

# Interpretive Guide for MAST Testlet Reports

Classroom Reports



The MAST testlet score reports are meant to be used with classroom observations and insights—including classroom assessments, instructional observations, and other forms of feedback—to think through the instructional supports that may help students. The information provided in these reports can be used to guide decision-making about instructional strategies, including targeted instruction, differentiation, and reteaching at the student, small-group, and classroom levels.

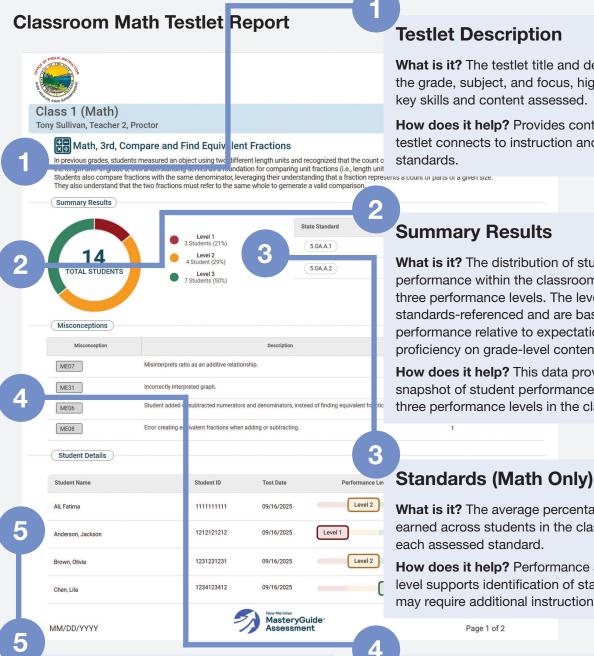
## **General Guidelines**

- ✓ Each score report provides a snapshot of academic performance on a small set of standards. Testlets are short, targeted assessments designed to provide timely and relevant academic feedback.
- ✓ Score reports are meant to support professional judgment, not replace it. Educators should consider whether and how to integrate the results into instructional planning, as well as within professional learning communities or other collaborations.
- ✓ Score reports should be considered alongside other information. No single assessment can provide a complete picture of student performance and the testlet reports are no exception.
- ✓ Some score reports may be more useful than others since some testlets align better to instruction than others. Some testlets may reflect material currently being taught or just recently taught, while others might assess content that was taught earlier. Since instruction is dynamic and ongoing, educators should focus on the results that are most relevant in their classroom context.

# **Annotated Score Reports**

Score reports for Math and ELA provide similar information about student performance at the classroom level. Testlet reports include overall performance level distribution. Math reports include **misconceptions** and **standards** information, while ELA reports provide an overview of student performance on **clusters** of standards. Both reports include student-level performance, and the Math report includes misconceptions data for all students included in the teacher's classroom roster. The ELA performance task score report includes scores for three **dimensions** of writing for all students in the classroom.





## Student Details

What is it? Each student's name, student ID, testing date, performance level, and identified misconceptions.

How does it help? Performance Level and Misconceptions data can be used to identify overall performance trends, identify students for targeted instruction, and provide differentiated support to address individual learning gaps and promote student progress.

What is it? The testlet title and description show the grade, subject, and focus, highlighting the

**How does it help?** Provides context for how the testlet connects to instruction and grade-level

What is it? The distribution of student performance within the classroom across the three performance levels. The levels are standards-referenced and are based on student performance relative to expectations for proficiency on grade-level content.

How does it help? This data provides a snapshot of student performance across the three performance levels in the classroom.

What is it? The average percentage of points earned across students in the classroom for

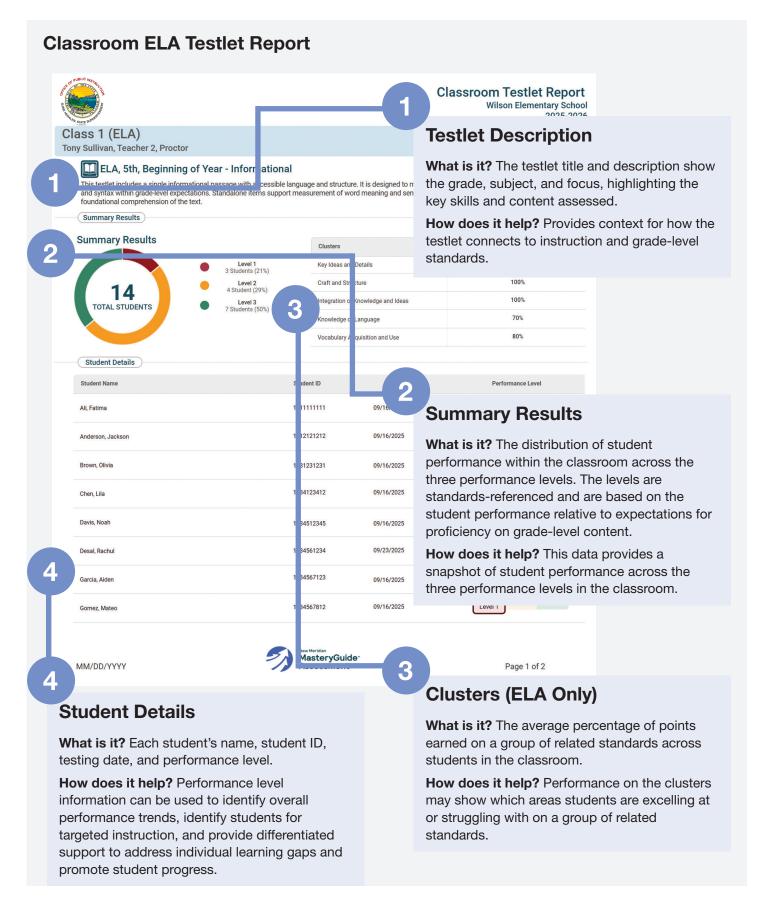
How does it help? Performance at the standard level supports identification of standards that may require additional instructional support.

