Understanding the Science Score Report for the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment

The 2017-2018 school year was the first operational year of the MISA assessment for science grade 5 and grade 8, which align to the Next Generation Science Standards. The assessments measure complex skills and grade band concepts in science. The MISA assessment requires students to read, write, and reflect, analyze and show results, and utilize information from multiple sources in a real-world context. MISA scores should be used along with a student's classroom performance, report card grades, and teacher feedback to form a clear picture of a student's progress toward meeting academic standards in science.

How to Read A Student’s Score Report

Overall Performance- Students receive an overall score in each subject that falls into one of four performance levels. Performance levels range from Level 2, which indicates that a student has partially met grade level expectations to Level 5, which indicates that the student has exceeded the grade level expectations.

* Performance Level 1 has been included in the Performance Level 2 category

Score Range- This scale includes the score ranges for each performance level and shows where a student's score falls within that range.

Scale Score- A student's overall score shows if a student is on track for meeting grade band expectations in science.

Overall Score Comparisons – This section shows how a student is performing compared to students in the same grade at the same school, across the school district, and around the state. It also details the percentage of students who achieved at the different performance levels.

Performance Level 3

Your child's score 740

Level 5 Exceeded Expectations
Level 4 Met Expectations
Level 3 Approached Expectations
Level 2 Partially Met Expectations

State Average
650 729 750 772 850
District Average
650 729 750 772 850
School Average
650 729 750 772 850

How Students in Maryland Performed

27% Level 2
40% Level 3
29% Level 4
3% Level 5

Percentage of students at each performance level
Science performance on Disciplinary Core Ideas- This section shows a student’s overall performance in the three Disciplinary Core Ideas: Physical, Life, and Earth and Space Science. Each area includes an arrow comparing a student’s performance to students who met expectations and determines where the student is excelling or needs improvement. It also includes a description of the skills that demonstrate a clear understanding of science standards.

Science performance on Practices and Concepts- This section compares a student’s score in the Science and Engineering Practices and Cross Cutting Concepts. Cross Cutting Concepts are applications across all sciences that organize and make sense of science. Each area includes an arrow comparing a student’s performance to students who met expectations and determines where the student is excelling or needs improvement. It also includes a description of the skills that demonstrate a clear understanding of science standards.

Facts about Assessment and Testing in Maryland

✓ Federal law requires that all students in grades 3-8 and high school take an annual statewide assessment.
✓ Maryland educators are highly involved in the development and improvement of the tests, from analyzing the items to reviewing them for appropriateness.
✓ Parents of students with disabilities should be contacted by their child's IEP or 504 team to discuss allowable accessibility features and accommodations.
✓ Scores demonstrate a student’s understanding of science grade-level subject standards at the end of the school year.

Helpful Websites
NGSS website: https://nextgenscience.org