



# The South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt)

## Family Reports Interpretive Guide

### Understanding Your Child's Test Scores 2020–2021 School Year

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*Disclaimer: The data in the Family Report sample are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. The student's name on the sample is fictitious, and any similarity to an actual student name is purely coincidental.*

## What is the SC-Alt?

The SC-Alt was developed to meet the needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the general assessment program even with appropriate accommodations.

The SC-Alt is based on alternate achievement standards, which are aligned to the state academic content standards for science and social studies and to the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics.

The primary purpose of the SC-Alt is to ensure that these students have the opportunity to participate in a challenging standards-based curriculum that encourages high academic expectations.

<b>INDIVIDUAL STUDENT REPORT</b> Prepared Especially for the Family of Billy Chanics	<b>Date of Birth:</b> 04/15/2011 <b>Student ID:</b> 1234567890 <b>School District:</b> Columbia <b>School:</b> Albany Elementary <b>Grade:</b> 4
Spring 2021	
 <b>The South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt)</b>	
<b>Billy participated in the SC-Alt during the spring of 2021.</b> This report contains important information about the SC-Alt and shows Billy's score in each subject area of the test: Science, English Language Arts, and Mathematics. You will find an explanation of what each score means and what Billy and other students who scored at the same level, know and can do. The SC-Alt is designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities who participate in a school curriculum that includes academic and functional skill instruction. The SC-Alt only tests students' achievement in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Individualized Education Program (IEP) reports and other methods provide parents with information on how students are progressing in the other areas.	
<b>What is the SC-Alt?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SC-Alt is an assessment system that was developed to meet the needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities who are unable to participate in the general assessment even with appropriate accommodations.</li> <li>The primary purpose of the SC-Alt is to ensure that these students have the opportunity to participate in a challenging standards-based curriculum that encourages high academic expectations.</li> </ul>	
<b>How are scores reported and used?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four achievement levels (Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, and Level 4) have been established for the alternate assessments. Achievement levels describe how students are doing in relation to the state academic standards. Your child's performance is also reported as a scale score that allows parents to monitor growth from year to year.</li> <li>The results provide information on how schools and districts are doing as a state and federal accountability measure.</li> </ul>	
<b>Where can I get more information about the SC-Alt and my child's performance?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can contact your child's teacher or school for more information.</li> <li>You can find out more at <a href="http://bit.ly/alt-parent-orientation">http://bit.ly/alt-parent-orientation</a>.</li> </ul>	
	

SC-Alt  
Grade 4  
Spring 2021 Score Report

The score report may have some sections intentionally left blank when students are not tested in all subjects. ELA and Mathematics are tested in grades 3 through 8. Science is tested in grades 4 and 6. Students in high school are tested in English, Algebra, Biology, and US History and Constitution.

Spring 2021  
Billy Daniels

The SC-Alt

## Science

**Billy scored at Level 3 with a scale score of 567 in Science.**

If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 545 – 589.

**What your child's Science performance level means:**

Students who score at Level 3 should be able to:

- describe how water changes as it moves in the water cycle (rain, snow, water vapor);
- use patterns in weather conditions to predict weather;
- compare objects in the solar system;
- describe why seasonal changes occur;
- describe patterns of moon phases during the year;
- describe how light acts when it strikes different materials (opaque, etc.);
- describe how vibrations affect the pitch and volume of sound;

**Performance Levels**

Your child's demonstration of the skills and knowledge required by the assessment is reported as an achievement level ranging from 1 to 4.

4	Students performing at Level 4 demonstrate and apply academic skills and competencies in science.
3	Students performing at Level 3 demonstrate increasing academic skills and competencies in science.
2	Students performing at Level 2 demonstrate emerging academic skills and competencies in science.
1	Students performing at Level 1 may demonstrate foundational academic skills and competencies in science.

- compare the life cycles of living things;
- describe how the parts of plants and animals allow them to survive.

**Your Child's Score**  
 Inside the report, you will see your child's performance on the SC-Alt for each subject assessed at your child's grade level. The scale score provides precise information about the student's performance and can be used for performance comparison within the same grade level.

**What This Result Means**  
 This section provides parents information on what students generally know and are able to do at your child's attained performance level.

**Performance Levels**  
 Your child's demonstration of the skills and knowledge required by the assessment is reported as an achievement level ranging from 1 to 4.

