

Mississippi Science and History Results Performance Levels & Raw/Scale Scores

Performance Levels

A performance level is assigned to a student taking any MAAP test. A performance level is reported in each Individual Student Report. The general performance level descriptors (PLDs) are established by State Board policy as follows:

Science, Biology, and History

PL5 (Advanced) Students at the Advanced level consistently perform in a manner clearly beyond that required to be successful in the grade or course in the content area.

PL4 (Proficient) Students at the Proficient level demonstrate solid academic performance and mastery of the knowledge and skills required for success in the grade or course in the content area.

PL3 (Passing) Students at the Passing level demonstrate limited mastery of the knowledge and skills required for success in the grade or course in the content area.

PL2 (Basic) Students at the Basic level demonstrate partial mastery of the knowledge and skills required in the grade or content area and may experience difficulty in the next grade.

PL1 (Minimal) Students performing below the Minimal level demonstrate little to no mastery of the knowledge or skills in the grade or content area and may experience significant difficulty in the next grade.

Science and History Scale Scores

Assessment	PL1	PL2	PL3	PL4	PL5
Science Grade 5	500–540	541–549	550–564	565–588	589–650
Science Grade 8	800–840	841–849	850–864	865–888	889–950
Biology	1000–1037	1038–1049	1050–1064	1065–1094	1095–1180
U.S. History	1000–1036	1037–1049	1050–1064	1065–1088	1089–1150

Choosing the Cut Scores

A standard setting took place in summer 2019 for the Science and Biology tests. Cut score values on the scale score metric for each test were recommended by each standard setting committee of Mississippi educators.

For U.S. History, a standard setting took place in summer 2021. Cut score values and the scale score metric for U.S. History were recommended by the standard setting committee of Mississippi educators. The U.S. History recommendations were validated in summer 2022.

The cut scores and the resulting performance level scale score ranges for each subject were determined based on the recommendation of the standard setting committees. All final cut scores and performance level scale score ranges were approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education.

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How the Scale Score is Derived

Because the MAAP tests are composed of different sets of items with varying difficulties from year-to-year the test raw scores are not comparable. To make the MAAP results comparable from year- to-year, the tests are statistically equated. The equating process adjusts for the differences in item difficulty on the MAAP test forms. MAAP scale scores are maintained through the equating process and, thus, carry the same meaning from year-to-year. Scale scores remove the effect of item difficulty that confounds the interpretation of raw scores. This means that any given scale score value for a grade- level and subject-area test has the same meaning in the current administration as it had in previous administrations. For this reason, the scale scores are suitable for comparing students' performances across years.

While scale scores are comparable across tests in each subject, they are not comparable across subjects. Although these scores may look similar, each test has its own system of scale scores.