



Student Performance Levels

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment which provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards at each grade-level. Students receive a score based on their performance in each content area. The Student Performance Level (achievement level) is a categorical score. There are four performance levels:

Developing, Approaching, Meeting, and Advanced. The goal for all students is to score at the meeting or advanced level. The performance levels help answer the question, “How does this student’s learning compare to the expectations for their grade level?”



Performance levels are based on predetermined score ranges. The [score ranges](#) for each content area were set using a process in which Wisconsin educators were brought together at a [Standard Setting](#) to carefully consider the academic standards, performance level descriptors, and test questions. Performance level categories are defined as:

- **Advanced** – The student demonstrates a thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills described in the Wisconsin Academic Standards for their grade level and is on-track for future learning.
- **Meeting** – The student is meeting the knowledge and skill expectations described in the Wisconsin Academic Standards for their grade level and is on-track for future learning.
- **Approaching** – The student is approaching the knowledge and skill expectations described in the Wisconsin Academic Standards for their grade level needed to be on-track for future learning.
- **Developing** – The student is at the beginning stages of developing the knowledge and skills described in the Wisconsin Academic Standards for their grade level needed to be on-track for future learning.



Students who scored in the Meeting or Advanced performance level were meeting grade-level expectations at the time of testing. Students who scored in the Approaching or Developing Performance Level have yet to meet grade-level expectations at the time of testing. The Forward

Exam is one measure of student achievement and should be used in conjunction with multiple measures such as locally administered interim and formative assessment data, classroom observations, and student grades to gauge student learning.

More information about the Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) is available on the [Forward Exam Data and Results webpage](#).