

# College and Career Ready Benchmarks

## New WKCE cut scores

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.

Performance Level	WKCE Reading Scale Score by Grade						
	3	4	5	6	7	8	10
Advanced	507	536	546	573	590	613	644
Proficient	475	498	503	525	535	548	566
Basic	445	462	464	479	486	493	496
Minimal Performance	270	280	290	300	310	330	350

Performance Level	WKCE Mathematics Scale Score by Grade						
	3	4	5	6	7	8	10
Advanced	492	526	553	573	591	605	618
Proficient	438	474	501	524	544	558	574
Basic	388	425	449	475	500	510	528
Minimal Performance	220	240	270	310	330	350	410

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 high school college and career ready.

	Performance Level Descriptors (New)	Performance Level Descriptors (Old)
<b>Advanced</b>	Students at this level demonstrate a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of rigorous subject matter and provide sophisticated solutions to complex problems.	Demonstrates in-depth understanding of academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE at that grade level.
<b>Proficient</b>	Students at this level demonstrate a solid understanding of challenging subject matter and solve a wide variety of problems.	Demonstrates competency in the academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE at that grade level.
<b>Basic</b>	Students at this level demonstrate partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work.	Demonstrates some academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE at that grade level.
<b>Minimal Performance</b>	Students at this level demonstrate limited knowledge and skills in the subject matter and limited ability to apply knowledge and skills effectively.	Demonstrates very limited academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE at that grade level.



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 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please note that these cut score changes and the performance level descriptors do not affect the students who take the alternate assessment (WAA-SwD).

For more information, please visit:

Higher Expectations Fact Sheet

<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/pdf/highexp.pdf>

Common Core State Standards

<http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/ccss.html>

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/sbac.html>

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>