



May 27, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In October, the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) adopted new college-and-career readiness Academic Achievement Standards and Academic Achievement Descriptors for the End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) tests and their alternate assessments. The Achievement Level Standards and their -level/course level expectations.

In previous school years, the NC Department of Public Instruction has reported four Academic Achievement Levels; however, effective in March 2014, the SBE added a new Achievement Level 3. With the addition of this new Achievement Level, the NCDPI will now report five levels of student academic performance. The revised Achievement Levels are as follows:

Achievement Levels	Meets On-Grade-Level Proficiency Standard	Meets College-and-Career Readiness Standard
Level 5 denotes Superior Command of knowledge and skills	Yes	Yes
Level 4 denotes Solid Command of knowledge and skills	Yes	Yes
Level 3 denotes Sufficient Command of knowledge and skills	Yes	No
Level 2 denotes Partial Command of knowledge and skills	No	No
Level 1 denotes Limited Command of knowledge and skills	No	No

The new Achievement Level 3 identifies students who are prepared for the next grade but do not meet the college-and-career readiness standard. Having this new level helps teachers to better meet the learning needs of the individual student. Below is the new Achievement Level Descriptor for Level 3:

Level 3: Students performing at this level have a **sufficient command** of grade-level knowledge and skills, but they may need academic support to engage successfully in this content area in the next grade level. They are prepared for the next grade level but will need additional academic support in order to be on track for college-and-career readiness without additional academic support.

Starting this year -of-Grade/End-of-Course test(s) will report both the on-grade-level proficiency standard (Level 3 or higher) and the college-and-career readiness standards (Level 4 and above). Proficiency on all state assessments will be calculated using Level 3 and higher.

A complete list of the Achievement Level ranges and Achievement Level Descriptors are available by test at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/shared/achievelevel>. In addition, raw score ranges by achievement level are available by test at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/technicalnotes>.

If you have questions or concerns about the five Achievement Levels or need more information, please contact Dr. Bostic at 704-827-7251. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,
Dr. Cristi M. Bostic