



Iowa Test of Basic Skills: A 1998-99 Update

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BACKGROUND

Each year the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) administers the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) to all 3rd grade students. The test is used as a screening tool for the Academically Gifted program. Test items are selected from among standards and recommendations developed by national curriculum groups and national educator organizations. In February 1999, over 7,500 WCPSS 3rd graders participated in the test.

ABOUT THE ITBS

The ITBS can be given as a Complete Battery or a Survey Battery. WCPSS uses the Survey Battery, which is shorter, but representative of the same concepts and level of difficulty as the Complete Battery. The Survey Battery contains three 30-minute sections in reading, writing, and mathematics. Subtest scores on the Survey Battery will vary more than those on the Complete Battery, due to the smaller number of items on the Survey Battery.

INTERPRETING TEST SCORES

Test scores are provided for each of the three sections and for a core total of the three sections together. The scores are calculated to show Grade Equivalent (GE) and Percentile Rank (PR). GE and PR results are derived from national norms established at midyear of the 1994-1995 year.

WCPSS DISTRICT-WIDE RESULTS

The core total Grade Equivalent (GE) for WCPSS 3rd graders at midyear on the Survey Battery was 3.6, slightly higher than the

average midyear score of 3.5 in the national norm sample. The average WCPSS GE was 3.7 for reading, 3.7 for math, and 3.7 for writing.

The core total WCPSS Percentile Rank (PR) was 55, slightly higher than the national average of 50. The WCPSS PR was 55 for reading, 56 for math, and 58 for writing.

The 3rd grade ITBS scores in 1998-99 were slightly lower than 1997-98 (see E&R Report 99.09), but the changes were not significant. The core total PR in 1997-98 was 56, falling to 55 in 1998-99. Reading PR fell from 56 to 55 while math PR was 56 both years.

ITBS results were different from North Carolina End-of-Grade (EOG) results in 3rd grade. The average scale score on 3rd grade EOG in WCPSS rose from 146.9 in 1997 to 148.2 in 1998 in reading, and fell from 145.3 to 144.9 in math. Because EOG tests are aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, EOG results are considered more significant than ITBS.

This report is primarily intended to serve as documentation for future use, since currently schools are focusing on EOG results for ABCs (the state accountability system). Also, the state curriculum is better measured by the EOG.

Comparisons can be drawn between the school ITBS scores, the national averages (3.5 GE and 50 PR), and the WCPSS district scores. District and school-by-school figures are shown on the following pages.

Iowa Test of Basic Skills Results
February 1999
Grade Equivalents and National Percentile Ranks of Mean Scale Scores

School	Number Tested	Score	Reading	Writing	Math	Core Total
WCPSS District	7543	GE	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	55	58	56	55
Adams	171	GE	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5
		PR	50	55	53	52
Apex	183	GE	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.1
		PR	66	66	70	67
Aversboro	78	GE	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.1
		PR	41	39	44	39
Baileywick	92	GE	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.7
		PR	59	58	55	56
Baucom	161	GE	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.2
		PR	66	71	72	70
Brassfield	120	GE	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6
		PR	53	62	52	54
Brentwood	96	GE	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.1
		PR	41	45	37	39
Briarcliff	95	GE	3.6	3.9	3.8	3.7
		PR	53	64	59	59
Brooks	68	GE	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.6
		PR	58	56	49	54
Bugg	72	GE	4.1	3.7	3.8	3.8
		PR	66	59	59	62
Carver	79	GE	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.1
		PR	38	40	42	38
Cary	123	GE	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.4
		PR	49	49	51	48
Combs	85	GE	3.9	3.7	3.8	3.8
		PR	62	59	62	61
Conn	88	GE	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.6
		PR	53	57	47	53
Creech Road	103	GE	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.0
		PR	34	37	34	34
Davis Drive	174	GE	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.4
		PR	72	77	74	76
Douglas	67	GE	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.4
		PR	51	51	43	47
Durant Road	169	GE	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.0
		PR	65	68	64	66

Farmington Woods	111	GE	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.7
		PR	55	57	59	56
Fox Road	169	GE	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.5
		PR	48	59	47	50
Fuller	80	GE	3.9	4.1	3.6	3.7
		PR	60	67	55	60
Fuquay-Varina	155	GE	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2
		PR	40	42	44	40
Green	131	GE	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8
		PR	60	61	61	62
Hilburn	169	GE	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6
		PR	56	56	55	54
Hodge Road	101	GE	3.0	2.9	3.3	3.0
		PR	33	32	42	33
Holly Springs	143	GE	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6
		PR	52	57	54	52
Hunter	118	GE	4.3	4.2	3.8	4.1
		PR	70	69	63	69
Jeffreys Grove	96	GE	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	53	61	57	56
Jones Dairy	104	GE	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0
		PR	63	67	63	65
Joyner	92	GE	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.6
		PR	53	60	52	54
Kingswood	76	GE	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.6
		PR	53	52	57	53
Knightdale	113	GE	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2
		PR	42	43	41	40
Lacy	103	GE	3.9	4.2	3.8	4.0
		PR	61	69	62	66
Lead Mine	127	GE	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7
		PR	62	60	57	60
Lincoln Heights	88	GE	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.2
		PR	44	46	38	42
Lockhart	107	GE	2.9	3.3	3.1	3.1
		PR	31	43	37	35
Lynn Road	110	GE	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.6
		PR	53	52	57	53
Millbrook	75	GE	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.4
		PR	50	52	44	48
Morrisville	144	GE	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.4
		PR	70	81	73	76
North Ridge	88	GE	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7
		PR	60	58	58	58
Northwoods	145	GE	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1

		PR	63	65	68	67
Oak Grove	115	GE	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4
		PR	71	76	75	75
Olds	45	GE	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
		PR	53	49	49	50
Olive Chapel	106	GE	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1
		PR	63	67	67	67
Penny Road	109	GE	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5
		PR	51	52	55	51
Pleasant Union	110	GE	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1
		PR	66	67	67	68
Poe	56	GE	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.0
		PR	41	32	35	34
Powell	70	GE	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.6
		PR	57	52	60	56
Rand Road	122	GE	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.1
		PR	38	36	36	36
Rolesville	96	GE	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2
		PR	43	41	43	41
Root	85	GE	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.0
		PR	63	67	64	65
Smith	82	GE	3.3	3.2	3.4	3.2
		PR	44	40	46	41
Stough	79	GE	3.8	4.3	3.8	3.9
		PR	58	71	60	64
Swift Creek	127	GE	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.6
		PR	53	61	56	56
Timber Drive	86	GE	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.6
		PR	51	58	51	53
Underwood	71	GE	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.7
		PR	59	61	55	59
Vance	87	GE	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.4
		PR	48	48	55	49
Vandora Springs	87	GE	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.3
		PR	43	47	43	42
Wake Forest	185	GE	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4
		PR	48	49	51	48
Washington	92	GE	3.9	4.2	3.7	3.9
		PR	60	69	58	64
Weatherstone	164	GE	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9
		PR	60	63	64	63
Wendell	93	GE	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9
		PR	32	31	34	30
West Lake	173	GE	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9
		PR	62	63	63	63
Wilburn	132	GE	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4

		PR	47	50	47	47
Wiley	65	GE	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6
		PR	56	57	56	56
Willow Springs	116	GE	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.4
		PR	47	57	46	49
York	94	GE	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1
		PR	66	68	69	68
Zebulon	90	GE	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.1
		PR	39	33	42	36