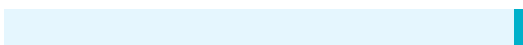
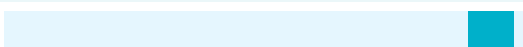
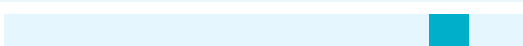
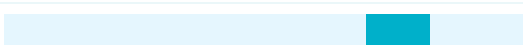
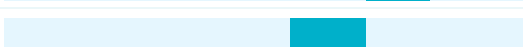

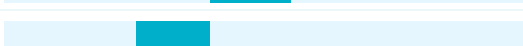
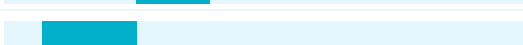
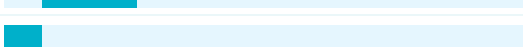


Benchmarking Grade 3 reading performance: Are standards being met?

Table CRT3.1

Grade 3 student proficiency in reading

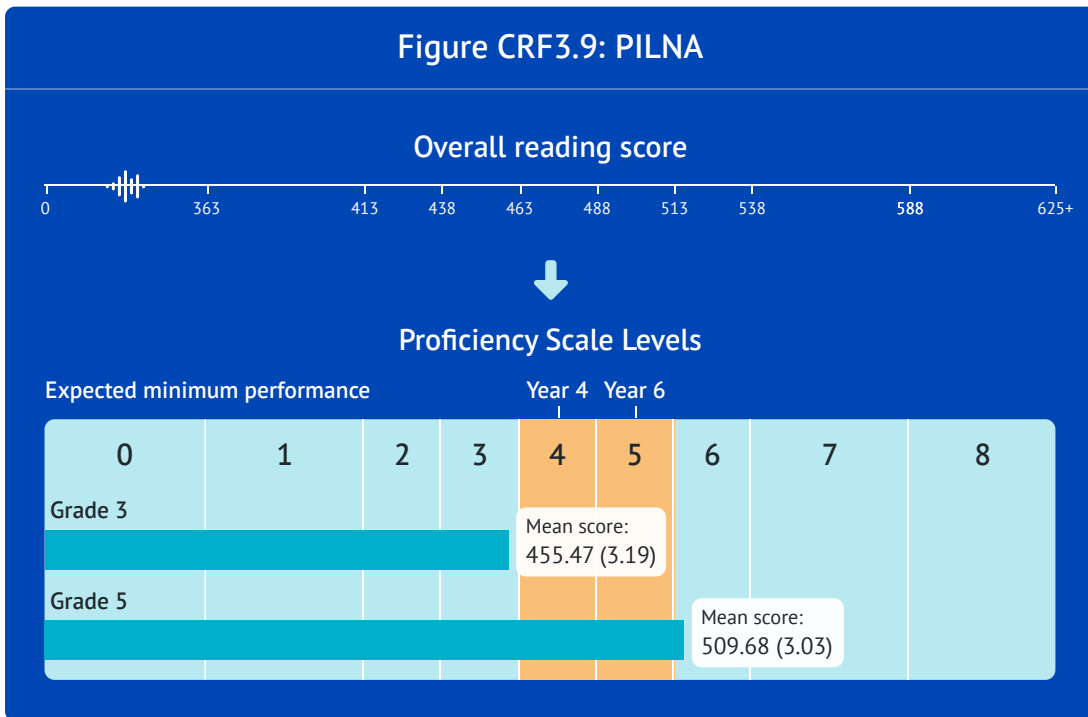
Level	Distribution
	 2.26% (0.73)
	 8.62% (1.20)
	 7.81% (0.82)
	 11.93% (0.92)
	 14.29% (1.25)
	 15.52% (1.14)
	 14.12% (1.15)
	 18.33% (1.36)
	 7.13% (0.82)

Distribution of Grade 3 students by proficiency levels, PNG, PILNA 2021.

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Table CRT3.1 shows the Papua New Guinea distribution of grade three 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 three students is proficiency level four, see below. Pacific stakeholders expect these students to reach or exceed this proficiency level.

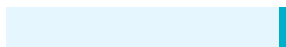
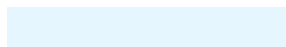
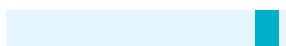
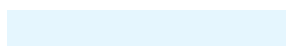
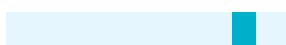
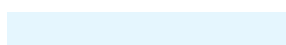
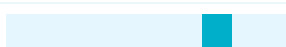
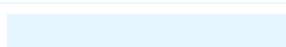
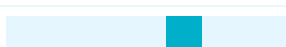
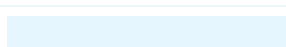

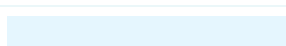

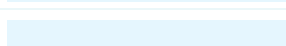
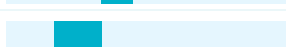
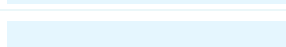
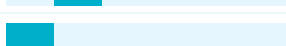
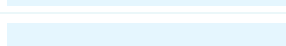
The average performance of grade three students in Papua New Guinea in reading was 455.47 (SD = 64.72). This corresponds to proficiency level three on the PILNA reading proficiency scale (level three is assigned to scores 437.5–462.5). On average, grade three students in Papua New Guinea are not meeting the minimum expected standard, level four, 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, as this statistic shows how many students are performing at or above the minimum expected level. This is shown in Table CRT3.1. Approximately 45% of grade three students in Papua New Guinea were performing at or above the minimum expected level in reading (levels 4–8). The majority of grade three students in Papua New Guinea, 55%, were not meeting the minimum expected level of performance in reading (levels 0–3). This includes a significant proportion (25%) of grade three students scoring at levels zero and one, the lowest levels on the reading scale.

Table CRT3.2

Grade 3 student reading proficiency relative to the region

Level	REGION	PNG
	 3.54% (0.39)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 8.54% (0.50)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 7.92% (0.33)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 10.74% (0.33)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 12.49% (0.38)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 12.23% (0.31)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 11.00% (0.38)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 17.01% (0.55)	 undefined% (undefined)
	 16.54% (0.78)	 undefined% (undefined)

Distribution of Grade 3 students' performance in reading in PNG against the region, PILNA 2021.

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

Across the region, approximately 43% of grade three students performed at or above the expected proficiency level in reading, compared to approximately 45% in Papua New Guinea. This means that Papua New Guinea has a slightly higher proportion of grade three students performing at or above the expected level of reading compared to the region as a whole. Additionally, Papua New Guinea had only 7% of grade three students performing at the lowest level (level 0) compared to 17% regionally.

Table CRT3.3

Grade 3 Reading distribution by proficiency scores and gender

Level	Girls	Boys
	2.43% (0.95)	2.17% (0.07)
	9.14% (1.67)	8.18% (1.27)
	8.12% (1.09)	7.32% (1.24)
	12.90% (1.43)	11.19% (1.11)
	14.11% (1.93)	14.44% (1.26)
	15.35% (1.29)	15.60% (1.60)
	14.13% (1.53)	13.96% (1.80)
	17.14% (1.70)	19.40% (1.79)
	6.67% (1.09)	7.73% (1.09)

Distribution of Grade 3 students' proficiency in reading by gender, PNG, PILNA 2021

() Standard errors appear in parentheses.

When looking at the distribution of grade three reading proficiency scores in 2021 by gender (Table CRT3.3), we can see differences in the scores of girls and boys in Papua New Guinea. Approximately 47% of grade three girls performed at or above the expected minimum proficiency level, but only about 43% of grade three boys did so.