



Linking Renaissance Star and the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) to Istation Reading

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Linking Renaissance Star and the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) to Istation Reading

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Executive Summary

This study provides the proficiency projection of the Istation Reading Formative Assessment on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Reading assessment for kindergarten through fifth grades. Kindergarten through second grades take the Renaissance Star Early Literacy and Reading assessments under the FAST progress monitoring program. The sample consisted of 32,188 students from three school districts in Florida in the 2022-2023 school year. Students took Istation Reading in the beginning-of-the-year (BOY), middle-of-the-year (MOY), and end-of-the-year (EOY) assessment months, and FAST during the spring assessment month.

The Pearson product-moment correlations of Istation Reading MOY and FAST at MOY range from 0.60 to 0.78 and 0.61 to 0.80 for Istation Reading EOY and FAST at spring benchmarking. They indicate strong relationships between Istation Reading and the FAST Reading assessment.

At MOY, to achieve a high probability of attaining *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments, students had to attain Istation Reading overall scores at the following percentile ranks:

- Kindergarten: 35th
- First grade: 35th
- Second grade: 40th
- Third grade: 65th
- Fourth grade: 65th
- Fifth grade: 65th

At EOY, to achieve a high probability of attaining *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments, students had to attain Istation Reading overall scores at the following percentile ranks:

- Kindergarten: 30th
- First grade: 35th
- Second grade: 40th
- Third grade: 65th

Fourth grade: 60th
Fifth grade: 65th

Classification accuracy analyses were conducted. At MOY, the area under the curve (AUC) ranged from 0.71 to 0.81, indicating that the percentage of students correctly classified on the Istation Reading with respect to the Star/FAST Reading assessments was approximately 76% across grades. Sensitivity ranged from 0.70 to 0.89, indicating that approximately 80% of students who performed above the cut point on Istation Reading attained the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Specificity ranged from 0.58 to 0.88, indicating that approximately 73% of students who performed below the cut point on Istation Reading did not attain the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Istation Reading accurately predicted meeting reading proficiency on the Star and FAST assessments about 78% of the time at the MOY.

At EOY, the AUC ranged from 0.71 to 0.83, indicating that approximately 77% of students were correctly classified on the Istation Reading with respect to the Star and FAST Reading assessments across grades. Sensitivity ranged from 0.70 to 0.91, indicating that approximately 81% of students who performed above the cut point on Istation Reading attained the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Specificity ranged from 0.57 to 0.87, indicating that approximately 72% of students who performed below the cut point on Istation Reading did not attain the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Istation Reading accurately predicted meeting reading proficiency on the Star and FAST assessments about 78% of the time at EOY.

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Introduction

This study provides the proficiency projection of Istation Reading Formative Assessment (Istation Reading) observed scores on the Renaissance Star and FAST Reading scores for kindergarten through fifth grade. Students took these assessments during the 2022–2023 school year, and a correlational study and classification accuracy were also conducted.

Regular administration of Istation assessments (either monthly or three times each school year during benchmarking assessment months) and the administration of the Star and FAST assessments in the spring present an opportunity for conducting a linking study. The results from this study can be useful for teachers and school administrators to prepare students for the Star and FAST assessments in the spring.

The Istation Reading assessments have strong correlations with other state assessments, and linking studies with other assessments demonstrated that Istation Reading can be used to project student proficiency on end-of-year assessments:

- New Mexico Measures of Student Success and Achievement (Wolf et al., 2023)
- State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) (Jeans, 2024)
- Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) ELA (Jeans, 2024)
- Virginia Standards of Learning (Campbell, Sutter, & Lambie, 2019)
- Ohio AIR (LePlante, 2019)
- Renaissance Star (Campbell, Sutter, Lambie, & Tinstman Jones, 2019)
- Colorado Measures of Academic Success ELA (Patarapichayatham, 2019)
- Idaho SAT (Wolfe & Ross, 2020)
- New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLA) (Wolf & Locke, 2022)
- PARCC (Cook & Ross, 2020)
- Kansas Assessment Program (Patarapichayatham, 2017)

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Background

Istation Reading Assessment

Istation Reading formative assessments utilize a computer-adaptive testing (CAT) approach based on two-parameter item response theory, which enables measurement of critical domains such as reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and spelling. These assessments are highly efficient, capable of tracking progress within or across academic years, and can be administered to an entire classroom, school, or district in as little as 30 minutes, easily fitting within the school day. Immediate online availability of student results provides teachers and administrators insight into each student's past and current performance, as well as skill growth. Teachers receive alerts when students are not making adequate progress, allowing them to modify instruction before a pattern of failure develops (Mathes, 2011).

The Istation Reading formative assessment helps teachers identify areas of need and provide differentiated instruction according to a student's pattern of strengths and weaknesses. Istation Reading is available for prekindergarten through 8th grade students and has a continuous vertical scale that assesses reading ability across these grades. In addition to detailed reports, Istation provides teachers and other school personnel with links to teaching resources and targeted intervention strategies (Mathes et al., 2023). Scaled scores range from 100 to 900. There are five performance levels for Istation Reading:

- Level 1: at or below the 20th percentile rank
- Level 2: between the 21st and 40th percentile rank
- Level 3: between the 41st and 60th percentile rank
- Level 4: between the 61st and 80th percentile rank
- Level 5: at or above the 81st percentile rank.

FAST Reading Assessment

In the 2022–23 school year, Florida schools transitioned to the FAST progress monitoring programs for grades 3–10 ELA Reading. The computer-adaptive assessment is administered three times per year to track students' progress in learning required reading materials within Florida's Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards. FAST for students in grades K–2 is also administered three times per year using Renaissance Learning's Star assessments (i.e., Star Early Literacy, Star Reading).

Students receive a performance level and a numerical scaled score that corresponds to the knowledge, skills, and abilities that students must demonstrate to be classified into different performance levels as shown in Tables 1 through 3.

