

## Achievement Cut Score Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

### AS.001.00-A - Achievement Cut Score

District: Sample District      Test: DSTEP      Measure: Raw Score  
School: Sample School      Assessment Year: 2012-2013      Gap: Basic and Proficient  
School Year: 2013-2014      Subject: Mathematics      Gap Range: 5

Student Name	Grade	Gender	Race	Disability	ED	Proficiency	Score	+/-
Student 1	09	Female	WH	N	--	Basic / 39	37	-2
Student 2	09	Female	IN	N	--	Basic / 39	35	-4
Student 3	09	Female	AS	N	--	Proficient / 39	43	+5
Student 4	09	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 39	43	+5
Student 5	12	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 43	47	+5
Student 6	12	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 43	43	+1
Student 7	12	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 43	47	+5
Student 8	12	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 43	47	+5
Student 9	12	Male	WH	N	--	Basic / 43	42	-1
Student 10	12	Female	WH	N	--	Basic / 43	41	-2
Student 11	12	Male	WH	N	--	Basic / 43	42	-1
Student 12	12	Male	IN	N	--	Proficient / 43	43	+1
Student 13	12	Male	WH	N	--	Basic / 43	39	-4
Student 14	09	Male	IN	Y	--	Basic / 39	38	-1
Student 15	09	Female	HI	N	--	Proficient / 39	43	+5
Student 16	12	Female	WH	N	--	Basic / 43	42	-1
Student Count: 16								

### Quick Reference

This document provides a quick reference for the **Achievement Cut Score Report (AS.001.00)**. This report provides a list of students who completed the state assessment and the students' distance from each proficiency level. In other words, this report identifies the "bubble students."

The report is found under **ASSESSMENT REPORTS** in the **REPORTS** tab within SD-STARS.

### Questions Report will Help Answer

- Which students were within a few questions of being proficient? Not being proficient?
- Which students were within a few points on the scale score of the below basic and basic cut score?
- Which students were within the "bubble" for both math and reading?

### Intended Audience

Teachers; Principals; Administrative Staff (school and district); Superintendents

### Data Details

Users define the "bubble" by selecting different parameters. The report provides a list of students and their proficiency level with the minimum cut score, their actual scores (either Raw Score or Scale Score), and how close the students are to the cut score.

### Common Misunderstandings

The report only shows students who were within the defined "bubble." Students who took the state assessment but fall outside the "bubble" will not appear on the list. In addition, this report only looks at current students and their historical results.

It is recommended to start with a large "bubble" and work down to a more targeted "bubble." If your "bubble" is too narrow, no students will appear in the list.

**WARNING**

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### Instructions

### Generating Report

#### AS.001.00-A - Achievement Cut Score

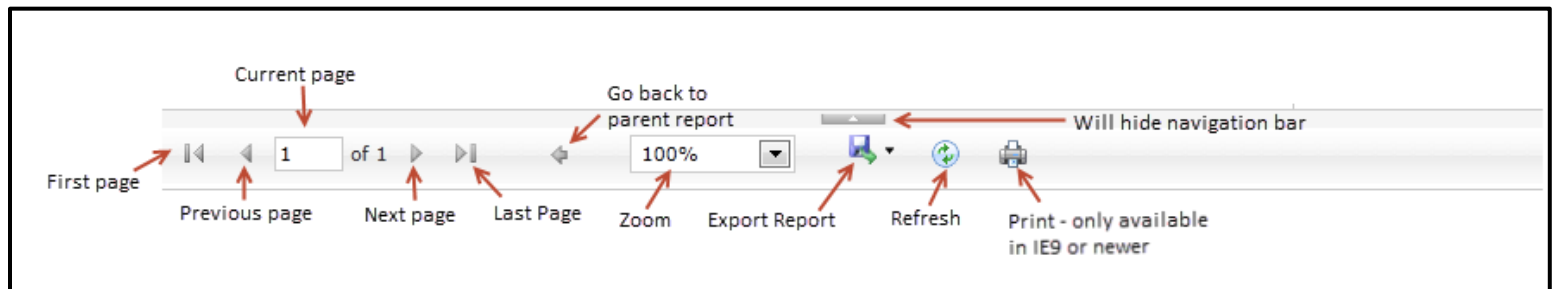
District	<Select a Value>	School		VIEW REPORT
Assessment Year		Measure	Scale Score	
Test	DSTEP	Subject	Mathematics	
Cut Point	Below Basic and Basic	Cut Range	5	

