**What is automated scoring?**

Automated scoring is the use of automated systems to score different kinds of constructed response (CR) questions, including essays, short text answers, and textual and numeric written responses. Louisiana's current testing administrator, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), collaborates with a recognized scoring company in automated scoring, in conjunction with professionally trained scorers from DRC, to score student responses to writing prompts, extended response items, and other constructed responses items that meet the scoring criteria. The scoring system used for Louisiana assessments has been used to provide over ten million scores to students on writing assessments over the past six years. It has also been used to score student responses for twenty assessment programs.

**How does automated scoring work?**

Automated scoring starts with professionally trained scorers who read and score a set of students' written responses to test questions according to specifications determined by committees of Louisiana educators. Trained experts read each student response multiple times to ensure that scores are accurate and reliable. The scored responses are then used to create a training set, which is a representative sample of student responses and their corresponding scores. Training sets and a series of scoring modules are used to build the automated scoring model. After the scoring is completed, DRC professionally trained hand-scoring staff scores student responses to monitor scoring accuracy, validity, and reliability.

**How accurate is automated scoring?**

The automated scoring system used in Louisiana produces comparable score results to professionally trained scorers in terms of reliability and validity (i.e., the results are consistent and accurate). At various stages of the scoring process, DRC professionally trained scorers validate the accuracy and consistency of the automated scoring system by comparing the score results. DRC produces daily quality control reports to monitor scoring reliability and sends these reports to LDOE for review. LDOE staff checks and approves the quality control reports daily.