



Determining grade level proficiency in the fall of any school year : Cut Scores for Colorado on i-Ready Reading Assessment

The Colorado Department of Education held a conference call on July 8, 2015. In this call they asked for the interim test vendors to provide methodologies for establishing cut scores for student in Grades K-3 to identify those students who are sure to succeed in that grade and therefore would have the requirement for interim testing removed.

Given the criterion-referenced discussion that followed, the DOE made it clear that this was not simply noting which students are on track for success versus those who are off-track, but rather those students who have demonstrated sufficient proficiency that testing is no longer needed. Not only should the student have demonstrated this proficiency, but we should also be very sure that the student will be proficient on end of year testing.

Curriculum Associates has conducted linking studies as well as standard setting to determine the optimal cut scores on i-Ready Diagnostic for students to determine whether they are likely to be considered proficient in college and career readiness standards. In our standard setting our Mid On-level placement is described as follows:

Students in this level have met the minimum requirements for the expectations from the Common Core State Standards in this grade level to be considered proficient for their grade. These students will most likely benefit from instruction in some of the more advanced on-grade-level topics.

Curriculum Associates is advising that this threshold serve as the baseline for determining whether students have demonstrated sufficient proficiency. To be very sure that a student will be proficient in year-end testing, we recommend setting the cut score to two mean standard errors of measurement above these placement cut scores.

Therefore, the cut scores for i-Ready Diagnostic would be as follows:

Grade K – 420

Grade 1 – 482

Grade 2 – 540

Grade 3 – 572

During the 2014-15 school year, 4-8% grades K-3 students from Colorado who were tested on i-Ready Reading Diagnostic prior to October 1 scored beyond these cut points.