

# Supporting your Child's Learning through Assessment

## What are the STAR 360 assessments?

STAR 360 features three computer-adaptive assessments—STAR Early Literacy (Grades K – 1), STAR Reading (Grades 2 - 12), and STAR Math (Grades 1 – 12)—designed to measure students' overall achievement in early literacy, reading, and math. Also included is STAR Custom, which allows teachers to create customized tests to assess student mastery of specific skills.

Computer-adaptive tests continually adjust the difficulty of your child's test by choosing each test question based on responses to previous questions. This saves testing time and spares your child the frustration of items that are too difficult and the boredom of items that are too easy.



## What are the STAR 360 assessments used for?

The STAR 360 assessments are often used to screen students for their reading and math achievement levels. STAR Early Literacy assessments help educators monitor students' growing literacy skills and students' progress toward becoming independent readers. The STAR 360 assessments can also be used to monitor student growth throughout the year, to estimate students' understanding of state standards, and predict students' performance on the state test. In addition, STAR 360 can help teachers determine appropriate instructional levels and skills that students are ready to learn.

## What kind of score does my child get?

One of many scores STAR 360 offers for educators and parents is a percentile rank (PR) score. This is a norm-referenced score that provides a measure of a student's ability compared to other students in the same grade across the nation. The PR score ranges from 1 to 99, and indicates the percentage of other students nationwide who obtained scores equal to or lower than the score of a particular student. For example, a student with a percentile rank score of 85 performed as well as or better than 85 percent of other students in the same grade.

Additionally, your child receives a scaled score, which is based on the difficulty of the questions and the number of correct answers. Scaled scores are useful for comparing your child's performance over time and across grades. STAR Early Literacy scaled scores range from 300–900, and STAR Reading and STAR Math scaled scores range from 0–1400. All other scores from STAR assessments, including PR, are based on the student's scaled score.

## How can I help my child prepare for a STAR 360 assessment?

The teacher who gives the test uses pre-test instructions to explain the test to your child. It is important for you to encourage your child to try to do his or her best on the assessment. Because STAR 360 is a general measure of student ability in early literacy, reading, and math, students perform best on the assessment in the same way they perform best in school—when they have had plenty of rest, attend school regularly, and have eaten.

## How will I know how my child is doing?

The Parent Report will be made available to parents (either sent home or via online access) after each district administration of these assessments. Teachers will also share this information during a parent/teacher conference. You are encouraged to contact your child's school at any time regarding your child's STAR 360 results.