



A Guide to Understanding Quick Scores

What vocabulary do I need to know?

- **Raw score:** the number of questions a student answered correctly.
- **Scale score:** generated from the raw score; this allows us to compare student performance from year to year. Because the questions on the test change each year, the level of difficulty could fluctuate. Scale scores give us a metric to make apples to apples comparisons from year to year.
- **Cut Score:** generated from the scale score; determines a student's performance level (i.e., below basic, basic, proficient, advanced).
- **Quick Score:** generated from the raw score; it is only meant to be factored into a student's end of year grade, as required by law. This score is on a 100-point scale because student grades are on a 100-point scale. Quick scores are not tied to student performance levels on TCAP (i.e., a quick score of 85 *does not* mean a student is proficient).

How are quick scores calculated?

Quick scores are generated from a student's raw score, or the number of questions they answered correctly. There are various methodologies that can be used to create a quick score from the raw score, and, this year, in an effort to use the same methodology for all grades, the department used the [cube root method](#) for grades 3-8. We have used the cube root method in high school since 2011.

What does the quick score mean?

A quick score creates a measure on a 100-point grading scale. It is *not* a percent correct or a percentile rank. Quick scores are generated only to be factored into a student's end of year grade. For grades 3-8, there is no statewide uniform grading policy. This means that a quick score of 84 in one district may be considered a *B*, while in another district it may be considered a *C*.

Has the bar for proficiency changed?

The bar for proficiency has not changed; it is the same as it was last year, and it is still based on the same scale scores. Because we know that the questions on the test change from year to year, sometimes questions may be slightly easier or more difficult. We generate scale scores to provide an apples-to-apples comparison. This is how we ensure that students are not penalized for the differences in test questions from year to year. So, in comparing this year to last year, students had the same expectations for performance in order to score proficient.

How do quick scores impact teachers?

Quick scores do not impact teacher evaluation or TVAAS, and quick scores have no bearing on personnel decisions tied to teacher performance.



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How do quick scores impact students?

Because districts across the state do not have a uniform A-F grading policy for grades 3-8, the methodology we have always used to calculate quick score converts student performance on TCAP to the common 100-point grading scale.

For example, a student that answers 72 percent of questions correctly meets the bar for proficiency in third grade English language arts. However, if we were to use 72 percent as the student grade, in most districts that *proficient* student would receive a low pass or failing grade according to the typical A-F grading system. This is why quick scores are calculated on a 100-point grading scale; because TCAP performance levels are different from the A-F grading system.

How can my student have a quick score of 89 and still not be proficient on the TCAP?

A quick score does not determine TCAP performance levels (i.e., below basic, basic, proficient, advanced). Only scale scores, the comparable score generated based on the number of questions a student answered correctly, determine proficiency. For example, a quick score means different things in different subjects and grades. A quick score of 85 in seventh-grade science is equivalent to a scale score that is proficient, but a quick score of 85 in seventh-grade English language arts is equivalent to a scale score that is basic.

Quick scores are not intended to be a parent's primary window into their student's performance on TCAP. Quick scores are solely created for districts to incorporate student results into end of year grades. Detailed reports on student performance are shared with teachers and parents later in the summer to explain where students excelled and where they struggled.

Why do we calculate quick scores if they aren't tied to proficiency levels?

State law requires that districts incorporate TCAP results into end of year student grades. In 2011-12 the department produced quick scores for grades 3-8 for the first time. Quick scores are not used for school or district accountability. They are not used for teacher evaluation or TVAAS.

As we transition to new assessments next year, we are revisiting the methodology for calculating quick scores in grades 3-8 given that there is no uniform grading policy across the state.