

Parent's Guide to STAR™ Reading and Math Assessments

Your child will be taking a STAR assessment three times during this school year if he/she is in grades 1-10. This brief guide will explain what a STAR assessment is. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

What are STAR assessments?

STAR assessments are computer-adaptive tests (CATs) which continually adjust the difficulty of each child's test by choosing each test question based on the child's previous response. If the child answers a question correctly, the next question is more difficult. If the child misses a question, the next question is easier. CATs save testing time and spare your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.

How long does it take to complete a STAR assessment?

On average, students will complete the STAR Math test in about 20 minutes, the STAR Reading test in about 15 minutes, and the STAR Early Literacy test in 15-20 minutes. However, some students may require more time. Most students only take STAR Math and STAR Reading assessments. Students who are beginning readers will also take the STAR Early Literacy test.

What are STAR assessments used for?

The STAR assessments are used to screen students for their reading and math achievement levels. They are also used to monitor student growth throughout the year and to estimate students' understanding of common core state standards. In addition, STAR can help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

What kind of score does my child get?

For every STAR assessment, your child receives a **scaled score (SS)**, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child's performance over time and across grades. STAR Reading and STAR Math scaled scores range from 0-1400. Early Literacy scaled scores range from 300-900. A proficiency level will be assigned to your child's scaled score. We use the following proficiency levels: Minimal 2, Minimal 1, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. Students that score Minimal 1, Minimal 2, and Basic are considered below grade level and may be recommended for in-school intervention classes or the CLC after-school program.

How can I help my child prepare for a STAR assessment?

The teacher who gives the test uses pre-test instructions to explain the test to your child. It is important for you to encourage your child to try to do his or her best on the assessment. Since STAR is a general measure of student ability in math or reading, students perform best on the assessment in the same way they perform best in school – when they have had plenty of rest, attend school regularly, and have eaten.

How will I know how my child is doing?

You will receive a Parent Report after the September, December and April testing. This report will provide you with important information about your child's performance on each assessment. Teachers should also share this information with you during a parent/teacher conference.