

Making Sense of Your Child's Stanford Achievement Test Results

The Stanford 10 Achievement Test is a norm-referenced, standardized, achievement test measuring how a student's performance compares to a reference group. It is administered under uniform conditions (standardized) and gives a snapshot of a student's progress (achievement).

Total Reading is based on subtests in reading vocabulary and reading comprehension.

At the 2nd grade level, word study skills are also tested.

Total Mathematics is based on subtests in problem solving and procedures (computation).

Language (written language) is based on subtests in prewriting, composing and editing.

The report consists of three general parts: upper center (percentile ranks, stanines, and grade equivalents), upper right (percentile bands), and bottom (content clusters). Each of these sections present the same information, but in different formats.

SCORE	WHAT THE SCORE TELLS YOU
Number Possible Number Correct	These numbers tell you how many questions were on each section of the test and how many your child answered correctly.
Scaled Score	A statistical conversion of the raw score; not meaningful for parents.

National PR-S

This column really includes two scores, the Percentile Rank (**PR**) and the Stanine (**S**). **Percentile ranks and Stanines are probably the best number to tell you how your child compares to other students in the same grade.**

The first number is the Percentile Rank (**PR**) and this number can range from 1-99. The Percentile Rank tells you the percent of students who scored lower than your child did on the same test.

Percentile ranks represent a nationwide grouping of students into ranks from one (lowest) to 99 (highest). The 50th percentile being average. If your child's PR in reading comprehension is 78, this means that he/she scored higher than 78% of regular education students in his/her grade.

The number right after the **PR** is the Stanine (**S**) and this number can range from 1-9. Stanines provide an easy way to look at your child's performance compared to others. Stanines 1, 2, 3 indicate below average performance. Stanines 4, 5, 6 indicate average performance. Stanines 7, 8, 9 indicate above average performance.

If your child took a 6th grade test and the **S** in Total Reading is 4, this means that your child scored in the low end of the average range when compared to regular education 6th grade students.

National NCE

This is the Normal Curve Equivalent (NCE), a statistic that provides helpful information on **progress from one year to the next**. If you have copies of previous test reports, you can look at your child's progress using the following guidelines.

1. If your child's test level increases one grade level each year (i.e. 2nd to 3rd, 4th to 5th, etc.) **your child made one year of progress if the NCE scores from each year are within 10 points of one another.**

Example: On your child's 4th grade reading test, the NCE in vocabulary was 45 and on the 5th grade test, the NCE was 44. The scores are within 10 points of one another ($44-45 = -1$) so your child made one year of progress in reading vocabulary.

If the 5th grade NCE was more than 10 points higher than the 4th grade NCE, your child made more than one year of progress. If the 5th grade NCE was more than 10 points lower than the 4th grade NCE, your child made less than one year of progress. It is not possible to determine the exact amount of progress.

Grade Equivalent	<p>This is the most confusing number on the report and gives very little information. The grade equivalent score is the most commonly misinterpreted score of this type of test. Any GE score more than two grades above or below the student's grade level is better just being thrown out as statistically highly unreliable. Group administered achievement tests are composed of items with a limited range of difficulty for specific grade levels. Third grade students are given questions specifically for third grade. If a third-grade student earns a grade equivalent of 6.5 on a test, it does not mean that the student will be successful working on mid-sixth grade level. It means that the student got the same number of items correct that an <i>average</i> 6th grade student would have. PHS means post high school. Please be careful how you use GE scores.</p>
National Grade Percentile Bands (far right)	<p>It is possible that a child's test score may change a little if the test was taken a few days later or at a different time of day. To consider this, test makers identify what is called a "Standard Error of Measurement" or the range of scores best representing the "real" test score. The black bands show the range of the percentile rank in which your child's "real" score falls.</p>
Clusters	<p>NP = number possible NA = number attempted NC = number correct The checked boxes in the below average, average and above average, match the stanine number from above.</p>

Otis-Lennon School Ability Test

The Otis-Lennon School Ability test score appears near the middle of your score report. This is a short test – 40 minutes – and is designed to measure the student's aptitude as

opposed to their performance in the subject areas. The test results provide a percentile in the verbal and non-verbal areas.

School Ability Index SAI	This test measures verbal and nonverbal abilities. Average scores range from 84 to 116. Sixty-eight of every 100 children will obtain SAI scores within this range. Two children in every 100 will score above 132. Two children in every 100 will score below 68.
--------------------------	--

Age PR-S	The Percentile Rank (PR) and Stanine (S) of the Otis Lennon are based on your child's age rather than grade level.
----------	--