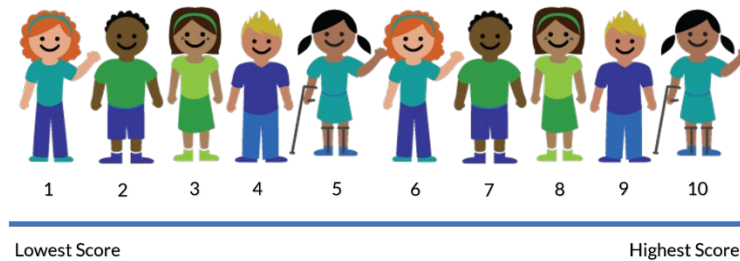




Percentile Rank

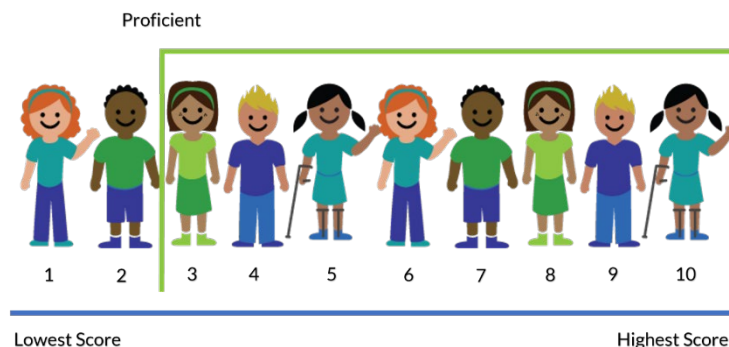
The Forward Exam Individual Student Report (ISR) includes information about how a student ranks compared to other students in the state at the same grade-level. If a student has a percentile rank of 40%, this indicates the student performed at the same level or better than 40% of students at that grade-level on the exam, or that 60% of the students performed at a higher level. Consider the following illustration of assessment results for 10 children, ranked from lowest score to highest score.



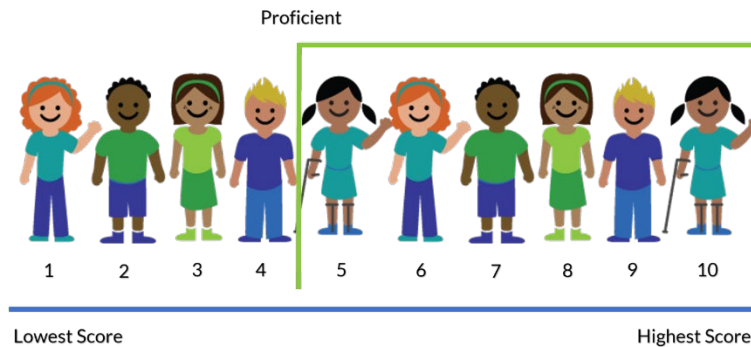
In the diagram above student 4 scored at the 40th percentile. This means that the student performed equal to, or better than, 40% of the other students. The results in this scenario answer the question, “How well did the student perform in comparison to their peers?”. Yearly [percentile tables](#) show the correlation between score ranges and percentile rank for each content and grade-level.

Reporting results in terms of percentiles, however, does not provide information on whether students are meeting grade-level expectations. Rank ordering the student scores does not necessarily reflect the amount of knowledge and skills demonstrated by students on the test. For example, a student at the 40th percentile could be basic or proficient.

The following graphics show how the same student at the 40th percentile may or may not be proficient based on where the percentile falls in the performance range. In the graphic below, 80% of students are proficient, and a student at the 40th percentile is proficient.



In the next graphic, 60% of students are proficient, and a student at the 40th percentile is below proficient.



Just as a lower percentile ranking could still indicate proficiency if a high percentage of students are proficient, a higher percentile ranking does not necessarily indicate proficiency on content beyond the grade-level. The Forward Exam is designed to determine if a student possesses **grade-level** (not above or below) knowledge and skills. Because the Forward Exam is a grade-level test where the test questions are directly related to grade-level standards, and knowledge and skills required at that grade-level, the Forward Exam cannot determine if a student is performing above or below grade-level. This means that a 7th grade student will only be tested on the knowledge and skills required to show their proficiency in relation to the grade 7 standards. If this student scores in the advanced performance level the student demonstrates a thorough understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for 7th grade. This does not indicate that the student has knowledge and skills above their grade-level. A different assessment would be needed to determine above grade-level abilities.