## Misconceptions (Math Only)

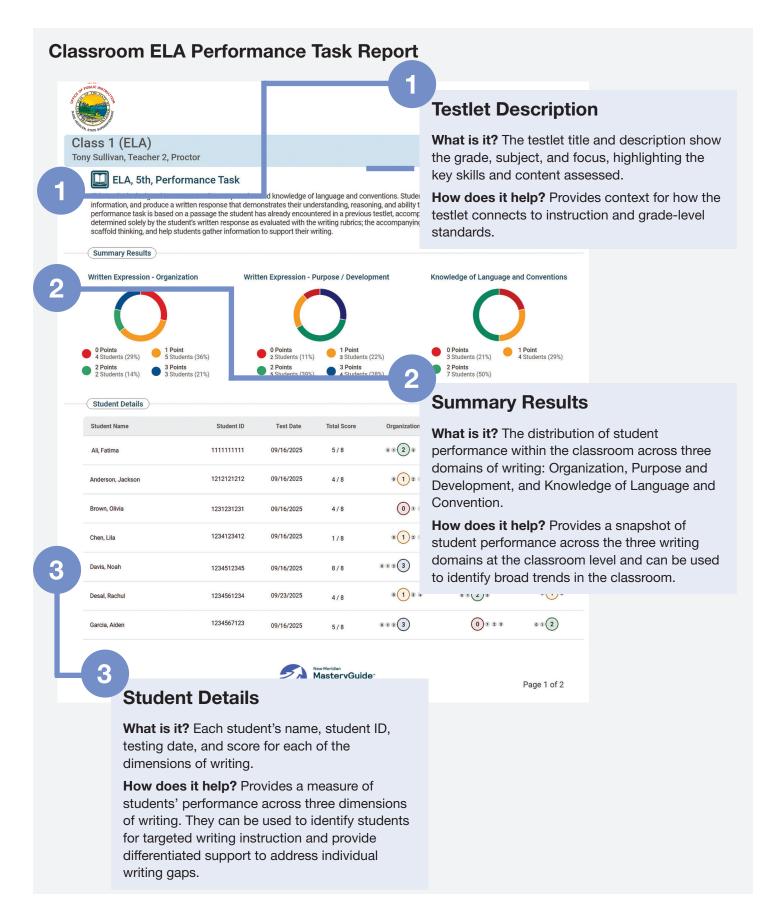
What is it? The frequency of identified misunderstandings or common errors based on patterns of incorrect responses across students in the classroom.

How does it help? Misconceptions help identify areas where students might be struggling in relation to a specific skill. This supports targeted instruction on a smaller group of skills.











The testlet title and description provide important context for interpreting results. The title identifies the grade, subject, and focus of the testlet, while the description summarizes the content and skills being assessed. This information helps teachers and families understand the purpose of the testlet, how it may connect to prior learning, and how it supports the broader grade-level standards. By starting with this context, readers can better interpret the performance results that follow.

## **Summary Results (Testlet Reports)**

Student performance is categorized into one of three levels. Classroom performance is shown as the number and percentage of students in each who scores in each level. These data provide an indication of overall student performance across a classroom.

#### **Understanding Performance Levels**

At the top of the report, the class's performance breakdown is displayed in a color-coded donut chart. Each performance level indicates whether their performance is consistent with, near, or below grade-level expectations:

- **Level 3:** A student score in this level shows performance consistent with grade-level expectations for proficiency.
- Level 2: A student score in this level shows performance approaching proficiency, but not yet fully meeting grade-level expectations.
- **Level 1:** A student score in this level shows performance below grade-level expectations for proficiency.



During the 2024–2025 school year, **performance bands** were used to report testlet results. These bands compared a student's performance to that of other Montana students who took a similar testlet. Beginning in the 2025–2026 school year, bands have been replaced with **performance levels**.

