



Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program

# REPORT INTERPRETATION GUIDE

## ARKANSAS ALTERNATE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT COGNITIVE DISABILITIES GRADES 5, 7, AND 10 SCIENCE

**2015–2016**

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**Arkansas Department of Education**



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### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Report Interpretation Guide is to provide district and school personnel with information on how to interpret and use reports related to the 2015–2016 administration of the *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Grades 5, 7, and 10 Science*. This Report Interpretation Guide provides general information about the components of the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment, describes the purpose of the program, and provides answers to commonly asked questions regarding the program. This guide contains report samples that illustrate student-, school-, and district-level information and gives detailed explanations of the report content. This guide also provides an overview of the performance levels associated with the *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Grades 5, 7, and 10 Science*. School and district staff can use the results listed as one measure of student ability in the development of educational improvement plans to enhance student performance in the future.

**Note:** Students coded as “LEP student less than one year in the U.S.” on the Student Demographic Information Form will receive Individual Student Reports and will be included on the roster reports but will not be included in any class or school averages or in summary data.

### OVERVIEW OF THE ACTAAP

The **Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program (ACTAAP)** is authorized under Arkansas Legislative Act 35 to promote the development of the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks as well as the development and use of assessment in accordance with the statewide educational goals. The ACTAAP includes ongoing norm-referenced testing. The ACTAAP also includes criterion-referenced tests specifically developed to measure thinking skills and problem-solving strategies associated with real-life performance expectations for school or work.

All students are expected to participate in state assessments. The Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment is designed to evaluate the performance of students with significant cognitive disabilities for whom the ACTAAP Augmented Benchmark Examinations and End-of-Course Examinations are not appropriate.

The *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Grades 5, 7, and 10* allows for a collection of student work as evidence of student performance on tasks aligned to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in the area of Science.

The goals for the ACTAAP are to

- improve classroom instruction and learning;
- support public accountability;
- provide program evaluation data; and
- assist policy makers in decision-making.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following are commonly asked questions regarding the *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Grades 5, 7, and 10 Science* and associated answers to these questions. This list of questions has been compiled based on feedback from district staff (e.g., teachers, school and district test coordinators, principals, superintendents). This list is not exhaustive, but the questions listed have been selected due to the number of times they have been asked by a broad cross-section of the Arkansas education community.

**1. Who is required to take the *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Grades 5, 7, and 10 Science*?**

The *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities in Grades 5, 7, and 10* should be administered to all grade 5, 7, and 10 students with significant cognitive disabilities for whom the ACT Aspire Examinations are not appropriate.

**2. There is too much time required for doing the alternate portfolio. How are teachers supposed to have time for instruction?**

Developing the assessment items for the portfolio should be part of the regular instructional practice for each day. Research has shown that instruction is actually enhanced if there is focused, content specific assessment at regular intervals with accurate and timely feedback.

**3. Why can't students just take some other test (or use other test results) to demonstrate performance?**

The *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities* has been developed to specifically align with the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks in order to evaluate student learning relative to the curriculum being taught within the state. Teachers can show, by the use of a portfolio assessment, how students with disabilities are accessing the curriculum frameworks using multiple methods of response as well as multiple types of presentation to the students. Student responses can be captured in multiple ways (such as use of video or audio, projects, captioned photographs, and/or paper and pencil, when appropriate) that could not be done with an on-demand, timed paper-and-pencil test. Each portfolio should be uniquely designed to meet the needs of the student based on the goals in the student's Individualized Education Program and the linkage of these goals to the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks. A student with severe cognitive disabilities is able to demonstrate proficiency of the standards within the limitations of their disability.

For answers to other questions regarding the *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*, please contact:

Office of Student Assessment  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall, Room 305B  
Little Rock, AR 72201-1071  
Telephone: 501-682-4558

### USING THE ARKANSAS ALTERNATE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The reports for the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment provide students, teachers, and special program staff with a performance record for students relative to the expectations outlined within the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks. The most important use of these data is to identify students who need remediation in specific areas. The following are suggestions for school and district personnel who are responsible for the assessment and for any school remediation programs:

- Analyze the reports to determine in which skill areas students did not perform well.
- Develop and implement remediation strategies and goals for individuals and groups of students. Analyze previous remediation strategies used with students to determine necessary curricular additions or changes.
- Analyze instructional and curricular approaches to ensure that students are receiving instruction that is in direct alignment with the educational goals and competencies outlined within the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks.

