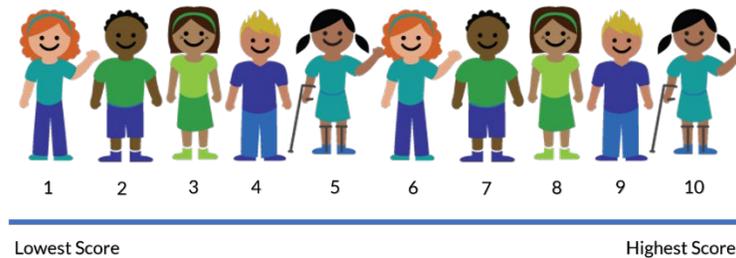




Percentile Rank

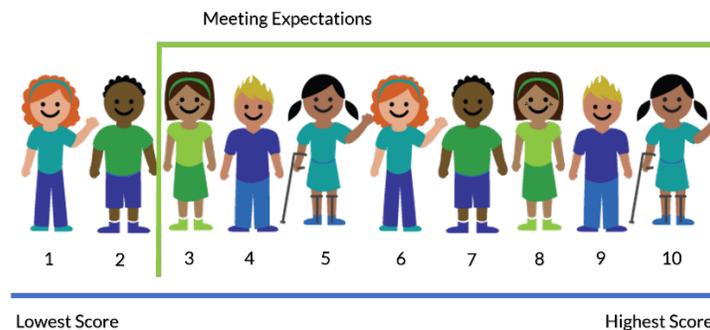
The Forward Exam Individual Student Report (ISR) includes information about how a student ranks compared to other students in the state at the same grade-level. For example, if a student has a percentile rank of 40%, this indicates the student performed at the same level or better than 40% of students 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.



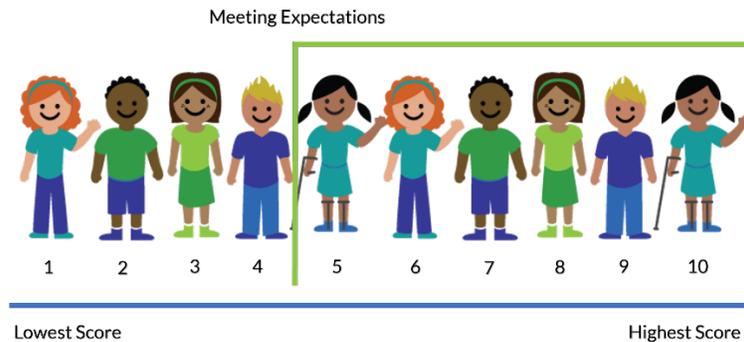
In the diagram above student 4 scored at the 40th percentile. This means that the student performed equal to, or better than, 40% of the other students. The results in this scenario answer the question, “How well did the student perform in comparison to their peers?” Yearly [percentile tables](#) show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

Reporting results in terms of percentiles, however, does not provide information on whether students are meeting grade-level expectations, and 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 approaching or meeting grade-level expectations.

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



In the next graphic, 60% of students are meeting grade-level expectations, and a student at the 40th percentile is not meeting expectations.



Just as a lower percentile ranking could still indicate meeting expectations if a high percentage of students are meeting grade-level expectations, a higher percentile ranking does not indicate knowledge of 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 test questions are measuring grade-level standards and the 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 they are meeting expectations of the grade 7 academic 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.