

## **Anderson County Schools Assessment Data Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Why did students take assessments this school year during a pandemic?**

Kentucky was federally required to administer a statewide assessment. State assessments can provide critical information about individual student performance and about where Anderson County Schools needs to support students, educators and schools across our district.

Our goal is to use the results to help COVID-19 school recovery efforts so we can create a stronger education system.

### **Why did assessment some assessment scores decrease? Does this mean that students learned less this year?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped most aspects of education in the 2020-2021 school year, including assessments. As a result, the process for student test taking and the results from this year's assessments look different than in previous school years.

Factors such as learning disruptions (less instructional days, access to technology, access to learning supports, variety of instruction types, etc.), test modifications, and participation rates have impacted school and district results.

### **Why did some assessment scores increase? Does this mean that students learned more than we expected?**

The gains reflected in the district and school-level results could be due to a number of reasons, including uneven student participation or a decrease in participation rates, and do not necessarily present a whole picture of academic performance.

### **Why did fewer students participate in the state assessment?**

Assessment participation rates vary across districts and schools and may have changed due to health and safety concerns associated with in-person testing or other factors.

Even though the district's participation rates are slightly lower than in past years, the assessment results, when combined with other data, present an opportunity to inform the type of supports students and schools need to be successful. We owe it to students to use every piece of information we have to help them succeed.

### **What does a low score mean? Will a low score impact my child?**

In any year, a single test score does not provide a complete or precise measure of student achievement. We encourage parents to consider their child's results within the context of the variety of potential learning disruptions they may have encountered as well as the modifications that were made to the assessment itself.

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) accepted flexibilities offered by the United States Education Department (USED). Testing windows were expanded and the administration of assessments normally given earlier in the year was moved to the end of the school year. Additionally, the annual statewide assessment was shorter than in previous years.

Anderson County Schools is utilizing the information gained from the assessment as an important “temperature check” that allows us to better track and address student recovery. The results will be used to help direct COVID-related recovery efforts supported by state and federal relief funds. We owe it to students to use every piece of information we have to help them succeed.

### **How will states, district leaders and educators use the assessment results?**

Assessment results are just one of a number of strategies that we’re conducting to evaluate COVID-19 school recovery and create a stronger education system.

Results are being used to inform our ongoing work to support schools and improve educational outcomes for students. For example, schools and educators will be able to identify areas where they need to accelerate student learning. State leaders also gain valuable information and can better direct attention and resources to the districts, schools, and focus areas that most need it.

### **How should parents use the assessment results to support their children?**

Parents will receive an individual student report that will detail a student’s performance. Summary information about aggregate performance at the school, district, and state levels can be found in the [School Report Card](#). The results can provide a helpful “temperature check” for where their child is excelling, as well as where they may need more support. We encourage parents to consider their child’s results within the context of the variety of potential learning disruptions they may have encountered as well as the modifications that were made to the assessment itself.

### **What instructional activities were implemented over the summer and fall to prepare students for the current school year?**

Anderson County Schools has already implemented multiple activities/initiatives to accelerate student achievement. We hosted 2 summer learning academies, are continuing to track the impact of student recovery efforts, and remain committed to providing high intensity supports for our students.

### **Given this year’s assessment results, what changes will you make for next school year?**

We now have new information about areas where students and schools need support. We also know from the participation data who did and did not take the assessment due to COVID-19 learning conditions. We will consider all of this in context of the decisions we make moving forward to support students.