Kindergarten students who take the Star Early Literacy assessment are stratified into three levels:

- Emergent Reader: Students understand that printed text carries meaning, recognizing letters and their sounds. They're starting to read picture books and familiar words, building vocabulary and comprehension through repeated reading experiences.
- Transitional Reader: Students have mastered alphabet skills and understand letter-sound relationships, identifying beginning and ending consonant sounds, as well as long and short vowel sounds. They can likely blend sounds and word parts to read simple words, employing various strategies such as using pictures, story patterns, and phonics to decipher unfamiliar words.
- Probable Reader: Students are becoming proficient at recognizing many words in and out of context. They spend less time decoding and more time comprehending what they read. They can blend sounds and word parts to read words and sentences more quickly, smoothly, and independently.

Students in grades 1 and 2 who take the Star Reading assessment are stratified into five levels based on percentile rank, as shown in Table 2.

Students in grades 3 through 5 who took the FAST Reading assessment are stratified into five levels:

- Well Below Grade Level: **Highly likely to need substantial support** for the next grade/course
- Below Grade Level: **Likely to need substantial support** for the next grade/course
- On Grade Level: **May need additional support** for the next grade/course
- Proficient: **Likely to excel** in the next grade/course
- Exemplary: **Highly likely to excel** in the next grade/course

The purpose of this study is to predict students' performance on FAST Reading based on their Istation Reading scores. There are two objectives in the current study:

- (1) Use Istation Reading scores from the middle-of-year (MOY) benchmark month to predict FAST outcomes.
- (2) Use Istation Reading scores from the end-of-year (EOY) benchmark month to predict FAST outcomes.

Table 1. Star Early Literacy Scale Score Ranges by Performance Level

Grade	Emergent Reader	Transitional Reader	Probable Reader
K	200-785	786-851	852-1100

Table 2. Star Reading Percentile Rank Ranges by Performance Level

Grade	Urgent Intervention	Intervention	On Watch	At Benchmark	Above Benchmark
1	<10	10-24	25-39	40-49	≥50
2	<10	10-24	25-39	40-49	≥50

Table 3. FAST Reading Scale Score Ranges by Performance Level

Grade	Well Below Grade Level	Below Grade Level	On Grade Level	Proficient	Exemplary
3	140-185	186-200	201-212	213-224	225-260
4	154-198	199-212	213-223	224-236	237-270
5	160-205	206-221	222-231	232-245	246-279

Methodology

Analytical Sample

The analytical sample consisted of kindergarten through fifth grade students from three school districts in Florida in the 2022-2023 school year. Only students who had valid Istation Reading and FAST scores were included in the analyses.

Table 4 presents the analytic sample breakdown by grade, totaling 32,188 students. There were 1,056 students from District A; 69 students from District B; and 31,063 students from District C. Students took the Istation Reading Formative Assessment at the BOY, MOY, and EOY assessment months and took FAST in the spring. Table 5 has the demographic breakdown by district and grade.

Table 4. Sample Size by District and Grade

Grade	A	B	C	Total
K	N/A	N/A	4256	4256
1	N/A	N/A	5291	5291
2	N/A	N/A	5386	5386
3	379	22	5741	6141
4	341	28	5179	5548
5	336	19	5211	5566

Table 5. Sample Demographic Characteristics by District

District	Demographic Characteristics	Percentage
A	Race/Ethnicity: Black or African American	6%
	Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino origin	25%
	Race/Ethnicity: White/Non-Hispanic	65%
	Race/Ethnicity: Asian or Other	4%
B	Gender: Female/Male	58%/42%
	Race/Ethnicity: Black or African American	1%
	Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino origin	64%
	Race/Ethnicity: Asian or Other	3%
	Students With Disabilities	7%
	Current English Language Learner	12%
C	Gender: Female/Male	49%/51%
	Race/Ethnicity: Black or African American	18%
	Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino origin	21%
	Race/Ethnicity: White/Non-Hispanic	51%
	Race/Ethnicity: Asian or Other	10%
	Current English Language Learner	35%

Analytical Approach

Pearson product-moment correlations were conducted to confirm the correlation in performance between Istation Reading and the Star Early Literacy, Star Reading, and FAST Reading assessments. Next, multinomial logistic regression determined the probabilities of reaching (1) *Transitional Reader* and *Probable Reader* on Star Early Literacy; (2) *At Benchmark* and *Above Benchmark* on Star Reading; and (3) *On Grade Level, Proficient, or Exemplary* on the FAST Reading assessment. The analysis used the Istation Reading score as the predictor and the FAST performance levels as outcome variables. Students with Istation Reading scores ranging from the 1st to the 99th percentile ranks were part of the analysis. A selection of 20 Istation Reading scaled scores in MOY and EOY, corresponding to the following percentile ranks, was made: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 99. The model was adapted for each grade individually.

The probability of achieving the FAST performance level 3 (*On Grade Level*) or above is computed by adding the probabilities of levels 3 through 5. The probability of achieving the FAST performance level 4 (*Proficient*) or above is computed by adding the probabilities of levels 4 and 5. The probability of achieving FAST performance level 5 (*Exemplary*) is the probability only for level 5. This method was implemented similarly for Star Early Literacy and Star Reading. The analyses were computed using Stata 18.0 software. Finally, classification accuracy analyses determined Istation Reading cut points that assist in differentiating students who will or will not attain *Transitional Reader* or higher on Star Early Literacy; *At Benchmark* or higher on Star Reading; and *On Grade Level* or higher on FAST Reading.

Results

Istation Reading and FAST Descriptive Statistics

Table 6 presents the descriptive statistics for Istation Reading and FAST performance by grade and district.

