

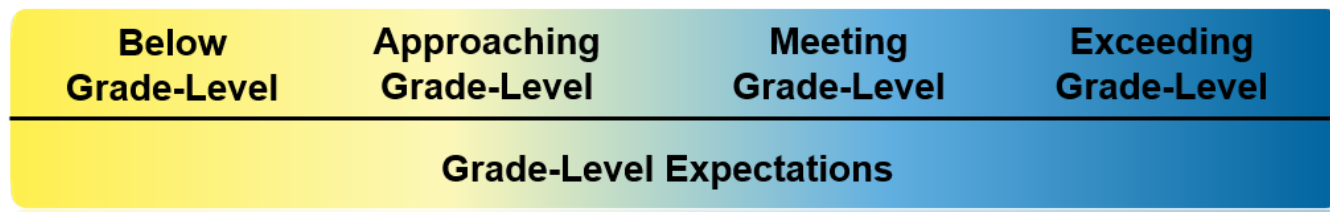
ISASP Performance Levels

Performance levels are score ranges that divide the full spectrum of student performance on the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) into categories. The state of Iowa uses performance levels as one of multiple measures to help decide which schools need additional support.

What Educators Need to Know for 2026:

- Beginning after the spring 2026 administration of ISASP, **four levels of performance** in English Language Arts, Reading, and Mathematics will be reported.
- ISASP will report four levels of performance in Science after the spring 2027 administration.
- The four levels are **Below**, **Approaching**, **Meeting**, and **Exceeding** grade-level expectations.
- The new levels will better reflect expectations for demonstrating grade-level performance and will provide clearer information about what a student knows and is able to do.
- The three cut scores that define the four levels of performance illustrated in the figure below will be informed by educators and stakeholders during expert panels meeting in **June 2026**.
- The cut score for meeting grade-level expectations is the score a student needs to reach on ISASP to be considered on track.

Cut Score for Grade-Level Expectations (2026)*



**Note that the actual percents of students in each level will be determined during the standard setting process.*

**Iowa will no longer use "Proficiency" terminology, which may be less clear to families in reporting performance level results.*

Impact of New Performance Levels

- ❌ Will be unable to compare 2026 results to prior years
- ✓ Aligned to 2024 rigorous state academic standards
- ✓ More accurate picture of student learning
- ✓ Additional differentiation to help focus or re-direct instruction
- ✓ Able to track growth and establish goals using the ISASP Scale Score
- ✓ Student Growth Percentiles are not affected by new performance levels
- ✓ OnDemand Reports will be available (without performance levels) during the spring 2026 administration
- ✓ District and state-level reports for the spring 2026 administration will be available after the standard setting process is completed

Next Steps

The new Iowa Academic Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics were approved in 2024 by the State Board of Education. These standards define what is expected for all students to know and be able to do by grade level. Developing the next generation of ISASP to align with and measure the Iowa Academic Standards has been underway since that time.

Changes to ISASP have direct implications for the performance levels, descriptions of these levels, and the establishment of the cut scores that differentiate between levels. The process that began in 2024 includes the following milestones for completion:

