



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: Indiana State Board of Education

From: Lynn Schemel, Chief Academic Officer/Director of Student Assessment

Date: August 14, 2024

Subject: Spring 2024 ILEARN Science Recommended Cut Scores

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) requests review and approval of the ILEARN Science recommended cut scores for grades 4, 6 and Biology. The standard setting process determines assessment cut scores and is required when new academic standards are adopted or a new assessment design is implemented.

Background

In June 2023, the Indiana State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted the K-12 Indiana Academic Standards in Science and Computer Science. These standards focus on increasing student engagement in learning science and reflect science as it is practiced and experienced in the real world. They build logically from kindergarten through grade 12; focus on deeper understanding as well as application of content; and integrate practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas.

Students in grades 4, 6 and Biology participate in the ILEARN Science assessment as required by Section 111(b)(2)(A) of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The ILEARN Science assessment was revised and redesigned to measure the new Science Indiana Academic Standards (IAS). The new design measures students “doing” science as well as knowing science and aligns with the vision and expectations in the new Science IAS.

Policy Proficiency Level Descriptors (Adopted in Summer 2018):

The current policy proficiency level descriptors (PLDs) for all ILEARN content areas will remain in effect. The policy PLDs were previously established and approved by the ILEARN Policy and Content Standard Setting Committees and adopted by SBOE in July 2018.

Level 1: Below Proficiency

Indiana students below proficiency have not met current grade level standards. Students may require significant support to develop the knowledge, application, and analytical skills needed to be on track for college and career readiness.



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Level 2: Approaching Proficiency

Indiana students approaching proficiency have nearly met current grade level standards by demonstrating some basic knowledge, application, and limited analytical skills. Students may require support to be on track for college and career readiness.

Level 3: At Proficiency

Indiana students at proficiency have met current grade level standards by demonstrating essential knowledge, application, and analytical skills to be on track for college and career readiness.

Level 4: Above Proficiency

Indiana students above proficiency have mastered current grade level standards by demonstrating more complex knowledge, application, and analytical skills to be on track for college and career readiness.

Recommended Performance Levels (Cut Scores)

On July 23-25, 2024, the ILEARN Science Standard Setting Committee met and engaged in a rigorous standardized procedure (“Standard Setting”) to recommend cut scores for the new ILEARN Science assessments. The committee reviewed required content as described in the academic standard and the PLDs, discussed the different expectations of the ILEARN assessment items, and reviewed impact data. The committee was composed of Indiana educators who are experts in their field of science and were recommended by their school administrators. The educators represented a wide variety of perspectives, including geographic variations (e.g., north, south, central Indiana), population density (e.g., urban, rural), race/ethnicity, soci-economic status, student populations, and school type (public, charter, accredited nonpublic).

The ILEARN Science Standard Setting Committee determined proficiency cut scores for each ILEARN Science assessment:

ILEARN Science Assessment	Grade Level Scale	Approaching Proficiency	At Proficiency	Above Proficiency
Grade 4	100-220	145	163	180
Grade 6	300-420	347	363	372
Biology	500-620	546	561	573

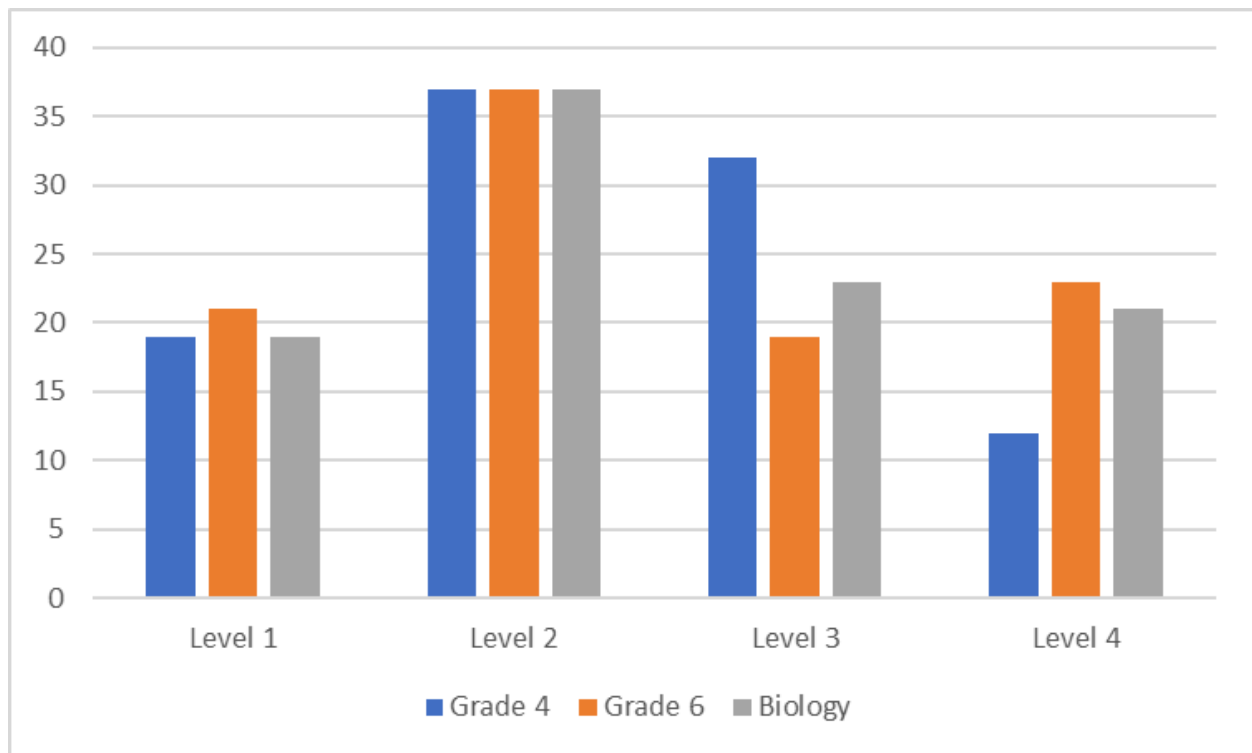


Impact of Recommended Cut Scores on Spring 2024 Assessments

Throughout the process, the ILEARN Science Content Standard Setting Committee reviewed impact data based on cut score discussions. The table below illustrates the percent of students scoring within each of the established PLDs and corresponding cut scores. Due to the changes in academic standards, this year’s results should not be compared to ILEARN Science data in previous years, as these 2024 results present a new Indiana baseline.

ILEARN Science Data	Below Proficiency	Approaching Proficiency	At Prociency	Above Proficiency
Grade 4	19%	37%	32%	12%
Grade 6	21%	37%	19%	23%
Biology	19%	37%	23%	21%

Figure 1: Percentage of Students Classified within Each Performance Level Spring 2024



The results are now publicly available, and can be shared with educators, families and other stakeholders statewide.



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The ILEARN through-year assessment system for English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics will be operational in 2025-2026. ILEARN ELA, Mathematics, and Social Studies cut scores will be determined in Summer 2026.