

i-Ready Diagnostic's New Norms: Four Key Considerations when Using New Norms

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Overview

The new post-pandemic *i-Ready Diagnostic* national norms, which will be available beginning with the 2024–2025 school year, reflect the lower levels of proficiency seen across the country. These new norms may have implications for districts that use norms to make instructional decisions about students, such as determining which students receive Tier 2 and Tier 3 intervention services or determining eligibility requirements for certain coursework. This document provides key considerations for districts that use percentile ranks and are seeking guidance on how to continue to identify the right students in the future.

How Do *i-Ready Diagnostic's* New Norms Impact Norm-Based Decisions?

The pandemic significantly impacted the performance of students across the country. In general, students have less proficiency in reading and mathematics than in the past, with more substantial decreases in mathematics. These changes in student performance result in the same percentile rank being associated with a lower level of knowledge and skill than in prior years and has resulted in a “new normal.”

For example, in districts and buildings that use percentile ranks to determine intervention services or eligibility criteria, fewer students than in the past may be seen as eligible for intervention services. It is important to consider how new norms will affect decisions made about student instruction and classification. The following guidelines can help districts make the most informed decisions possible when using norm-based data for decision-making purposes.

1

Always consider multiple data points.

A single data point, such as a norm, can never tell the whole story about a student. When possible, **use multiple data points to make decisions about students.** Data could include domain-level performance, state data, and of course formative data, such as teacher observations of student academic performance.

2


Use the most current norms when available.

Norms are periodically updated to be current with changes in student proficiency. *i-Ready Diagnostic's* norms, for example, tend to change roughly every five years. **We recommend using the most current norms**, so if a district used the 16th to 39th percentile for Tier 2 instruction in the past, we recommend continuing to use the 16th to 39th percentile in the future. By continuing to keep norm-based thresholds consistent, districts will get a more realistic picture of student performance.

3

Carefully monitor students to determine if their instruction is appropriate.

Although we recommend using the new norms going forward, **it is critical to monitor students to determine if their instruction is appropriate.** If students who were eligible for intervention services in prior years no longer meet eligibility criteria due to shifts in norms, it is important to carefully monitor the performance of these students with criteria-based data and formative information. If



these other data points (see guideline one above) suggest the adjustment of a decision made using percentile ranks, we recommend making the needed adjustment. For example, consider a student who has been receiving Tier 2 intervention in algebra, but based on new norms is no longer beneath the threshold. If this student is not making progress without more targeted, small group intervention, adjustments should be made based on this other information.

4

Consider using grade-level placements to inform instructional decisions.

Although norms can indicate how well a student is performing relative to other students, norms are generally not useful in communicating the knowledge and skills a student possesses. Therefore, we recommend **using *i-Ready's* grade-level placements for intervention or eligibility purposes.** *i-Ready Diagnostic's* overall reading and mathematics placements and domain-specific placements are valuable for informing instructional decisions.

For Additional Information

To learn more about *i-Ready Diagnostic's* new norms, please visit [our Diagnostic Norms page](#) or contact your *i-Ready* Partner Success Manager or Educational Consultant.