



## Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103

Memo

To: Board of Education

From: Dr. Katie Reynolds, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

CC: Dr. Scott Warren, Superintendent

Date: September 4, 2025

Re: IAR Data and Growth Report

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This report provides information on the new proficiency levels and benchmarks for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, along with proficiency and growth data from Spring 2025.

### **New Student Proficiency Benchmarks and Performance Labels**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has approved new proficiency benchmarks and performance label descriptors. The new proficiency benchmarks are lower than those of previous years at all grade levels. In previous years, the benchmark for “Proficient” was a fixed score of 750. Beginning in Spring 2025, the benchmark range will be from 732 to 745. The benchmark score increases by grade level and varies by subject, meaning it is easier to achieve “proficient” in some grades and subjects than in others. This shift occurs because the state now aligns benchmarks to different national percentiles, ranging from approximately the 45th to the 69th percentile.

For example:

- **Math:** Proficiency becomes harder to achieve as students move up in grade level. For example, a 3rd grader must score around the 55th national percentile to be considered proficient, while an 8th grader must reach the 69th percentile. This may create the appearance of declining proficiency, even if actual student performance has not changed.
- **ELA:** Proficiency is generally easier to attain than in math. For instance, in 6th grade, the proficiency benchmark is set at the 62nd percentile in math but only the 47th percentile in ELA. As a result, reported proficiency rates are much higher in ELA (57%) than in math (33%), despite similar levels of student performance.

The new performance level descriptors across all state assessments are: Above Proficient, Proficient, Approaching Proficient, and Below Proficient.

## Key Takeaways

- The state assessments are now aligned with the same four performance levels.
- Do not compare proficiency rates across grades or subjects.
- Focus should remain on student growth, which more accurately reflects progress and improvement over time.

## **2025 IAR Proficiency Charts**

As we review this year's Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) results, I am pleased to share that our students continue to demonstrate strong performance overall. District 103 proficiency rates remain above average in both English Language Arts and Mathematics, reflecting the hard work of our students and the dedication of our teachers. Additional information regarding State Assessments will be shared following the release of the State Report Card, which is expected this October.

Test Grades	Program Content Areas	Test Window	Students	Performance Level - Proficient
3	English Language Arts	Spring 25	198	81%
4	English Language Arts	Spring 25	213	80%
5	English Language Arts	Spring 25	218	86%
6	English Language Arts	Spring 25	233	87%
7	English Language Arts	Spring 25	229	88%
8	English Language Arts	Spring 25	256	93%

Test Grades	Program Content Areas	Test Window	Students	Performance Level - Proficient
3	Math	Spring 25	198	82%
4	Math	Spring 25	212	81%
5	Math	Spring 25	216	78%
6	Math	Spring 25	234	81%
7	Math	Spring 25	228	83%
8	Math	Spring 25	255	84%

### **IAR Growth Update**

This report was created by ECRA, an analytics firm contracted by the district to analyze student data and measure growth. It summarizes the academic growth of students, as measured by the IAR, who have been enrolled in District 103 for at least one school year.

Using prior assessment data, ECRA generated projected scores in the fall of 2024. This report compares those projections with students' actual growth.

It is important to note that the “% Met Benchmark” in this report is lower than the proficiency percentages shown in the charts above. The charts above reflect the district's official state-reported proficiency rates. The attached report includes only students who have been in the district for at least one year. These numbers will not appear on the State Report Card.

Overall, the district performed exceptionally well, with the majority of students meeting or exceeding expected growth. Dr. Warren and I will be meeting with an ECRA representative to further investigate the two areas that showed lower-than-expected growth. Following that meeting, we will review MAP and IAR data for the relevant grade levels and content areas to determine whether any instructional adjustments are needed for specific standards or units of study.