

## HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD?

Make sure the lines of communication are open between your child, your child's teacher and you. Set shared goals for what your child needs to know, and check in regularly on your child's progress.

Additionally, you can bring learning opportunities into everyday life. Encourage your child to read daily. While cooking, halve or double ingredients and ask your child to determine the correct amounts. At the grocery store, ask him or her to apply discounts to item prices or attempt to predict your total, or to calculate the tip while dining out. Share the morning news with your child and ask him or her to summarize the top stories.

### **HELPFUL LINKS:**

Arizona Department of Education  
[www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit](http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azmerit)

See these additional resources for parents to help with student achievement. Check out the videos and other learning materials.

[www.expectmorearizona.org](http://www.expectmorearizona.org)

[www.azpta.org](http://www.azpta.org)

[www.bealearninghero.org](http://www.bealearninghero.org)

[www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones](http://www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones)



Brochure designed by  
Mesa Public Schools

AzMERIT,  
high expectations and you



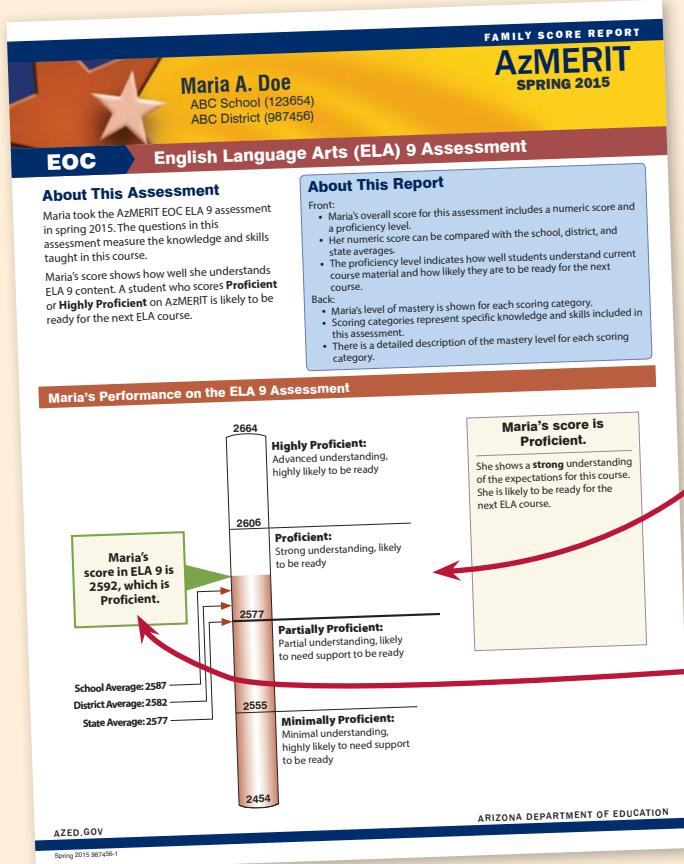
Everything you  
need to know  
to interpret  
your child's  
AzMERIT results

# As a parent, you are your child's champion on the path from preschool to postsecondary education. At our school, we support your child by engaging them in learning with high expectations.

The statewide adoption of Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards in 2010 reflects Arizona's commitment to ensuring all students are successfully prepared to enter the next grade level and ultimately find success in the college or career of their choice. In spring 2015, students took the AzMERIT assessment for the first time. This assessment is aligned to the more rigorous math and English Language Arts (ELA) standards for all Arizona students.

AzMERIT measures different skills and knowledge than AIMS did. Because of this, AzMERIT and AIMS cannot be compared. Statewide, less students were proficient on AzMERIT than AIMS. And that is OK. AzMERIT and the new standards are a reset — the new baseline measure of student achievement. We anticipate proficiency levels will increase over time.

## HOW TO READ THE RESULTS



There are four performance levels for the AzMERIT assessment. These are **Highly Proficient**, which indicates an advanced understanding of the content in the course or subject area; **Proficient**, which indicates a strong understanding; **Partially Proficient**, which indicates a partial understanding and possible need for additional support; and **Minimally Proficient**, which indicates a minimal understanding and probable need for additional support. These levels were determined based on what students at each grade level should know to move on in the subject and be successful in the next grade or course.

Based on their grade level or courses, every student who took AzMERIT will receive a Family Score Report for ELA and math. The graph you see at the bottom of the report shows what score each student needed to be within each proficiency level.

The first important piece of information for your child is what level of proficiency he or she scored. For example, this student's score is 2592 on ninth grade ELA, which falls in the "Proficient" range. The student demonstrated a strong understanding of the expectations in her English Language Arts course.

You may have questions about the proficiency levels your child achieved, and your child's teacher is a great resource for further information.

The *back of the report* shows the scoring categories for each assessment. Your child will have achieved a rating of **Above Mastery**, **At/Near Mastery** or **Below Mastery** in each category. The short paragraphs explain the type of content covered in each category and your child's level of understanding of the content.



You can better understand your child's strengths and weaknesses by reviewing the scoring categories. If a student has a Below Mastery in any of the categories, like this student has for Writing and Language, he or she may need interventions or other individual learning opportunities.

This figure shows a sample "ELA 9 Scoring Categories" report for the AzMERIT assessment. It includes sections for "Reading for Information", "Reading for Literature", "Writing and Language", and "Writing Essay Performance".  
  
In the "Reading for Information" section, it says: "What was assessed? Students find a main idea or claim in a text and how an author supports it with evidence. They judge an author's use of evidence to make a claim. They describe the effect of specific words and phrasing in a text. They compare major historical U.S. documents." It also provides a detailed description of the scoring categories.  
  
The "Reading for Literature" section says: "What was assessed? Students focus on a particular theme developed in a text. They examine how characters develop, interact, and move forward. They analyze words and phrases to determine how they affect a story. They compare and contrast works of art and literature from outside the United States." It also provides a detailed description of the scoring categories.  
  
The "Writing and Language" section says: "What was assessed? Students write clearly to inform or make an argument. They judge if sources are reliable and use appropriate evidence to support their claims. They understand the literal and figurative meanings of words and use them in their writing. They spell correctly and use correct grammar." It also provides a detailed description of the scoring categories.  
  
The "Writing Essay Performance" section says: "What was assessed? Your student earned 1 out of 4 possible points. Your student's writing includes little support or evidence for their main idea. It uses few sources, facts, or details, which may be unrelated or incorrect. The response does not express ideas clearly and uses limited language and punctuation. It does not address the audience or purpose for writing well." It also provides a detailed description of the scoring categories.  
  
At the bottom, it says: "For more information about AzMERIT, go to azmeritportal.org."