

FAQs: PVAAS Child Success Summary

How to handle questions received by Pennsylvania Department of Education, PVAAS Statewide Team or SAS® EVAAS® from parents and media

Who should parents be directed to contact?

- Parents would be directed to their respective Local Education Agency (LEA) – school or district administrators.
- Basic factual information could be provided to parents by PDE and/or the PVAAS Statewide Team for PDE to assist with collaboration with districts and schools.

Can an LEA ask certain questions on parents' behalf?

- LEAs or PDE can contact Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) if there are any questions about state assessment scores.
- LEAs can contact PDE and/or the PVAAS Statewide Team for PDE if there are any questions about data or child's name/PASecureID as reported on the PVAAS Child Success Summary.

Who should receive a copy of the Child Success Summary?

- LEAs determine this based on local information, such as who receives other student information including grades or progress reports on student performance.
- If shared with parents or guardians, this report would be shared with parents/guardians who also receive Individual Student Reports (ISRs).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the PVAAS Child Success Summary?

The Child Success Summary is an individual student, user-friendly report detailing a student's academic performance and opportunities. The PVAAS Child Success Summary includes:

- The child's testing history on state assessments.
- When possible, the child's projections to (or likely performance on) future assessments, including state assessments, Advanced Placement exams, and college readiness exams (PSAT, SAT, and ACT).

When is the PVAAS Child Success Summary available in the PVAAS system?

The PVAAS Child Success Summary is included in the fall reporting release of PVAAS to LEAs via the PVAAS password-protected website.

Why is the PVAAS Child Success Summary provided to LEAs?

The PVAAS Child Success Summary is a way to provide information available across several PVAAS reports in a consolidated, more user-friendly format for parents, guardians, and authorized school staff.

How was the PVAAS Child Success Summary developed?

The Child Success Summary was a partnership of PDE leadership, district and school administrators, regional representatives from the state Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and SAS® EVAAS®. A statewide webinar was provided to district and school administrators to obtain feedback on this new report; LEAs were encouraged to include teachers and parents in this session. More than 240 locations participated, and an online survey was sent to all location registrants. Additionally, a stakeholder meeting was held with regional representatives from the state PTA, who also completed a survey, and held a follow-up meeting. Feedback from all sessions was compiled and considered in the development of the Child Success Summary.

Who has access to the Child Success Summary?

LEAs/districts and schools decide which staff have access to student-level information. To ensure security, the PVAAS website is a password-protected website. Any staff with authorized access to student-level data in PVAAS will have access to the PVAAS Child Success Summary for those respective students. Parents/guardians and students do not access the Child Success Summary through the PVAAS web application. Instead, educators authorized by an LEA can share a PDF of the Child Success Summary with parents/guardians and students.

How can LEAs use this report with parents/guardians and students?

- Administrators and teachers can share the Child Success Summary with students, parents, and guardians of the student in the teachers' classes, based on the needs of the students.
- School counselors can share the Child Success Summary with students, parents, and guardians during conversations about scheduling or college planning, based on the needs of the student.
- Teachers, school counselors, and administrators can use the Child Success Summary along with other information as part of student-level planning, such as planning for interventions, enrichments, course placement decisions, and college/career planning, based on the needs of the student.

Do LEAs need to provide the Child Success Summary to parents and guardians?

LEAs can choose to provide these reports to parents and guardians.

What do I do if my child's name is spelled incorrectly?

PDE and PVAAS Statewide Team reply to parents/guardians:

You may wish to contact your school principal for more information on the spelling of your child's name on this report, as data is submitted to PDE by LEAs and districts.

Possible LEA reply to parents/guardians:

We will review your child's records in our information system to ensure accuracy in future reporting. We will contact you once we complete this data review.

What do I do if my child's testing history differs from what I've received previously?

PDE and PVAAS Statewide Team reply to parents/guardians:

You may wish to reach out to your school principal for more information on your child's performance on state assessments. Each LEA/district receives student assessment scores annually, and if your LEA/district or school has any questions, they will contact the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Possible LEA Reply to parents/guardians:

We will review your child's performance on state assessments and contact you about the scores we have in the annual state assessments files received each year from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. If we have any questions, we will contact the Pennsylvania Department of Education for additional information and then we will contact you.

What do I do if my child's testing history has some pieces that appear to be missing?

