Performance Series®
WEB-BASED DIAGNOSTICS

SCANTRON®

A Parent's Guide to Performance Series

Your district has adopted Performance Series® by Scantron as their diagnostic and placement tool.

The Performance Series assessment makes it easy for your child's teacher(s) to identify his or her progress—and get the diagnostic information they need to place your child and manage instruction.

Performance Series is a web-based, computer-adaptive test that your school uses:

- to locate individual ability levels
- to demonstrate academic growth over time
- for placing students in the correct instructional programs

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For more information, visit us at www.scantron.com or contact your Scantron representative at 800-SCANTRON (722-6876) or email sales@scantron.com.

What is Performance Series®?

An exciting new assessment tool, Scantron's Performance Series, has recently been adopted to use as one of the tools to help identify your child's abilities. You may be familiar with the standard bubble sheet from Scantron—this is a completely different type of assessment. Because it adapts, Performance Series keeps your student engaged.

Unlike other forms of assessment, Performance Series tests are completely computer-based and adjust to each student's ability level. All tests begin in relation to your student's currrent grade. As your student answers each question, however, the test adapts according to his or her response. Questions get easier when your student answers incorrectly and get more challenging when he or she answers correctly. This individualizes every testing experience and more accurately measures your child's ability.
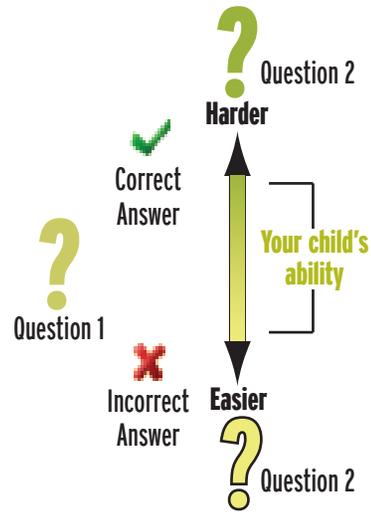
Why is this helpful to you?

- Unique tests matched to your child's abilities more accurately determine their next steps in the classroom
- Results from these tests provide information to help you understand your child's growth academically, through this year and across years

Why is this helpful to your child's teacher?

- Immediate results mean they can adjust instruction more quickly to help your child master important concepts
- Educational materials are customized (based on the results for each student and group) which help teachers improve learning
- Detailed reports allow teachers to evaluate current or new teaching strategies and programs

For additional information on the computer adaptive testing model, please see:

http://www.scantron.com/downloads /Performance_Series_White_Paper.pdf.

Question 1
Correct Answer
Harder
Question 2
Your child's ability
Incorrect Answer
Easier
Question 2

How many test items does each student receive?

Since the test is online and computer-adaptive, each student receives a unique test and the number of items may vary. There is no set number of questions. The average number of questions in a testing session is about 50.

Are the tests timed?

No, the students are allowed as much time as needed to take the test.

More **Frequently Asked Questions** about Performance Series are available online at http://www.scantron.com/performanceseries

What Else Should I Know?

Does Performance Series align to my state standards?

Yes, your district worked with Scantron to ensure that your state standards are used as the guide to assess your child.

What units are covered?

Reading
- Vocabulary
- Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Long Passage

Math
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis & Probability
- Number & Operations

Life Science & Inquiry
- Living Things
- Ecology
- Science Processes

Do all students see the same test?

All students see the same topic areas, but all students do not see the same items, since Performance Series is computer-adaptive—each test is unique for each student.

What Subject Areas Are Covered?

Reading

Braille is one of the most commonly used systems of reading and writing for people who are blind. Louis Braille invented it in 1834, when he was only fteen years old. Louis had been blind since he was three. He learned to read by touching letters engraved in wood. It was a very slow process and people could not use it to write. He had heard of the army using a twelve-dot system punched on cardboard to send communication to battle elds during the night. He adapted that system and created Braille, a six-dot system.

The six dots are arranged in a cell, which is three dots long and two dots wide. Each character is a different combination of those six dots. There are sicty-three characters in the Braille code. The charactare are raised on heavy paper. They are read by running the nfers lightle acorss the top. Learning to read Braille can be dif cult. People who are blind generally begin by learning just the letters, and then they continue with the word combinations. Every character must be memorized by touch.

Braille was not used in the United Stateus until 1854, two years after Louis Braille's death. It was used along with other dot systems until 1916, when it was of cially adopted by the U.S. In 1923, at a confer-ence in London, it was adopted as the universal Braille code for English. Braille codes for music, science, and math have also been developed.

What do the following three events have in common?

