

A Profile of State Assessment Programs 2009

Since 2003, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has supported research that compares the proficiency standards of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) with those of individual states. State assessments are placed onto a common scale defined by NAEP, which allows states' proficiency standards to be compared not only to NAEP, but also to each other.¹ While the mapped NAEP equivalent scores of state standards are useful in determining the relative rigor of states' proficiency standards, the results of the studies should be interpreted with caution. Variations among states can be due to many factors, including differences in assessment frameworks, test specifications, the psychometric properties of the tests, the definition of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards, and the standard-setting process.

In 2007, in collaboration with the Education Information Management Advisory Consortium (EIMAC)—Task Force on Assessment of the Council of Chief State School Officers—NCES conducted a survey of state assessment programs to gain contextual information about the states' assessment programs in 2006–07 and to note changes in their assessments between the 2004–05 and 2006–07 school years that could affect the interpretation of the mapping results. The NAEP State Coordinator in every state was asked to provide information about the state's testing program through an online survey. After this information was verified and confirmed by the NAEP State Coordinator of each state, it was summarized in individual state profiles.² These profiles were designed in collaboration with a panel of NAEP State Coordinators.

In support of the 2009 Mapping Study, NAEP State Coordinators were asked by NCES to update the information collected on their state assessment program in 2007. Following similar verification steps, the information was summarized into profiles to provide a concise snapshot of all state assessment programs in the 2008–09 school year. Each profile presents information on the grades and subjects tested during the 2008–09 year, state performance levels and performance level descriptors, the composition of main state assessments, and changes to the state assessments between 2006–07 and 2008–09.

A sample profile is shown below. Information on the state assessment programs is presented in nine blocks. The first block combines all subjects. The remaining blocks (2–9) are presented twice, once for Reading/Language Arts and then for Mathematics. The example that follows is for Reading/Language Arts only. Some answers may have been edited for consistency or for space limitations; however, the substance of all answers is unchanged from what states provided to the NAEP State Coordinators. All web addresses in these profiles were verified on May 15, 2011. In any block, the symbol “—” indicates that a state's information was either not provided (for example, if there is no information on performance level descriptors of an alternate assessment for meeting AYP) or not applicable (for example, if the information relates to the proportion of the test score from short constructed response items, but the test does not use short constructed response items).

¹ Documents that discuss the research on NAEP and state proficiency standards are available at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/>.

² The 2007 State Profiles are available at: http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/profile_standards_2007.asp.

Block 1 summarizes information about each state’s testing program: the name of the program, the different tests, the type and format of each test, the grades and subjects tested, and the tests’ purpose. States were asked to enter up to four tests in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Reading, and Science. Response options for test type were: regular, alternate, modified, and portfolio assessments.³ Response options for test format were: criterion-referenced (CRT), norm-referenced (NRT), combination CRT/NRT, and other formats. Response options for test purpose were: instructional, student accountability, school accountability, staff accountability, and other. Additional information provided by NAEP State Coordinators summarizing their states’ tests and test purposes is included at the end of the block. An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block1.asp>.

Block 1	Example State																			
	State Assessment and Accountability Program (SAAP)																			
	Component	Test		Grades Tested												Test Purpose ¹				
Type		Format	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Instructional	Student Accountability	School Accountability	Staff Accountability	Other
Language Arts																				
Comprehensive Assessments of State Students (CASS)	Regular	CRT		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√		
CASS - Alternate (CASS-Alt)	Alternate	CRT	√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√		
Mathematics																				
CASS	Regular	CRT		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√		
CASS-Alt	Alternate	CRT	√			√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√		
Science																				
CASS	Regular	CRT						√		√				√		√		√		
CASS-Alt	Alternate	CRT						√		√				√		√		√		

¹ Example purposes: Instructional: student diagnosis, student placement, instructional planning, program evaluation, improvement of instruction for groups of students, etc.
Student Accountability: student awards/recognition, honors diploma, student promotion/retention, required remediation, exit requirement, etc.
School Accountability: monetary awards/penalties, school accreditation, school performance reporting, high school skills guarantee, school improvement plans, etc.
Staff Accountability: staff awards/recognition, salary increases, staff dismissal, staff evaluation or certification, staff monetary penalties, etc.

