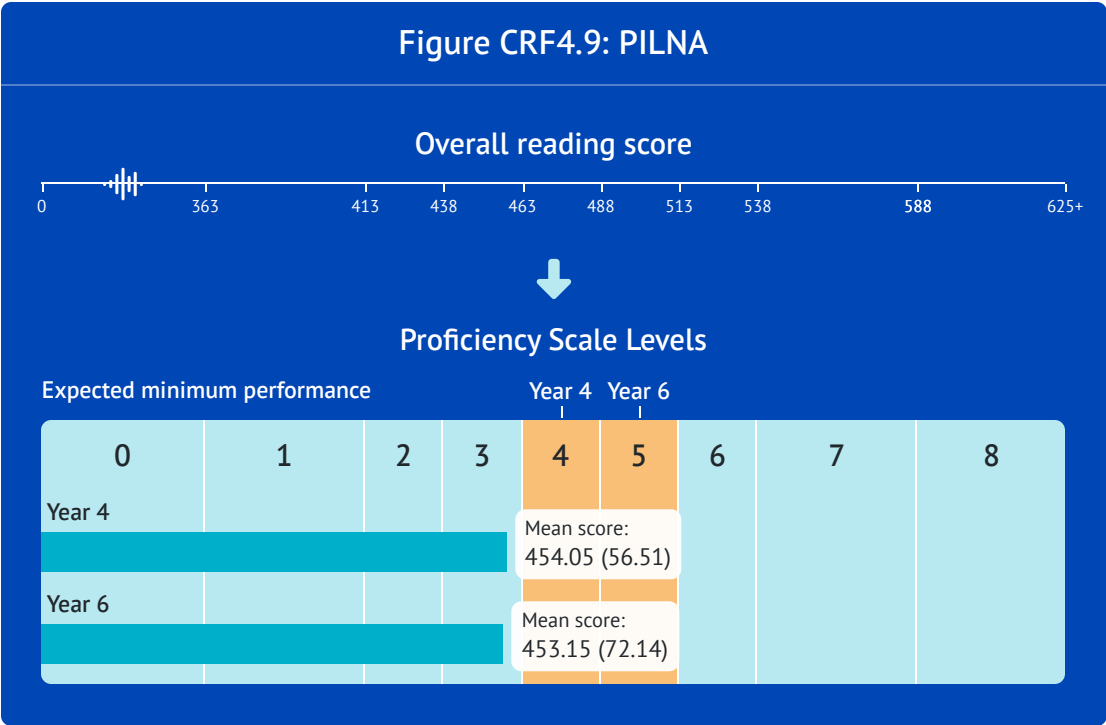


# Benchmarking Year 4 reading performance: Are standards being met?

Table CRT4.1		
Year 4 Student proficiency in Reading		
Level	Distribution	
8		0.64% (0.32)
7		4.92% (0.89)
6		8.17% (0.94)
5		14.25% (0.79)
4		18.91% (1.07)
3		17.53% (1.02)
2		13.56% (1.10)
1		15.67% (1.08)
0		6.31% (0.87)
Distribution of Year 4 students by proficiency levels, Tonga, PILNA 2021		
() Standard errors appear in parentheses.		

Table CRT4.1 shows the Tonga distribution of year four 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 year four students is proficiency level four. Pacific stakeholders expect these students to reach or exceed this proficiency level, (see Figure CRF4.9).

The average performance of year four students in Tonga in reading was 454.05 (SD = 56.51). This corresponds to proficiency level three on the PILNA reading proficiency scale (level three is assigned to scores 437.5–462.5). On average, year four students in Tonga 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, as this statistic shows how many students are performing at or above the minimum expected level. This is shown in Table CRT4.1 Approximately 47% of year four students in Tonga were performing at or above the minimum expected level in reading (levels 4–8), which means that the majority, 53%, were not meeting the expected level (levels 0–3). This includes a significant proportion of year four students scoring at levels one (16%) and zero (6%), the lowest levels on the reading scale.

Table CRT4.2

## Year 4 student reading proficiency relative to the region

level	Region	Tonga
8	3.54% (0.39)	0.64% (0.32)
7	8.54% (0.50)	4.92% (0.89)
6	7.92% (0.33)	8.17% (0.94)
5	10.74% (0.33)	14.25% (0.79)
4	12.49% (0.38)	18.91% (1.07)
3	12.23% (0.31)	17.53% (1.02)
2	11.00% (0.38)	13.56% (1.10)
1	17.01% (0.55)	15.67% (1.08)
0	16.54% (0.78)	6.31% (0.87)

### Distribution of Year 4 students' proficiency levels in Tonga, PILNA 2021

( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses.

On average, year four students in Tonga (454) are scoring higher in reading than year four students in the region (444). Slightly more students in Tonga (47%) are meeting the minimum expected proficiency level than the regional average (43%), refer to Table CRT4.2.

Table CRT4.3

### Year 4 Numeracy distribution by proficiency scores and gender

level	Boys	Girls
8	0.99 % (0.48)	0.32 % (0.22)
7	6.63 % (1.15)	3.35 % (0.87)
6	10.53 % (1.59)	5.94 % (0.84)
5	17.01 % (1.12)	11.66 % (1.16)
4	20.88 % (1.51)	17.07 % (1.39)
3	16.48 % (1.39)	18.74 % (1.32)
2	11.44 % (1.12)	15.70 % (1.88)
1	11.75 % (1.08)	19.11 % (1.69)
0	4.28 % (0.94)	8.11 % (1.34)

#### Distribution of Year 4 students' proficiency in reading by gender, Tonga, PILNA 2021

( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses.

When looking at the distribution of year four reading proficiency scores in 2021 by gender (Table CRT4.3), we can see differences in the scores. Approximately 56% of year four girls performed at or above the expected minimum proficiency level, but only about 38% of year four boys did so.