



ALTERNATE

PARENT GUIDE: UNDERSTANDING THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT (ISR)

WHAT IS THE ACAP ALTERNATE?

The *ACAP Alternate* is a standards-based assessment administered to students in Grades 2–8, 10, and 11 in English language arts (ELA) and math, and in science in Grades 4, 6, 8, and 11, as an alternate to the general education state assessments. The *ACAP Alternate* provides teachers, students, and parents with an assessment of student progress in mastering skills identified in the Alabama Alternate Achievement Standards. The assessment is administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who qualify for participation on the *ACAP Alternate* as determined by the IEP team. The *ACAP Alternate* is administered once a year in the spring.

The primary purpose of the *ACAP Alternate* is to determine the level at which Alabama students are meeting the standards.

HOW IS THE ACAP ALTERNATE ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS?

The *ACAP Alternate* is an untimed, paper-based student booklet assessment, with an online testing environment for the Test Administrator (TA). The TA reads the entire test. The student provides a response to each test item, and the TA records the student's responses into the test engine. The student may respond verbally, by pointing to or marking their response in the test booklet, by eye gazing, using a communication device, or by any other means of communication used regularly by the student in the classroom. At no time does the student interact with the computer. The student is not required to record any answers in the student test booklet but may do so if preferred.

WHAT IS THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT (ISR)?

The Alabama Individual Student Report (ISR) is a two-page report prepared in PDF format for teachers, parents, and students to understand how the student performed on the *ACAP Alternate*. This valuable information can help parents understand the areas in which their student is doing well and areas they are still mastering and/or need additional support. Please see the last two pages of this document for an example of an Individual Student Report. Use the numbered callouts shown throughout the document for an explanation of the key sections of the report.

WHAT ARE THE REPORTING CATEGORIES?

Each reporting category within a content area corresponds to a subset of the Alabama Alternate Achievement Standards. In each reporting category, the student is given a rating of one to three stars to describe performance in the specific area. See callout number six on the example ISR below.

ELA, math, and science each have independent reporting categories shown on the report. These categories vary slightly at the different grade levels.

Visit the following websites for in-depth and grade-specific information about each category and how it relates to daily instruction.

- ELA: [Alternate Achievement Standards - ELA](#)
- Math: [Alternate Achievement Standards - Math](#)
- Science: [Alternate Achievement Standards - Science](#)

HOW ARE THE TEST RESULTS USED?

The ISR report will present data designed to help students, parents, teachers, and administrators identify individual students' areas of strength and areas of need as measured by the standards.

Timely and meaningful assessment information about each student's performance allows

- teachers to target instruction to individual student needs,
- students to learn areas of strength and need to better target their own efforts,
- administrators to more fully understand what students know and are able to do to guide curriculum and professional development decisions, and
- parents/families to understand what the student knows and is able to do within the academic content areas of English language arts, math, and science as delineated by the *Alabama Alternate Achievement Standards*.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE SCORES?

Parents can use test scores to communicate with their students' teacher about their learning progress. Here are some questions to help get the conversation going:

- How did my student perform in comparison to their individualized learning goals/expectations?
- What specific skills should we focus on building at home?
- Are there additional interventions you would recommend based on the assessment data?

ACAP Alternate ISR Quick Guide



What is an Individual Student Report (ISR)?

The Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Alternate is an assessment administered to students in English Language Arts (ELA) and math in grades 2–8, 10, and 11 and in science in grades 4, 6, 8, and 11. The assessment is administered to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who qualify for participation on the ACAP Alternate as determined by the IEP team. The ISR shows parents/guardians how their student performed on the ACAP Alternate. Below is a description of the ISR layout and the information provided.

- 1 This section of the ISR indicates the student name, grade, content areas assessed, student number, date of birth, district, school, and test date.
- 2 This section of the ISR provides general information about the exam and the purpose of the report.
- 3 The table outlines the student performance for each content area assessed at that grade.

• **PERFORMANCE LEVEL**—A check mark represents the student's performance level (1–4) in English Language Arts, math, and science. A student meeting grade-level standards will earn a performance level of 3 or 4.

- **SCALE SCORE**—The scale score is a transformed version of the raw score that provides comparable meaning across test administrations and falls into one of the four performance levels. Each content area has a separate scale score unrelated to the other content areas, so scores cannot be compared between content areas.

- **GROWTH SCORE**—Growth scores describe a student's learning over time compared to other students across the state who took the same test and had similar prior test scores. Growth scores are only provided for ELA and math assessments in which students are consecutively promoted from one grade level to the next (e.g., from grade 3 in 2024 to grade 4 in 2025) and received valid test scores both years for the given content area. Growth scores are percentiles that range from 1 to 99, with lower percentiles indicating lower academic growth and higher percentiles indicating higher academic growth. For example, a student with a growth score of 45 on the ELA grade 4 assessment in the 2025 spring administration indicates that the student grew more in academic achievement than approximately 45% of the Alabama students who were tested on the ELA grade 4 assessment in 2025 and had similar test scores to the student's test score on the grade 3 ELA assessment in 2024.

- **GROWTH CATEGORY**—Growth categories classify student growth scores into four levels.

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|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Category 1 | 1-20 | Category 3 | 41-60 |
| Category 2 | 21-40 | Category 4 | 61-99 |

Category 1 includes students with the least growth (well below average), and Category 4 includes students with the most growth (above average).

4 Performance level descriptors describe the skills that a typical student scoring at each performance level (1–4) should be able to demonstrate.

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5 The bar graph represents the scale score range for each of the four performance levels. The arrow on the bar graph shows where the student score falls within one of the four performance levels.

6 Each reporting category within a content area corresponds to a subset of the Alabama Alternate Achievement Standards. In each reporting category, the student is given a rating of one to three stars to describe performance in the specific area.

7 For each content area, a score range is provided that predicts how the student would perform if the test were taken again under similar circumstances.