³ For reference, definitions of different types of assessments are available at the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) website, at: <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/NCEO/TopicAreas/AlternateAssessments/altAssessTopic.htm>.

Block 2 summarizes information about the composition of the main state assessments in 2008–09 for grades 4 and 8 in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics. It shows the number of items for each type of question and each type’s respective weight in the final score. If the state indicated that an item type was not used, the type’s weight is indicated by “—.” An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block2.asp> .

Block 3 includes additional information about the timing of the assessments and whether assessments measured skills acquired only in prior grades. An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block3.asp>.

Block 4 summarizes information about the assessments and performance levels used by the state in 2008–09 for state accountability for grades 4 and 8 in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as the assessments and performance levels used to determine AYP. The symbol “—” indicates that the information was not provided (e.g., if the state did not provide additional information about performance levels used during the 2008–09 academic year). An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block4.asp>.

Example State		Reading/Language Arts									
Block 2	Composition of the Main Reading/Language Arts Test in 2008–09										
		Multiple Choice		Short Constructed Response		Extended Constructed Response		Performance Tasks		Other	
		Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score
	Grade 4	24	50%	0	—	3	50%	0	—	0	—
	Grade 8	24	50%	0	—	3	50%	0	—	0	—
Block 3	Administration of the Main Reading/Language Arts Test in 2008–09										
	Were any of the 2008–09 assessments used for AYP reporting for grades 4 or 8 administered in the fall 2008?							No.			
Block 4	Performance Levels and AYP										
	Performance levels used during the 2008–09 year						Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
	Test used for AYP determination						Comprehensive Assessments of State Students (CASS)				
	Performance level used for AYP						Proficient				
	Other tests used for AYP determination						CASS-Alt assessments are used in AYP determination.				
	Test used for state accountability						CASS				
	Performance level used for state accountability						Proficient				
	First implementation of performance standards for the 2008–09 assessments						2005–06 school year				
Additional information about performance levels used during the 2008–09 academic year						—					

Block 5 provides the performance level descriptors used for meeting AYP in 2008–09 assessments for grades 4 and 8 in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics. The descriptors correspond to the proficient performance level as it is defined by each state. A web address is included if the state provided a link. An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block5.asp>.

Block 6 lists the performance level descriptors used for meeting AYP in 2008–09 alternate assessments for grades 4 and 8 in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics. The descriptors correspond to the proficient performance level as it is defined by each state. A “—” indicates that the state did not provide performance level descriptors. A web address is included if the state provided a link. An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block6.asp>.

	Example State	Reading/Language Arts
Block 5	<p>Performance Level Descriptors for Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress</p> <p>Grade 4: Students performing at the Proficient level demonstrate a fundamental understanding of what they read by applying various strategies when reading textual/informational, functional, and literary/recreational materials. To some degree these students use various skills and strategies, including demonstrating a knowledge of sentence structure, making inferences, and distinguishing fiction from nonfiction. They recognize some literary elements and devices including characters, similes, and important details as they read literary/recreational text. As a part of understanding informational/textual and functional materials, students at this level are beginning to locate information, identify important details, use sentence structure, and distinguish fact from fiction. Their vocabulary knowledge includes recognition of some antonyms, synonyms, and some use of structural analysis skills.</p> <p>Performance level descriptors are available online at http://www.STDOE.st.gov/pdf/AchievementLevelsGrade4.pdf</p>	<p>Grade 8: Students performing at the Proficient level utilize strategies to make inferences to determine bias or theme and use specific context clues to determine some word meanings. They can distinguish among characteristics of some types of poetry such as ballads, epics, haikus, limericks, and lyrics. They often identify literary elements and can describe their impact on setting, mood, characterization, or theme. These students also are able to identify the elements of plot.</p>
Block 6	<p>Performance Level Descriptors of Alternate Assessment for Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress</p> <p>Grade 4: A fourth-grade student performing at the Proficient level on the Example State Extended Standards in Reading demonstrates fundamental knowledge that meets the extended standards in multiple phoneme words, reading simple sentences, synonyms, literary elements (main characters and details), and letter blends. This knowledge might be demonstrated at different complexity levels and with varying degrees of assistance.</p> <p>Performance level descriptors are available online at: http://www.STDOE.st.gov/pdf/AchievementLevels.pdf</p>	<p>Grade 8: —</p>

