

# Benchmarking year 6 reading performance: Are standards being met?

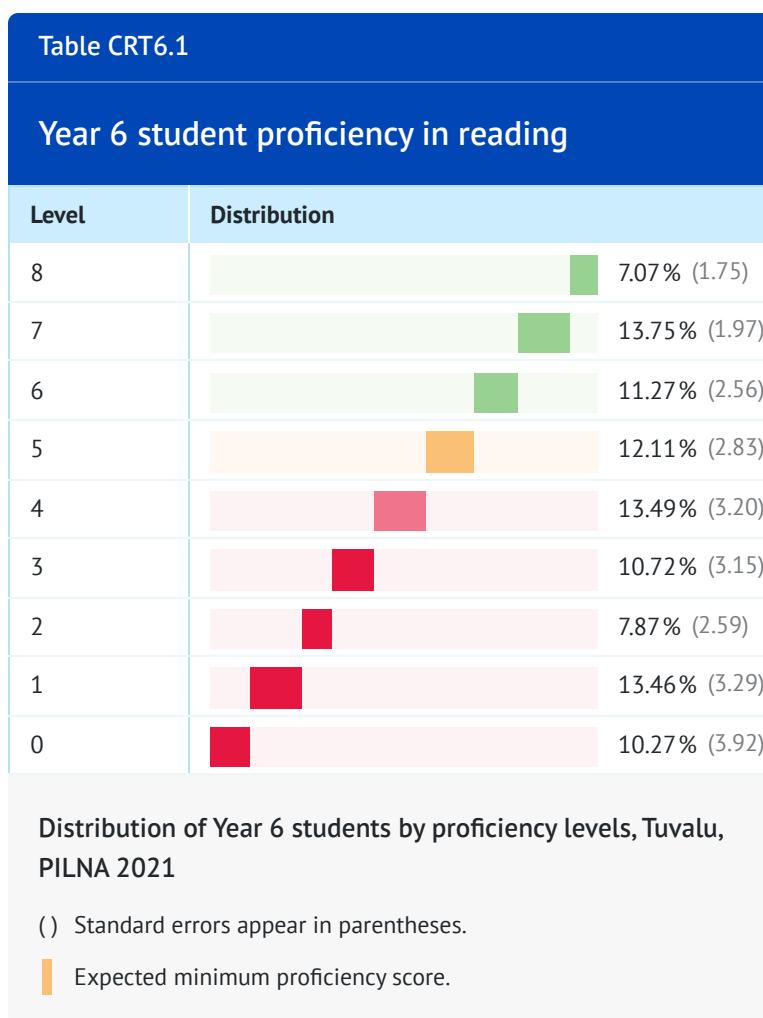
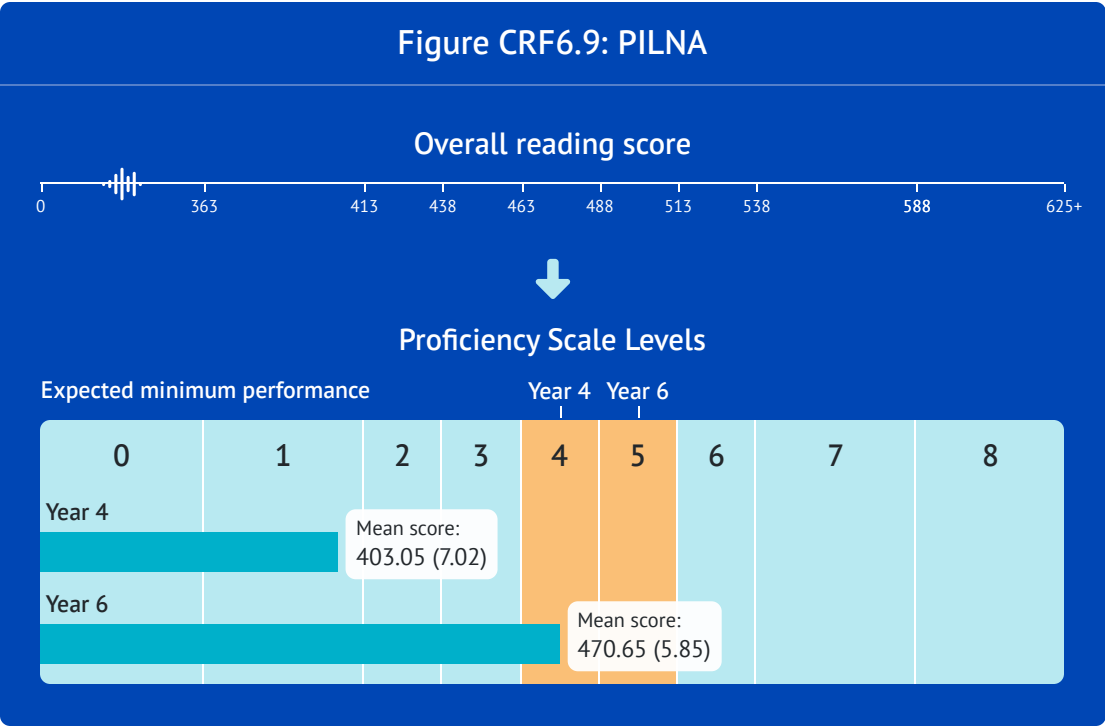


