

Getting the Most from the Child Success Summary

What is the Child Success Summary?

The Child Success Summary provides families, guardians, and educators with important information about a child's academic performance. The summary presents the child's past performance on state assessments as well as their likely performance on future assessments. The information in this summary helps families, guardians, and educators have productive conversations and engage in collaborative planning to meet a child's needs.

The information in this summary should be used alongside other information about the child, including:

- teachers' observations of in-class performance
- families' observations at home
- a child's performance on homework, quizzes, and assessments
- a child's performance on other assessments, if available

How can the information in the Child Success Summary be used to support decisions to meet a child's needs?

The information provided in the summary can support discussions and decisions regarding:

- examining a child's prior performance on assessments
- assessing a child's risk level based on likely performance on future assessments
- providing insight for academic placement scheduling decisions
- planning for support opportunities, such as remediation or enrichment
- facilitating Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings
- planning for postsecondary opportunities

How has the child performed on previous PSSA and Keystone assessments?

Children throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are assessed with PSSA and Keystone assessments each year. Children take:

- Math, which includes PSSA Math in grades 3–8 and Keystone Algebra I
- English Language Arts, which includes PSSA English Language Arts in grades 3–8 and Keystone Literature
- Science, which includes PSSA Science in grades 4 and 8 and Keystone Biology

Children take Keystone state assessments in different grades depending on when they complete the courses that include the instructional content assessed with these exams. Multiple scores might appear since children can retake Keystone assessments until they have scored Proficient or higher. The results of these assessments provide meaningful measures of the child's achievement in each assessed subject each year.

How is the child likely to perform on future PSSA and Keystone assessments?

A child's likely performance on future assessments does not indicate what the child *will* score. Instead, this value illustrates only how the child *is likely* to score. A child's expected performance is based on:

- the child's own performance on previous state assessments across subjects
- the performance of other children at a similar achievement level statewide

It is important to note that the probabilities listed in this section of the summary represent the child's likelihood of scoring at least Basic, Proficient, or Advanced. This information might help in discussions, such as:

- How is the child performing over time?
- What subjects are areas of strength for the child?
- What subjects are areas of need for the child?

The projections to student performance in the 2023-24 school year use data about the relationship between test scores from the last cohort of students tested before the pandemic in order to provide projections based on a more typical year-to-year change in student achievement. The projections, along with local knowledge and resources, can assist educators with planning for students' success on future assessments. For more information about projections, see <https://pvaas.sas.com/support/PVAAS-StudentProbabilities.pdf>.

How is the child likely to perform on Advanced Placement (AP) exams?

The child's summary might not include probabilities to AP exams. Visit <https://pvaas.sas.com/support/pa/s/main/reasonsForNotHavingAPProjection.html> to see a list of the most common reasons for a child to not have a projection.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer a college curriculum with a standardized exam at the end of the course. Some colleges and universities grant course credit to children who earn high scores on AP exams. The possible scores range from 1 to 5 (with 5 being the highest possible score).

This section of the summary indicates the child's probability of scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams commonly administered in Pennsylvania. A child's likely performance on each AP exam is based on a comparison of their testing histories across grades and subjects with the previous cohort's scores and testing histories. These relationships determine an individual child's projection that is based on their own personal testing history. It is important to note that the probabilities listed here represent the child's likelihood of scoring at least a 3, at least a 4, or a 5.

How is a child likely to perform on college readiness tests and subject area tests?

The child's summary might not include probabilities to college readiness exams. Visit <https://pvaas.sas.com/support/pa/s/main/reasonsForNotHavingAPProjection.html> to see a list of the most common reasons for a child to not have a projection to AP exams.

Projections to College Benchmarks provide information about children's current risk levels of post-secondary educational success. These minimum ACT, SAT, and PSAT benchmarks are suggestive of achievement levels in corresponding college courses. The probabilities listed here represent the child's likelihood of scoring at least the indicated college readiness benchmark.

Test	Benchmark Score
ACT – English	18
ACT – Reading	22
ACT – Mathematics	22
ACT – Science	23
SAT – Mathematics	530
SAT – Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	480
PSAT 8/9 – Mathematics	450
PSAT 8/9 – Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	410
PSAT NMSQT – Mathematics	510
PSAT NMSQT – Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	460

Where can I find additional resources?

For more information, visit <https://pvaas.sas.com/support/pa/s/main/overviewAndHelpfulResources.html>. This site contains information about the Child Success Summary and Pennsylvania’s state assessments (PSSA and Keystone).