Block 7 presents changes to the main state assessment in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics between the 2006–07 and 2008–09 school years. Each state self-reported whether the changes to its assessment were significant or not. For many states, additional information about the changes is included in a note below the block. An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block7.asp>.

Block 8 provides information about the comparability of the state assessments between 2006–07 and 2008–09. Specifically, it is the answer given to the survey question “Are the reported 2008–09 state assessment results for grades 4 and 8 Reading or Mathematics directly comparable with the 2006–07 reported results?” Each state self-reported whether its 2006–07 and 2008–09 assessments were comparable or not. An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block8.asp>.

Block 9 provides additional information about changes to the state assessment, inclusion policies, or administration of the state assessment between 2006–07 and 2008–09 that would have an impact on the ability to compare outcomes over time. An accessible table containing the information in this block can be found at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping/block9.asp>.

Example State
Reading/Language Arts

Block 7

Changes to State Assessments Between 2006–07 and 2008–09

	No Significant Changes	Changed Cut Scores	Changed The Period of Administration	Changed Assessment Items	Used Entirely Different Assessment	Realigned To New Content Standards	Changed Proficiency Standards	Changed Accommodation Policy	Changed Re-Test Policy	Changed Test Contractors	Other Changes
Grade 4	√									•	
Grade 8	√									•	

Block 8

Are the reported 2008–09 state assessment results for grades 4 and 8 directly comparable with the 2006–07 reported results?

Yes, they can be compared. The testing contractors changed but the test and scales did not change.

Block 9

Are there differences in the administration of assessments or in the reporting of outcomes between 2006–07 and 2008–09 due to policy or legislative changes having an impact on the ability to compare outcomes over time?

None.

Source

U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 Survey of State Assessment Program Characteristics.

Glossary

AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
CRT	Criterion-Referenced Test
ECA	End-of-Course Assessments
ELA	English Language Arts
ELP	English Language Proficiency
EOC	End-of-Course Exams
EOG	End-of-Grade Exams
IEP	Individualized Education Program
LEA	Local Education Agency
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
NRT	Norm-Referenced Test
PLD	Performance Level Descriptor
SAT/10	Stanford Achievement Test – Tenth Edition
SEA	State Education Agency

Kansas

Kansas State Assessments

Component	Test		Grades Tested												Test Purpose ¹					
	Type	Format	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Instructional	Student Accountability	School Accountability	Staff Accountability	Other
Reading																				
Kansas Reading Assessment [2]	Regular	CRT				√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√	√	√		
Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures (KAMM) [2,3]	Modified	CRT				√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√	√	√		
Kansas Alternate Assessment (KAA) - Reading [4]	Alternate	CRT				√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√	√	√		
Mathematics																				
Kansas Mathematics Assessment [2]	Regular	CRT				√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√	√	√		
Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures (KAMM) [2,3]	Modified	CRT				√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√	√	√		
Kansas Alternate Assessment (KAA) - Mathematics [4]	Alternate	CRT				√	√	√	√	√	√			√		√	√	√		
Science																				
Kansas Science Assessment [5]	Regular	CRT					√			√				√		√	√	√		
Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures (KAMM) [3,5]	Modified	CRT					√			√				√		√	√	√		
Kansas Alternate Assessment (KAA) - Science [4]	Alternate	CRT					√			√				√		√	√	√		