### DISSEMINATING THE ARKANSAS ALTERNATE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Make a complete and thorough analysis of the results as soon as possible. After the report forms have been received and the results have been reviewed by school and district staff, disseminate the results to students, parents, teachers, counselors, and others who may play a role in individual student education. Make certain that the appropriate teachers and administrators receive the appropriate Student Report(s), Class Roster Report(s), School Roster Report, and School Profile as soon as possible.

### CONCLUSION

The **Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program** is the result of ongoing curriculum and instruction implementation within the state, culminating in the development of criterion-referenced testing instruments that are directly linked with the Arkansas Curriculum Frameworks. Improving student performance on the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment is contingent upon the curricular and instructional approaches applied within a specific school and district setting. In order to move toward more effective education models, Arkansas has adopted performance standards that promote the success of all citizens. The sort of statewide implementation this undertaking implies is monumental. It requires the concerted effort of schools, districts, and thousands of educators. Moreover, all of this effort will be for nothing without the support of students, parents, and other affected members of the education community. The reports described within this guide are one step toward disseminating information to the community and beginning this concerted effort.

### OVERVIEW OF THE ARKANSAS ALTERNATE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Reports of results for the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment are sent to districts to provide information about student performance. Samples of the Student Report, Class Roster Report, School Roster Report, and School Profile are provided in this guide. A description of each report immediately precedes the report samples.

**Note: The data provided in the sample reports are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. Each sample has been prepared independently and is not meant to be tied to any other sample in this Report Interpretation Guide. All student names on the samples are fictitious, and any similarity to actual student names is purely coincidental.**

### STUDENT REPORT

Each school will receive two copies of the Student Report, a student (home) copy in color and a school copy in black and white. The Student Report for grades 5, 7, and 10 Science is a one-page, two-sided report. Page 1 provides information specific to the student listed. Page 2 provides nonscoreable codes, information on how to help the student to achieve, and a description of the additional informational resources that are available. A sample of page 1 of the Student Report is provided on page 5.

The Student Report provides individual student feedback on how the student performed on the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment. The following information is provided in the Student Report:

- Student information reflects what was coded on the Student Demographic Information Form or provided from the student's eSchoolPLUS record for student name, birth date, school name, and district name.
- A letter from Johnny Key, Commissioner of Education, introduces the report.
- Overall Test Results/Science Scale Score
  - The five performance levels (independent, functional independence, supported independence, emergent, and not evident) and the general definition of each are provided. These definitions are especially helpful for parents in understanding the level at which their student is performing.
  - The student's scale score and performance level are shown under the performance level definitions with an arrow showing where the student falls in the scale score range.
- The Science results by strand are located on the lower right side of the page. The raw points for each scoring domain (performance, context, level of assistance, and settings) are listed with points earned out of the total points possible.
  - Performance points are a measure of the student's demonstration of skill while attempting a given task.
  - Context is the degree to which the tasks are age-appropriate and allow the student to use age-appropriate materials, provide a challenge for the student, and reflect meaningful, real-world activities.
  - Level of assistance is the degree of independence demonstrated in the student's performance and is determined after the introduction of the lesson activity.
  - A setting is the observed setting or environment in which tasks are administered or performed.
- The list of performance, context, and level of assistance points earned may provide important clues to the student's needs.
- An asterisk next to a score indicates a nonscoreable entry. Column 5 lists the nonscoreable code(s) for the specific skill area. A list of nonscoreable code explanations can be found on page 2 of the Student Report.

STUDENT REPORT (PAGE 1)



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GRADE 5 – ALTERNATE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT  
IEP STUDENT REPORT – SCIENCE

**For the Family of  
BENJAMIN KOWALSKI**

**Test Date:** March 2016  
**Birth Date:** 07-21-2005  
**School Name:** Arkansas School  
(99-99-999)  
**District Name:** Arkansas School District  
(99-99)

Dear Family,

Recently, Benjamin participated in the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for Grade 5 and 7 Science. Skills assessed on this test are based on the Arkansas Curriculum Framework for Science.

This report summarizes Benjamin's test results. These results are used by the school to make important educational decisions for Benjamin. **Please review these results with Benjamin and Benjamin's teachers.** Using these test results to guide Benjamin in the right academic direction is an important step for ensuring future success.