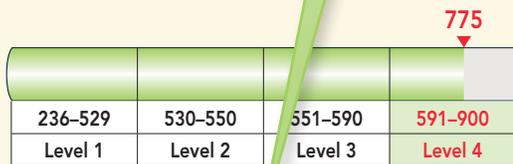
**Score Range** When interpreting your child's score, consider the measurement error that is associated with any test score. The range is provided to show where your child may score if tested again under similar circumstances.

Spring 2021  
Billy Daniels



## English Language Arts

Your child's scale score is **775**  
Your child's performance level is **Level 4**



If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 765 – 785.

### What your child's ELA performance level means:

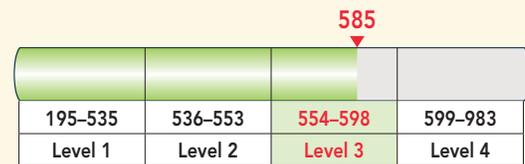
Students performing at Level 4 **demonstrate** and **apply** academic skills in English Language Arts (reading and writing). Students at this level are generally able to answer questions about details from literary and informational texts presenting **detailed** and **implied** complex ideas and relationships, for example to:

- determine the theme and supportive details of a literary text and use details to describe character traits
- determine the central idea in an informational text
- explain the purpose of text features and use them to locate and answer questions in an informational text



## Mathematics

Your child's scale score is **585**  
Your child's performance level is **Level 3**



If your child were tested again under similar circumstances, your child's score would likely remain in the following range: 575 – 595.

### What your child's Mathematics performance level means:

Students performing at Level 3 demonstrate **readiness to apply** basic academic skills in mathematics. Students at this level are generally able to solve real-world problems using mathematical language and symbols, for example to:

- solve multiplication word problems
- show division by separating objects into equal groups
- round to the nearest 10, 100, or 1000
- identify equivalent fractions and compare fractions with different denominators
- use data given to create a picture or bar graph

## Glossary of Terms/Definitions

**Performance Level:** An achievement level that corresponds to a score range determined by standard-setting committees

**Performance Level Descriptors:** Detailed explanations of proficiencies and skills that correspond to each performance level for each grade and subject

**Scale Score:** A numerical value that is on a common scale so that children's scores can be compared over multiple test administrations

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How are scores reported and used?

The SC-Alt scores are one source of information regarding student performance on academic skills. They provide an opportunity to track student progress from year to year and provide accountability information for state and federal reporting.

Each family receives an individual student report that provides information on their child's achievement in each content area. Scores are reported as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4. The information related to what your child knows and can do in each of these levels is the most important information to you.

The SC-Alt is also a state and federal accountability measure, and the results provide information on how schools and districts are doing as well.

The SC-Alt only tests a student's achievement in academic subjects such as ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Individualized Education Program (IEP) reports and other methods provide parents and teachers with information on how students are progressing in the other areas in which they receive instruction.

The SC-Alt results reflect a snapshot in time and are not to be used as the sole measurement of a student's performance or ability. These results should be used to represent one of many components of a student's overall abilities.

### What does my child's performance level tell me?

There are four performance levels of achievement in each subject area, which tell you your child's demonstration of the skills and knowledge required by the assessment. Performance level descriptors for all content areas are available on the SC-Alt Portal ([sc-alt.portal.cambiumast.com](http://sc-alt.portal.cambiumast.com)).

### What if there are blanks or is no score on the score report?

If your child's test was invalidated in a particular subject, no score will appear on the report. Instead the student report will show "Your child's test was invalidated." The student label will show "NV" for not valid. In instances where a student does not have a score for a particular subject, the student report will show "Your child did not receive a score in <<subject>>." The student label will show "NT" for not tested. You can contact your child's school for more information.

### How do I know which tests were assigned to my students?

Grade	Subject
<b>Grade 3</b>	ELA Mathematics
<b>Grade 4</b>	ELA Mathematics Science
<b>Grade 5</b>	ELA Mathematics
<b>Grade 6</b>	ELA Mathematics Science
<b>Grade 7</b>	ELA Mathematics
<b>Grade 8</b>	ELA Mathematics
<b>High School</b>	English Algebra Biology US History and Constitution

## Additional Resources

Families can visit the SC-Alt Portal ([sc-alt.portal.cambiumast.com](http://sc-alt.portal.cambiumast.com)) to find more information, including additional FAQs.