- ¹ Example purposes: Instructional: student diagnosis, student placement, instructional planning, program evaluation, improvement of instruction for groups of students, etc.
 Student Accountability: student awards/recognition, honors diploma, student promotion/retention, required remediation, exit requirement, etc.
 School Accountability: monetary awards/penalties, school accreditation, school performance reporting, high school skills guarantee, school improvement plans, etc.
 Staff Accountability: staff awards/recognition, salary increases, staff dismissal, staff evaluation or certification, staff monetary penalties, etc.
- ² Eleventh grade is offered as an "opportunity to learn" (OTL) assessment which provides high schools (9–12 buildings) the flexibility to schedule state assessments for students (individuals, groups, classes) after having the opportunity to learn the content/skills/concepts included in the Kansas Standards.
- ³ KAMM is based on grade-level indicators. The modified assessment can only be administered to students identified as eligible by their IEP team.
- ⁴ A portfolio assessment with five extended indicators at the grade level in which the student is enrolled. Alternate assessment extended standards are aligned with the general indicators being assessed at each grade level .
- ⁵ High School test is two parts: Physical Science and Life Science.

Composition of the Main Reading/Language Arts Test in 2008–09

	Multiple Choice		Short Constructed Response		Extended Constructed Response		Performance Tasks		Other	
	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score
Grade 4	68	100%	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Grade 8	83	100%	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—

Administration of the Main Reading/Language Arts Test in 2008–09

Were any of the 2008–09 assessments used for AYP reporting for grades 4 or 8 administered in the fall of 2008?	No.
--	-----

Performance Levels and AYP

Performance levels used during the 2008–09 year	Academic Warning, Approaches Standard, Meets Standard, Exceeds Standard, and Exemplary
Test used for AYP determination	Kansas Reading Assessment
Performance level used for AYP	Meets Standard and above
Other tests used for AYP determination	AYP and state accountability use the same test and the same performance level: Grades 4 and 8 Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures (KAMM) uses Meets Standard or above, and grades 4 and 8 Kansas Alternate Assessment (KAA) uses Meets Standard or above.
Test used for state accountability	Kansas Reading Assessment
Performance level used for state accountability	Meets Standard and above
First implementation of performance standards for the 2008–09 assessments	August 2006
Additional information about performance levels used during the 2008–09 academic year	—

Performance Level Descriptors for Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress

Grade 4: When independently reading grade-appropriate narrative, expository, and technical text, a proficient student has satisfactory comprehension. This student constructs literal meaning that generally matches the author’s intent. This student is likely to recognize the topic, main idea, and supporting details; vocabulary in context; correct retelling; the author’s purpose; and text features. This student makes obvious connections and perceives some relationships to construct inferential meaning. This student is likely to draw accurate conclusions; compare and contrast; and determine cause and effect. This student recognizes simple techniques authors use to communicate their ideas with words. This student is likely to have awareness of text structures; the difference between fact and opinion; and literary elements of fiction (setting, character, plot).

Performance level descriptors are available online at:
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Grade 8: When independently reading grade-appropriate narrative, expository, technical and persuasive text, a proficient student has satisfactory comprehension. This student constructs literal meaning that generally matches the author’s intent. This student is likely to identify the topic, main idea supporting details, and theme; vocabulary in context; correct paraphrasing and summarizing; the author’s purpose; and text features. This student makes obvious connections and perceives some relationships to construct inferential meaning. This student is likely to draw conclusions; compare and contrast; recognize cause and effect relationships; and identify implied main ideas. This student recognizes simple techniques authors use to communicate their ideas with words. This student is likely to have awareness of the relationship between text structure and comprehension; the difference between fact and opinion; propaganda and persuasive techniques; connections between setting, character, plot; figurative language; and author’s style.

