

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.

This table offers benchmarks and cut scores for the three typical screening periods.

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 4th grade benchmark. In the chart below, the 40th and 50th percentile represent two benchmark options. Schools should select one based on their state recommendations or local guidelines.

A **cut score** is used to determine which students may need additional assistance to move toward the end of year benchmark. In the chart below, the 10th, 20th, and 25th percentile represent three cut scores options. Schools should select one based on their state recommendations or local guidelines.

Please note: cut scores do not replace educator judgment; they inform it. Proper determination of cut scores is key to successful implementation of Response to Intervention and other data-based decision making processes.

Grade	Percentile	Fall	Winter	Spring
		September Scaled Score	January Scaled Score	May Scaled Score
1	10	237	257	286
	20	263	286	329
	25	269	299	342
	40	295	331	376
	50	307	351	400
2	10	310	363	411
	20	352	406	448
	25	363	420	459
	40	405	454	492
	50	429	472	511
3	10	423	448	472
	20	458	487	524
	25	471	503	542
	40	507	544	581
	50	528	566	603
4	10	487	508	541
	20	537	560	581
	25	553	578	597
	40	592	615	637
	50	614	636	661

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Grade	Percentile	Fall September	Winter January	Spring May
		Scaled Score	Scaled Score	Scaled Score
5	10	544	560	586
	20	591	610	635
	25	608	629	651
	40	648	669	692
	50	671	693	714
6	10	596	620	641
	20	646	668	683
	25	661	683	700
	40	701	722	741
	50	724	743	767
7	10	641	644	644
	20	685	689	696
	25	704	707	714
	40	742	750	759
	50	769	778	789
8	10	652	655	661
	20	700	711	721
	25	721	729	741
	40	766	777	785
	50	796	808	817
9	10	667	671	678
	20	726	726	731
	25	744	746	749
	40	788	791	794
	50	817	819	820
10	10	678	681	681
	20	731	733	733
	25	749	752	752
	40	794	796	800
	50	821	822	825
11	10	687	689	696
	20	737	744	747
	25	755	762	767
	40	803	809	816
	50	829	834	840
12	10	699	704	706
	20	748	750	755
	25	770	774	779
	40	818	822	830
	50	843	848	852