

Cut Score Ranges for Performance Levels

Performance level descriptors specify the level of performance on a test that is required for a student to be classified into a given performance level (such as proficient). The classification of students into ISASP performance categories is operationalized by establishing and applying a cut score on a test. Results from a standard setting study are used to help interpret performance of individual students as well as schools, districts and the state.

Two cut scores that define three levels of performance (Not-Yet-Proficient, Proficient and Advanced) have been established for the ISASP English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science tests. Cut score ranges for each grade are provided in Tables 1 to 3.

The Iowa State Board of Education approved the cut scores in September 2019. The cut scores will remain constant across years.

Table 1. English Language Arts Cut Score Ranges

Grade	Performance Levels		
	Not-Yet-Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
3	345 to 397	398 to 446	447 to 510
4	350 to 413	414 to 477	478 to 540
5	355 to 436	437 to 512	513 to 590
6	360 to 455	456 to 540	541 to 640
7	370 to 474	475 to 568	569 to 680
8	385 to 493	494 to 593	594 to 720
9	410 to 504	505 to 617	618 to 750
10	435 to 529	530 to 641	642 to 780
11	460 to 560	561 to 659	660 to 800

Table 2. Mathematics Cut Score Ranges

Grade	Performance Levels		
	Not-Yet-Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
3	345 to 389	390 to 442	443 to 510
4	350 to 408	409 to 475	476 to 540
5	355 to 428	429 to 502	503 to 590
6	360 to 449	450 to 531	532 to 640
7	370 to 468	469 to 574	575 to 680
8	385 to 489	490 to 605	606 to 720
9	410 to 512	513 to 625	626 to 750
10	435 to 536	537 to 653	654 to 780
11	460 to 558	559 to 674	675 to 800

Table 3. Science Cut Score Ranges

Grade	Performance Levels		
	Not-Yet-Proficient	Proficient	Advanced
5	355 to 451	452 to 541	542 to 590
8	385 to 507	508 to 608	609 to 720
10	435 to 544	545 to 655	656 to 780