Performance level descriptors are available online at:
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Performance Level Descriptors of Alternate Assessment for Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress

Grade 4: A student scoring at the Meets Standard level performs with high levels of adult support. The 4th grade student will use reading and receptive communication skills in the school and home domains. To understand text, the 4th grade student will most likely use the following appropriate cognitive skills (not a definitive list): imitation, listening, responding, choice, recognize, follows direction, follows schedule and follows calendar. Across five selected assessable indicators chosen as appropriate for the individual student, a student performing at the Meets Standard level will most likely demonstrate an overall understanding of appropriate information presented to them, and will communicate in a variety of contexts. Based on the Extended Reading Standards, the student will communicate receptively including reading and understanding text and respond to a variety of text, materials, and/or modalities.

Performance level descriptors are available online at:
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Grade 8: A student scoring at the Meets Standard level performs with moderate levels of adult support. The 8th grade student will use reading and receptive communication skills in the school, community, recreation/leisure, vocational, and home domains. To understand text, the 8th grade student will most likely use the following appropriate cognitive skills: solve, use, demonstrate, apply, generalize and extends. Across five selected assessable indicators chosen as appropriate for the individual student, a student performing at the Meets Standard level will most likely demonstrate an overall understanding of appropriate information presented to them, and will communicate in a variety of contexts. Based on the Extended Reading Standards, the student will communicate receptively including reading and understanding text and respond to a variety of text, materials, and/or modalities.

Performance level descriptors are available online at:
<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Changes to State Assessments Between 2007 and 2009

	No Significant Changes	Changed Cut Scores	Changed The Period of Administration	Changed Assessment Items	Used Entirely Different Assessment	Realigned To New Content Standards	Changed Proficiency Standards	Changed Accommodation Policy	Changed Re-Test Policy	Changed Test Contractors	Other Changes
Grade 4	√										
Grade 8	√										

Are the reported 2008–09 state assessment results for grades 4 and 8 directly comparable with the 2006–07 reported results?

Yes.

Are there differences in the administration of assessments or in the reporting of outcomes between 2006–07 and 2008–09 due to policy or legislative changes having an impact on the ability to compare outcomes over time?

There were no significant differences affecting administration or the reporting of outcomes between the years 2007 and 2009 on the Kansas State Assessments.

Composition of the Main Mathematics Test in 2008–09

	Multiple Choice		Short Constructed Response		Extended Constructed Response		Performance Tasks		Other	
	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score	Number of Items	Proportion of Score
Grade 4	73	100%	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—
Grade 8	86	100%	0	—	0	—	0	—	0	—

Administration of the Main Mathematics Test in 2008–09

Were any of the 2008–09 assessments used for AYP reporting for grades 4 or 8 administered in the fall of 2008?	No.
--	-----

Performance Levels and AYP

Performance levels used during the 2008–09 year	Academic Warning, Approaches Standard, Meets Standard, Exceeds Standard, and Exemplary
Test used for AYP determination	Kansas Mathematics Assessment
Performance level used for AYP	Meets Standard and above
Other tests used for AYP determination	AYP and state accountability use the same test and the same performance level: Grades 4 and 8 Kansas Assessment of Modified Measures (KAMM) uses Meets Standard or above, and grades 4 and 8 Kansas Alternate Assessment (KAA) uses Meets Standard or above.
Test used for state accountability	Kansas Mathematics Assessment
Performance level used for state accountability	Meets Standard and above
First implementation of performance standards for the 2008–09 assessments	August 2006
Additional information about performance levels used during the 2008–09 academic year	—

Performance Level Descriptors for Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress

Grade 4: A student scoring at the Meets Standard level usually performs consistently and accurately when working on most grade-level mathematical tasks. The student demonstrates sufficient content knowledge and application skills. The student usually understands and uses place value concepts and notations; concepts of whole number properties; and measurement tools. The student is usually accurate when solving one variable, one-step whole number equations with basic facts, money, and time; using one operation function tables; performing single transformation of two-dimensional figures; and reading and plotting points in the first quadrant of a coordinate grid. The student uses some problem-solving techniques to accurately solve one- and two-step real-world problems with addition, subtraction, and multiplication; and real-world applications of the statistical measures (minimum and maximum value, range, mode, median, and mean). The student uses representations and usually explains the reasoning process used to represent relationships between mathematical operations; describe mathematical relationships with various models; identify plane figures within a composite figure; make reasonable estimations of measurements and calculations; and graph data presented in a variety of formats including bar graph, pictograph, circle graph, Venn diagram, and line plot.