1. Braille used in the United States
2. Braille of cially adopted by the United States
3. Braille adopted as universal code for English

- A. They all happened after Louis Braille's death.
- B. Louis Braille was an important participant in each event.
- C. Louis Braille was against any of these events taking place.
- D. They all happened in the same year.

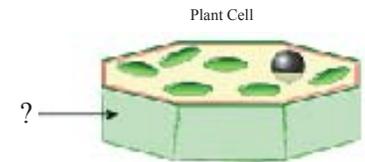## Mathematics*

Which ordered pair describes point M?
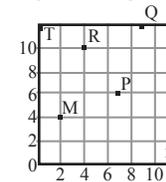
- A. (2,2)
- B. (4,2)
- C. (4,3)
- D. (2,4)

* Some schools also offer the Mathematics test in Spanish; contact your school for details.

Life Science & Inquiry

This is the diagram of a plant cell.

Plant Cell

Which part of the cell is indicated by the arrow?

- A. the cell wall
- B. the nuclear wall
- C. the nucleus
- D. the cytoplasm

What Do the Scores Mean to Me and My Child?

Scaled Score (SS)

The scaled score is a reliable estimate of your student's ability* and is independent of grade level. Use this score to track progress over time, from fall to spring or year after year, as a sort of educational yardstick. The following are average score ranges for different testing sessions in the various subject areas.

Reading

	Fall	Winter	Spring
2	1774-2202	1884-2327	2032-2461
3	2050-2516	2159-2608	2237-2678
4	2286-2719	2306-2737	2441-2836
5	2457-2844	2496-2887	2585-2933
6	2591-2950	2564-2940	2677-3010
7	2659-2981	2663-3028	2727-3032
8	2747-3048	2711-3049	2793-3089
9	2795-3091	2770-3058	2829-3123
10	2831-3108	2821-3119	2846-3152

Mathematics

	Fall	Winter	Spring
2	1893-2106	1967-2165	2078-2291
3	2081-2292	2153-2350	2247-2463
4	2231-2442	2263-2460	2349-2570
5	2323-2535	2368-2580	2443-2689
6	2429-2676	2416-2661	2528-2798
7	2495-2753	2507-2764	2571-2862
8	2559-2841	2535-2796	2633-2926
9	2574-2983	2542-2823	2620-2967
10	2579-2929	2559-2822	2635-2997

Life Science & Inquiry

	Fall	Winter	Spring
2	1908-2239	2031-2326	2142-2397
3	2117-2426	2265-2503	2266-2528
4	2281-2552	2336-2595	2385-2636
5	2352-2612	2444-2563	2434-2684
6	2444-2693	2462-2714	2485-2727
7	2502-2732	2562-2787	2524-2774
8	2457-2788	2544-2802	2561-2814

* using the statistical Rasch model, for the statisticians among you.

Gains

Gains are simply the number of Scaled Score points by which your child has improved over time. Through the year, this can be used to gauge if he or she is 'on track' or not.

Mathematics Test History
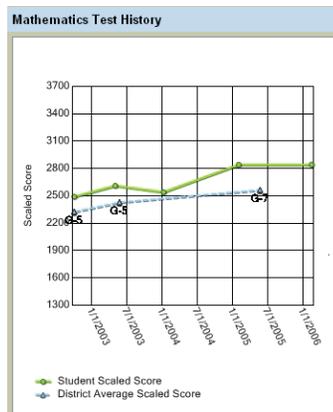
Performance Rating

Your student's rating in the context of a *district-defined* set of performance bands. This grouping may show your student's probable placement against national peers or another test, if your district has commissioned a custom research report from Scantron.

National Percentile Ranking (NPR)

The NPR uses the SS to compare the student to members of the Performance Series National Norm Group within the same grade level. For example, an NPR of 74 for a student would mean that his score is above 74% of his peers in the national norm group.

Unit Score Ranges (USRs)

USRs measure unit-based performance within a subject area of reading, math or science.The range is created using the Unit Score +/- SEM.   Each strand will have a separate computed (SS) Scaled Score. Each Unit will have a USR (Unit Score Range). In the Student Profile, the center line in the USR bar shows the student's unit ability estimate, and the green bar shows the highest and lowest scores your student might get if he or she took the test again.

Reading Rate

Reading Rate is a silent reading rate, calculated by dividing the number of words in the passages by the time it took the student to read those passages. Certain test taking techniques may alter the accuracy of this rate. This score will only be accurate if the student reads the story before answering questions.

Lexile Measure

The Lexile scale is a developmental scale matching the reader to the appropriate text. You can use this score online to locate books at your child's level at www.lexile.com.

Find additional information on Lexiles and Performance Series at http://www.scantron.com/downloads/Lexile_FINAL.pdf.