

Benchmarking Grade 7 reading performance: Are standards being met?

Table CRT7.1

Grade 7 reading performance

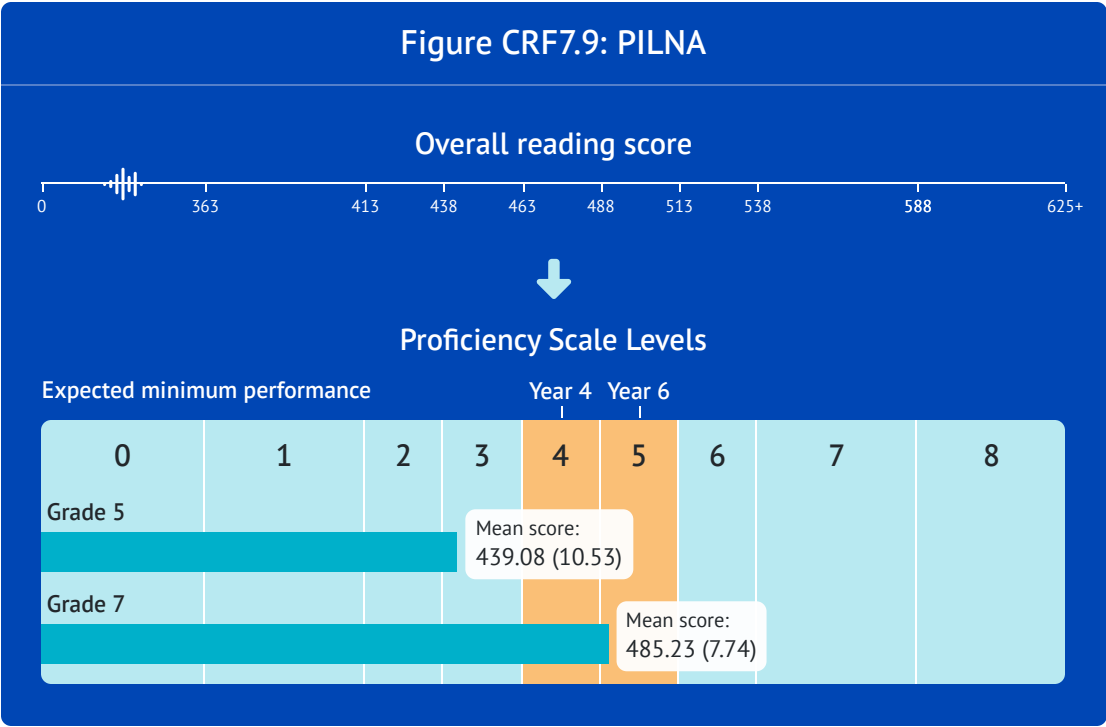
Level	Distribution	
8		10.46% (1.84)
7		13.59% (1.70)
6		15.61% (1.96)
5		11.39% (1.75)
4		11.14% (1.37)
3		12.46% (1.26)
2		6.67% (1.20)
1		11.49% (1.44)
0		7.19% (2.01)

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

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Figure CRT7.1 shows the Marshall Islands' 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 Marshall Islands in reading was 485.23 (SD = 82.93). This corresponds to proficiency at the higher part of level four on the PILNA reading proficiency scale (level four is assigned to scores 462.5–487.5), Figure CRF7.9. When looking at the average reading score, grade seven students in Marshall Islands 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 51% of grade seven students in Marshall Islands were performing at or above the minimum expected level in reading (levels 5–8) while about 49% 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, Figure CRT7.2

Table CRT7.2

Grade 7 student reading proficiency to the region

Level	Region	Marshall
8	10.98 % (0.73)	10.46 % (1.84)
7	16.92 % (0.55)	13.59 % (0.55)
6	12.51 % (0.53)	15.61 % (0.53)
5	12.72 % (0.37)	11.39 % (1.75)
4	12.03 % (0.30)	11.14 % (1.37)
3	10.74 % (0.43)	12.46 % (1.26)
2	8.19 % (0.29)	6.67 % (1.20)
1	10.76 % (0.46)	11.49 % (1.44)
0	5.16 % (0.39)	7.19 % (2.01)

Distribution of grade 7 student reading proficiency relative to the region, RMI, 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 51% in Marshall Islands. This means that a similar proportion of grade seven students in Marshall Islands and in the region were performing at or above the expected level in reading.

Table CRT7.3

Grade 7 Reading distribution by proficiency scores and gender

Level	Girls	Boys
8	13.19% (2.28)	8.15% (1.90)
7	17.11% (3.07)	10.39% (1.70)
6	16.71% (2.43)	14.86% (2.73)
5	11.39% (2.03)	11.24% (2.37)
4	11.16% (1.96)	11.19% (2.31)
3	11.45% (2.39)	13.61% (2.48)
2	5.31% (1.60)	7.82% (1.43)
1	8.22% (2.09)	13.78% (2.17)
0	5.46% (2.35)	8.96% (2.36)

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

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

When looking at Marshall Islands' distribution of grade seven reading proficiency scores in 2021 by gender (Table CRT7.3), we can see differences. Approximately 58% of grade seven girls performed at or above the expected minimum proficiency level, but only about 45% of grade seven boys did so.