For Parents and Assessors
Explanation of Differences between Unofficial and Official Student Reports

There are differences in the way scores are displayed on the Unofficial and Official Student Reports. These reports are designed for different purposes and reflect information in different ways. However, the score differences between the two reports do not reflect errors.

Feature	Unofficial Student Reports	Official Student Reports
Types of Test Items affecting Student Scores	Unofficial reports reflect scores for both operational and field test items. Field test items are new items that are being administered to students but are not used to calculate a student's final score. The 2010 and 2011 tests included field test items. No field test items are planned for the spring 2012 tests.	Scores on official reports do not contain field test items. 2010 and 2011 Reports included only the approved, "operational" test items. Assessments beginning in 2012 include only operational items; there were no "field test" items after 2011.
Calculation of Scores	Scores are calculated to show the percentage of test items that were answered correctly by the student. The score ranges from 0% to 100%.	Scores are calculated mathematically so that scores can be compared across years. It is possible that a low score can be converted to a zero score in this process.
Source of Report	Assessors enter the student score values into the online test system and reports are generated immediately.	Vendor prepares reports after the Department of Education reviews the student information for accuracy (name, date of birth, grade level, state ID). Reports available mid-May from District Test Coordinators.
Type of Data	The report shows that all the data has been entered and provides a quick overview of how the student performed.	The report displays student's personal scores as well as their achievement levels: advanced, proficient, below proficient, far below proficient.
Display of Scores	Scores are listed by Task, and a task may contain several test items.	Scores are listed by a content area Strand. Several tasks may be combined to create a strand.

This is an example of several tasks within a content area (reading) strand:

Grade Band	Strand Name	Task Name
Grades 7 and 8 Reading	Test Materials Preparation Guide	
	Permissible Accommodations Guidelines	
	1.78 - Word Identification Skills	1.78A - Read Words of Increasing Complexity 1.78B - Obtain Information 1.78C - Read Sentences
	2.78 - Forming a General Understanding, Analysis of Content and Structure	2.78A-B - Read Passages

This is an example of items within a task. The task is: to obtain information. The items are listed #1-7.

1.78B - Obtain Information - Scoring			
Item	Question (Answer)	Student Response	Points
1	What is the title of the book? (The Search for Gold)		/1
2	How many chapters are in this book? (5 chapters)		/1
3	Which chapter is about Nome? (Chapter 4)		/1
4	On what page does chapter 2 begin? (pg. 7)		/1
5	What class is in room 1? (Math)		/1
6	What is the room number for P. E.? (Room 3)		/1
7	What time is Lunch? (11:05 - 12:00)		/1