Table CRT6.1 shows the Tuvalu distribution of year six reading scores against the PILNA reading proficiency scale. This scale converts a student's reading performance into a level ranking from zero to eight. The expected minimum reading performance for year six students is **proficiency level five**. Pacific stakeholders expect these students to reach or exceed this proficiency level.

The average performance of year six students in Tuvalu in reading was 470.65 (SD = 83.12). This corresponds to proficiency level four on the PILNA reading proficiency scale (level four is assigned to scores 462.5–487.5). On average, year six students in Tuvalu 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. This is shown in Table CRT6.1. Approximately 44% of year six students in Tuvalu were performing at or above the minimum expected level in reading (levels 5–8) but about 56% did not meet this level (levels 0–4). This shows that nearly half the year six students assessed in 2021 are meeting the minimum expected standard but more than half are not.

Table CRT6.2

## Year 6 student reading proficiency relative to the region

Level	Region	SIS	Tuvalu
8	10.98% (0.73)	35.29% (3.74)	7.07% (1.75)
7	16.92% (0.55)	20.97% (1.85)	13.75% (1.97)
6	12.51% (0.53)	8.84% (1.61)	11.27% (2.56)
5	12.72% (0.37)	7.97% (1.23)	12.11% (2.83)
4	12.03% (0.30)	6.10% (1.08)	13.49% (3.20)
3	10.74% (0.43)	5.15% (1.13)	10.72% (3.15)
2	8.19% (0.29)	4.21% (1.04)	7.87% (2.59)
1	10.76% (0.46)	7.37% (1.93)	13.46% (3.29)
0	5.16% (0.39)	4.10% (1.33)	10.27% (3.92)

### Distribution of Year 6 student reading proficiency relative to the region and SIS, Tuvalu, PILNA 2021

( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses.

On average, year six students in Tuvalu (471) are scoring lower in reading than year six students in the region (492). Also, only about 44% of year six students met or exceeded the expected minimum reading proficiency levels in Tuvalu, compared with 53% across the region and 73% in Small Island States (Table CRT6.2).

Table CRT6.3

## Year 6 Reading distribution by proficiency scores and gender

Level	Boys	Girls
8	5.51 % (3.19)	8.72 % (3.17)
7	12.22 % (3.10)	15.36 % (4.58)
6	9.39 % (4.48)	13.26 % (2.64)
5	8.43 % (3.58)	16.00 % (3.75)
4	11.06 % (3.35)	16.06 % (5.75)
3	11.02 % (3.47)	10.40 % (4.20)
2	7.58 % (3.45)	8.18 % (2.79)
1	19.50 % (5.21)	7.07 % (3.36)
0	15.29 % (6.36)	4.95 % (2.43)

### Distribution of Year 6 students' proficiency in reading by gender, Tuvalu, PILNA 2021

( ) Standard errors appear in parentheses.

When looking at the Tuvalu distribution of year six reading proficiency scores in 2021 by gender (Table CRT6.3), we can see differences in the scores. Approximately 53% of year six girls performed at or above the expected minimum proficiency level, but only about 36% of year six boys did so.