



MontCAS Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) Student Report 2011

Letter from Superintendent

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT) is the state's measure of student performance on the state content standards which establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do.

The CRT assesses Reading and Math at grades 3-8 and 10. Students in grades 4, 8, and 10 are also assessed in Science. The assessment contains multiple-choice questions, math short answer questions, and constructed response items. The constructed response items give students the opportunity to explain answers and solve problems using multiple strategies.

This report shows how your student performed on the March 2011 CRT. The results of this standards-based assessment are reported in four performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Nearing Proficiency, and Novice. While some students may not yet meet the standards, keep in mind that the standards are rigorous and challenging. Our long term goal is for all students to achieve these high standards so that Montana youth will be among the best educated in the world. The staff at your school will be able to provide further information about your student's performance on the CRT.

The CRT is only one measure of student performance and should be viewed in the context of the student's local programs and other measures. The CRT is required by the No Child Left Behind Act and is part of an ongoing statewide educational improvement process. I encourage you to contact your student's school to begin a conversation that will support your student's success.

Sincerely,

Denise Juneau
Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, Montana 59620-2501
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What can you do to help your student?

It is important to support your student in his or her studies now and throughout his or her future education.

Here are some tips for supporting your student in the completion of his or her schoolwork:

- *Have regular discussions with your student's teacher(s) to see what you can do at home to support your student's work in school, such as making sure homework is done.*
- *Discuss with your student the subjects in which he or she needs improvement. Talk about whether there has been a noticeable improvement. If not, find out why.*
- *Ask your student to explain what he or she is studying. These conversations help you to follow your student's progress and help your student to remember what he or she has learned.*
- *Make sure your student gets enough rest, eats properly, and arrives at school on time every day. Send your student to school prepared to learn*

What is the MontCAS Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)?

The Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) was developed in accordance with the following federal laws: Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1994, P. L. 103-382, and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001.

The CRT test questions are based on, and aligned to, Montana's content standards, benchmarks, and grade-level expectations in Mathematics, Reading, and Science. Montana educators worked with the Montana Office of Public Instruction and Measured Progress to develop test questions that assess how well students have met Montana grade-level expectations for each

MontCAS CRT scores are intended to be useful indicators of the extent to which students have mastered the materials outlined in the Montana Mathematics, Reading, and Science content standards, benchmarks, and grade-level expectations.

Who must take the CRT?

All classroom students in grades 3-8 and 10 enrolled for 180 hours or more in an accredited public or private Montana school are required to participate.

What subjects were tested in spring 2011?

<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Grades 3-8 and 10</i>
<i>Reading</i>	<i>Grades 3-8 and 10</i>
<i>Science</i>	<i>Grades 4, 8, and 10</i>

What types of test questions are on the CRT?

- *Multiple-choice questions: Students choose the correct answer from four options and receive one point for each correct answer and zero points for an incorrect answer.*
- *Constructed-response questions: Depending on the subject tested, students are asked to explain and/or make a chart, table, diagram, illustration, or graph to support their answer. Each answer receives zero to four points.*
- *Short-answer questions (Mathematics tests only): Students give a brief response, which is usually a number or short statement. Students receive one point for a correct answer and zero points for an incorrect answer.*

How are the CRT results used?

MontCAS CRT test results are used for the following purposes:

- *to assist educators in planning improvements to curriculum and instruction*
- *to determine whether schools are helping their students meet the state content standards*

Where can you find more information?

*Where can you find more information:
<https://data.opi.mt.gov/opireportingcenter>*

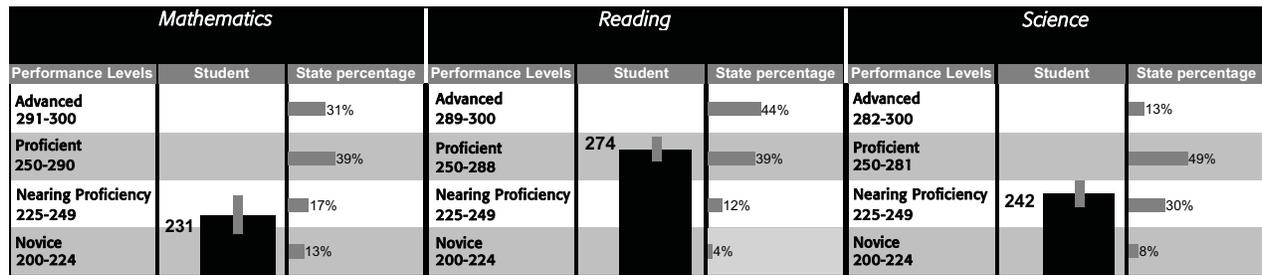
*Montana requirements for the participation of students with disabilities on the CRT:
http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/#p7GPd_7*

*OPI contact: Judy Snow, State Assessment
Director, 406-444-3656,
jsnow@mt.gov*

Your student's performance level and score in each content area

Display of scores and probable range of scores

In the figure below your student's performance is displayed. For each subject, the left column lists the possible performance levels with the scores needed to achieve those levels. The center column is your student's performance where the black bar is their score and the small grey bar is the range of scores they might have achieved had they taken the test multiple times. The right hand column is the percentage of students that achieved each performance level on the CRT across the state.