Performance level descriptors are available online at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Grade 8: A student scoring at the Meets Standard level usually performs consistently and accurately when working on most grade-level mathematical tasks. The student demonstrates sufficient content knowledge and application skills. The student usually understands and uses subsets of real numbers; the Pythagorean Theorem; corresponding parts of congruent and similar figures; measures of central tendency with rational numbers; and ordered pairs, slope, and vertical/horizontal distance. The student is usually accurate when computing with integers and order of operations with rational numbers; applying real number properties; solving one- and two-step linear equations; multiplying and dividing numbers between 0 and 1, numbers larger than one, and multiplying by zero; and finding the probability of compound and independent events. The student uses some problem-solving techniques to accurately solve real-world problems with rational numbers, pi, and percents. The student uses representations and usually explains the reasoning process used to represent real-world problems; translate between numerical, graphical, tabular, and symbolic representations of linear relationships; model situations graphically, algebraically and geometrically; and predict simple events.

Performance level descriptors are available online at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Performance Level Descriptors of Alternate Assessment for Meeting Adequate Yearly Progress

Grade 4: With high levels of adult support, the 4th grade student will use numbers and computation, algebra, geometry, and data skills in the school and home domains. To understand and apply appropriate mathematical concepts, the 4th grade student will most likely use the following appropriate cognitive skills (not a definitive list): imitation, listening, responding, choice, recognize, follows (calendar, schedule, directions, etc.). Across five selected assessable indicators chosen as appropriate for the individual student, a student performing at the Meets Standard level will most likely demonstrate an overall understanding of mathematical information in a variety of contexts. Based on the Extended Mathematics Standards, the student will use numerical and computational concepts and procedures; use algebraic concepts and procedures, including patterns and equalities; know and use geometric concepts and procedures; and know and use concepts and procedures of data analysis.

Performance level descriptors are available online at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Grade 8: With moderate levels of adult support, a the 8th grade student scoring at the Meets Standard level will use numbers and computation, algebra, geometry, and data skills in the school, community, recreation/leisure, vocational and home domains. To understand and apply appropriate mathematical concepts, the 8th grade student will most likely use the following appropriate cognitive skills: solve, use, demonstrate, apply, generalize and extend. Across five selected assessable indicators chosen as appropriate for the individual student, a student performing at the Meets Standard level will most likely demonstrate an overall understanding of mathematical information in a variety of contexts. Based on the Extended Mathematics Standards, the student will use numerical and computational concepts and procedures; use algebraic concepts and procedures, including patterns and equalities; know and use geometric concepts and procedures; and know and use concepts and procedures of data analysis.

Performance level descriptors are available online at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2377>

Changes to State Assessments Between 2007 and 2009

	No Significant Changes	Changed Cut Scores	Changed The Period of Administration	Changed Assessment Items	Used Entirely Different Assessment	Realigned To New Content Standards	Changed Proficiency Standards	Changed Accommodation Policy	Changed Re-Test Policy	Changed Test Contractors	Other Changes
Grade 4	√										
Grade 8	√										

Are the reported 2008–09 state assessment results for grades 4 and 8 directly comparable with the 2006–07 reported results?

Yes.

Are there differences in the administration of assessments or in the reporting of outcomes between 2006–07 and 2008–09 due to policy or legislative changes having an impact on the ability to compare outcomes over time?

There were no significant differences affecting administration or the reporting of outcomes between the years 2007 and 2009 on the Kansas State Assessments.