Table 6. Istation Reading and FAST/Star Mean Score and Standard Deviation (SD) by Grade and District

District	Grade	Istation BOY (SD)	Istation MOY (SD)	Istation EOY (SD)	FAST/Star Score (SD)
A	3	444.74 (71.97)	469.69 (78.72)	495.98 (87.00)	197.40 (22.02)
	4	487.51 (68.42)	506.55 (71.43)	522.01 (74.56)	208.42 (20.21)
	5	524.76 (72.73)	540.42 (75.19)	550.69 (76.24)	217.38 (19.93)
B	3	434.23 (55.46)	475.23 (73.15)	515.64 (68.06)	202.64 (17.54)
	4	524.04 (48.72)	523.25 (43.95)	561.54 (44.51)	215.32 (12.16)
	5	514.26 (90.56)	551.05 (83.05)	570.37 (85.77)	219.74 (22.08)
C	K	254.56 (43.94)	291.64 (48.75)	313.69 (55.26)	806.14 (70.50)
	1	324.20 (53.68)	361.58 (62.53)	388.21 (67.25)	863.89 (91.70)
	2	397.88 (69.11)	427.18 (75.09)	448.50 (75.41)	935.78 (80.22)
	3	448.11 (72.92)	472.53 (76.22)	490.61 (76.26)	201.45 (21.73)
	4	491.23 (65.60)	516.06 (67.31)	529.88 (70.73)	212.71 (20.77)
	5	531.18 (70.71)	551.60 (71.77)	564.98 (75.02)	222.55 (20.45)

Tables 7 through 9 present the proportion of students in each performance level by grade and district. Generally, the largest proportion of kindergarten students were in

the *Transitional Reader* performance level, and students in grades 1 and 2 were primarily in the *Above Benchmark* performance level. For Fast Reading, the majority of students in District A were in *Below Grade Level* and lower, and majority of students in District B and District C were in *On Grade Level* or higher.

Table 7. Percentage of Kindergarten Students in Early Literacy Performance Levels

District	Grade	Emergent Reader	Transitional Reader	Probable Reader
C	K	35%	40%	25%

Table 8. Percentage of First and Second Grade Students in Star Reading Performance Levels by Grade

District	Grade	Urgent Intervention	Intervention	On Watch	At Benchmark	Above Benchmark
C	1	10%	12%	9%	6%	63%
	2	13%	9%	11%	9%	58%

Table 9. Percentage of Students in FAST Performance Levels by District and Grade

District	Grade	Well Below Grade Level	Below Grade Level	On Grade Level	Proficient	Exemplary
A	3	29%	23%	24%	16%	8%
	4	31%	26%	18%	18%	7%
	5	28%	29%	16%	22%	4%
B	3	14%	32%	18%	27%	9%
	4	11%	32%	29%	25%	4%
	5	21%	32%	16%	21%	11%
C	3	20%	25%	24%	18%	13%
	4	23%	23%	21%	21%	11%
	5	20%	26%	19%	23%	12%

Correlational Study: Istation Reading and FAST

Tables 10 and 11 show the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients between Istation Reading scores and Star/FAST Reading scores for MOY and EOY. The coefficients for grades K through 2 range from .60 to .80, indicating a strong relationship between Istation Reading and the Star Early Literacy and Reading assessments. If a student does well on Istation Reading, then it is likely that the student will do well on the Star assessments. The coefficients for grades 3 through 5 range from .69 to .74, indicating a strong relationship between Istation Reading and

the FAST Reading assessment. Similarly, if a student does well on Istation Reading, then it is likely that the student will do well on the FAST Reading assessment.

Table 10. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients between Istation Reading and Star Early Literacy and Reading

Grade	Istation Reading MOY	Istation Reading EOY
K	0.60*	0.61*
1	0.77*	0.79*
2	0.78*	0.80*

* $p < 0.001$

Table 11. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficients between Istation Reading and FAST Reading

Grade	Istation Reading MOY	Istation Reading EOY
3	0.70*	0.69*
4	0.74*	0.73*
5	0.73*	0.72

* $p < 0.001$

Linking Study: Istation Reading and FAST Reading

Tables 12 through 17 are concordance tables derived from statistical linking procedures that directly link Istation Reading scores and Star/FAST assessment levels. Concordance tables serve as valuable tools for various stakeholders, including educators, parents, administrators, researchers, and policymakers, by offering essential information to assess students' academic performance. These tables provide a more comprehensive understanding of students' abilities and progress. Moreover, concordance tables aid in identifying strengths and weaknesses in specific subject areas, assisting in developing targeted interventions and support programs. Furthermore, these tables contribute to the establishment of consistent academic standards and expectations, promoting a unified approach to evaluating and enhancing educational outcomes.

The probabilities of meeting a performance level were divided into low, medium, and high. Students with a probability of $\leq .330$ had a *low* probability of achieving a level. Those with a probability of $.331\text{--}.660$ had a *medium* probability, and students with a probability of greater than $\geq .661$ had a *high* probability of attaining *Approaches* or higher.

Probabilities for the Middle of the Year

The MOY table for kindergarten shows that students need to be at the 35th percentile or above to have a high probability of reaching *Transitional Reader* or higher; students in first through second grade need to be at the 35th and 40th percentile, respectively, to have a high probability of reaching *At Benchmark* or higher. The MOY table for third through fifth grade shows that students in the third through fifth grade need to be at the 65th percentile to have a high probability of reaching *On Grade Level* or higher.

