

STUDENT PLACEMENT GUIDE:
DETERMINING PLACEMENT WITH
GRADE LEVEL PROFICIENCIES



BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH FOR PROFICIENCY LEVELS

WORKING WITH METAMETRICS, INC., SCHOLASTIC HAS DEVISED PROFICIENCY LEVEL STANDARDS FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL 1–12. THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA WERE USED TO DEVISE THESE STANDARDS:

- Nationally norm-referenced scores from standardized tests linked to the Lexile Framework® for Reading.
- National percentile scores from a medium-sized U.S. State’s End of Grade Test to the Lexile Framework.
- Cut scores defining grade levels from two large U.S. urban school districts.
- Foundation titles across grade levels as criteria for what students should know and be able to do.
- Grade mid-point ranges established by MetaMetrics for each grade level based upon *Scholastic Reading Inventory™* scores.
- Text demands placed upon readers for various standardized tests.



APPLICATION OF PROFICIENCY LEVEL GUIDELINES

These tables can be used to place students on a Lexile level in *Scholastic Reading Counts!* in the absence of a reported Lexile score.

By determining a student's proficiency level through a non-Lexile based standardized test or non-Lexile reporting state exam, educators can place a student more precisely in *Scholastic Reading Counts!*, where the default placement suggestion is at the student's current grade level.

Educators can use these charts in two ways:

- Obtain the student's percentile rank for any validated standardized test.
- Select the corresponding Lexile range from the center column.

Or, based on professional judgment, educators may:

- Select a proficiency level as compared to peers (left column).
- Select the corresponding Lexile range from the center column.

These charts are for guidance in placement in the absence of a Lexile score. In *Scholastic Reading Counts!*, placement slightly above the reading level is preferred. If a student consistently receives a below 60 percent score, especially on subsequent quizzes, his or her Lexile range should be adjusted downward. If a student handles quizzes with ease, he or she should be expected to read more difficult texts as the school year continues.



GRADE



PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
0–39%	BR–100L	BASIC
ON GRADE LEVEL		
40–55%	100L–200L	LOW PROFICIENT
56–69%	200L–300L	PROFICIENT
70–80%	300L–400L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 80% & ABOVE	ABOVE 400L	ADVANCED

Determining Placement with Grade Level Proficiencies

GRADE 2

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–10%	BR–100L	AT RISK
11–17%	100L–200L	BASIC 1
18–26%	200L–300L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
27–34%	300L–400L	LOW PROFICIENT
35–55%	400L–500L	PROFICIENT
56–70%	500L–600L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 70% & ABOVE	ABOVE 600L	ADVANCED

Determining Placement with Grade Level Proficiencies

GRADE 3

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–13%	<250L	AT RISK
14–26%	250L–400L	BASIC 1
27–38%	400L–500L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
39–52%	500L–600L	LOW PROFICIENT
53–67%	600L–700L	PROFICIENT
68–81%	700L–800L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 82% & ABOVE	ABOVE 800L	ADVANCED

Determining Placement with Grade Level Proficiencies

GRADE 4

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
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BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–11%	BELOW 350L	AT RISK
12–25%	350L–500L	BASIC 1
26–36%	500L–600L	BASIC 2

ON GRADE LEVEL		
37–50%	600L–700L	LOW PROFICIENT
51–64%	700–800L	PROFICIENT
65–79%	800–900L	HIGH PROFICIENT

ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 80% & ABOVE	ABOVE 900L	ADVANCED

GRADE 5

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–13%	BELOW 450L	AT RISK
14–22%	450L–600L	BASIC 1
23–33%	600L–700L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
34–48%	700–800L	LOW PROFICIENT
49–64%	800–900L	PROFICIENT
65–80%	900–1000L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 81% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1000L	ADVANCED

Determining Placement with Grade Level Proficiencies

GRADE 6

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–8%	BELOW 500L	AT RISK
9–21%	500L–650L	BASIC 1
22–38%	650L–800L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
39–49%	800L–875L	LOW PROFICIENT
50–61%	875L–950L	PROFICIENT
62–77%	950L–1050L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 78% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1050L	ADVANCED

Determining Placement with Grade Level Proficiencies

GRADE

7

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–6%	BELOW 550L	AT RISK
7–21%	550L–750L	BASIC 1
22–34%	750L–850L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
35–49%	850L–950L	LOW PROFICIENT
50–62%	950L–1025L	PROFICIENT
63–76%	1025L–1100L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 77% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1100L	ADVANCED

Determining Placement with Grade Level Proficiencies

GRADE 8

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
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BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–7%	BELOW 600L	AT RISK
8–17%	600L–750L	BASIC 1
18–34%	750L–900L	BASIC 2

ON GRADE LEVEL		
35–47%	900L–975L	LOW PROFICIENT
48–63%	975L–1075L	PROFICIENT
64–76%	1075L–1150L	HIGH PROFICIENT

ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 77% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1150L	ADVANCED

GRADE 9

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–5%	BELOW 650L	AT RISK
5–21%	650L–850L	BASIC 1
22–40%	850L–1000L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
40–52%	1000L–1055L	LOW PROFICIENT
53–65%	1055L–1125L	PROFICIENT
66–79%	1125L–1200L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 80% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1200L	ADVANCED

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GRADE 10

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–5%	BELOW 700L	AT RISK
5–21%	700L–900L	BASIC 1
22–40%	900L–1025L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
41–49%	1025L–1075L	LOW PROFICIENT
50–64%	1075L–1150L	PROFICIENT
65–81%	1150L–1250L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 82% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1250L	ADVANCED

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GRADE

11

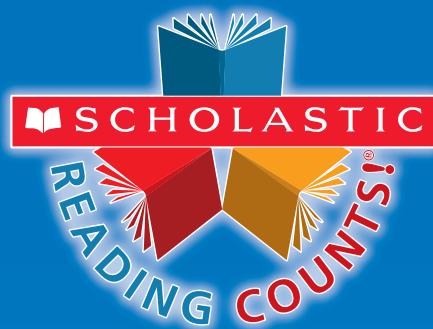
PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–9%	BELOW 800L	AT RISK
10–19%	800L–900L	BASIC 1
20–42%	900L–1050L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
43–52%	1050L–1100L	LOW PROFICIENT
53–72%	1100L–1200L	PROFICIENT
73–86%	1200L–1300L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 87% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1300L	ADVANCED

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GRADE 12

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
BELOW GRADE LEVEL		
1–9%	BELOW 809L	AT RISK
10–19%	810L–1059L	BASIC 1
20–42%	900L–1050L	BASIC 2
ON GRADE LEVEL		
43–52%	1050L–1100L	LOW PROFICIENT
53–72%	1060L–1320L	PROFICIENT
73–86%	1200L–1300L	HIGH PROFICIENT
ABOVE GRADE LEVEL		
AT 87% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1321L	ADVANCED

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SCHOLASTIC READING COUNTS!
2315 DEAN STREET
SUITE 600
ST. CHARLES, IL 60175

Phone: 800-387-1437

Fax: 877-242-5865

Visit us online at scholastic.com/src

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