

Performance Standards (reported in Lexiles)

Test. North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests (Reading Comprehension).

Test Publisher. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Test Information. The North Carolina End-of-Grade Test (NCEOG) of Reading Comprehension is administered to all students in grades 3 through 8 at the end of the school year. In addition, a pretest (3 PT) is administered to all students at the beginning of grade 3 covering grade 2 content. Each form of the test at each grade level consists of 10 passages and from 3 to 8 associated questions. The ten passages are selected from across the content areas including literature, art, science, health, social studies, mathematics, and consumer/human interest. There is no separate vocabulary section on the test—vocabulary is assessed in context.

The NCEOG test is designed to assess a “student’s ability to read and comprehend written material that is appropriate for the grade level in terms of difficulty and content” (NCDPI, 1996). The NCEOG test assesses a student’s ability to use strategies, which enhance the control of reading comprehension including acquiring, interpreting, and applying information, and reading for critical analysis and evaluation.

Scores on the NCEOG reading tests are reported on a developmental scale that ranges from 100 to 200. The test was rescaled in 2003 and scores are reported on a developmental scale that ranges from 200 to 300. The test was rescaled a third time in 2008 and scores are reported on a developmental scale that ranges from 300 to 400. NCEOG test results can be interpreted in both a norm-referenced and criterion-referenced framework.

Scores on the NCEOC English I tests are reported on a distinct scale that ranges from 100 to 200.

Method. Mean-anchored Scale-to-Scale Linking Study conducted in 1996 for Grades 3 through 8. An additional study was conducted in 2008 with students in grades 3, 5, 8 and 9/English I.

Performance Standards. Performance standards were developed for the end-of-grade tests using the contrasting groups method. During the field test (May 1992), teachers were asked to categorize each student participating in the field test into one of four proficiency levels. Teachers were asked to base their judgments on their first-hand knowledge of the student’s level of achievement during the school year in various domains assessed outside of the testing situation. Teachers are able to make informed judgments about students’ achievement because the teachers have observed the breadth and depth of the work each student has accomplished during the school year. The four achievement levels are:

- **Level I:** Students performing at this level do not have sufficient mastery of knowledge and skills in the subject area to be successful at the next grade level.
- **Level II:** Students performing at this level demonstrate inconsistent mastery of knowledge and skills in the subject area and are minimally prepared to be successful at the next grade level.
- **Level III:** Students performing at this level consistently demonstrate mastery of the grade-level subject matter and skills and are well-prepared for the next grade level.

- **Level IV:** Student's performing at this level consistently perform in a superior manner clearly beyond that required to be proficient at grade-level work.

The percentage of students categorized into each achievement level was applied to the distribution of scores when the tests were administered statewide for the first time (May 1993) and a range of scores was established for each achievement level at each grade.

Table 1. NCEOG/NCEOC performance standards in the Lexile metric.

Grade	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV
3 PT*				
3	At or Below 470L	495L to 645L	665L to 940L	At or Above 965L
4	At or Below 570L	595L to 765L	790L to 1040L	At or Above 1065L
5	At or Below 715L	740L to 915L	940L to 1215L	At or Above 1235L
6	At or Below 815L	840L to 965L	990L to 1215L	At or Above 1235L
7	At or Below 890L	915L to 1090L	1115L to 1260L	At or Above 1285L
8	At or Below 940L	965L to 1140L	1165L to 1435L	At or Above 1460L
9/E1	At or Below 845L	870L to 1050L	1075L to 1330L	At or Above 1355L

* Achievement levels have not yet been established by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

Test Administration. NCEOG Grade 3 Pretest, Reading: Within the first three weeks of the school year. NCEOG Grades 3-8, Reading: Last three weeks of the school year. NCEOC English I: Last week of the course (4 x 4/Semester Course) or last two weeks of course (Traditional Course).