This brief and Raw Score to Scale Score Reports are available on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Testing Program Web site, http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/testing/technicalnotes. This brief may also be found at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/policies/briefs.

This publication and the information contained within must not be used for personal or financial gain. North Carolina school system/school officials and teachers, parents, and students may download and duplicate this publication for instructional and educational purposes only. Others may not duplicate this publication without prior written permission from the NCDPI Division of Accountability Services/North Carolina Testing Program.

This document provides information complementary to the Raw Score Ranges by Achievement Level. The Division of Accountability Services is providing these data for informational purposes only.

North Carolina End-of-Grade and End-of-Course tests are designed and scored in a different manner than tests given by a classroom teacher. Therefore, the information concerning number and percent correct for the lowest scale score within an achievement level should be read and interpreted with caution. The “Number Correct Range Across Forms” and the “Percent Correct Range Across Forms” columns should not be read in isolation or interpreted as if the End-of-Grade or End-of-Course tests are typical school tests. It should also be noted that the percentage of questions answered correctly is not used as a decision-making tool during the standard setting process.

Most tests given by classroom teachers measure student learning on a limited number of goals and objectives from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCS). These tests are usually graded using a 100-point scale with the score reflecting the percent of items out of the total that the student answered correctly. Thus one can assume with some confidence that a student that makes an 80 on a given test has learned 80% of the material that was tested. Because error exists at any measurement occasion, one can never say with 100% certainty that a single test score represents a student’s true level of knowledge of the material tested.

The purpose of the North Carolina Statewide Testing program is state and school system accountability. As such, the Division of Accountability Services utilizes multiple test forms in order to more broadly cover the content of the NCSCS. North Carolina End-of-Grade and End-of-Course tests are designed to measure what students have learned over an entire academic year. Each form contains a sample of items measuring different aspects of the objectives of the NCSCS. While the different test forms are built to the same blueprints, each contains different items representing a random sample of items from the curriculum domain. Although forms are possibly made up of a different representation of objective-level content, the overall goal is the same and the forms are statistically equated to
adjust for differences in difficulty. The use of scale scores allows for comparison of scores across the various forms. This is why the percent correct is presented as a range. Because each student receives slightly different forms, in terms of the content coverage, it is inappropriate to compare percent correct scores across students in order to draw inferences about the learning that has occurred during the year.

If you have questions, please contact the psychometric staff in the Division of Accountability Services at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

In compliance with federal laws, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law. Inquiries or complaints should be directed to:

Dr. Rebecca Garland, Deputy State Superintendent
Office of the Deputy State Superintendent
6368 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6368
Telephone (919) 807-3305; fax (919) 807-4065