Michigan Early Literacy and Mathematics Performance Levels and Scale Scores

Scale Scores

Students receive an overall scale score in ELA and mathematics for each valid test. Scale scores are the basic unit of reporting. A scaled score is calculated from a total number of points the student scores on the item, statistically adjusted and converted into a consistent, standardized scale that permits direct and fair comparisons of scores from different forms of a test, either within the same administration year or across years. Established psychometric procedures are used to ensure that a given scale score represents the same level of performance regardless of the test form. Scale scores are especially suitable for comparing the performance of different groups of students in the same grade from year to year and for maintaining the same performance standard across the years. While scale scores are comparable across tests in a given content area within the same grade, they are not comparable across content areas or grades. Each overall scale score is indicated by a single number. An error band is noted for each scale score. The error band indicates the range of scores that the student would be likely to achieve if he or she were to take the test multiple times.

Performance Levels

Performance levels are being new for the 2022-2023 academic year. Scale scores within each subject area can be described in ranges. The labels applied to these ranges are known as Performance Levels. The performance levels are:

- **Needs Support** - The student's performance is not yet proficient and indicates a minimal or partial understanding and application of key academic content standards defined for MI students. The student needs intervention and support to improve achievement.

- **Demonstrates Proficiency** - The student's performance indicates understanding and application of key academic content standards defined for Michigan students. The student needs continued support to maintain and improve proficiency.

- **Demonstrates Mastery** - The student's performance exceeds academic content standards and indicates substantial understanding and application of key concepts defined for Michigan students. The student needs support to continue to excel.

The divisions between the levels are often referred to as cut scores. The cut scores are recommended by a panel comprised of educators and other stakeholders throughout the state in a process known as standard setting. To set these standards, the panel uses detailed descriptions of what students in each of the performance levels should know and be able to do. Based upon these detailed descriptions and actual assessment items, the panel recommends the score that best separates each performance level from the next; the recommendations are made to the Michigan State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who approves the final cut scores and performance level ranges. While the performance level descriptors necessarily differ by grade and subject area, student achievement—as defined by the obtained performance level—can be reasonably compared across subjects within a grade. Such a comparison can be used to indicate whether students are meeting Michigan Academic Standards in each subject and grade.

2022-2023
Performance Level Scale Score Ranges

Subject	Grade	Level 1 Needs Support	Level 2 Demonstrates Proficiency	Level 3 Demonstrates Mastery
ELA	K	860-971	972-988	989-1020
	1	870-992	993-1023	1024-1060
	2	880-1007	1008-1031	1032-1100
Math	K	860-957	958-1006	1007-1020
	1	870-995	996-1035	1036-1060
	2	880-1006	1007-1057	1058-1100