Dear Parent:

Your student recently took the *Iowa Assessments™*, a series of tests measuring important aspects of the Iowa Core. Descriptions of the tests can be found online at:

http://itp.education.uiowa.edu/IA/TestDescriptions.aspx

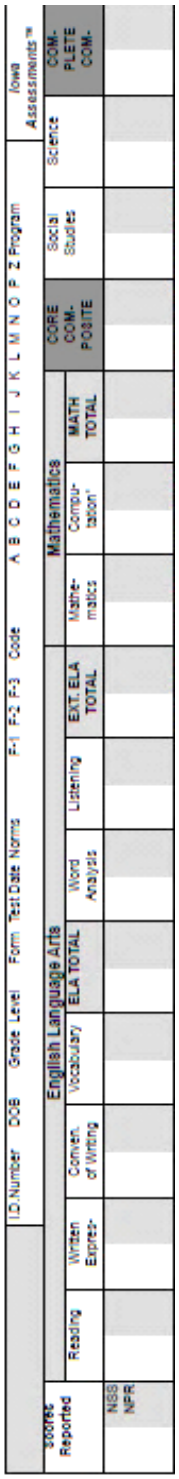
Your student's scores on the *Iowa Assessments* can be used to:

- understand how your student performs in key areas such as reading, writing, math, science and social studies
- help identify your student's relative strengths and limitations in these key areas
- monitor your student's performance over time
- compare your student's performance to other students in the nation
- provide information about your student's proficiency level as defined by the state of Iowa

Your student's scores are presented in various ways including:

National Standard Score (NSS) is a score that describes performance on an achievement continuum from Kindergarten through 12th grade. The NSS allows you to monitor your student's growth and compare performance from year to year. The NSS is also used in Iowa to determine your student's level of proficiency in reading, mathematics and science. An explanation of the levels of proficiency can be found at:

http://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/documents/Proficient.pdf

National Percentile Rank (NPR) is a score that describes the relative comparison of your student's performance to other students in the nation who are in the same grade and were tested at the same time of year. An NPR of 80 means that your student's performance was better than 80% of the students who took the test.

You are encouraged to discuss the score results on the *Iowa Assessments* with your student and her/his teachers. We recommend focusing on those scores which seem most different from prior years' scores, and the scores which seem most different when compared to classroom performance. Together, you can use this information to decide how best to continue your student's education.