

Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program Score Report Interpretation Guide

Reporting Categories

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to supplement the information provided in the [Spring 2023 Score Report Interpretation Guide](#).

Student Performance in Each Reporting Category

Each VTCAP assessment is designed to assess performance on a set of content standards. An assessment's content standards can be grouped into subsets that are referred to as reporting categories. For example, the reporting categories on the VTCAP ELA Grade 3 assessment include Reading & Listening, Text Type - Informational Text, and Writing & Language.

Students receive a scaled score and performance indicator for each reporting category. The scaled score for each reporting category is calculated by estimating a student's performance on the VTCAP scale, using only the items aligned to that reporting category. The scaled score for each reporting category is categorized into a performance indicator that has one of three levels—Below Standard, At/Near Standard, or Above Standard. Reporting category performance indicators reflect whether the student has met the expected performance on the standard. A student's reporting category performance indicator is calculated using three values: 1) the student's scaled score for that reporting category, 2) the standard error of measurement (SEM) associated with the student's scaled score for the reporting category, and 3) the overall scaled score associated with the proficiency cut.

First, the SEM is added to and subtracted from the scaled score to establish an error band around the scaled score for a given reporting category. The lower and upper bound values of this error band vary by student, because the scaled score and the SEM associated with a reporting category vary by student.

If the cut-score for overall proficiency falls within the error band around the reporting category scaled score, then the reporting category performance indicator is set equal to At/Near Standard. If the proficient scaled score falls below the error band around the reporting category scaled score, then the reporting category performance indicator is set equal to Below Standard. If the proficient scaled score falls above the error band around the reporting category scaled score, then the reporting category performance indicator is set equal to Above Standard.

A reporting category performance indicator that is equal to Below Standard indicates a high degree of confidence that the student is not able to demonstrate the necessary skill sets for this reporting category. A reporting category performance indicator that is equal to Above Standard indicates a high degree of confidence that the student can demonstrate such skills above standard. A reporting category performance indicator that is equal to At/Near Standard indicates that the student is most likely to demonstrate skills at or near standard.