- **District:** Select district name. What districts display in the drop down depends on your permissions. Most district and school users will only see one district in the drop down.
- **School:** Once you select the district name, select the school name. If you want to see results for schools, select the “All Schools” option. What schools display in the drop down depends on your permissions. Most school users will only see one school in the drop down.
- **Assessment Year:** Once you select a school name, select assessment year. Only current students who have results for that assessment year will be included in the report.
- **Measure:** Determines what type of score you want to look at - Scale Score or Raw Score.
- **Test:** Currently, only DSTEP is available.
- **Subject:** Currently, only Math and Reading are available.
- **Cut Point:** This is the cut point the user is interested in. Select either “Below Basic and Basic,” “Basic and Proficient,” or “Proficient and Advanced.”
- **Cut Range:** This determines the size of the “bubble.” For example, a cut range of 5 scale score points will display students who were + or – 5 points from the cut point between two proficiency levels. In other words, the span of points is 10, 5 above the cut point and 5 below the cut point.

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## Reading Report

Use the **navigation bar** to navigate the report.



Student Name	Grade	Gender	Race	Disability	ED	Proficiency	Score	+/-
Student 1	09	Female	WH	N	--	Basic / 39	37	-2
Student 2	09	Female	IN	N	--	Basic / 39	35	-4
Student 3	09	Female	AS	N	--	Proficient / 39	43	+5
Student 4	09	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 39	43	+5

This report only looks at current students and their historical state assessment results. In this example, all students are current 9<sup>th</sup> graders, but the report is evaluating the results of the state assessment many took in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Proficiency column contains the student's proficiency level and the cut score of interest. In this case, students needed 39 questions right (Raw Score) to be proficient.

Using this example, Student 1 and Student 2 were basic because they did not pass the cut point of 39 questions. This is evident in the following two columns. The Score column shows how many questions they did get right, and the +/- column indicates how far the student was from bring proficient. Student #1 needed 2 more questions while Student #2 needed 4 more questions. Student 3 and Student 4 were proficient because they surpassed the cut point of 39 by 5 questions.

The student list contains different columns. All columns are **sortable**.

## Downloading Report

This report can be downloaded into different formats. The most convenient format for analysis would be Excel.

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## Essential Questions

### Which students were within a few questions of being proficient?

First, you need to select the correct parameters. For this question, you will need to select “Raw Score,” which looks at the number of questions answered correctly. Then, select “Basic and Proficient” for your cut point. Finally enter 2 in your cut range.

In this example, Student 1, Student 2, Student 4, and Student 5 answered the exact number of questions needed to be proficient. Even though these students are in different grades and therefore have different cut scores, the report adjust for this. Student 3 and Student 6 were one correct answer from being proficient.

### Which students were within a few points on the scale score of the below basic and basic cut score?

First, you need to select the correct parameters. For this question, you will need to select “Scale Score,” which are adjusted scores used so results are comparable to other students or tests. Then, select “Below Basic and Basic” for your cut point. Finally, select a number of scale score points that will be the size of your bubble.

In this example, Student #3 is the only student who was Below Basic. She only missed Basic Level by 1 Scale Score point.

**AS.001.00-A - Achievement Cut Score**

District: Sample District School: Sample School

Assessment Year: 2012-2013 Measure: Raw Score

Test: DSTEP Subject: Mathematics

Cut Point: Basic and Proficient Cut Range: 2

[VIEW REPORT](#)

AS.001.00-A - Achievement Cut Score

District: Sample District Test: DSTEP Measure: Raw Score

School: Sample School Assessment Year: 2012-2013 Gap: Basic and Proficient

School Year: 2013-2014 Subject: Mathematics Gap Range: 2

Student Name	Grade	Gender	Race	Disability	ED	Proficiency	Score	+/-
Student 1	07	Male	AS	Y	--	Proficient / 47	47	+1
Student 2	08	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 48	48	+1
Student 3	08	Female	WH	N	--	Basic / 48	47	-1
Student 4	08	Female	IN	N	--	Proficient / 48	48	+1
Student 5	06	Female	WH	N	--	Proficient / 43	43	+1
Student 6	08	Female	WH	Y	--	Basic / 48	47	-1

Student Count: 6

**AS.001.00-A - Achievement Cut Score**

District: Sample District School: Sample School

Assessment Year: 2012-2013 Measure: Scale Score

Test: DSTEP Subject: Mathematics

Cut Point: Below Basic and Basic Cut Range: 10

[VIEW REPORT](#)

