



## Parent/Family Guide to the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative

### What is the Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative?

The Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative is a standards-based criterion-referenced assessment designed to provide students, parents, teachers, administrators, and Alabama citizens with information regarding students' progress toward mastery of the Alabama Course of Study Standards. The Alabama Course of Study Standards delineate the knowledge and skills the general population of students are expected to know and be able to do at the given grade within an academic content area (i.e., English Language Arts, Math, and Science). The *ACAP Summative* is an online assessment with paper accommodations available if outlined in a given student's IEP or 504 plan. The *ACAP Summative* will be available to students in either English or Spanish for Math and Science. The *ACAP Summative* is also used for student, school, and district accountability systems.

The *ACAP Summative* is administered statewide once a year in the spring. The content areas to be assessed are English Language Arts and Math in grades 2 through 8 and Science in grades 4, 6, and 8. To ensure uniform testing conditions, the *ACAP Summative* is administered using carefully defined directions, materials, and scoring procedures for all test takers.

### What are the Alabama Course of Study Standards?

The Alabama Course of Study Standards are statements that clearly define what students should know and be able to do at a specific grade within an academic content area. The Standards serve as goals for teaching and learning. They enable students, parents, teachers, administrators, and Alabama citizens to know what students should have learned at a given grade level. Clear statements about what students should know and

be able to do are essential, ensuring that Alabama schools offer opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success.

Educators in each Alabama school district determine how to teach their students and what curriculum to use. With individual students in mind, they decide how to best meet the student's needs in achieving academic goals. The Alabama Course of Study Standards are available on the ALSDE webpage.

### What Does Each ACAP Summative Assess and How are the Assessments Scored?

The *ACAP Summative* English Language Arts at each grade consists of questions designed to best measure the Alabama Course of Study reading, writing, and language standards. For example, the *ACAP Summative* English Language Arts consists of a variety of evidence-based questions in which students are required to read and comprehend literary and informational passages using evidence to support responses to questions. Other questions may require students to answer a question measuring a given writing or language standard. Some questions may also ask students to interact with technology to construct a response or select a response from among several options. In grades 4–8 only, there is also a question or writing task that asks students to read a passage and draw on their writing skills while inferring and synthesizing information from the passage to write a response. Professional readers, using a set of scoring rules or guidelines, score each student's writing response. All other questions on the *ACAP Summative* English Language Arts are automatically machine scored.

The *ACAP Summative* Math at each grade consists of questions designed to best measure the Alabama Course of Study math standards. Depending upon the grade, standards are assessed in the areas of



algebraic operations with numbers, proportional reasoning, algebraic thinking, functions, data analysis, statistics, probability, geometry, and measurement. The *ACAP Summative Math* also consists of a variety of item types, including those questions requiring students to select an answer or answers from among several options. Questions also include those requiring students to actively engage in the use of technology to create and/or provide a brief response to a question or select a component to complete an answer. Each of the *ACAP Summative Math* questions is evidence-based requiring students to use the technology to allow for greater interaction with the targeted skill or concept in a real-world or mathematical setting. All questions in the *ACAP Summative Math* are automatically machine scored.

The *ACAP Summative Science* consists of questions designed to best measure the Alabama Course of Study science standards at grades 4, 6, and 8. Depending upon the grade, standards within the following disciplinary core ideas are assessed: energy; waves and their applications in technologies for information transfer; from molecules to organisms: structures and processes; Earth's systems; Earth's place in the universe; Earth and human activity; matter and its interactions; and motion and stability: forces and interactions. In order to best measure these standards, the *ACAP Summative Science* consists of a variety of questions focusing upon real-world topics requiring students to select an answer from among several options. Other questions require students to actively engage in the use of technology to create and/or provide a brief response to a question or select or complete an answer. All questions in the *ACAP Summative Science* are automatically machine scored.

### **How are the Test Results used?**

Student results will be provided in an easily understood score report. The report will include information about a student's achievement on a given *ACAP Summative* (i.e., English Language Arts, Math, Science) in relation to the Alabama Course of Study Standards within the academic content area. The report will present data designed to help students, parents, teachers, and administrators identify areas of students' strengths and those areas of need as measured by the standards.

Timely and meaningful assessment information about each student's performance allows:

- teachers to target instruction to individual student needs,
- students to learn areas of need and strengths to better target their own efforts,
- administrators to more fully understand what students know and are able to do to guide curriculum and professional development decisions,
- and parents to understand what the student knows and is able to do within the academic content areas of English Language Arts, Math, and Science as determined by the Alabama Course of Study Standards.

When used in combination with multiple measures of achievement, such as classroom observations and teacher-developed tests, the *ACAP Summative* also provides information about the progress of groups of students as well as the effectiveness of educational programs. No single test can tell us whether students have learned everything that is important to learn.

### **What Resources Are Available for the ACAP Summative?**

Student Tutorials and Online Tools Training (OTTs) are available using the INSIGHT portal at the following link: <https://wbte.drcedirect.com/AL/portals/al>. Students and families can view and practice item types that are similar to those appearing on the Spring *ACAP Summative* in order to become familiar with the test engine that will be used for the administration.