

# What is a Z-Score?

A quick review of z-scores and how to understand them

# Z-Score “Information Sheet”

- Z-scores are a standardized measure that helps you compare individual student (or school) data to state average data.

**Student z-score =**

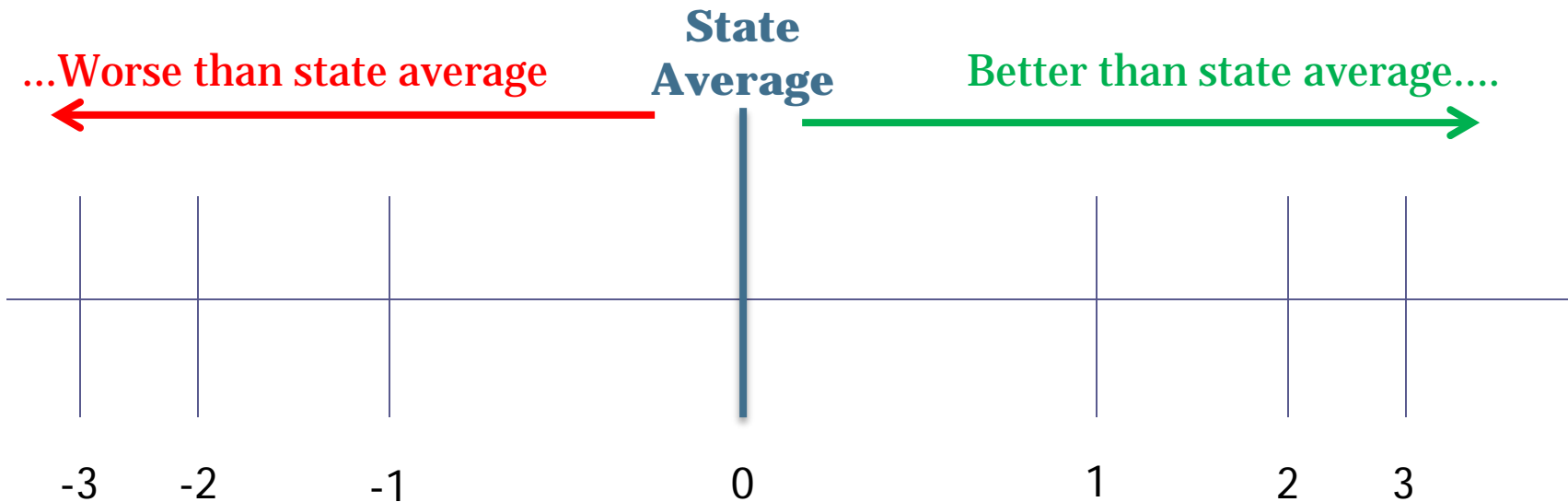
$$\frac{(\text{Student Scale Score}) - (\text{Statewide average of scale scores})}{\text{Standard Deviation of Scale Score}}$$

**School z-score=**

$$\frac{(\text{School Value}) - (\text{Statewide average of that value})}{\text{Standard deviation of that value}}$$

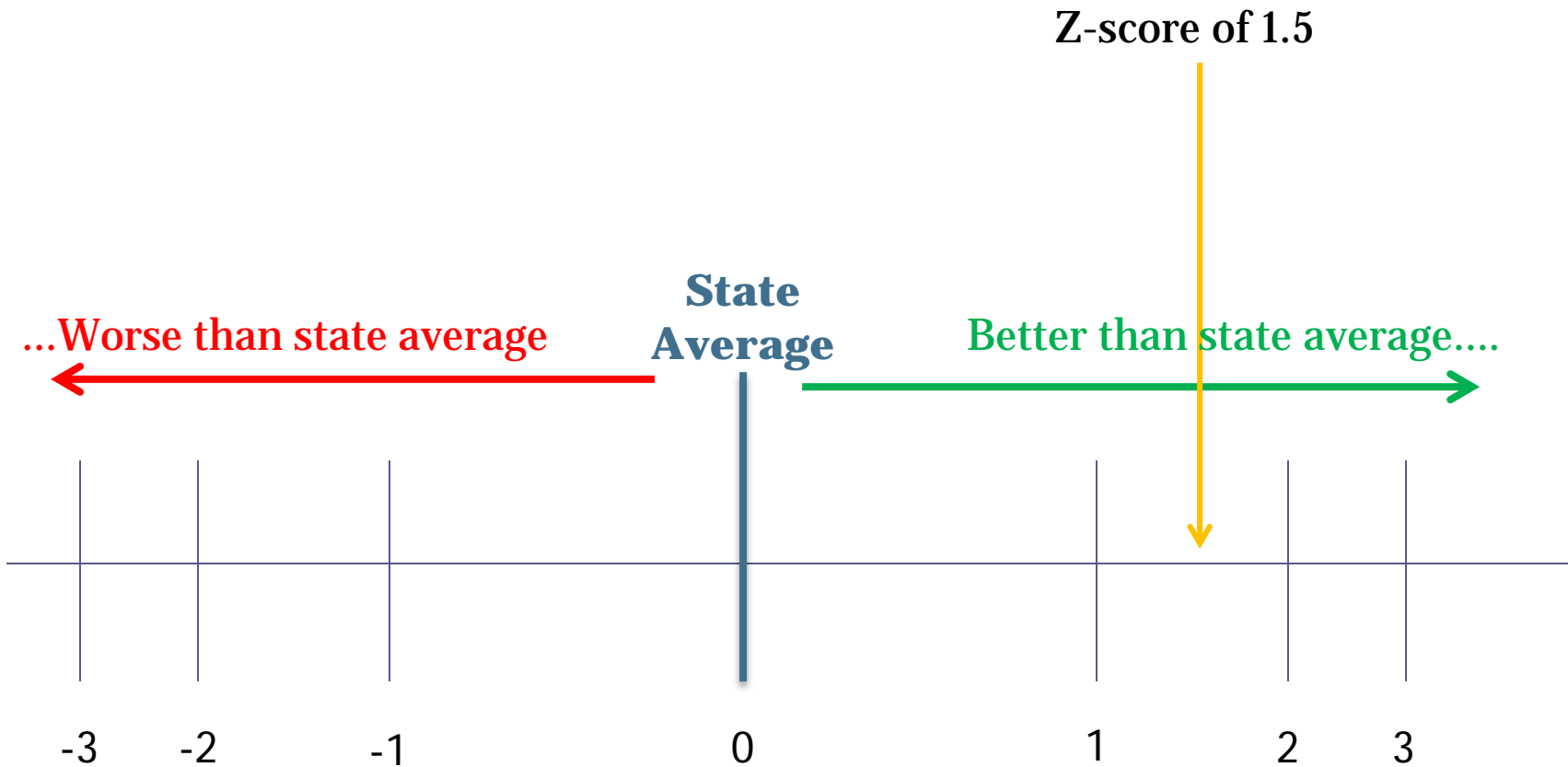
# Z-Score "Information Sheet"

