



MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 29, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Kentucky students took the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) in the Spring of 2021. Previously these tests were called Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP). The tests were developed by Kentucky teachers and align with the *Kentucky Academic Standards* in each content area.

KSA is the annual summative assessment given in grades 3 through 8, 10 and 11 to Kentucky public school students. KSA provides content area assessments, including reading and mathematics (grades 3 through 8 and 10), science (grades 4, 7, 11) and writing (grades 5, 8, 11). Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 also took social studies as a field test.

These assessments are Kentucky’s measure of student proficiency and progress on the state content standards. These standards establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do in each grade. For the first time, the KSA was given online with only a small percentage of students taking it on paper. This assessment goes beyond multiple-choice questions. It includes extended response where students create a response and technology-enhanced items where students interact with the computer to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

When considering your child’s performance, it is important to consider the learning contexts and experiences during this school year as many students/schools faced unprecedented challenges because of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

This annual assessment provides critical information about student learning, but no single assessment should ever be the sole factor in making an educational decision. It is important to remember that assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, the end-of-year assessments can help provide a more complete picture of your child’s abilities over the course of the school year and path toward academic success on these content standards.

For KSA, students receive a separate scale score (100-200 for reading, mathematics, and science; 0-8 for writing) and performance level (distinguished, proficient, apprentice, and novice). Scale scores are reported as numbers, while performance levels are descriptive. Performance levels are different by content area. These levels indicate performance on groups of items that measure similar skills. The Individual Student Reports contain more information about the performance levels in each area.

State assessments are one of several strategies to better understand how students performed academically as part of Martin County COVID-19 academic recovery efforts. The data provides a point-in-time “temperature check” that allows districts to better track and address student’s academic needs. To view the performance and participation for our school, visit the [School Report Card](#).

Sincerely,

Larry James
Superintendent
Martin County School District