Sincerely,  
Johnny Key  
Commissioner of Education

**Benjamin's Overall Test Results**

Science Scale Score	
719	<b>Independent</b> —Students demonstrate mastery of authentic, age-appropriate, and challenging tasks in multiple settings. They can apply established science skills to real-world situations. They can generalize learned skills to solve new challenges. The student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.
709	<b>Functional Independence</b> —Students frequently meet authentic, age-appropriate challenges. They demonstrate reasonable performance in multiple settings and are prepared for more challenging tasks. They can apply established science skills to real-world situations but may require minimal prompting. They perform these skills accurately in most instances but make occasional errors. The student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.
702	<b>Supported Independence</b> —Students are attempting to meet authentic, age-appropriate challenges but have limited success. They demonstrate a partial or minimal ability to apply science skills and require frequent prompting. They make errors but occasionally perform these skills accurately. The student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.
677	<b>Emergent</b> —Students are just beginning to show understanding or use of science skills and may require continuous prompting. In addition, the student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.
	<b>Not Evident</b> —Students demonstrate no evidence of performance towards the science skills being assessed.
<p><b>Benjamin's score of 724</b> is at the <b>Independent</b> Level</p>	

Science Results				
The table below shows the number of points Benjamin scored in each of the Science skill areas.	Performance Points	Context Points	Level of Assistance Points	* NS Entries Max=2
<b>Life Science</b> Students shall demonstrate and apply knowledge of living systems, life cycles, reproduction and heredity, and populations and ecosystems using appropriate safety procedures, equipment, and technology.	56 of 64 	32 of 32 	12 of 16 	
<b>Physical Science</b> Students shall demonstrate and apply knowledge of matter, including properties and changes, motions and forces, and energy and transfer of energy using appropriate safety procedures, equipment, and technology.	52 of 64 	32 of 32 	14 of 16 	
<b>Earth and Space Science</b> Students shall demonstrate and apply knowledge of Earth's structure and properties, Earth's history, and objects in the universe using appropriate safety procedures, equipment, and technology.	57 of 64 * 	32 of 32 * 	13 of 16 * 	MP-B
<b>Settings (Scored Once):</b>	20 of 24 	* Nonscoreable entry for this skill area. See back of this report for definitions.		

The data in the sample reports are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. Please see note on page 4.

## REPORT DESCRIPTIONS AND SAMPLES

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### CLASS ROSTER REPORT

The Class Roster Report is a one-sided, single-page or multi-page report depending on the number of students, providing a list of students and the results for those students who participated in the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for grade 5, 7, or 10 Science. The class name appearing on the report reflects the teacher name coded on the Student Demographic Information Forms. A sample of this report is provided on page 7.

The Class Roster Report provides school and district staff with information on how students with a specific teacher performed on the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment. The following information is included on the Class Roster Report:

- The mean scale scores for the school, district, region, and state are provided and can be used as comparative data.
- The five performance levels (not evident, emergent, supported independence, functional independence, and independent) are shown below the mean scale scores with the associated range of scale scores.
- All students within the classroom/group are listed in alphabetical order by last name (with their respective State Reporting Identification Numbers) in the left column with the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment results for each student provided in the columns that follow. All of the information provided on the Individual Student Report is also provided for each student on the Class Roster Report (e.g., performance levels, scale scores, etc.) with the exception of nonscoreable entries.
- An LEP student who has been in the U.S. less than one year is designated with an “L” following the Student ID number.
- Following the listing of students, the class averages are provided. Class averages do not include 1st Year LEP student scores.

CLASS ROSTER REPORT

Grade 7 Alternate Portfolio Assessment  
IEP CLASS ROSTER REPORT

Date of Test: March 2016  
Page: 1



Science  
School 713  
District 713  
State 713  
Mean Scale Score for School/District/Region/State

District Number: 99-99  
District Name: Arkansas School District  
School Number: 99-99-999  
School Name: Arkansas School  
Class Name: Smith

Performance Level Scale Scores  
Not Evident (NE) 670 and below  
Emergent (E) 671-687  
Supported Independence (SI) 688-702  
Functional Independence (FI) 703-716  
Independent (I) 717 and above

Student Information		PERFORMANCE LEVEL	SCIENCE SCALE SCORE	Performance	Context	Level of Assistance	Settings
Points Possible	Student ID #			192	96	48	24
Name	8060251995	SI	693	150	82	38	20
AMWAY, JOHN Q	8060251994	I	727	172	86	43	21
BIYDREAM, JEAN	8060241923	I	724	123	60	35	12
CANCRON, MARY	8060231855	FI	706	156	63	39	17
DUNKIRK, BLINEY			713	150	73	39	18
CLASS AVERAGE:							

L = 1st Year LEP Student

Averages do not include 1st Year LEP Students

The data in the sample reports are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. Please see note on page 4.

