



# PARENT GUIDE: UNDERSTANDING THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT (ISR)

## WHAT IS THE *ACAP SUMMATIVE*?

The *ACAP Summative* is Alabama’s customized, criterion-referenced summative assessment administered in Grades 2–8 in English language arts (ELA) and math and in Grades 4, 6, and 8 in science.

The test items on the *ACAP Summative* are aligned to the Alabama Course of Study Standards for each grade level and content area. The Alabama Course of Study Standards describe what a student is expected to know and do and serve as goals for teaching and learning. The *ACAP Summative* test items have been written to assess the content knowledge and skills that are described in the Alabama Course of Study Standards. During the item development process, Alabama educators review the items to ensure there is a match between the test items and standards.

## HOW IS THE *ACAP SUMMATIVE* ADMINISTERED TO STUDENTS?

The *ACAP Summative* is an online assessment with paper accommodations available if outlined in a given student’s IEP or 504 plan. The *ACAP Summative* is available to students in either English or Spanish for math and science.

The *ACAP Summative* is administered statewide once a year in the spring. As a standardized assessment, the *ACAP Summative* is administered using uniform directions, materials, and testing conditions for all test takers.

## 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 Summative*. This valuable information can help you understand the areas in which your 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 Course of Study 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 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: [Alabama Course of Study - ELA](#)
- Math: [Alabama Course of Study - Math](#)
- Science: [Alabama Course of Study - 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 Course of Study Standards.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE SCORES?

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

- How can these results help guide my student's future instruction?
- What are some things we can do at home to support growth in areas that need improvement?
- Is my student on track for grade-level expectations next year?

## ACAP Summative ISR Quick Guide



### What is an Individual Student Report (ISR)?

In Alabama, all students are required to take the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative in English Language Arts (ELA) and math in grades 2 through 8 and in science in grades 4, 6, and 8. The ISR shows parents/guardians how their student performed on the ACAP Summative. 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 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 (grades 4, 6, and 8 only). 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 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.

• **STUDENT PERCENTILE**—Student percentiles are norm-referenced scores that are computed for each student based on the student's obtained scale score. The percentile describes the student's relative standing in the state's tested population for a given test. For example, if a student's percentile score is 79 on the ELA grade 5 assessment, it means that the student performed better than 79% of grade 5 Alabama students on that test.

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

**ACAP SUMMATIVE** Student Report for **SAMPLE C STUDENT** Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science

Student Number: 0123456789 Date of Birth: 01/01/2016 District: 012 SAMPLE DISTRICT School: 0123 SAMPLE SCHOOL Test Date: Spring 2025

**About the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative**  
The ACAP Summative is administered in grades 2–8 in English language arts and math and in grades 4, 6, and 8 in science. The ACAP Summative measures the Alabama Course of Study standards.

**What is the purpose of this report?**  
This report includes information about student performance on the ACAP Summative in relation to the Alabama Course of Study Standards. It provides data that may help students, parents, and educators identify specific areas of strength and need.

**PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
The student has a minimal understanding of grade-level content and is unable to apply it to new situations.	The student has a partial understanding of grade-level content and is unable to apply it to new situations.	The student has a solid understanding of grade-level content and is able to apply it to new situations.	The student has a strong understanding of grade-level content and is able to apply it to new situations.

**STUDENT RESULTS**

Content Area	Performance Level				Scale Score	Student Percentile	Growth Score	Growth Category
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4				
English Language Arts		✓			405	41	N/A	N/A
Math		✓			523	58	N/A	N/A
Science		✓			481	35	N/A	N/A

**What is a Scale Score?**  
A student's scale score is an individualized measure of the student's performance on the assessment. It provides a comparable measure across all students who took the assessment.

**What is a Student Percentile?**  
A student's percentile score is a measure of the student's performance on the assessment in relation to the performance of all students who took the assessment. It indicates the percentage of students who scored at or below the student's score.

**What is a Growth Score?**  
A student's growth score is a measure of the student's learning over time compared to other students who took the same test and had similar prior test scores. It indicates the percentage of students who scored at or below the student's growth score.

**Growth Category**

Growth Category	Score Range
Category 1	1–20
Category 2	21–40
Category 3	41–60
Category 4	61–99

## ACAP Summative ISR Quick Guide

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3 This section of the ISR provides general information about the exam and the purpose of the report.

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

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 Course of Study 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.

**ACAP SUMMATIVE** Student Report for **SAMPLE C STUDENT** Grade 4 English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science

Student Number: 1234567890 Date of Birth: 03/04/2010 Grade: 4 District: 0123 SAMPLE DISTRICT School: 0123 SAMPLE SCHOOL Test Date: Spring 2025

**About the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative**  
The ACAP Summative is administered in grades 2–8 in English language arts and math and in grades 4, 6, and 8 in science. The ACAP Summative measures the Alabama Course of Study Standards.

**What is the purpose of this report?**  
This report includes information about student performance on the ACAP Summative in relation to the Alabama Course of Study Standards. It presents data that may help students, parents, and educators identify specific areas of strength and need.

**PERFORMANCE LEVEL DESCRIPTORS**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
The student has a minimal understanding of grade-level standards and may not be able to demonstrate skills at this level of learning.	The student has a partial understanding of grade-level standards and may not be able to demonstrate skills at this level of learning.	The student has a strong understanding of grade-level standards and may be able to demonstrate skills at this level of learning.	The student has an excellent understanding of grade-level standards and may be able to demonstrate skills at this level of learning.

**STUDENT RESULTS**

Performance Level: 4.3 Student Score: 485 Growth: 10

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – SAMPLE C STUDENT**

Performance Level: 4.3 Student Score: 485 Growth: 10

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE** SCALE SCORE: 485 LEVEL: 2

**Reporting Categories\***

Reporting Categories*	Progress
Reading	★★★
Writing	★★★
Speaking and Listening	★★★
Language	★★★
Thinking	★★★
Writing	★★★

**MATH – SAMPLE C STUDENT**

Performance Level: 4.3 Student Score: 523 Growth: 10

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE** SCALE SCORE: 523 LEVEL: 2

**Reporting Categories\***

Reporting Categories*	Progress
Operations and Algebraic Thinking	★★★
Operations with Fractions and Decimals	★★★
Operations with Whole Numbers	★★★
Measurement, Data Analysis, and Geometry	★★★

**SCIENCE – SAMPLE C STUDENT**

Performance Level: 4.3 Student Score: 481 Growth: 10

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE** SCALE SCORE: 481 LEVEL: 2

**Reporting Categories\***

Reporting Categories*	Progress
Energy	★★★
Systems and Their Applications in Science and Technology	★★★
Earth and Space Science	★★★
Life Science	★★★

**ACAP SUMMATIVE** Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program

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