

What are the MEPA performance levels?

Your child's overall results on the MEPA tests are reported in relation to four performance levels. These performance levels are described as follows.

A student at the **Beginning (B)** performance level is starting to develop the skills that will lead to effective communication in written and spoken English. A student performing at this level typically:

- recognizes simple written words and phrases
- writes basic words or phrases, with frequent errors
- speaks using basic words or phrases, with frequent errors
- understands basic spoken vocabulary or phrases

A student at the **Early Intermediate (EI)** performance level is developing skills that will lead to effective and complete communication in English. A student performing at this level typically:

- recognizes simple written words, phrases, and sentences, and reads and comprehends below grade-level texts
- writes short paragraphs with limited control of standard English conventions
- speaks using common words and simple phrases; word choice is often inappropriate or incorrect
- understands basic spoken vocabulary and phrases with frequent need for clarification

A student at the **Intermediate (I)** performance level demonstrates increasing skills in using and understanding English. Oral and written communication, although somewhat inconsistent, is solid and usually understandable. A student performing at this level typically:

- recognizes common written words and some academic words, and comprehends simple grade-level texts
- writes short, simple compositions with partial control of standard English conventions
- speaks using common words and phrases and basic grammar and sentence structure; uses complex language structures but with occasional errors
- understands most oral communications, with some need for clarification

A student at the **Transitioning (T)** performance level has achieved age-appropriate basic fluency in English, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. A student performing at this level typically:

- recognizes most common and academic words, and reads and comprehends moderately difficult grade-level texts
- writes short compositions demonstrating general control of standard English conventions
- speaks using appropriate and correct words, phrases, and expressions, as well as basic and complex grammar and sentence structures
- understands extended and prolonged oral communication, with little or no need for clarification

Where can I get more information about the MEPA?

For detailed information about the MEPA tests, and help understanding the information contained in this report, please refer to the *Guide to the MEPA for Parents/Guardians* which is available at www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/mepa. If you need additional information, please contact your child's school.