



# 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.

Grade	Percentile	Fall September		Winter January		Spring May		Moderate Growth Rate
		Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score/ Week
1	10	64	9	71	15	78	19	1.4
	20	67	12	76	18	88	25	1.8
	25	69	13	79	20	95	28	2.4
	40	73	16	87	25	133	37	3.0
	50	76	18	95	28	164	44	3.9
	75	98	29	170	46	251	68	5.5
	90	205	56	269	73	339	89	4.7
2	10	87	26	107	32	164	43	2.3
	20	106	31	162	42	217	56	4.3
	25	126	35	183	47	239	61	4.5
	40	189	49	239	61	291	76	4.2
	50	224	58	274	71	327	86	4.0
	75	322	84	370	98	427	112	3.5
	90	410	108	465	122	525	142	3.3

Grade	Percentile	Fall September		Winter January		Spring May		Moderate Growth Rate
		Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score/ Week
3	10	177	48	215	54	255	61	3.2
	20	235	57	272	65	311	73	3.4
	25	259	62	294	70	334	78	3.3
	40	319	75	357	84	393	95	3.2
	50	357	84	392	95	436	105	3.2
	75	461	111	500	120	547	132	2.9
	90	561	136	613	150	673	161	2.8
4	10	265	61	287	66	318	73	2.8
	20	324	74	353	81	379	88	2.8
	25	350	80	375	87	406	95	2.8
	40	415	96	449	104	476	110	2.7
	50	458	106	487	112	520	120	2.5
	75	568	131	612	139	659	147	2.8
	90	689	152	774	176	853	190	3.3
5	10	337		363		386		2.7
	20	411		441		463		2.5
	25	444		465		492		2.4
	40	514		544		573		2.4
	50	560		592		630		2.5
	75	707		779		846		3.4
	90	900		955		1048		2.6
6	10	414		439		459		2.4
	20	494		518		544		2.1
	25	525		554		578		2.2
	40	614		647		684		2.2
	50	671		716		779		2.5
	75	897		939		997		2.1
	90	1098		1185		1251		2.8
7	10	464		474		497		2.3
	20	552		570		596		2.1
	25	585		611		638		2.1
	40	696		736		790		2.4
	50	795		843		884		2.5
	75	1026		1103		1175		2.4
	90	1266		1302		1323		1.2
8	10	517		536		557		2.3
	20	621		646		675		2.1
	25	665		696		729		2.3
	40	830		865		899		2.4
	50	908		942		979		1.8
	75	1202		1241		1288		1.3
	90	1327		1335		1342		0.3

Grade	Percentile	Fall September		Winter January		Spring May		Moderate Growth Rate
		Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score	Est. ORF <sup>a</sup>	Scaled Score/ Week
9	10	580		606		630		2.0
	20	699		727		769		1.9
	25	773		802		836		2.0
	40	911		934		963		1.4
	50	991		1044		1092		1.6
	75	1295		1295		1312		0.4
	90	1343		1343		1344		0.1
10	10	637		637		638		2.0
	20	777		777		795		2.2
	25	844		844		860		1.6
	40	968		974		1001		1.3
	50	1101		1118		1154		1.9
	75	1315		1317		1323		0.2
	90	1344		1344		1344		< .01
11	10	643		652		671		1.8
	20	802		822		843		1.6
	25	866		882		897		1.1
	40	1012		1040		1064		0.9
	50	1161		1170		1185		1.1
	75	1325		1325		1329		< .01
	90	1344		1344		1344		< .01
12	10	675		683		702		1.6
	20	865		873		880		1.2
	25	917		920		924		0.6
	40	1122		1133		1143		0.7
	50	1219		1226		1233		0.4
	75	1332		1336		1339		< .01
	90	1345		1345		1345		< .01

a. Est. ORF: Estimated Oral Reading Fluency is only reported for grades 1–4.