



## Essential Questions and Answers for Parents and Primary Caregivers on DCAS Student Data

### 1. Where do I find my student's DCAS scores from the most recent assessment?

Many school districts and charter schools<sup>1</sup> make DCAS scores available on Home Access, a web-based database for student information including grades, homework, and other information. Parents must have their own user name and password. The link to Home Access Center is: <http://hac.doe.k12.de.us/homeaccess/>

If your school district or charter school does not provide Home Access, contact them. They may be arranging for you to receive your DCAS scores in another way, for example, parent-teacher conferences or mail out forms.

### 2. How many scores will my student receive?

The student will receive three scores: the Accountability Score, the Performance Level, and the Instructional Score.

### 3. What do the scores mean?

The Accountability Score is based on the within-grade level content. The Instructional Score may include items above-grade level or below-grade level according to your student's performance on the within-grade level items. A performance level based on the Accountability Scale Score is also provided. No Performance Level is provided for the Instructional Scale Score.

Most of the items will be for the content of the grade level being tested. Your student may receive a low score in that grade level content, which might be expected since the teacher has not yet covered the content. Students and parents should expect scores to improve over the school year as students learn more of the grade level content standards. The ability to demonstrate growth within a school year is one of the benefits of the DCAS.

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<sup>1</sup> Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Caesar Rodney, Campus Community, Cape Henlopen, Capital, Charter School of Wilmington, Christina, Colonial, Delaware Military Academy, Delmar, East Side Charter School, Edison Charter, Family Foundations, Indian River, Kuumba Academy, Lake Forest, Laurel, Maurice Moyer, Milford, MOT Charter, New Castle County Votech, Newark Charter School, Pencader Charter, Polytech, Positive Outcomes, Prestige Charter School, Providence Creek, Red Clay, Seaford, Woodbridge.



**4. Will these scores affect my student's report card grades?**

These scores are not used in calculating your student's grades. However, the information from the test may help the teacher focus instruction that may result in higher grades for your student.

**5. Can my student's teachers see these scores?**

Yes, the teacher sees these scores and additional information about his/her class that will help the teacher focus the instruction on the students' needs.

**6. How will my student's teachers use these scores?**

The teachers will use the scores and information from DCAS as well as other data to adjust instruction, improve students' learning, maintain their strengths, and improve their weaknesses.

**7. How can I better understand these scores so that I can actively participate in parent/teacher conferences about my student's progress in school this year?**

The fall scores represent a starting point for your student. The school and the teacher are aiming to improve the scores as the student learns the grade level content. In theory, a parent might expect a higher score on the mid-year assessment and a higher score on the spring assessment. The goal is for all students' spring scores to be in the meets standard or higher performance level. The cut scores are available at the following link:

<http://de.portal.airast.org/resources/Cut%20scores%20for%20portal%20with%20interim.pdf>