Table 12. Kindergarten Proficiency Projection for Istation Reading at MOY

Grade	Overall Score	Percentile	Transitional Probability	Transitional	Probable Probability	Probable
K	226	5	0.254	Low	0.027	Low
	247	10	0.374	Medium	0.057	Low
	261	15	0.468	Medium	0.089	Low
	271	20	0.538	Medium	0.119	Low
	279	25	0.595	Medium	0.147	Low
	287	30	0.650	Medium	0.180	Low
	294	35	0.696	High	0.212	Low
	300	40	0.733	High	0.241	Low
	306	45	0.767	High	0.272	Low
	311	50	0.794	High	0.299	Low
	317	55	0.823	High	0.332	Medium
	322	60	0.846	High	0.360	Medium
	328	65	0.869	High	0.395	Medium
	334	70	0.890	High	0.429	Medium
	340	75	0.909	High	0.464	Medium
	347	80	0.927	High	0.504	Medium
	356	85	0.945	High	0.553	Medium
	366	90	0.961	High	0.606	Medium
	383	95	0.979	High	0.687	High
	419	99	0.995	High	0.818	High

Table 13. First through Second Grade Proficiency Projection for Istation Reading at MOY

Grade	Overall Score	Percentile	On Watch Probability	On Watch	At Benchmark Probability	At Benchmark	Above Benchmark Probability	Above Benchmark
1	275	5	0.272	Low	0.129	Low	0.057	Low
	297	10	0.422	Medium	0.250	Low	0.150	Low
	311	15	0.540	Medium	0.364	Medium	0.251	Low
	321	20	0.629	Medium	0.460	Medium	0.343	Medium
	330	25	0.706	High	0.550	Medium	0.435	Medium
	338	30	0.768	High	0.628	Medium	0.519	Medium
	345	35	0.816	High	0.691	High	0.590	Medium
	352	40	0.857	High	0.749	High	0.657	Medium
	358	45	0.887	High	0.792	High	0.708	High
	365	50	0.915	High	0.835	High	0.761	High
	371	55	0.934	High	0.866	High	0.800	High
	378	60	0.951	High	0.895	High	0.839	High
	384	65	0.963	High	0.916	High	0.867	High
	391	70	0.973	High	0.935	High	0.894	High
	399	75	0.981	High	0.952	High	0.918	High
	408	80	0.988	High	0.966	High	0.939	High
	418	85	0.992	High	0.977	High	0.956	High
	432	90	0.996	High	0.986	High	0.972	High
	453	95	0.999	High	0.994	High	0.986	High
	495	99	1.000	High	0.999	High	0.996	High
2	321	5	0.244	Low	0.088	Low	0.025	Low
	348	10	0.402	Medium	0.187	Low	0.080	Low
	366	15	0.531	Medium	0.293	Low	0.155	Low
	379	20	0.629	Medium	0.389	Medium	0.234	Low
	389	25	0.701	High	0.469	Medium	0.307	Low
	399	30	0.767	High	0.552	Medium	0.389	Medium
	407	35	0.813	High	0.616	Medium	0.456	Medium
	415	40	0.853	High	0.677	High	0.524	Medium
	423	45	0.887	High	0.732	High	0.588	Medium

2	430	50	0.911	High	0.775	High	0.641	Medium
	437	55	0.931	High	0.813	High	0.690	High
	444	60	0.947	High	0.846	High	0.734	High
	452	65	0.961	High	0.877	High	0.779	High
	459	70	0.970	High	0.900	High	0.812	High
	467	75	0.979	High	0.921	High	0.845	High
	477	80	0.986	High	0.942	High	0.879	High
	487	85	0.991	High	0.958	High	0.906	High
	501	90	0.995	High	0.973	High	0.934	High
	522	95	0.998	High	0.986	High	0.961	High
	566	99	1.000	High	0.997	High	0.987	High

Table 14. Third through Fifth Grade Proficiency Projection for Istation Reading at MOY

Grade	Overall Score	Percentile	On Grade Level Probability	On Grade Level	Proficient Probability	Proficient	Exemplary Probability	Exemplary
3	363	5	0.057	Low	0.003	Low	0.000	Low
	392	10	0.115	Low	0.010	Low	0.000	Low
	410	15	0.172	Low	0.021	Low	0.001	Low
	423	20	0.226	Low	0.035	Low	0.003	Low
	434	25	0.279	Low	0.052	Low	0.005	Low
	443	30	0.329	Low	0.071	Low	0.008	Low
	452	35	0.384	Medium	0.096	Low	0.012	Low
	460	40	0.435	Medium	0.123	Low	0.018	Low
	467	45	0.483	Medium	0.152	Low	0.024	Low
	474	50	0.532	Medium	0.186	Low	0.033	Low
	481	55	0.581	Medium	0.224	Low	0.044	Low
	489	60	0.636	Medium	0.274	Low	0.061	Low
	496	65	0.684	High	0.322	Low	0.079	Low
	504	70	0.735	High	0.381	Medium	0.104	Low
	512	75	0.782	High	0.443	Medium	0.135	Low
	522	80	0.834	High	0.523	Medium	0.181	Low
	533	85	0.881	High	0.609	Medium	0.239	Low
	548	90	0.929	High	0.715	High	0.330	Low
	572	95	0.972	High	0.845	High	0.484	Medium
	626	99	0.998	High	0.971	High	0.762	High
4	408	5	0.027	Low	0.002	Low	0.000	Low
	435	10	0.067	Low	0.007	Low	0.000	Low
	452	15	0.115	Low	0.017	Low	0.001	Low
	465	20	0.168	Low	0.031	Low	0.002	Low
	476	25	0.227	Low	0.050	Low	0.003	Low
	485	30	0.284	Low	0.072	Low	0.006	Low
	493	35	0.341	Medium	0.098	Low	0.009	Low
	501	40	0.403	Medium	0.130	Low	0.014	Low
	509	45	0.469	Medium	0.170	Low	0.021	Low