### SCHOOL ROSTER REPORT

The School Roster Report is a one-sided, single-page or multi-page report depending on the number of students, providing a list of students and the results for those students who participated in the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for grade 5, 7, or 10 Science. The school information appearing on the report reflects what was coded on the Student Demographic Information Forms or provided in the student label barcode for district name, school name, and district/school LEA number. A sample of this report is provided on page 9.

The School Roster Report provides school and district staff with information on how all students within a school performed on the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for grade 5, 7, and 10 Science. The following information is provided on the School Roster Report:

- The mean scale scores for the school, district, region, and state are provided and can be used as comparative data.
- The five performance levels (not evident, emergent, supported independence, functional independence, and independent) are shown below the mean scale scores with the associated range of scale scores.
- All students in the school are listed in alphabetical order by last name (with their respective State Reporting Identification Numbers) in the left column with the Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment results for each student provided in the columns that follow. All of the information provided on the Individual Student Report is also provided for each student on the School Roster Report (e.g., performance levels, scale scores, etc.) with the exception of nonscoreable entries.
- An LEP student who has been in the U.S. less than one year is designated with an “L” following the Student ID number.
- Following the listing of students, the school averages are provided. School averages do not include 1st Year LEP student scores.

SCHOOL ROSTER REPORT

Date of Test: March 2016  
Page: 1

Grade 7 Alternate Portfolio Assessment  
IEP SCHOOL ROSTER REPORT



Mean Scale Score for School/District/Region/State  
 School: 713    District: 713    Region: 716    State: 713  
 Science

District Number: 99-99    District Name: Arkansas School District  
 School Number: 99-99-999    School Name: Arkansas School  
 Performance Level Scale Scores  
 Not Evident (NE) 670 and below    Emergent (E) 671-687    Supported Independence (SI) 688-702    Functional Independence (FI) 703-716    Independent (I) 717 and above

Student Information		SCIENCE					
Points Possible	Student ID #	Performance Level	Scale Score	Performance	Context	Level of Assistance	Settings
AMWAY, JOHN Q	8060251995	SI	693	192	96	48	24
BIYDREAM, JEAN	8060251994	I	727	150	82	38	20
CANCRON, MARV	8060241923	I	724	172	86	43	21
DUNKIRK, BLINEY	8060231855	FI	706	123	60	35	12
SCHOOL AVERAGE:			713	150	73	39	18

Averages do not include 1st Year LEP Students      L = 1st Year LEP Student

The data in the sample reports are for display purposes only and do not represent actual results. Please see note on page 4.

### SCHOOL PROFILE

The School Profile is a one-page, two-sided report, providing an overview of the school’s results for the *Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment for grades 5, 7, and 10 Science*. District- and state-level data are included so that student performance within the school can be compared with the performance of students at the district and state levels. A separate School Profile will be provided for each subject by grade level.

A sample of a School Profile is provided on pages 11 and 12.

The following information is provided on the School Profile:

- District and school information that reflects what was coded on the Student Demographic Information Forms or provided in the student label barcode.
- Overall Summary
  - The Overall Summary is located on page 1 of the School Profile.
  - The “Percent of Student Scores in Performance Levels” bar graph shows the percent of students who scored at each of the five performance levels (not evident, emergent, supported independence, functional independence, and independent) at the school, district, and state levels. The associated scale score range for each performance level is also provided.
- Average Points Scored
  - The “Average Points Scored” table is located at the bottom of page 1 of the School Profile.
  - Each line (row) identifies the scoring domain and the points possible and average points earned within each strand.
  - The first column under each strand in the “Average Points Scored” table provides possible raw score points for each domain. The second column under each strand provides the average raw score points for the school.
- Performance Summary
  - The “Number and Percent of Students at Each Performance Level” table is located on page 2 of the School Profile and provides a summary of the number and percent of students at each of the five performance levels (independent, functional independence, supported independence, emergent, and not evident).
  - The total number of students tested and the average scale scores by school, district, and state are provided in the last two rows of the table.

**Note:** Each district will receive School and District Profiles. The District Profile provides an overview of the district’s results for the 2015–2016 Arkansas Alternate Portfolio Assessment. The School and District Profiles are set up identically to one another, except that the district report does not contain data specific to each school.

