

Benchmarks, Cut Scores, and Growth Rates

To interpret screening results, schools often use benchmarks and cut scores. These scores help educators identify which students require some form of intervention to accelerate growth and move toward proficiency, and which students are already high performing.

Please note: the table below includes benchmarks for a specific point in time. For the most precise benchmarks based on the exact day(s) your students were tested, rely on the STAR™ reports.

Benchmarks are the minimum performance levels students are expected to reach by certain points of the year in order to meet end-of-year performance goals. The end-of-year benchmark typically represents the minimum level of performance required by state or local standards. Benchmarks are always grade specific, e.g., the 3rd grade benchmark.

A **cut score** is used to determine which students may need additional assistance to move toward the end-of-year benchmark.

Moderate growth rate is the amount a typical student is expected to grow per week. Based on national data, 50 percent of the students who started at this level were able to achieve this growth rate. Student Growth Percentile (SGP), now found on the Growth Report, can also help an educator determine if a student is growing adequately between screening windows.

		Fall September		Winter January		Spring May		Moderate Growth Rate
Grade	Percentile	Scaled Score	Est. ORF ^a	Scaled Score	Est. ORF ^a	Scaled Score	Est. ORF ^a	Scaled Score/ Week
K	10	399		430		469		5.7
	20	437		472		512		5.7
	25	452		489		529		5.6
	40	496		534		573		5.4
	50	522		561		601		5.3
	75	582		626		669		4.1
	90	647		691		732		3.5
	10	499	0	549	6	603	14	6.7
1	20	545	6	601	13	657	20	6.2
	25	561	9	619	15	675	23	5.8
	40	603	14	663	22	718	29	5.4
	50	631	17	690	25	742	35	5.1
	75	713	28	759	41	797	60	3.5
	90	778	50	809	67	833	84	2.9

		Fall September		Winter January		Spring May		Moderate Growth Rate
Grade	Percentile	Scaled Score	Est. ORF ^a	Scaled Score	Est. ORF ^a	Scaled Score	Est. ORF ^a	Scaled Score/ Week
2	10	566	10	617	17	668	23	5.1
	20	630	19	679	25	724	31	4.1
	25	657	22	702	27	742	35	3.4
	40	707	28	748	36	782	50	3.0
	50	743	35	776	47	804	60	2.5
	75	805	61	826	75	844	92	1.4
	90	841	89	857	108	869	128	1.2
3	10	608	14	672	24	730	34	3.8
	20	690	27	735	35	774	48	2.5
	25	717	32	756	43	789	52	2.0
	40	783	51	804	57	821	66	1.7
	50	803	57	821	66	835	75	1.4
	75	841	79	853	93	862	106	0.7
	90	867	113	874	129	879	146	0.5

a. Est. ORF: Estimated Oral Reading Fluency is only reported for grades 1–3.

