



Understanding the Individual Student Report for the ***NCEXTEND2*** End-of-Grade Test of Science—Grades 5 and 8

During the final weeks of the school year, your child took the ***NCEXTEND2*** Science Test, an alternate assessment to the state-required multiple-choice North Carolina End-of-Grade (EOG) Test of Science. The ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG Test of Science is administered to eligible students at grades 5 and 8 as part of the statewide assessment program. The ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG Test of Science is a curriculum-based achievement test specifically aligned to the 2004 North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* and includes a variety of strategies to measure the achievement of North Carolina students. The ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG tests measure grade-level content standards in a modified multiple-choice format. The achievement of students participating in the ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG is measured based on modified academic achievement standards for the content area(s) being tested.

The ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG Test of Science is required to comply with the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. In addition, the ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG Test of Science is used for computing performance composites as required by the state-mandated ABCs Accountability Program.

Test scores are among the many ways to find out how well your child is doing in school. However, test scores should always be considered along with *all* other available information provided about your child. Scores on these tests are only one of the many indicators of how well your child is achieving.

NCEXTEND2 End-of-Grade Testing—Individual Student Report

The *Individual Student Report* for the ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG science tests provides information concerning your child's performance on the ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG Test of Science. A sample individual student report is provided on page four to accompany the following explanations of the items found on the student report:

- A. The number of questions your child answered correctly is called a raw score. The raw score is converted to the **scale score**.
- B. **Achievement level** shows the level at which your child performed on the test. Four achievement levels (i.e., Levels I, II, III, and IV) are reported in science. The achievement level earned by your child is based on your child's scale score.
- C. This diagram indicates the range of student scale scores from the lowest possible score to the highest possible score.
- D. This diagram shows the four achievement levels and their relation to the scale. Achievement levels are predetermined standards that allow your child's performance to be measured against modified grade-level academic achievement standards. The standard for grade-level proficiency is a test score at Achievement Level III or above on the ***NCEXTEND2*** EOG science test. The shaded areas in the diagram indicate proficiency Achievement Levels III and IV.
- E. This diagram shows your child's scale score in relation to the entire scale. Your child's score is represented by a closed diamond (◆). The bar (▬) across the closed diamond represents where your child's true score should be about two-thirds of the time (standard error of measurement). On another day or with

a different set of test questions, your child might have obtained a slightly different score, but the score should still lie within the bar, assuming no additional learning occurred.

- F. The **description of the achievement level** is reported for your child's performance in science. A complete listing of the four achievement levels for science by grade level may be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/policies/tswd/ncextend2>.

Key Features of the Science Test

- The **NCEXTEND2** EOG science tests are designed to measure student performance on the competencies specified in the goals and objectives of the North Carolina *Standard Course of Study*.
 - The grade 5 **NCEXTEND2** EOG science test assesses the 2004 North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* grade 5 science competencies.
 - The grade 8 **NCEXTEND2** EOG science test assesses the 2004 North Carolina *Standard Course of Study* grade 8 science competencies.
- The **NCEXTEND2** EOG science tests require your child to demonstrate knowledge of important principles and concepts, understand and interpret laboratory activities, and relate scientific information to everyday situations.
- The science tests have a substantial focus on processing information and higher-order thinking.
- Students are allowed to use calculators during the tests.
- The 60-item science tests are administered in one day.
- The **NCEXTEND2** EOG science tests are not timed. Students are allowed ample opportunity to complete the tests. As long as students are engaged and working, they are allowed time to complete the **NCEXTEND2** EOG science tests.
- The estimated time for 95% of students at grades 5 and 8 to complete the science test is 150 minutes.

How Can I Help My Child with Science?

- Help your child understand that science involves:
 - Observing what is happening,
 - Classifying or organizing information,
 - Predicting what will happen,
 - Testing predictions under controlled conditions to see if they are correct, and
 - Drawing conclusions.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and to talk about his or her ideas. Keep in mind that children's experiences help them form their ideas—ideas that may, or may not, match current scientific interpretations.
- Help your child to look at things in new ways (e.g., What do you think causes it to rain sideways sometimes?)
- Investigate and experiment with your child to learn science and increase his or her understanding of scientific ideas.
- Encourage your child to gather and organize objects according to their sizes or colors (e.g., leaves, insects).
- Challenge your child to make reasonable predictions.
- Have your child test theories (e.g., Is it the baking soda that makes the pancakes thick?)
- Have your child observe change through measurement:
 - Keep a growth chart,
 - Make a graph of temperature each day, and
 - Modify recipes.

- By “doing science” together, you will demonstrate that learning science is fun.

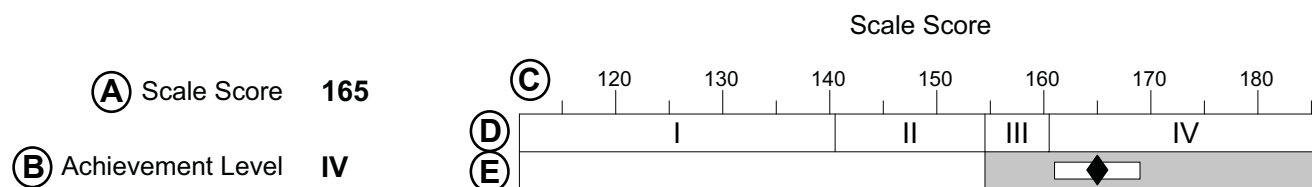
Additional Information

For additional information on the ***NCEXTEND2*** End-of-Grade Test of Science at Grades 5 and 8, visit the NCDPI Division of Accountability Services/North Carolina Testing Program Web site at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/policies/tswd/ncextend2>.

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For a full explanation of the information provided in this report see: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/policies/tswd/ncextend2>



- (F) Students performing at this level consistently demonstrate content mastery clearly beyond that required to be proficient and are well prepared for the next grade level.

Students demonstrate a considerable understanding of the application of principles and methodologies of scientific inquiry and technological design; relationships and unifying concepts of the distribution, use, properties, quality and stewardship of water systems; the application of the properties of pure substances, the recognition, measurement, and prediction of chemical changes in matter, and impacts of chemicals on humans; relationships and unifying concepts of the processes that affect biological and geological evolution, and how technologies can be used to monitor and predict changes over time; cellular structures, functions, and processes and explain how all three are interrelated and the variety of single-celled organisms; relationships between micro-organisms and disease, human impacts on disease control, biotechnology and apply them to real-world situations.