

Test Scores Available to Parents on PowerSchool's Parent Portal

Parents,

Unified School District 261 is committed to the success of every one of our students. An important part in achieving that success is keeping parents informed on the progress their children are making. With that in mind we are proud to announce the availability of your child's assessment data into the PowerSchool system.

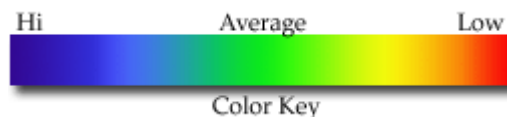
You may view this data by logging into your child's PowerSchool account at <http://www.usd261.net/public/> using your Parent Username and Password. Click the **Test Scores** link in the lower left corner. The Test Scores webpage will provide a colorful table containing the recent assessment data. By examining the scores you can see how your child is progressing. The information below will help you understand the meaning of the scores presented.

What do the score colors mean?

We like to call it "At-a-Glance" interpretation. The color coding of scores is used to make identifying a high or low score easier. Blues are best, green is average and yellow and red are poor. With the color codes, you can quickly pinpoint your child's success and quickly determine areas for improvement.

How are the colors assigned?

When the assessment results provides a rank like "High", "Average" or "Low" that rank is used to assign a color code. The Kansas State Assessments provides our district with five levels of proficiency and the NWEA MAP assessment provides three levels. The colors shown can be interpreted using the legend displayed with the test results.



What can I do about low scores?

Be aware of testing dates and help your child to be prepared. They need a good night's sleep and a good breakfast. Give them encouragement and a positive attitude. Also, remember praise and rewards are far more effective than harsh words and punishment. Your child's teachers are also great resources. Feel free to visit with them about a low score and what extra help you may be able to provide your child.

How long will old scores be available in Data Manager?

Only the most recent assessment results will be shown. This would generally mean that the last two or three years of data are summarized and displayed.

What if I do not understand what a particular result means?

Knowing which area that a child is low in is helpful, but knowing what to do to fix it is far better. Contact your child's teacher. If your child is in a secondary level school, contact the subject area teacher. A quick internet search will probably provide good information as well.

What if there are no scores being shown for my child?

It is possible that your child has not yet taken any of the assessments being shown. It is also possible that the results from an assessment have not been received and entered into the system yet. They will become available as they are received. It is also possible that the student is in our special education program and takes an alternate assessment.

What if I have trouble logging into PowerSchool?

Your user name and password should have been given to you at the beginning of the school year. If you cannot find that information the school office should be able to assist you.

NWEA MAP Parent Toolkit

<http://www.nwea.org/sites/www.nwea.org/files/resources/ParentToolkit.pdf>

Kansas State Assessment Information

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=420>