

Q and A for the 2018 APR and Assessment Results

1. Why are the MPI and proficiency rates lower for the new assessments in ELA and MA?

The new Missouri Learning Standards (MLS), are more rigorous and reflect Missouri's continued desire for greater academic achievement. Therefore, the new assessments are aligned to the performance level descriptions and are designed to be more rigorous.

2. With all of these changes how should we compare ELA and MA performance to prior years?

Comparisons to prior years ELA and MA should not be made.

The 2018 assessment data for ELA and MA should be considered a baseline year. The only valid comparison for this data are comparing your district or charter school to the state, and to other districts, schools, charters with similar characteristics when the public data becomes available.

3. How is DESE handling the accountability measures in the 2018 APR for the lower scores caused by the new and more rigorous assessments?

DESE has recalculated the status targets for both ELA and MA to be consistent with the last period of consistent standards and assessments. These changes will apply Standard 1 and Standard 2 of the APR for ELA and MA only.

4. What is the rationale for the adjustments to the 2018 APR status targets for Standards 1 and 2 for ELA and MA?

Since 2013, Missouri schools have had three different sets of standards for ELA and MA (old grade/course level standards, common core state standards, and the Missouri Learning Standards) and four different sets of assessments (old state assessments, SBAC, leased items from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), and the new state assessments). Because of these transitions, 2013 was chosen as the baseline year to set status targets for the 2018 APR in ELA and MA. As 2013 was the first year that informed MSIP 5 and the last year before the transitions began, it provided several years' worth of assessments that were consistent without changes to the underlying standards or test structure.

5. Where can I find the status targets for ELA and MA for the 2018 APR?

The status targets for Standards 1 and 2 for the 2018 APR are located in the 2018 Comprehensive Guide at:

https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/MSIP%205%202018%20Comprehensive%20Guide_0.pdf

The new targets are also available in the MSIP Workbooks.

6. What about student scores? Does this change affect individual student results? How do we explain why some students dropped achievement levels from prior year testing?

These changes do not affect individual student scores. Student scale scores and achievement levels remain as reported on their Individual Student Reports (ISR's). These changes only apply to the scoring guide for the APR.

Individual students may have seen movement between achievement levels simply because the new tests are more rigorous.

7. Why new assessments for English language arts (ELA) and math (MA) in 2018?

House Bill 1490, which passed in 2015, required the development of new Missouri Learning Standards (MLS) and new assessments aligned to the new standards.

8. Who developed the new assessments used in 2018 for ELA and MA?

Missouri educators developed test items and performance level descriptors for the new assessments.