The results you are receiving for the tests administered to your child contain many statistics. Each of these numbers conveys a different piece of information on your child’s performance. Although the score report for the SAT contains a key for terms, we are including brief descriptions of many of the statistics to help you make meaning of the data presented on your child.

**Normal Curve Equivalent Scores (NCE):** A normal curve equivalent score is a type of norm-referenced score. It differs from percentile rank scores in that it allows meaningful comparison between different test sections within a test. For example, if a student receives NCE scores of 53 on the reading test and 45 on the mathematics test, you can correctly say that the reading score is eight points higher than the mathematics score.

**Percentile Rank:** A percentile rank (PR) score is a type of norm referenced score. A PR score indicates the percentage of pupils in the reference or norm group whose scores for a test fell below a particular pupil's raw score. The reference group is usually selected by the publisher of the test to represent the average school in the district, state, or country. A student's PR score will change for different reference groups. A percentile rank score of 45 means that the student who scored at the 45th percentile scored better than 45% of the students in the reference group.

**Raw Score (RS):** A raw score is the number of items answered correctly for a test. These scores are used to derive the other norm-related scores such as percentiles, standard scores, and normal curve equivalents. A raw score by itself has little meaning. They cannot be used to compare student performance across different subject areas or tests.

**Scale Scores:** Many tests use this as the basic measure of the student's performance. Scale scores can have different scale ranges such as college admissions tests like the ACT (range of 0 to 36) and the SAT (range of 0 to 1600). Scale scores are used primarily to provide a basis for deriving various other normative scores to describe performance (like percentile ranks). Unlike percentile rank scores, the interval between scores is equal. This means that you can average scale scores to compare groups of students or schools.

**Stanines:** A stanine is a type of scaled score used in many norm-referenced standardized tests. There are nine stanine units (the term is short for "standard nine-point scale"), ranging from 9 to 1. Typically, stanine scores are interpreted as above average (9, 8, 7), average (6, 5, 4), and below average (3, 2, 1). Using only nine numbers, stanine scoring is usually easier to understand than other scoring models.

Information adapted from Learning Point Associates Copyright ©.