4	516	50	0.528	Medium	0.211	Low	0.029	Low
	524	55	0.595	Medium	0.264	Low	0.042	Low
	531	60	0.652	Medium	0.315	Low	0.056	Low
	539	65	0.714	High	0.378	Medium	0.076	Low
	547	70	0.769	High	0.444	Medium	0.101	Low
	556	75	0.823	High	0.518	Medium	0.134	Low
	566	80	0.872	High	0.598	Medium	0.178	Low
	578	85	0.917	High	0.687	High	0.239	Low
	593	90	0.954	High	0.780	High	0.324	Low
	616	95	0.983	High	0.882	High	0.464	Medium High
	661	99	0.998	High	0.971	High	0.705	
5	432	5	0.026	Low	0.002	Low	0.000	Low
	461	10	0.068	Low	0.010	Low	0.000	Low
	479	15	0.115	Low	0.022	Low	0.001	Low
	492	20	0.164	Low	0.038	Low	0.003	Low
	504	25	0.222	Low	0.060	Low	0.006	Low
	513	30	0.273	Low	0.084	Low	0.009	Low
	522	35	0.331	Medium	0.114	Low	0.013	Low
	531	40	0.394	Medium	0.151	Low	0.020	Low
	539	45	0.454	Medium	0.191	Low	0.028	Low
	547	50	0.515	Medium	0.236	Low	0.038	Low
	555	55	0.576	Medium	0.287	Low	0.051	Low
	563	60	0.636	Medium	0.342	Medium	0.067	Low
	571	65	0.692	High	0.400	Medium	0.086	Low
	580	70	0.750	High	0.466	Medium	0.112	Low
	589	75	0.802	High	0.533	Medium	0.142	Low
	600	80	0.854	High	0.611	Medium	0.183	Low
	612	85	0.899	High	0.688	High	0.233	Low
	629	90	0.943	High	0.780	High	0.311	Low
	653	95	0.976	High	0.873	High	0.427	Medium High
	702	99	0.997	High	0.965	High	0.644	

MOY Istation Reading and FAST at Winter Benchmarking

Figure 1 represents the MOY Istation Reading percentiles associated with the probabilities of attaining the Early Literacy *Transitional Reader*, Star Reading *At Benchmark*, and FAST Reading *On Grade Level* performance level by grade.

Kindergarten students who attained an Istation Reading score around 247–287 (10th to 30th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the Early Literacy *Transitional Reader* level or higher. Students with scores higher than 294 had a high probability of reaching the *Transitional Reader* level or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 383 (95th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the Early Literacy *Probable Reader* level.

First grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 311–338 (15th to 30th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the Star Reading *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students with a score higher than 345 had a high probability of reaching the *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 358 (45th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the Star Reading *Above Benchmark* level.

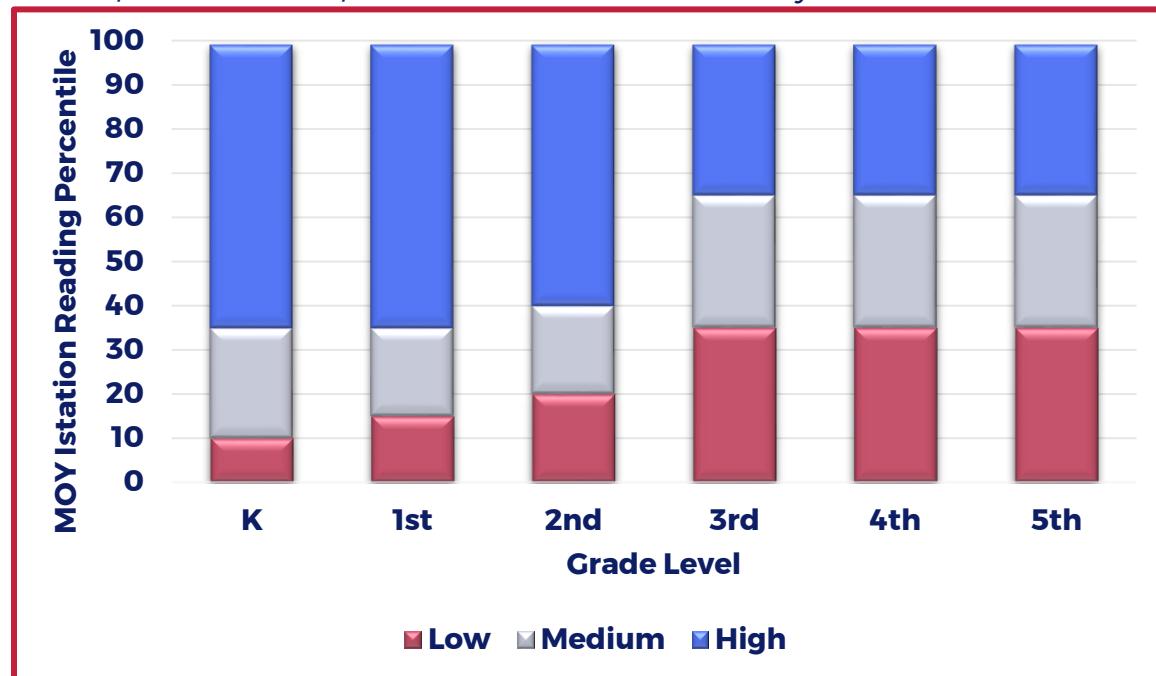
Second grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 379–407 (20th to 35th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the Star Reading *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students with a score higher than 415 had a high probability of reaching the *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 437 (55th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the Star Reading *Above Benchmark* level.

Third grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 452–489 (35th to 60th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the FAST *On Grade Level* or higher. Students with a score higher than 496 had a high probability of reaching the *On Grade Level* or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 626 (99th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the FAST *Exemplary* level.

Fourth grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 493–531 (35th to 60th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the FAST *On Grade Level* or higher. Students with a score higher than 539 had a high probability of reaching the *On Grade Level* or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 661 (99th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the FAST *Exemplary* level.

Fifth grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 522–563 (35th to 60th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the FAST *On Grade Level* or higher. Students with a score higher than 571 had a high probability of reaching the *On Grade Level* or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 702 (99th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the FAST *Exemplary* level.

