

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.



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

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

# GRADE 3

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

# 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

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



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

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

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
<b>BELOW GRADE LEVEL</b>		
1–7%	BELOW 600L	AT RISK
8–17%	600L–750L	BASIC 1
18–34%	750L–900L	BASIC 2
<b>ON GRADE LEVEL</b>		
35–47%	900L–975L	LOW PROFICIENT
48–63%	975L–1075L	PROFICIENT
64–76%	1075L–1150L	HIGH PROFICIENT
<b>ABOVE GRADE LEVEL</b>		
AT 77% & ABOVE	ABOVE 1150L	ADVANCED

# GRADE 9

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

Determining Placement with Grade Level Proficiencies

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



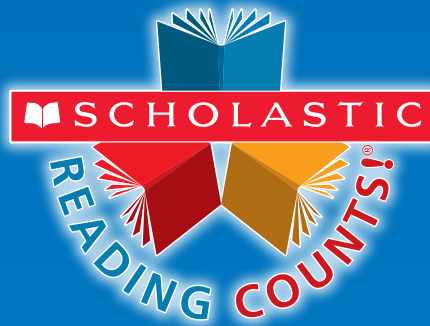
PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
<b>BELOW GRADE LEVEL</b>		
1–9%	BELOW 800L	AT RISK
10–19%	800L–900L	BASIC 1
20–42%	900L–1050L	BASIC 2
<b>ON GRADE LEVEL</b>		
43–52%	1050L–1100L	LOW PROFICIENT
53–72%	1100L–1200L	PROFICIENT
73–86%	1200L–1300L	HIGH PROFICIENT
<b>ABOVE GRADE LEVEL</b>		
AT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

PERCENTILE RANK	LEXILE RANGE	PROFICIENCY LEVEL
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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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