

Benchmarking grade 7 reading performance: Are standards being met?

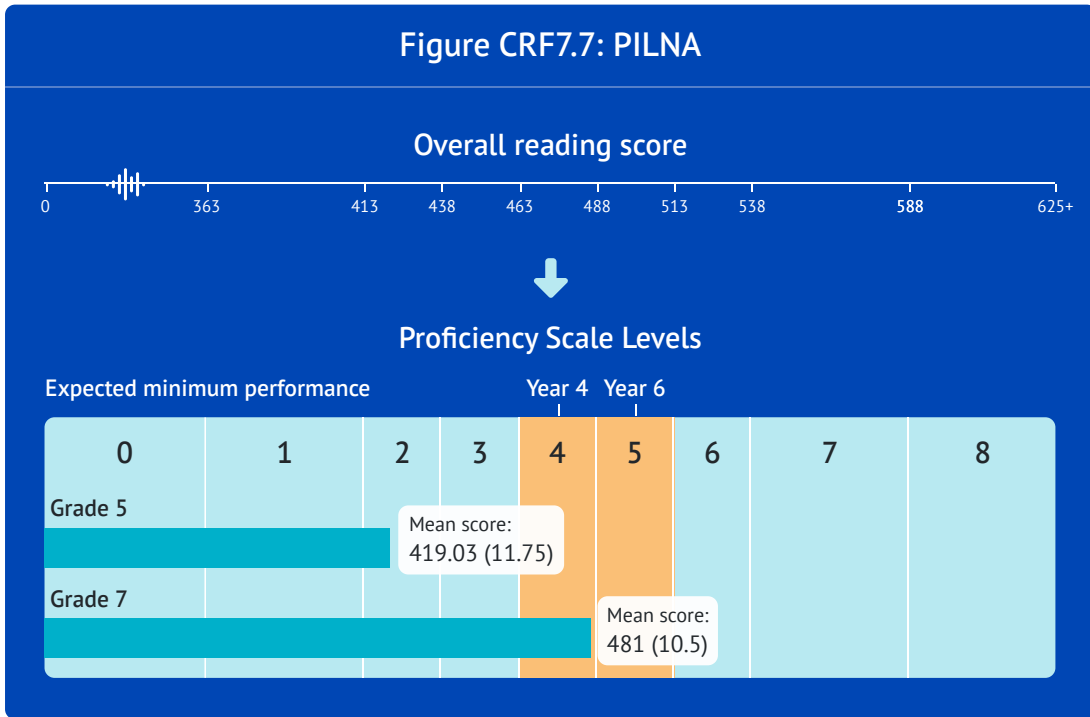
Table CRT7.1	
Grade 7 student proficiency in reading	
Level	Distribution
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (undefined)

Distribution of Grade 7 students by proficiency levels, FSM, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Table CRT7.1 shows the Federated States of Micronesia’s distribution of grade seven 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 seven students is proficiency level five. Pacific stakeholders expect these students to reach or exceed this proficiency level.

The average performance of grade seven students in Federated States of Micronesia in reading was 481.00 (SD = 96.00). This corresponds to proficiency level four on the PILNA reading proficiency scale (level four is assigned to scores 462.5–487.5) as shown in the common proficiency scale ‘meter’ in reading for grade seven students in the Federated States of Micronesia, Figure CRF5.7. On average, grade seven students in Federated States of Micronesia are not meeting the minimum expected standard in reading.



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. Approximately 47% of grade seven students in Federated States of Micronesia were performing at or above the minimum expected level in reading (levels 5–8) but about 53% did not meet this level (levels 0–4). This shows that approximately half of the grade seven students assessed in 2021 are meeting the minimum expected standard and approximately half are not. Also shown in Table CRT7.2 is the significant proportion of grade seven students who scored at the highest levels (levels seven and eight = 31%) and the lowest levels (levels zero and one = 27%).

Table CRT7.2

Grade 7 student reading proficiency relative to the region

Levels	Region	FSM
	undefined% (0.7)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.5)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.5)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.4)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.2)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.4)	undefined% (undefined)
	undefined% (0.3)	undefined% (undefined)

Distribution of the Grade 7 reading scores in FSM relative to the region, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Across the region, approximately 53% of grade seven students performed at or above the expected proficiency level in reading, compared to approximately 47% in Federated States of Micronesia, i.e. 6% fewer than in the region. Additionally, 27% of grade seven students in Federated States of Micronesia were performing at the lowest two levels (levels 0–1) compared to 16% regionally.

Table CRT7.3

Grade 7 students proficiency in reading by gender

Levels	Girls	Boys
	undefined% (3.4)	undefined% (2.46)
	undefined% (2.6)	undefined% (2.42)
	undefined% (1.4)	undefined% (2.16)
	undefined% (1.5)	undefined% (1.77)
	undefined% (1.5)	undefined% (1.42)
	undefined% (1.6)	undefined% (1.88)
	undefined% (1.9)	undefined% (1.71)
	undefined% (3.3)	undefined% (2.92)
	undefined% (2.2)	undefined% (3.10)

Distribution of Grade 7 students' proficiency in reading by gender, FSM, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

When looking at Federated States of Micronesia's distribution of grade seven reading proficiency scores in 2021 by gender (Table CRT7.3), we can see differences in the scores for girls and boys. Approximately 50% of grade seven girls performed at or above the expected minimum proficiency level, but only about 45% of grade seven boys did so.