Scantron Performance Testing
Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we doing Scantron testing?

K12 Inc. has contracted with Scantron to provide accurate assessment and performance tracking to assist you and your child's pursuit for an exceptional education.

What is Scantron?

Scantron is an easy to use assessment program that will allow you and your teacher to quickly assess the current achievement and potential educational needs of your child. The Scantron Performance Series utilizes a web-based model to identify the instructional level of each student by using your child's answers to previous questions to adapt the difficulty of the subsequent question. The teachers at your school want to provide the best education possible for your child. By using the Scantron Performance assessment you and your teacher will have the performance data necessary to tailor instruction to meet his/her needs. They will have the data necessary and report to you areas of strengths as well as areas in need of improvement.

Do all students participate in this testing?

Grades 3-10 will take the performance assessments at the beginning and end of the year. Grade 2 will take the assessments in January and at the end of the year.

How does the assessment work?

The Performance Assessment is a computer-adaptive test that lets you quickly pinpoint the proficiency level of your student; the computer will adapt the test based on your child's answers/ability.

When will Scantron assessments be delivered?

WAVA's testing window is September 15th-26th

Am I allowed to help my child?

For the purpose of Scantron to be effective, it is necessary for students to work independently.

Why can I not assist my child?

Since Scantron uses the students' own responses to determine the difficulty of subsequent questions, assistance will quickly get your child into a level he/she cannot complete successfully. It is important that you allow the testing software to target the specific instructional level of your child so that the questions adapt to your child's particular needs.

If my child does not know an answer, should they guess or skip?

Guess. The Scantron program will not allow the student to skip a question.

How is the test scored?

Unlike other tests, the test is not scored on the basis of how many questions the students answers correctly. The incorrect answers give just as much information as the correct answers. It is intended that your child will NOT know the answer to all questions. The difficulty of the questions will adjust itself based on the answers your child gives. Please do not help your child!

How should I encourage my child? Please tell your child that they should expect to see some challenging questions, but do not help your child by pointing to the screen, reading to them, giving them hints, etc. The test will automatically adjust itself to your child's answers.

Will this test be used to determine how I am doing as a learning coach? This assessment will not be used to make decisions about course placement, promotion, or participation in any special programs. This assessment will give you specific information on your child's strengths and weaknesses and assist you and the school staff to plan appropriately for your child's education.

What are the pre-requisites for my child to take this test?
Your child should be able to do these things prior to testing:
• Use a mouse to point and left click
• Scroll up and down a web page
• Enter necessary student information (if required: parent can assist with entering student information
only.)

If you are not sure that your child has these skills, please talk to your teacher on how to assess their skills or teach them prior to beginning the test.

What should I not do?
The following types of interactions will not help your child and should be avoided during the test:
• Reminding them of the time
• Asking your child about the test
• Helping them with words or problems that are too difficult for them
• Reading any part of reading passages to the student
• Helping your child narrow their answer choices
• Providing any help with reading passages or question content or meaning
• Hovering over the students as they are tested

What am I allowed to do?
Your child may need help with tasks that do not directly affect the content of the test. Stopping and starting a test for a bathroom break or stopping a test if you notice fatigue.

Is test participation mandatory? Yes. Every child in grades 3-10 is required to take performances assessments at the beginning and of the school year. Grade 2 will take the performance assessments in January and at the end of the year.

How long will the assessments take?
Each test will take approximately one hour. When possible, it is beneficial for your child to complete the testing in one sitting. However, if the test takes your student longer than one hour, please have him/her click the "Stop" button and resume the test later.

How many tests is my child required to take? Two – one in math and one in reading.

How many questions will be on each test?
Since the assessment is computer adaptive, each student will receive a unique assessment and the number of items may vary. There are not a set number of questions but each assessment should take your student approximately 1 hour to complete.

What happens if we press the Stop button?
If an assessment is stopped before a student has finished, the assessment will resume at exactly the same spot where the student left off. If the student needs a break and wants to stop the assessment, the STOP button should be pushed. My child was working on her assessment and it abruptly stopped with the message that it was incomplete. What does that mean? It means that you child's test was invalidated or "spoiled" by the Scantron system.

Here is what Scantron says about spoiled tests: "Tests where the response pattern would yield invalid results are spoiled by the system. Specifically, if 5 questions in a row are answered in a rapid fire manner at a rate faster than possible to even read the questions, and if those rapid answers are no better than guessing, the test will be spoiled." To avoid this in the future, encourage students to make an attempt at every question. If your child's assessment has been spoiled, she will need to log back in and do it again.

My student tried to log in but it said that his student ID was invalid. Why would that be?
K_{12} uploads student information into the Scantron system approximately once a week. It is possible that your student's information has not been uploaded yet. Try entering the test again in a couple of days. If you are still having a problem, please contact your teacher.

Can my student use scratch paper on the math assessment?
Yes. It is highly encouraged that yourstudent use scratch paper on the math assessment.
Can my student use a calculator on the math assessment?

No. If your child uses a calculator, we will
not get an accurate picture of what he knows how to do on his own.

When will we get to see the results to our child's assessment?
Teachers will be discussing and providing written copies of the results sometime directly after the testing window is over.

Will dial-up internet work for completing Scantron assessments?
It will work in most cases. However, it will take your child much longer to do the assessments because of the slow loading speed. Our recommendation for you in this case would be for you to take your child to a public library where
high speed internet would be available.

If my child is not working on grade level in the curriculum, at what grade level will my child be testing?
Students will be taking the assessments at their actual grade level – not the level of their curriculum. The exception to this would be students will IEPs working at two grade levels or below their actual grade level. Assessments will be adjusted for these students.

Can we log attendance hours for the time it takes our child to complete the test?
Yes. You can log the amount of time spent on the assessments under the corresponding subject – Math for Math and Language Arts/Literature for Reading.

I noticed that Scantron offers Language Arts and Science testing. Should my child take those tests as well?
No. Our school only requires your child to take one math and one reading test.

When my child finished a test, he was prompted with a screen that seemed to direct him to take another test. Does that mean that he needs to keep testing?
No. This screen will pop up every time your child completes or stops a test.

How will I know when my child has completed the test?
When your child has completed a test, the below window will pop up.

Will Scantron testing data be released to any outside sources?
No. Your student's testing data will be used within WAVA/K12 expressly for the purpose of bettering your child's education.

If you have further questions, please contact your teacher.