Figure 1. MOY Istation Reading Percentiles and Star/FAST Reading Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level Probabilities by Grade



Probabilities for the End of the Year

The EOY table for kindergarten shows that students need to be at the 30th percentile or above to have a high probability of reaching *Transitional Reader* or higher; students in first through second grade need to be at the 35th and 40th percentile, respectively, to have a high probability of reaching *At Benchmark* or higher. The EOY table for third through fifth grade shows that students in the third grade need to be at the 65th percentile; students in the fourth grade need to be at the 60th percentile; and students in the fifth grade need to be at the 65th percentile to have a high probability of reaching *On Grade Level* or higher.

Table 15. Kindergarten Proficiency Projection for Istation Reading at EOY

Grade	Overall Score	Percentile	Transitional Probability	Transitional	Probable Probability	Probable
K	245	5	0.272	Low	0.027	Low
	270	10	0.406	Medium	0.061	Low
	286	15	0.506	Medium	0.097	Low
	297	20	0.576	Medium	0.130	Low
	307	25	0.639	Medium	0.166	Low
	315	30	0.687	High	0.199	Low
	322	35	0.727	High	0.230	Low
	328	40	0.759	High	0.259	Low
	334	45	0.789	High	0.289	Low
	340	50	0.816	High	0.321	Low
	345	55	0.838	High	0.348	Medium
	351	60	0.860	High	0.381	Medium
	356	65	0.878	High	0.409	Medium
	362	70	0.896	High	0.442	Medium
	368	75	0.913	High	0.476	Medium
	375	80	0.929	High	0.514	Medium
	383	85	0.944	High	0.557	Medium
	393	90	0.959	High	0.609	Medium
	410	95	0.977	High	0.688	High
	451	99	0.995	High	0.832	High

Table 16. First through Second Grade Proficiency Projection for Istation Reading at EOY

Grade	Overall Score	Percentile	On Watch Probability	On Watch	At Benchmark Probability	At Benchmark	Above Benchmark Probability	Above Benchmark
1	292	5	0.260	Low	0.103	Low	0.036	Low
	317	10	0.400	Medium	0.211	Low	0.111	Low
	333	15	0.518	Medium	0.324	Low	0.206	Low
	346	20	0.624	Medium	0.441	Medium	0.316	Low
	356	25	0.704	High	0.538	Medium	0.416	Medium
	365	30	0.771	High	0.626	Medium	0.510	Medium
	374	35	0.829	High	0.707	High	0.602	Medium
	382	40	0.872	High	0.770	High	0.676	High
	389	45	0.902	High	0.817	High	0.734	High
	396	50	0.927	High	0.856	High	0.784	High
	404	55	0.948	High	0.893	High	0.832	High
	411	60	0.962	High	0.917	High	0.866	High
	419	65	0.973	High	0.939	High	0.897	High
	427	70	0.981	High	0.956	High	0.921	High
	435	75	0.987	High	0.968	High	0.940	High
	445	80	0.992	High	0.978	High	0.957	High
	456	85	0.995	High	0.986	High	0.970	High
	470	90	0.998	High	0.992	High	0.981	High
	491	95	0.999	High	0.997	High	0.991	High
	532	99	1.000	High	0.999	High	0.998	High
2	335	5	0.191	Low	0.055	Low	0.011	Low
	367	10	0.358	Medium	0.146	Low	0.051	Low
	387	15	0.500	Medium	0.254	Low	0.121	Low
	401	20	0.609	Medium	0.357	Medium	0.201	Low
	413	25	0.701	High	0.460	Medium	0.293	Low
	423	30	0.771	High	0.551	Medium	0.382	Medium
	432	35	0.826	High	0.630	Medium	0.466	Medium
	440	40	0.867	High	0.695	High	0.540	Medium
	448	45	0.900	High	0.754	High	0.611	Medium

2	455	50	0.924	High	0.799	High	0.668	High
	462	55	0.943	High	0.838	High	0.720	High
	469	60	0.957	High	0.870	High	0.765	High
	477	65	0.970	High	0.900	High	0.809	High
	484	70	0.978	High	0.921	High	0.842	High
	492	75	0.985	High	0.940	High	0.873	High
	501	80	0.990	High	0.956	High	0.902	High
	511	85	0.994	High	0.970	High	0.926	High
	525	90	0.997	High	0.982	High	0.950	High
	546	95	0.999	High	0.991	High	0.973	High
	594	99	1.000	High	0.998	High	0.993	High

Table 17. Third through Fifth Grade Proficiency Projection for Istation Reading at EOY

Grade	Overall Score	Percentile	On Grade Level Probability	On Grade Level	Proficient Probability	Proficient	Exemplary Probability	Exemplary
3	371	5	0.044	Low	0.002	Low	0.000	Low
	402	10	0.095	Low	0.008	Low	0.000	Low
	422	15	0.150	Low	0.017	Low	0.001	Low
	436	20	0.203	Low	0.029	Low	0.002	Low
	448	25	0.258	Low	0.045	Low	0.003	Low
	458	30	0.311	Low	0.065	Low	0.005	Low
	467	35	0.364	Medium	0.087	Low	0.009	Low
	475	40	0.415	Medium	0.113	Low	0.013	Low
	483	45	0.469	Medium	0.144	Low	0.019	Low
	491	50	0.524	Medium	0.181	Low	0.028	Low
	499	55	0.580	Medium	0.224	Low	0.039	Low
	506	60	0.629	Medium	0.267	Low	0.053	Low
	514	65	0.684	High	0.322	Low	0.073	Low
	523	70	0.741	High	0.389	Medium	0.102	Low
	532	75	0.794	High	0.460	Medium	0.138	Low
	542	80	0.845	High	0.541	Medium	0.188	Low
	555	85	0.898	High	0.643	Medium	0.265	Low
	571	90	0.943	High	0.754	High	0.374	Medium
	596	95	0.980	High	0.878	High	0.549	Medium
	653	99	0.999	High	0.983	High	0.834	High
4	419	5	0.029	Low	0.002	Low	0.000	Low
	448	10	0.074	Low	0.007	Low	0.000	Low
	465	15	0.122	Low	0.017	Low	0.001	Low
	479	20	0.180	Low	0.032	Low	0.002	Low
	490	25	0.237	Low	0.051	Low	0.003	Low
	500	30	0.299	Low	0.075	Low	0.006	Low
	509	35	0.362	Medium	0.105	Low	0.010	Low
	517	40	0.422	Medium	0.138	Low	0.015	Low
	525	45	0.486	Medium	0.179	Low	0.022	Low