SCHOOL PROFILE (PAGE 1)

SECURE REPORT - DO NOT DISTRIBUTE



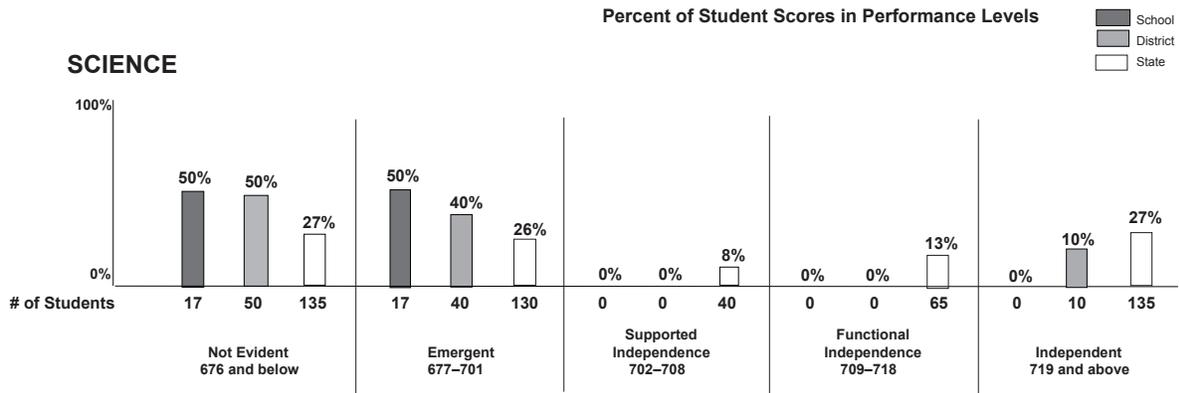
SCHOOL PROFILE – GRADE 5

District: **Arkansas School District (99-99)**  
 School: **Arkansas School (99-99-999)**  
 Test Date: **March 2016**

**ALTERNATE PORTFOLIO  
 ASSESSMENT  
 Grade 5 Science**

**Overall Summary**

The following graphs represent the percent of student scores at each of the performance levels in Science for your School, District, and the State.



**Average Points Scored**

The following tables provide a summary of the number of possible points and average points scored for each Science strand.

SCIENCE	Life Science		Physical Science		Earth and Space Science	
	Possible Points	Average Points	Possible Points	Average Points	Possible Points	Average Points
Performance	64	50	64	55	64	49
Context	32	26	32	28	32	25
Level of Assistance	16	12	16	14	16	13

Settings (Scored once)    Possible Points: 24    Average Points: 20

SCHOOL PROFILE (PAGE 2)

SECURE REPORT - DO NOT DISTRIBUTE

SCHOOL PROFILE – GRADE 5

**Performance Summary**

The following table provides a summary of the number and percent of students at each performance level in Science in your School, District, and the State.

<b>Number and Percent of Students at Each Performance Level</b>			
<b>Performance Level</b>	School	District	State
Independent	0	10	135
	<b>0%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>27%</b>
Functional Independence	0	0	65
	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Supported Independence	0	0	40
	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Emergent	17	40	130
	<b>50%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>26%</b>
Not Evident	17	50	135
	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Number of Students Tested</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Average Scale Score</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>719</b>

## DEFINITIONS OF ALTERNATE PORTFOLIO ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Because students with significant disabilities are working toward standards through performance of alternate student learning expectations, their work will be judged through the following alternate performance levels:

### **Independent**

Students at the independent level demonstrate performance well beyond the functional independence level. They demonstrate mastery of authentic, age-appropriate, and challenging tasks in multiple settings. They can apply established science skills to real-world situations. They can generalize learned skills to solve new challenges. The student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.

### **Functional Independence**

Students at the functional independence level frequently meet authentic, age-appropriate challenges. They demonstrate reasonable performance in multiple settings and are prepared for more challenging tasks. They can apply established science skills to real-world situations but may require minimal prompting. They perform these skills accurately in most instances but make occasional errors. The student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.

### **Supported Independence**

Students at the supported independence level are attempting to meet authentic, age-appropriate challenges but have limited success. They demonstrate a partial or minimal ability to apply science skills and require frequent prompting. They make errors but occasionally perform these skills accurately. The student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.

### **Emergent**

Students at the emergent level do not sufficiently demonstrate the science skills needed to attain the supported independence level. They are just beginning to show understanding or use of these skills and may require continuous prompting. In addition, the student may be unable to perform these skills without extensive support and assistance due to physical disabilities.

### **Not Evident**

Students at the not evident level demonstrate no evidence of performance toward the science skills being assessed.

**Note:** The specific performance-level descriptors for each grade and content can be found on the ADE website.





# ACTAAP

Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment, and Accountability Program

DEVELOPED FOR THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201

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QAI14653