The 2021-2022 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) assessment for Science grades 5 & 8, which aligns to the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards, was administered in March 2022. The tests assessed student mastery of the three dimensions necessary to understand science: Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI), Science and Engineering Practices (SEP), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCC). Students demonstrated their mastery by interacting with a stimulus such as a video, chart, or diagram, and then responding to several items supported by the stimulus. MCAP scores should be used along with a student’s classroom performance, report card grades, and teacher feedback to form a clear picture of a student’s progress toward meeting academic standards.

How to Read Your Student’s Score Report

Overall Performance – Students receive an overall score and based on that score, are placed in one of four performance levels, with Level 4 indicating the student exceeded expectations and Level 1 indicating the student partially met expectations.

Score Range – This scale includes the score ranges for each performance level and shows where your student’s score falls within that range.

On Track for College and Career – Students scoring a 4 or 5 meet or exceed grade-level expectations and are on track to be ready for college-level coursework when they graduate from high school.

Overall Score Comparisons – This section shows how your student is performing compared to students in the same grade at the same school, across the school district, and around the state. It also details the percentage of students who achieved at the different performance levels and Student Grown Percentile to measure individual student progress.
How to Read Your Student’s Score Report (Continued…)

**Dimensions of Science Reporting Categories** – The report shows the student’s performance for the three dimensions of science: Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI), Science and Engineering Practices (SEP), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCC). In addition, there are three subcategories in the DCI dimension: Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Sciences.

**Dimension Performance Indicator** – each dimension is marked with a dimension performance indicator.

- **An up arrow** indicated the student “Met or Exceeded Expectations”. Students in this category are likely academically well prepared to engage successfully in further studies in the dimension of science content area and may need instructional enrichment.

- **A bidirectional arrow** indicates the student “Approached Expectations”. Students in this category likely need academic support to engage successfully in further studies in the dimension of science content area.

- **A down arrow** indicates the student “Partially Met Expectations”. Students in this category are likely not academically well prepared to engage successfully in further studies in the dimension of science content area. Such students likely need instructional interventions to increase achievement in the dimension of science content area.

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**Facts About Assessment and Testing in Maryland**

- Federal law requires a science assessment once in each grade level span. In Maryland, the assessment is given in Grades 5, 8, and High School.
- Maryland educators are highly involved in the development and improvement of the tests, from analyzing the items to reviewing them for appropriateness.
- Scores demonstrate a student’s understanding of the science standards at the end of the grade level span.
- The score reports are a tool teachers use to plan instruction and enrichment for students in the coming year that prepare students for their next steps.
- Families can use the scores to start a conversation with the child’s teachers and school officials about the child’s academic strengths and areas for improvement.
- Together everyone can decide how best to support the student’s learning needs both in school and at home.