



## SUMMATIVE

# 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 that students in the general population are expected to know and be able to do at the given grade within an academic content area (i.e., English Language Arts, Math, 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 that are assessed are English Language Arts and Math in grades 2–8 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 each student's needs in achieving academic goals. The Alabama Course of Study Standards are available on the ALSDE web page.

### WHAT DOES EACH ACAP SUMMATIVE CONTENT AREA ASSESS, AND HOW ARE THE ASSESSMENTS SCORED?

The *ACAP Summative* in English Language Arts at each grade consists of questions designed to best measure the Alabama Course of Study Standards for Reading, Writing, and Listening. The *ACAP Summative* in English Language Arts includes 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 2–8, 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* in English Language Arts are automatically machine scored.

The *ACAP Summative* in Math at each grade consists of questions designed to best measure the Alabama Course of Study Standards for Math. Depending on the grade, standards are assessed based on reporting categories in the areas of Operations and Algebraic Thinking; Operations with Numbers: Base Ten; Data Analysis, Measurement, and Geometry; Operations with Numbers: Fractions; Proportional Reasoning; Number Systems and Operations; Algebra and Functions; Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability; Geometry and Measurement; and Numbers, Algebra, and Functions. The *ACAP Summative* in Math also includes a variety of item types, including questions that require students to select an answer or answers from among several options. There are also questions that require 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 questions on the *ACAP Summative* in Math is evidence-based, requiring students to use technology to allow for greater interaction with the targeted skill or concept in a real-world or mathematical setting. All questions on the *ACAP Summative* in Math are automatically machine scored.

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## WHAT DOES EACH ACAP SUMMATIVE CONTENT AREA ASSESS, AND HOW ARE THE ASSESSMENTS SCORED? (CONTINUED)

The ACAP *Summative* in Science consists of questions designed to best measure the Alabama Course of Study Standards in Science at grades 4, 6, and 8. Depending on the grade, standards are assessed based on reporting categories within the following disciplinary core ideas: 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. To best measure these standards, the ACAP *Summative* in Science includes a variety of questions that focus on real-world topics that require 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 on the ACAP *Summative* in Science are automatically machine scored.

## WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE ACAP SUMMATIVE?

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

## 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 in a given ACAP *Summative* content area (i.e., English Language Arts, Math, Science) in relation to the Alabama Course of Study Standards within the corresponding academic content area. The report will present data designed to help students, parents, teachers, and administrators identify individual students' areas of strength and 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 strength and need 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/families to understand what the student knows and is able to do within the academic content areas of English Language Arts, Math, and Science as delineated 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 and the effectiveness of educational programs. No single test can tell us whether students have learned everything that is important to learn.