

What is the Badger Exam?

The Badger Exam is a large-scale, standardized achievement test. Standardized tests are administered using carefully defined directions, materials, and scoring procedures for all test takers to ensure uniform testing conditions.

The Badger Exam was administered statewide during the Spring of 2015, in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics, for students in grades 3-8. The Badger Exam is designed to compare a student's strengths and needs to clearly defined standards, skill levels, or areas of knowledge. The Badger Exam is aligned with the Wisconsin State Standards and measures how students perform in relation to those standards.



What Does the Badger Exam Assess and How are the Exams Scored?

English Language Arts (ELA): The ELA portion of the Badger Exam uses a variety of reading passages and resources to assess students in the following areas: reading of both literary and informational text, writing, listening skills, and researching topics to investigate, integrate, and present information. The ELA test was made up of multiple-choice questions (the student selects the correct answers from answer options), and short answer questions (the student provides a brief description in their response to the question). The majority of the ELA test questions are machine-scored. Professional staff experienced in providing reliable and accurate handscoring services score the remainder.



Mathematics: The mathematics portion of the Badger Exam uses a variety of real-world topics and scenarios to assess students in the following areas: ability to explain and apply concepts and procedures, problem solving, ability to use models and data analysis to solve real-world problems, and ability to construct and critique mathematical reasoning. The mathematics test was made up of multiple-choice questions (the student selects the correct answers from answer options), short answer questions (the student provides a brief description in their response to the question), and performance tasks (students take part in a group classroom activity then answer a series of short questions on the computer.) The majority of the mathematics test questions are machine-scored. Professional staff experienced in providing reliable and accurate handscoring services score the remainder.



What are the Wisconsin State Standards?

Standards are statements of what students should know and be able to do, related to specific



academic areas. Standards serve as goals for teaching and learning. Standards enable students, parents, educators, and citizens to know what students should have learned at a given point in time. Clear statements about what students must know and be able to do are essential to ensure that our schools offer opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for success. Educators in each district decide how to teach their students and what curriculum works best based on their individual needs and how they determine students meet these goals. The Wisconsin State Standards are available on the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) webpage for ELA at

<http://ela.dpi.wi.gov/english-language-arts-standards> and mathematics at <http://math.dpi.wi.gov/mathematics-standards-page>.

How are the test results used?

Timely and meaningful assessment information about student performance allows:

- teachers to target instruction to individual student needs,
- students to better target their own efforts,
- administrators to more fully understand what students know and are able to do, and to guide curriculum and professional development decisions, and
- parents to understand what their child knows and is able to do in ELA and mathematics.

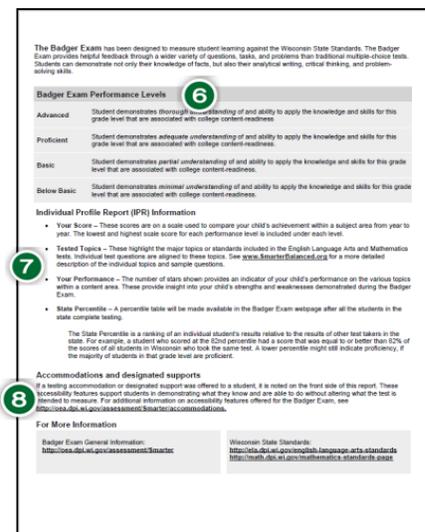
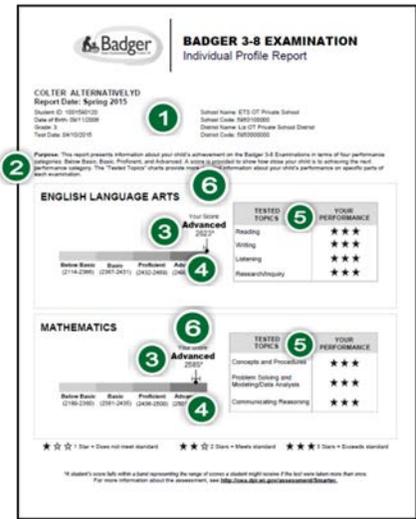
When used in combination with multiple measures of achievement, such as classroom observations and teacher-developed tests, the Badger Exam provides information about the progress of groups of students as well as the effectiveness of educational programs. No single test can tell us whether students have learned everything that is important to learn.



What is an Individual Profile Report (IPR)?

The IPR shows parents/guardians how their child performed on the Badger Exam. Below is a graphical breakdown of the IPR.

- 1. Identifying information:** The student's name, birth date and grade are shown in the top left of the report. The student's school and district are shown to the right of the name.
- 2. Purpose:** This report presents information about student achievement on the Badger Exam 3-8.
- 3. Scale score:** A student's overall performance on the ELA and mathematics portions of the Badger Exam is reported as a scale score.
- 4. Scale score band:** This is a graphical representation of a student's performance.
- 5. Tested topics:** The icons represent the student's performance on each of the tested topics within the content area.
- 6. Performance levels:** Definitions of the four performance levels.
- 7. IPR information:** Further defines the areas on the front of the IPR
- 8. Information about accommodations and designated supports:** Explains how parents will know from the IPR if a student was provided with an accommodation or support for the exam.



More Information:
 For more information about the Badger Exam go to <http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/assessment/Smarter>.
 Questions about the Badger Exam may be sent to osamail@dpi.wi.gov.

