



KANSAS WRITING ASSESSMENT FACT SHEET 2008–2009



General Information

- Writing is assessed biennially and is REQUIRED for the 2008-2009 school year
- Grades assessed: 5, 8, and high school (OTL)
- Results are used to calculate QPA, but not AYP
- Districts are asked to submit to KSDE a random 10% sample of student writing
- **State scoring results will not be used to recalculate individual student scores determined at the local level**

Standards and Supporting Materials

- Link to writing standards and indicators: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1726>
- Kansas 6-TRAIT rubrics: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=165>
- KSDE Training Manual for 6-TRAIT scoring: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=165>
- Suggested Scoring Procedures: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=165>
- Example prompts for classroom use: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=165>

Assessment Format

- Four untimed testing sessions, approximately 45-60 minutes each
- Link to list of accommodations allowed: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=420>

Testing Modes

- All assessments are paper and pencil
- Students may use a word processing program

KAMM Writing Assessment

- Administered to students identified as eligible by their IEP team
- Prompts are similar to the general assessment
- Modified 6-TRAIT rubrics are used
- Link to modified 6-TRAIT rubrics for KAMM: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2371>
- Only 3% of district students may be classified as Meets Standards or higher using the KAMM and the Alternate assessments

Alternate Assessment

- Administered to students identified as eligible by their IEP team
- Five indicators determined by the IEP team are assessed

- Only 1% of district students may be classified as Meets Standards or higher using the alternate assessment

QPA Writing Targets

- Percentage of students needed at Meets Standards or above:
 - 5th Grade = 67%
 - 8th Grade = 73%
 - High School = 76%

Performance Levels, Cut Points, and Standard of Excellence

- Five performance levels: Exemplary, Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, Approaches Standards, Academic Warning
- Cut points will be determined in Summer 2009
- Criteria for Standard of Excellence: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=420>

Scores Reported

- Due to setting cut points, reports will be delayed until fall of 2009
- Student 6-TRAIT scores and performance level

Testing Window

Type	Grades	Mode	Open	Close
General*	5, 8, HS	P&P	Oct. 1	April 14
KAMM*	5, 8, HS	P&P	Oct. 1	April 14
Alternate	5, 8, HS	Online Extended Standards	Jan. 5	April 14

*Answer sheets due to CETE May 1

ELL Students

- All ELL students must take the Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment (KELPA)
- Recently arrived students (whose first education in the United States occurred after October 1, 2007) may take the KELPA in lieu of the Kansas Writing Assessment
- ELL students may use translation dictionaries and other tools and resources typically available during instruction
- Students must compose in English

Contact

Matt Copeland, Language Arts and Literacy Consultant
mcpeland@ksde.org
785-296-5060