



Connecticut Mastery Test

FOURTH GENERATION



UNDERSTANDING TEST SCORES ON THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT

This guide will help parents understand test scores on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Individual Student Report. Mathematics, science (Grades 5 and 8), reading and writing scale scores and performance levels are reported and can be compared with the average scale scores of the student's school and district.

SCALE SCORES AND PERFORMANCE LEVELS

The mathematics, science, reading and writing scale scores range from 100 to 400. Within the scale-score range, five performance levels have been established for each content area. These five levels are: Advanced, Goal, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic. The goal range includes the two highest levels, Advanced and Goal. Scoring in the goal range is a challenging, yet reasonable, expectation for Connecticut students.

MATHEMATICS

The overall mathematics scale score is reported as well as a score relative to the mastery criteria for each tested content strand. The content strands are listed on the student report. The Mathematics test assesses students' mastery of grade appropriate mathematics skills and concepts along with their ability to solve realistic problems.

WRITING

The overall writing scale score is based on a combination of scores from two writing tests, the Direct Assessment of Writing and Editing & Revising. The Direct Assessment of Writing test accounts for 60 percent and the Editing & Revising test accounts for 40 percent of the total writing scale score.

The Direct Assessment of Writing assesses how well students can communicate ideas in a coherent, elaborated and organized way. Students write a first-draft response to a prompt. A Direct Assessment of Writing holistic score is reported.

The Editing & Revising test assesses student skills in composing, revising and editing a written piece. A total raw score for the Editing & Revising test is reported, as well as a score relative to the mastery criteria for the two content strands.

READING

The overall reading scale score is based on a combination of scores from two reading tests, the Degrees of Reading Power[®] (DRP) and Reading Comprehension. Each test accounts for 50 percent of the total reading scale score.

The DRP test assesses students' ability to understand what has been read. A DRP unit score is reported.

The Reading Comprehension test assesses students' ability to read and understand both fiction and nonfiction passages. A total raw score for the Reading Comprehension test is reported, as well as a score relative to the mastery criteria for the four content strands.

SCIENCE

The Science test is administered in Grades 5 and 8 only. The overall science scale score is reported along with raw scores for each science strand and dimension. There are no established mastery criteria for science. The Science test assesses students' understanding of important scientific concepts and how those concepts apply to the real world. In addition, the test focuses on scientific inquiry and using scientific reasoning to solve problems.

VERTICAL SCALE SCORE RESULTS

Vertical scale scores are reported for mathematics and reading. Vertical scales are designed to measure growth across grades (e.g., from Grade 3 to Grade 4, from Grade 4 to Grade 5). The vertical scale scores range from 200 to 700 in both mathematics and reading. Vertical scale scores are available for students who participated in the CMT during the 2006 through 2008 test administrations. If available, the vertical scale scores are presented on page four of the Individual Student Report.

Vertical scale scores and growth results at the school and district levels are presented for comparative purposes. Vertical scale scores are based on the performance of individual students on the day of testing. Care should be taken not to base important educational decisions solely on the vertical scale scores.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Your Child's School

Specific questions about individual student performance should be directed to school personnel.

Connecticut State Department of Education

For general information about the CMT, please visit the Connecticut State Department of Education website (www.ct.gov/sde) or call the Student Assessment Office at (860) 713-6860.

Choose the [Curriculum and Instruction](#) Link to Access:

[2005 Mathematics Framework](#), [2004 Core Science Curriculum Framework](#) or [2006 English Language Arts Framework](#). These documents detail the curriculum standards used in the development of the CMT.

CMT Online Reports at www.cmtreports.com

This site is designed to provide quick and easy access to student performance results on the CMT at the state, district and school levels.



Connecticut State Capitol Building

Choose the [Student Assessment](#) Link to Access:

- ◆ [CMT Fourth Generation Mathematics Handbook](#)
This handbook contains a thorough explanation of the Mathematics test, including sample questions for Grades 3 through 8.
- ◆ [CMT Fourth Generation Science Handbook](#)
This handbook contains a thorough explanation of the Science test, including sample questions for Grades 5 and 8.
- ◆ [CMT Fourth Generation Language Arts Handbook](#)
This handbook contains a thorough explanation of the Reading and Writing tests, including sample questions for Grades 3 through 8.
- ◆ [CMT Interpretive Guide](#)
This guide includes brief explanations of each test, the scores associated with each test and various sample score reports.
- ◆ [Performance Level Descriptors for Mathematics, Reading and Writing / Performance Level Descriptors for Science](#)
These documents contain information to help parents, educators and students understand the CMT scores.
- ◆ [CMT Brochure](#)
This brochure provides parents with general information about the CMT.
- ◆ [Assessment Guidelines](#)
This document provides detailed information about test accommodations and the Skills Checklist.
- ◆ [CMT Vertical Scales Interpretive Guide and Frequently Asked Questions](#)
These documents provide detailed information about the vertical scales.