



Percentile Rank Versus Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE)

Although not included on the Individual Student Reports, the Normal Curve Equivalent, or NCE, is another way of measuring student performance relative to other students, in this case where a student falls along the normal curve. The numbers on the NCE line run from 0 to 100. The NCE is similar to a percentile rank, which is usually expressed as a number between 1 and 99, with 50 being the average. In educational statistics, a normal curve equivalent, developed for the U. S. Department of Education by the RMC Research Corporation, is a way of standardizing scores received on a test into a 0-100 scale similar to a percentile-rank, but preserving the valuable equal-interval properties of a z-score. See Figure below.

