761 - 782
Grade 8	813 - 839	840 - 849	850 - 861		862 - 898
Grade 11	1102 - 1139	1 140 - 1149	1150 - 1164		1165 - 1195
					-25
Grade 3	301 - 339	340 - 349	350 - 374		375 - 399
Grade 4	411 - 439	440 - 449	450 - 466		467 - 490
Grade 5	517 - 539	540 - 549	550 - 567		568 - 591
Grade 6	606 - 639	640 - 649	650 - 667		668 - 699
Grade 7	703 - 739	740 - 749	750 - 767		768 - 798
Grade 8	802 - 839	840 - 849	850 - 867		868 - 898
Grade 10	1013 - 1039	1040 - 1049	1050 - 1064		1065 - 1094
Grade 5	501 - 539	540 - 549	550 - 570		570 - 599
Grade 8	801 - 839	840 - 849	850 - 863		864 - 899
HS	1001 - 1039	1040 - 1049	1050 - 1063		1064 - 1099
	Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 11 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 8 Grade 10	Grade 3 315 - 339 Grade 4 409 - 439 Grade 5 515 - 539 Grade 6 611 - 639 Grade 7 718 - 739 Grade 8 813 - 839 Grade 11 1102 - 1139 Grade 3 301 - 339 Grade 4 411 - 439 Grade 5 517 - 539 Grade 6 606 - 639 Grade 7 703 - 739 Grade 8 802 - 839 Grade 10 1013 - 1039	Image: Description of the stress of the s	Image: Description of the section o	Grade 3 315 - 339 340 - 349 350 - 366 Grade 4 409 - 439 440 - 449 450 - 466 Grade 5 515 - 539 540 - 549 550 - 563 Grade 6 611 - 639 640 - 649 650 - 662 Grade 7 718 - 739 740 - 749 750 - 760 Grade 8 813 - 839 840 - 849 850 - 861 Grade 1 1102 - 1139 1140 - 1149 1150 - 1164 1164 Grade 3 301 - 339 340 - 349 350 - 374 340 - 349 Grade 4 411 - 439 440 - 449 450 - 466 350 - 374 Grade 5 517 - 539 540 - 549 550 - 567 316 - 316 Grade 6 506 - 639 640 - 649 650 - 667 316 - 316 Grade 7 703 - 739 703 - 739 700 - 749 750 - 767 316 - 316 Grade 8 802 - 839 840 - 849 850 - 867 316 - 316 Grade 5 501 - 539 501 - 504 700 - 767 700 - 767 Grade 7 703 - 739 700 - 767 700 - 767 700 - 767 700 - 767

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Your Student 762

The last two digits represent the score the student earned.

The first digit(s)

represent the

tested grade.

- D Does Not Meet Standards
- P Partially Meets Standards
- M Meets Standards
- E Exceeds Standards

Does Not Meet Standards does not have a set student score or range; both vary by grade and subject.

Partially Meets Standards always starts at a student score of 40, and the range is always the same.

Meets Standards always starts at a student score of 50, and the range varies by grade and subject.

Exceeds Standards does not have a set student score or range; both vary by grade and subject.