Your student's Mathematics Scaled Score is **231** which is at the **Nearing Proficiency Level**. Your student's possible range of scores is from 221 to 241.

Students at this level demonstrate a partial understanding of subject matter and are able to:

- Select and use problem-solving strategies to solve two-step problems involving the four operations and communicate strategies with limited organization or support information.
- Read, identify, and interpret place value of numbers to 100,000.
- Solve addition and subtraction problems with whole numbers and decimals with limited regrouping.
- Multiply three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers with multiple regroupings.
- Divide by one-digit divisor.
- Add and subtract simple fractions with common denominators and models.
- Use and apply strategies and procedures to solve algebraic problems involving equations, number patterns, geometric patterns, and change.
- Use properties and limited vocabulary to describe and identify two- and three-dimensional figures.
- Solve geometric problems involving symmetry, transformations, visual and spatial reasoning and describe direction and position using the cardinal directions.
- Select and apply appropriate units, tools, and simple formulas to use in everyday measurement situations.
- Collect, organize, display, read, and interpret data; judge the probability of a simple event as impossible, unlikely, likely, or certain; and determine which outcome is most or least likely.

Your student's Reading Scaled Score is **274** which is at the **Proficient Level**. Your student's possible range of scores is from 264 to 284.

Students at this level demonstrate a solid understanding of challenging subject matter and solve a wide variety of problems. Using grade-level text, the student is able to:

- Use appropriate reading vocabulary.
- Understand main idea and support with details.
- Use prior knowledge to make meaning of text.
- Read a variety of materials.
- Understand personification, figurative language, and literary devices.
- Distinguish fact from opinion; and make inferences.
- Identify author's purpose.
- Read maps and diagrams.
- Interpret and respond to text.
- Analyze and organize information.
- Compare and contrast.
- Reread to find information.
- Justify predictions.
- Use resource materials.
- Describe reading successes and set reading goals.

Your student's Science Scaled Score is **242** which is at the **Nearing Proficiency Level**. Your student's possible range of scores is from 235 to 249.

Students at this level demonstrate a partial understanding of subject matter and are able to:

- With step-by-step direction and the appropriate tools, identify and describe a simple, safe investigation, and identify that observation is a key inquiry process used by Montana American Indians.
- With direction, effectively use tools for simple measurement of solids, liquids, and gases, naming some properties of each state of matter and naming components of basic physical and mechanical systems.
- With direction, identify some biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) objects; group objects based on common attributes; provide basic descriptions of structure, function, and processes of a system.
- With direction, identify and describe some of Earth's features and recognize simple, observable changes of those features.
- With direction, identify some interactions among technology, science, and society.
- With direction, discuss how science plays a role in current events and local problems.
- With direction, identify some of the historical significance of scientists; with direction, identify the impact of their discoveries on humans today; and, with direction, identify influences of science and technology on the development of Montana American Indian cultures.
- With direction, identify some examples of Montana American Indian contributions to scientific and technological knowledge.

Scores on Montana Content Standards

CRT results are reported for Montana Content Standards in Mathematics, Reading, and Science to provide standard-specific information about the student's achievement. The results can be used to show the student's relative performance on the standards within a content area.

Mathematics	Total Possible Points	Points Earned by Your Student	Range of Points Earned by Students Who Have Achieved Proficiency in the State
This standard is assessed within the frameworks of standard 2-7.			
1. Problem Solving	22	12	8-21
2. Numbers and Operations	8	6	1-8
3. Algebra	10	4	0-10
4. Geometry	10	6	2-10
5. Measurement	8	2	1-8
6. Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability	8	1	0-8
7. Patterns, Relations, and Functions			
Reading	Total Possible Points	Points Earned by Your Student	Range of Points Earned by Students Who Have Achieved Proficiency in the State
This standard is not measurable in a statewide assessment.			
1. Students construct meaning as they comprehend, interpret, and respond to what they read.	21	15	6-19
2. Students apply a range of skills and strategies to read.	19	13	5-17
This standard is not measurable in a statewide assessment.			
3. Students set goals, monitor, and evaluate their reading progress.	10	5	2-10
4. Students select, read, and respond to print and nonprint material for a variety of purposes.	10	6	0-10
5. Students gather, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information from a variety of sources, and communicate their findings in ways appropriate for their purposes and audiences.			
Science	Total Possible Points	Points Earned by Your Student	Range of Points Earned by Students Who Have Achieved Proficiency in the State
Subscores are not reported for this standard.			
1. Scientific Investigations	14	6	4-14
2. Physical Science	14	4	3-14
3. Life Science	14	8	5-14
4. Earth/Space Science	14	10	4-14
5. Impact on Society			
6. Historical Development			
Subscores are not reported for this standard.			