

Benchmarking grade 5 reading performance: Are standards being met ?

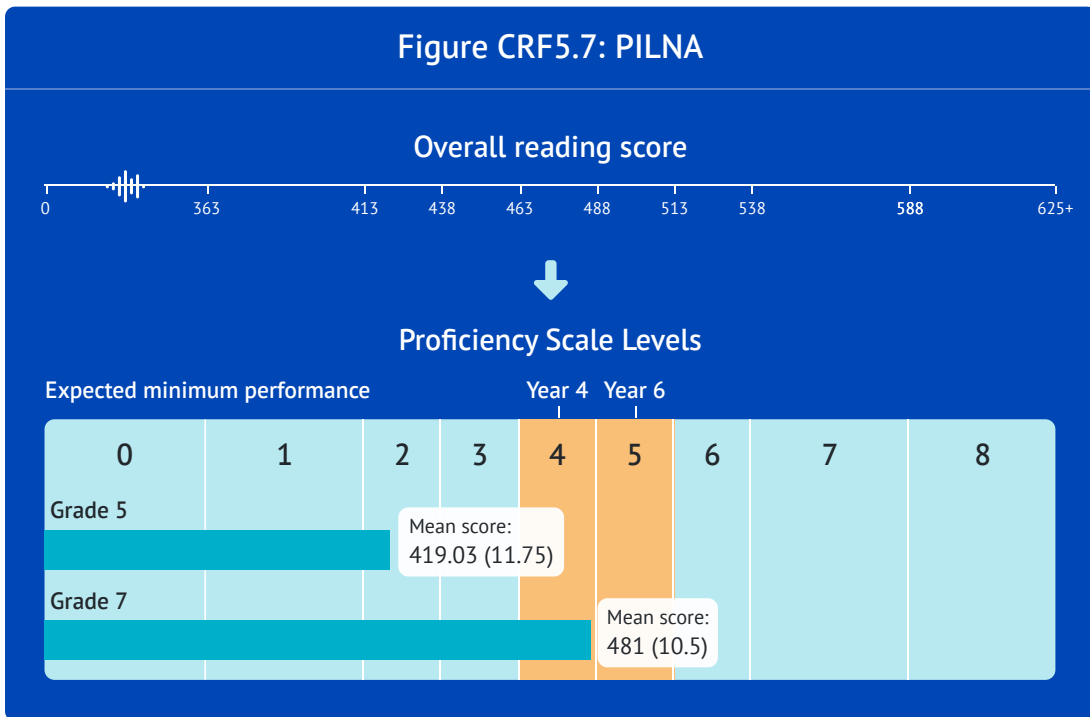
Table CRT5.1	
Grade 5 student proficiency in Reading	
Level	Distribution
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)

Distribution of grade 5 students by proficiency levels, FSM, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Table CRT5.1 shows the Federated States of Micronesia’s distribution of grade five reading scores against the PILNA reading proficiency scale. This scale converts a student’s reading performance into a level ranking from zero to eight. The expected minimum reading performance for grade five students is **proficiency level four**. Pacific stakeholders expect these students to reach or exceed this proficiency level.

The average reading performance of grade five students in Federated States of Micronesia was 419.03 (SD = 99.66). This corresponds to proficiency level two on the PILNA reading proficiency scale (level two is assigned to scores 362.5-412.5), as shown in the common proficiency scale ‘meter’ in reading for grade 5 five students in the Federated States of Micronesia, Figure CRF5.7. On average, grade five students from Federated States of Micronesia are not meeting the minimum expected standard in reading. The average performance of grade five students in reading at the regional level is higher at 444.30 (SD = 82.66), but still lower than the minimum expected standard of 462.5.



The average reading score does not tell us the whole story. The proportion of students who are meeting the minimum expected standard is also important, as this statistic shows how many students are performing at or above the minimum expected level. This is shown in Table CRT5.2. Approximately 35% of grade five students in Federated States of Micronesia were performing at or above the minimum expected level in reading (levels 4–8). The majority of grade five students in Federated States of Micronesia, 65%, were not meeting the minimum expected level of performance in reading (levels 0–3). This includes a significant proportion of grade five students scoring at level zero (32%), the lowest level on the reading scale.

Table CRT5.2

Grade 5 student reading proficiency relative to the region

Levels	Region	FSM
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.5)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.5)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.7)	undefined% (undefined)

Distribution of Grade 5 student reading proficiency relative to the region, FSM, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Across the region, approximately 43% of grade five students performed at or above the expected proficiency level in reading. This compared to approximately 36% in Federated States of Micronesia. This means that a smaller proportion of grade five students (7% fewer) were performing at or above the expected level in reading when compared to the regional results. Additionally, 56% of grade five students in Federated States of Micronesia were performing at the lowest three levels (levels 0–2) compared to 45% regionally.

Table CRT5.3

Grade 5 reading distribution by proficiency scores and gender

Levels	Girls	Boys
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (unc)	undefined% (undefined)

Distribution of grade 5 students proficiency in reading by gender, FSM, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

When looking at the distribution of grade five reading proficiency scores in 2021 by gender (Table CRT5.3), we can see differences in the scores of girls and boys in Federated States of Micronesia. Slightly more grade five girls (39%) than boys (33%) performed at or above the expected minimum proficiency level in reading. 9% more boys also performed at the lowest level (level 0) than girls.