4	533	50	0.550	Medium	0.226	Low	0.032	Low
	541	55	0.614	Medium	0.280	Low	0.045	Low
	549	60	0.675	High	0.339	Medium	0.062	Low
	557	65	0.732	High	0.402	Medium	0.083	Low
	565	70	0.784	High	0.468	Medium	0.109	Low
	575	75	0.839	High	0.550	Medium	0.149	Low
	586	80	0.888	High	0.636	Medium	0.200	Low
	598	85	0.927	High	0.720	High	0.264	Low
	614	90	0.961	High	0.811	High	0.359	Medium
	638	95	0.987	High	0.905	High	0.505	Medium
	685	99	0.999	High	0.980	High	0.744	High
	440	5	0.023	Low	0.002	Low	0.000	Low
5	470	10	0.063	Low	0.010	Low	0.001	Low
	488	15	0.109	Low	0.022	Low	0.002	Low
	502	20	0.162	Low	0.040	Low	0.003	Low
	514	25	0.220	Low	0.063	Low	0.006	Low
	524	30	0.277	Low	0.089	Low	0.010	Low
	533	35	0.335	Medium	0.119	Low	0.015	Low
	542	40	0.397	Medium	0.156	Low	0.022	Low
	550	45	0.455	Medium	0.194	Low	0.029	Low
	559	50	0.522	Medium	0.244	Low	0.041	Low
	567	55	0.581	Medium	0.292	Low	0.054	Low
	575	60	0.638	Medium	0.344	Medium	0.069	Low
	584	65	0.698	High	0.405	Medium	0.090	Low
	593	70	0.753	High	0.468	Medium	0.115	Low
	603	75	0.806	High	0.536	Medium	0.146	Low
	614	80	0.855	High	0.609	Medium	0.184	Low
	627	85	0.900	High	0.686	High	0.235	Low
	643	90	0.939	High	0.768	High	0.302	Low
	669	95	0.975	High	0.865	High	0.418	Medium
	719	99	0.996	High	0.959	High	0.624	Medium

EOY Istation Reading and FAST at Spring Benchmarking

Figure 2 represents the EOY Istation Reading percentiles associated with the probabilities of attaining the Early Literacy *Transitional Reader*, Star Reading *At Benchmark*, and FAST Reading *On Grade Level* performance level by grade.

Kindergarten students who attained an Istation Reading score around 270–307 (10th to 25th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the Early Literacy *Transitional Reader* level or higher. Students with scores higher than 315 had a high probability of reaching the *Transitional Reader* level or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 410 (95th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the Early Literacy *Probable Reader* level.

First grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 346–365 (20th to 30th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the Star Reading *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students with a score higher than 374 had a high probability of reaching the *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 382 (40th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the Star Reading *Above Benchmark* level.

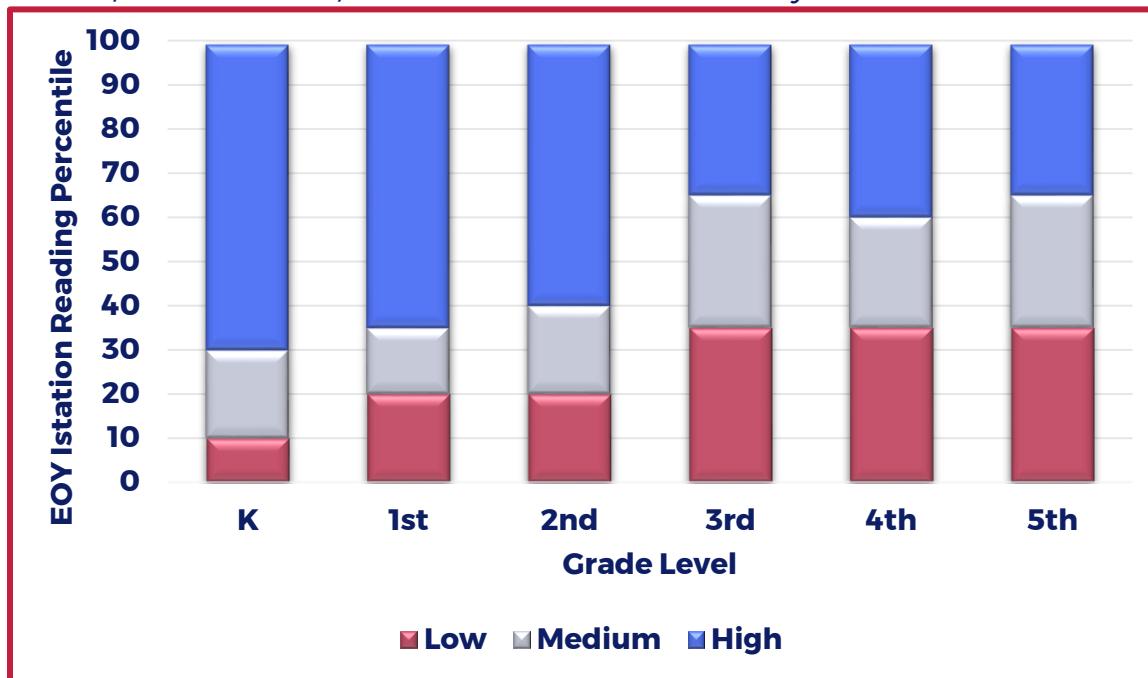
Second grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 401–432 (20th to 35th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the Star Reading *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students with a score higher than 440 had a high probability of reaching the *At Benchmark* level or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 455 (50th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the Star Reading *Above Benchmark* level.