AS.001.00-A - Achievement Cut Score

District: Sample District Test: DSTEP Measure: Scale Score

School: Sample School Assessment Year: 2012-2013 Gap: Below Basic and Basic

School Year: 2013-2014 Subject: Mathematics Gap Range: 10

Student Name	Grade	Gender	Race	Disability	ED	Proficiency	Score	+/-
Student 1	06	Female	HI	Y	--	Basic / 582	588	+7
Student 2	06	Male	HI	N	--	Basic / 582	590	+9
Student 3	07	Female	WH	Y	--	Below Basic / 601	600	-1
Student 4	06	Male	WH	N	--	Basic / 582	590	+9
Student 5	08	Male	WH	N	--	Basic / 619	625	+7
Student 6	07	Male	WH	N	--	Basic / 601	602	+2
Student 7	06	Female	WH	N	--	Basic / 582	588	+7
Student 8	07	Female	WH	Y	--	Basic / 601	610	+10
Student 9	08	Female	IN	N	--	Basic / 619	625	+7

Student Count: 9

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**IMPORTANT:** Using a cut range of 1 or 2 for scale score will usually not work. Scale score usually increases by five or ten point increments. Select a larger cut range of 10-30 points.

## Which students were within the “bubble” for both math and reading?

To answer this question, you need to determine how to define the “bubble.” Use your parameters to select the measure, cut point, and cut range. Then view the report for one subject at a time. If you want to compare the list side by side, you can download the report into PDF or Excel formats.

## Q: I selected the parameters I am interested in, but no students appeared in the report. Why?

### Frequently Asked Questions

There are a number of things that may result in no students appearing in the report. First, if you teach K-3 or if your school only serves K-3 students, you will not have any students who took the state assessment. Second, your parameters may need to be expanded. Try increasing the cut range for a bigger “bubble” or use Raw Score instead of Scale Score. Third, you may not any students who fall within the particular cut point or proficiency levels. If you select Below Basic and Basic cut point but you only have proficient or advanced students, no students will appear on the report.

## Q: The positive numbers in the +/- column are not what I expected. Why?

Students who score the exact number of points as the cut score, the report shows this as a +1. If a student had 47 questions correct which is the number of correct questions to be proficient, the +/- column shows +1. If a student had 48 questions correct which is one more than the number of correct questions to be proficient, the the +/- column shows +2. This is 1 for the 47<sup>th</sup> question and 1 for the 48<sup>th</sup> question the student got correct.

## Q: What is the difference between Raw Score and Scale Score?

Raw Score is the number of questions the student got correct. Usually this is a number between 0 and 84. Scale Scores are converted Raw Score into a set of numbers that can be compared between students and across tests. This can be a number between 383 and 806.

## Q: Why are there dashes (--) in my results?

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The dashes are used when data are incorrectly coded in the Student Information System (ex: Infinite Campus). For example, if a student has a missing gender code in Infinite Campus, the code will appear as a double dash. This is an indication that a school/district needs to examine the quality of their data.

## **Q. On the DSTEP, can I compare the student's scale scores from one year to the next?**

No. The DSTEP is not vertically scaled. This means that the scale score from the test for one grade cannot be compared to the scale score from the test on another grade. For example, a student may have a scale score of 500 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math test and a 450 on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade math test. This does not mean that the student's performance declined; instead, the scale score is a reflection of the test difficulty.

## **History**

The Achievement Cut Score report was originally released in Fall 2012.

## **Report Details**

In October 2013, a new version was released with the following changes.

- Security prevented teachers from seeing the students who moved from one school to another (ex: 5th graders now 6th graders). Changed security to be more like DSTEP Strand, where the report looks at current students and their historical assessment year.
- Added additional years of assessments.
- To avoid confusion, dropping language referring to "gap" in the parameters
- Per requests from districts, masked ED status.

## **Report Responsiveness**

The report requires about 30 seconds to process, as it calculates some of the fields in the report. In addition, heavy usage of this report at the same time may result in a slow-down of the report responsiveness. If, after 1 minute, it does not process, refresh your page.

## **Problems?**

SDDOE validated the data to the best of its ability in Fall 2012. If districts find errors in the data, please contact STARS Support at [STARSHelp@state.sd.us](mailto:STARSHelp@state.sd.us).

# **Achievement Cut Score Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)**

## **Roles with Report Access**

- District: Assessment
- District: Management
- District: Superintendent
- School: Management
- School: Principal
- School: Teacher

## **Security**

## **Security Consideration**

This report will only show current students and their historical state assessment results.