



Johnson County Schools



Parents & Guardians:

By now, you have likely heard about Kentucky's Accountability System, as well as results for each of our districts, including Johnson County Schools. These come from the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) that Kentucky students participated in during the Spring 2023 school year. The tests were developed by Kentucky teachers and align with the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS)* 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), on-demand writing and editing and mechanics (grades 5, 8, 11), and social studies (grades 5, 8, 11).

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. The KSA was given online with only a small percentage of students testing on paper. This assessment goes beyond multiple-choice questions. It includes questions where students can demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and extended response questions where students construct a response or answer with a technology-enhanced response.

As Johnson County Schools face the ongoing impact on learning brought about by COVID-19, we continue to leverage resources to provide equitable recovery for all our students. When considering your child's performance, it is important to consider the learning contexts and experiences over the past few years.

Here in Johnson County, we have worked hard to implement learning initiatives that are well researched and standards-based.

- All schools have highly qualified teachers and support staff that work to meet the needs of our students. Through various grants and endeavors, our schools have been equipped with the resources needed to further our students' academic and social & emotional growth.
- Our teachers contribute countless hours towards Professional Learning to continue to gain best practices related to curriculum, instruction and assessment. Standards-based lessons are intentionally designed to meet the needs of all students through data-driven instruction. Data is collected throughout the school year at specific times to ensure we are tracking your child's growth and success. Many different sources are used that provide insight related to student learning. You have likely seen classwork with feedback

from your child's teacher and reports from various sources, such as: I-Ready, STAR, and MAP.

- Classrooms have textbook materials and hands-on manipulatives needed to teach content at all levels. Students have individual chromebooks so that he/she can access those textbooks online, as well as other programs that we offer.

As stated before, these initiatives are carried out daily in our schools, throughout the entirety of the school year. We believe this is best for our students' academic education. All JC Schools strive to educate the whole child, and these are just a handful of ways that we do that! As far as assessment goes, most know that there is an end-of-the year assessment that our students in Kentucky must complete.

Yes, this annual assessment, known as KSA, provides critical information about student learning. However, 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. When combined with grades, classroom activities, student projects, personalized learning opportunities, and school and district-level measures and processes, 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 (400-600 for all content areas: reading, mathematics, science, social studies, editing and mechanics and on-demand writing) along with a performance level (distinguished, proficient, apprentice, and novice). Combined writing will be assigned a performance level only (no scale score.)

- Scale scores are reported as numbers, while performance levels are descriptive.
- The performance level descriptors (PLDs) are different by content area and describe student performance on groups of items that measure similar skills.
- PLDs for each grade and content area are available for review on the [KSA website](https://education.ky.gov/AA/Assessments/Pages/KentuckySummativeAssessment-.aspx) at <https://education.ky.gov/AA/Assessments/Pages/KentuckySummativeAssessment-.aspx>
- The Individual Student Reports (ISRs) also contain more information about the performance levels in each area.

To view the performance and participation of our school, visit the online [School Report Card](http://www.kyschoolreportcard.com/) at <http://www.kyschoolreportcard.com/>.

For any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

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