PDE and PVAAS Statewide Team reply to parents:

We would suggest you contact your school principal for more information on your child's state assessment performance. Each LEA/district receives student assessment scores annually. The Child Success Summary only include results from state assessments. If your LEA/district/school has any questions, they will reach out to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Possible LEA reply to parents:

We will review your child's performance on state assessments and contact you about the scores we have in the annual state assessments files received each year by your LEA/district from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. If we have any questions, we will contact the Pennsylvania Department of Education for any information needed.

What do I do if my child has a higher Algebra I projection, but isn't in the course?

PDE and PVAAS Statewide Team reply to parents:

Each LEA/district has local criteria for placement into courses such as Algebra I. Often the criteria include multiple measures, such as prior performance on state assessments, performance on local assessments administered by the district, course grades, and teacher recommendations. The PVAAS data is only one piece of information that may be used as a part of course placement decisions. You may contact your school principal to find out your school's criteria for student placement in Algebra I. Your school principal will be able to share the criteria used for these decisions at your school.

Possible LEA reply to parents:

Our school has criteria for placement in courses such as Algebra I. We use the following data to make these decisions: <INSERT DATA USED >. < INSERT DETAILS ON HOW THE CRITERIA AND PVAAS PROJECTIONS WERE USED TO MAKE COURSE PLACEMENT DECISION FOR THIS CHILD>

Note to LEA: If PVAAS projections were not used as part of the criteria for placement, the team may want to consider revisiting the decision process if the student has a high likelihood of success.

What do I do if my child has a lower Algebra I projection, but is enrolled in the course?

PDE and PVAAS Statewide Team reply to parents:

Each LEA/district has local criteria for placement into courses such as Algebra I. Often the criteria include multiple measures, such as prior performance on state assessments, performance on local assessments administered by the district, course grades, and teacher recommendations. The PVAAS data is only one piece of information that may be used as a part of course placement decisions. You may contact your school principal to find out your school's criteria for student placement in Algebra I. Your school principal will be able to share the criteria used for these decisions at your school.

Possible LEA reply to parents:

Our school has criteria for placement in courses such as Algebra I. We used the following data to make these decisions: <INSERT DATA USED >. < INSERT DETAILS ON HOW THE CRITERIA AND PVAAS PROJECTIONS WERE USED TO MAKE COURSE PLACEMENT DECISION FOR THIS CHILD>

Note to LEA: If PVAAS Projections were not used as a part of the criteria, the team may want to consider developing a plan to monitor the success of the student in this course if the student has a low likelihood of success.

What do I do if my child has a higher AP projection, but our school doesn't offer the course?

PDE and PVAAS Statewide Team reply to parents:

Each LEA/district makes decisions about courses offered as part of its local curriculum. We would suggest contacting your LEA/district or school to ask about course offerings for students. You may want to ask if this course is available through other means, such as an online option. If there are not enough students to fill a traditional face-to-face course, some LEAs/districts or schools may offer courses online.

Possible LEA reply to parents:

Our LEA/district and local school board work together to plan course offerings based on student needs and resources in the district. < INSERT REASON(S)/RATIONALE FOR WHY THIS COURSE IS NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN YOUR SCHOOL/DISTRICT>.

How can I access to the password protected PVAAS website to see more information about my child?

PDE and PVAAS Statewide Team reply to parents:

Parents and guardians cannot access the Child Success Summary through the PVAAS web application. Administrators authorized by an LEA can share a PDF of the Child Success Summary with parents and guardians. Contact your district/school administrator for a copy of this report.

Possible LEA reply to parents:

Note to LEAs: Parents/guardians could request this information via Right to Know. PDE would encourage a discussion with parents/guardians on the meaning and use of the information in the Child Success Summary.

Can I opt my child out of PVAAS?

PVAAS is an analysis of state assessment data. If your child does not take a state assessment, their data will not be part of the Child Success Summary report.

How long has this information been available for my child?

LEAs/districts and schools use many different types of information about the performance of children. Data is used to evaluate the effectiveness of curriculum and instruction. Data is also used for student level planning – making decisions about needs for intervention and enrichment, as well as course placement decisions. This report has been available since fall 2017 and includes data in a newer user-friendly format.

Will my child's scores on the report have a negative impact in any way?

PVAAS data is only one source of information to use as part of student level planning by schools and districts. This data can assist schools as they decide the level of support needed for a student in a specific subject area. You may wish to contact your school to discuss the types of data used for planning for your child's needs.