On Math classroom reports, this section also includes information about how the class performed on each state standard assessed on the testlet. This is represented by the average percentage of points earned.

On ELA classroom reports, the average percentage of points earned is broken down by clusters of standards: Key Ideas and Details, Craft and Structure, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, Knowledge of Language, and Vocabulary Acquisition and Use.



## **Summary Results (ELA Performance Task Report)**

Classroom performance is shown as the dimension-specific number and percentage of students that earned each score point. There is one distribution chart for each dimension of writing. These data provide an indication of overall student writing performance across a classroom.

## Misconceptions (Math Only)

This section provides misconceptions—misunderstandings or common errors—based on a pattern of incorrect responses. Each entry provides a brief description of the misconception and the total number of students in the class who demonstrated that misconception.

Misconceptions are reported only if they are detected in a pattern of incorrect responses. Classrooms that do not have any students who provide an identifiable pattern of incorrect responses will not have any misconceptions reported.

#### **Student Details**

The Student Details section of the Testlet Reports provides a high-level view of each student's performance. The table includes key information such as the student's name, student ID, testing date, performance level, and for Math, any misconceptions that were detected.

Teachers can use Performance Level and Misconception data (in Math) alongside other information to identify students for targeted instruction. For instance, students in Level 1 who consistently exhibit a particular misconception may benefit from additional targeted instruction that focuses on foundational concepts. By leveraging both performance levels and specific misconceptions, teachers can better address individual learning needs, helping to ensure that all students receive the appropriate level of support or challenge.

The Student Details section of the ELA Performance Task Reports provides a high-level view of each student's performance on the writing task. The table includes key information such as the student's name, student ID, testing date, and the earned score for each dimension of writing.

Teachers can use the Performance Task Report to identify students for targeted writing instruction. For example, students scoring lower in specific dimensions may benefit from additional instruction tailored to those areas. By analyzing performance across these dimensions, teachers can more precisely address individual writing needs, ensuring that all students receive the appropriate level of support or challenge to improve their writing skills.



## **Using the Results**

The classroom score report provides a snapshot of students' strengths and areas for growth at the classroom level. In coordination with other student information, the MAST classroom testlet reports can be useful in planning instruction.

The results of one or more testlets can be used to help inform decisions about instructional strategies, including whole-class, small-group, or one-on-one support. Although each classroom is unique, the list below provides ways that instruction could be adjusted based on careful consideration of testlet results and classroom information.

#### **Whole Class**

In Math, if a large proportion of students in the classroom are in Performance Level 1 on a testlet with a majority of students showing misconceptions, an upcoming lesson can be adjusted to address the misconceptions with additional lessons or spiral review incorporating the testlet content.

In ELA, if most students are in Performance Level 1, and/or a specific cluster has low overall performance, whole-group lessons can provide an overview of the cluster standards with concentration on the topic(s) throughout subsequent units.

#### **Small Group**

In Math, if a few students are demonstrating the same 1–2 misconceptions on a testlet, a small-group mini lesson with direct instruction to correct the misconception can be provided.

In ELA, if a group of students is in Performance Level 1 for Informational and Literary, a smaller group can be created to identify the areas of intervention needed for those specific students based on individual testlet information (item level), additional assessments, and classroom observations.

#### **Individual Students**

In Math, if an individual student is demonstrating multiple misconceptions and scored in Performance Level 1, one-on-one support can provide targeted instruction on individual misconceptions and/or a reteach of the assessed standards.

In ELA, if an individual student is performing in Performance Level 1 for both Literary and Informational testlets, a teacher can provide one-on-one support to identify underlying reading gaps that may be contributing to low performance. Once areas of weakness are identified, providing targeted intervention can support a student's overall reading skills and help the student access grade-level content.



#### **Definitions**

These words and phrases appear on classroom testlet reports. This glossary is provided to aid in interpreting the data displayed on the classroom testlet reports.

Clusters - A collection of ELA standards that are associated with related skills or concepts.

**Dimensions of Writing** – The three components assessed in the ELA Performance Task Report: Organization, Purpose and Development, and Knowledge of Language and Conventions.

**Misconceptions** – Specific areas of math misunderstanding based on the content and pattern in a student's incorrect responses.

Name - Refers to student name.

**Performance Level** – A categorization of student performance based on whether their work on a testlet is consistent with, near, or below grade-level expectations for proficiency.

**Standards** – Shows the percentage of items primarily aligned to the standard that are answered correctly.

**Student Details** – The section of the classroom report that contains name, unique ID, test date, performance category, and misconceptions.

**Student ID** – The unique identifier associated with each individual student.

**Summary Performance** – Used in school and district-level reports to show a graph of the three levels.

**Test Date** – The date of the assessment.

Total Students - The number of students in the class.