- Z-scores are centered around zero
- Positive numbers mean the student or school is **above** the state average
- Negative numbers mean the student or school is **below** the state average



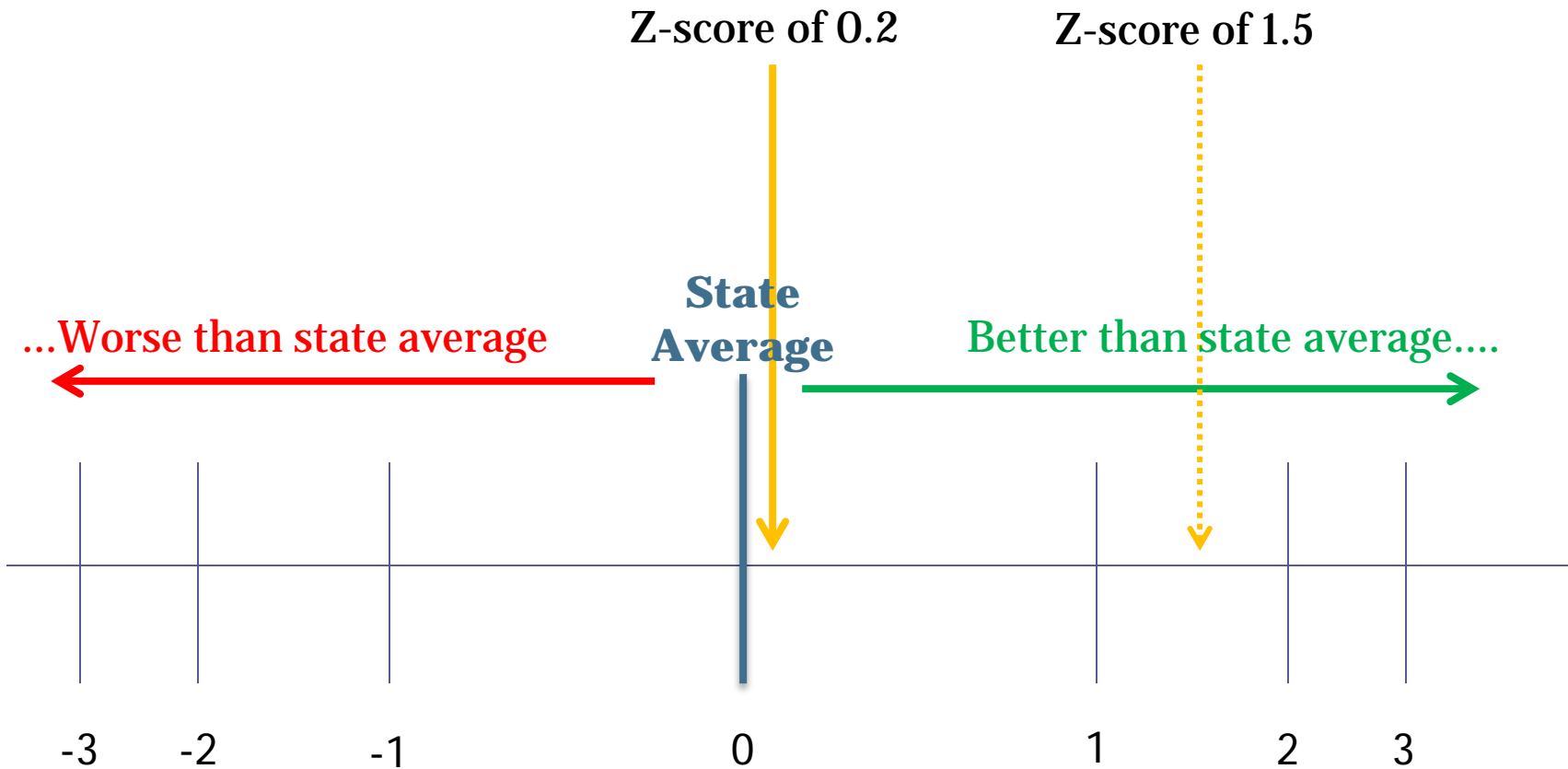
# Z-Score Examples

- Your school has a z-score of 1.5. You are better than the state average.



# Z-Score Examples

- Your school has a z-score of .2. You are better than the state average, but not by a lot.



# Z-Score Examples

- Your school has a z-score of  $-2.0$ . You are very far below state average.