Third grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 467–506 (35th to 60th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the FAST *On Grade Level* or higher. Students with a score higher than 514 had a high probability of reaching the *On Grade Level* or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 653 (99th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the FAST *Exemplary* level.

Fourth grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 509–541 (35th to 55th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the FAST *On Grade Level* or higher. Students with a score higher than 549 had a high probability of reaching the *On Grade Level* or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 685 (99th percentile) had a high probability of reaching the FAST *Exemplary* level.

Fifth grade students who attained an Istation Reading score around 533–575 (35th to 60th percentile ranks) had a medium probability of achieving the FAST *On Grade Level* or higher. Students with a score higher than 584 had a high probability of reaching the *On Grade Level* or higher. Students who attained an Istation Reading score around 719 (99th percentile) had a medium probability of reaching the FAST *Exemplary* level.

Figure 2. EOY Istation Reading Percentiles and Star/FAST Reading Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level Probabilities by Grade



Classification Accuracy: Istation Reading and FAST

Classification accuracy was conducted to predict whether students in the sample would achieve a particular performance level or higher on the Star and FAST assessments. A higher classification accuracy rate indicates stronger congruence between the Istation Reading and Star/FAST assessments. Classification accuracy was conducted for kindergarten through fifth grade Istation Reading at MOY, Istation Reading at EOY, and Star/FAST levels defined as:

- *Transitional Reader* level or higher on the Star Early Literacy assessment
- *At Benchmark* or higher on the Star Reading assessment
- *On Grade Level* or higher on the FAST Reading assessment

Classification accuracy analyses were performed to determine Istation Reading cut points that could help differentiate students who would or would not attain these levels or higher on the Star/FAST assessments. Table 18 shows the overall proportion of students in the FAST assessment levels by grade. Tables 7 and 8 show this for the Star assessments.

Table 18. Percentage of Students in FAST Performance Levels by Grade

Grade	Well Below Grade Level	Below Grade Level	On Grade Level	Proficient	Exemplary
3	20%	25%	24%	18%	13%
4	24%	24%	21%	21%	11%
5	20%	26%	19%	23%	12%

Classification accuracy of Istation cut scores were performed at the 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, 75th, and 80th percentiles. The AUC, sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive power, negative predictive power, and the overall rate were computed and compared to determine the best Istation Reading cut point to identify students who would most likely meet the associated performance levels on the Star/FAST assessment. Results in Table 19 show that the 30th to 35th percentile was the best cut score across grade levels on Istation Reading at MOY and EOY.

MOY Classification Accuracy: Istation Reading and FAST

Classification accuracy analyses were conducted. At MOY, the AUC ranged from 0.71 to 0.81, indicating that the percentage of students correctly classified on the Istation Reading with respect to the Star/FAST Reading assessments was approximately 76% across grades. Sensitivity ranged from 0.70 to 0.89, indicating that approximately 80% of students who performed above the cut point on Istation Reading attained the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Specificity ranged from 0.58 to 0.88, indicating that approximately 73% of students who performed below the cut point on Istation Reading did not attain the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Istation Reading accurately predicted meeting reading proficiency on the Star and FAST assessments about 78% of the time at the MOY.

EOY Classification Accuracy: Istation Reading and FAST

At EOY, the AUC ranged from 0.71 to 0.83, indicating that approximately 77% of students were correctly classified on the Istation Reading with respect to the Star and FAST Reading assessments across grades. Sensitivity ranged from 0.70 to 0.91, indicating that approximately 81% of students who performed above the cut point on Istation Reading attained the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Specificity ranged from 0.57 to 0.87, indicating that approximately 72% of students who performed below the cut point on Istation Reading did not attain the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level or above on the Star/FAST assessments. Istation Reading accurately predicted meeting reading proficiency on the Star and FAST assessments about 78% of the time at EOY.

Table 12. Classification Accuracy Indices by Benchmark and Grade

Grade	Cut Point	Benchmark	AUC	Sensitivity	Specificity
K	30th	Winter	.71	.83	.58
	30th	Spring	.71	.86	.57
1	30th	Winter	.78	.89	.67
	30th	Spring	.71	.91	.70
2	35th	Winter	.81	.88	.75
	35th	Spring	.83	.90	.76
3	30th	Winter	.77	.70	.84
	30th	Spring	.77	.70	.85
4	30th	Winter	.79	.70	.88
	30th	Spring	.79	.70	.87
5	35th	Winter	.79	.72	.86
	35th	Spring	.79	.72	.86

Conclusion

This research establishes a significant positive link between students' scores in Istation Reading and their FAST outcomes, particularly from kindergarten through fifth grade. Both MOY and EOY scores on Istation Reading are reliable indicators for predicting FAST Reading assessment performance. These correlations are particularly strong in the mentioned grades, with Pearson product-moment correlation coefficients ranging from 0.60 to 0.80.

Furthermore, the findings reveal a consistent trend: as students achieve higher scores in Istation Reading, their chances of reaching or surpassing the *Transitional Reader/At Benchmark/On Grade Level* performance level on the Star/FAST assessments increase. This pattern is evident across different grade levels, though the exact scores required vary. The classification accuracy analysis supports this, showing that nearly 80% of students' performance can be accurately predicted based on their Istation Reading scores.

These results highlight the utility of Istation Reading as a tool for monitoring student progress and predicting their performance in key assessments like Renaissance Star and FAST. For educators and school administrators, these insights are invaluable for

designing targeted interventions and enhancing learning outcomes. This study reinforces the role of Istation Reading assessments in educational settings, proving their effectiveness in guiding instructional strategies and fostering student achievement.

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