

2012-13 WKCE Reading and Math Scale Score Ranges

The Department of Public Instruction has established performance standards (cut scores) for the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) Reading and Mathematics content areas to more closely align with national and international expectations of what is required to be college and career ready. The higher cut scores are comparable to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) cut scores. The performance level descriptors that accompany the college and career ready cut scores have been revised to reflect the higher expectations required with these higher performance benchmarks.

WKCE Reading Scale Score by Grade

Performance Level	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 10
Advanced	507-640	536-650	546-690	573-730	590-780	613-790	644-820
Proficient	475-506	498-535	503-545	525-572	535-589	548-612	566-643
Basic	445-474	462-497	464-502	479-524	486-534	493-547	496-565
Minimal Performance	270-444	280-461	290-463	300-478	310-485	330-492	350-495

WKCE Mathematics Scale Score by Grade

Performance Level	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 10
Advanced	492-630	526-650	553-680	573-700	591-710	605-730	618-750
Proficient	438-491	474-525	501-552	524-572	544-590	558-604	574-617
Basic	388-437	425-473	449-500	475-523	500-543	510-557	528-573
Minimal Performance	220-387	240-424	270-448	310-474	330-499	350-509	410-527

These new WKCE cut scores and performance level descriptors will serve as a bridge to the more rigorous Smarter Balanced assessments, which will be introduced in the 2014-15 school year. Smarter Balanced is developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics—academic standards that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate from high school college and career ready.

WKCE Performance Levels:

- **Advanced** - Students at this level demonstrate a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of rigorous subject matter and provide sophisticated solutions to complex problems.
- **Proficient** - Students at this level demonstrate a solid understanding of challenging subject matter and solve a wide variety of problems.
- **Basic** – Students at this level demonstrate partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work.
- **Minimal Performance** – Students at this level demonstrate limited knowledge and skills in the subject matter and limited ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively.

Several steps were taken to arrive at the new college and career ready cut scores for the WKCE. Percentile ranks of Wisconsin students' performance on the 4th and 8th grade Spring 2011 NAEP administration and on the WKCE for the past five administrations were used. Statistical processes were used to establish WKCE cut scores for grades 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10. These steps were reviewed by DPI's Technical Advisory Committee, as well as a number of other assessment experts, and were approved by the US Department of Education as part of Wisconsin's ESEA Waiver application.