Renaissance Star: the scale, the categories and the cut scores

Test	Who	What it measures
Star Early Literacy	Kindergarten to grade 3, and older beginning readers	Letters, sounds, phonological awareness, early vocabulary and comprehension
Star Reading	Grade 1 (independent readers) to 12	Reading comprehension and vocabulary; a reading level for Accelerated Reader
Star Math	Grades 1 to 12	Numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, data
Star CBM	Kindergarten to grade 3 reading, with maths measures	One-minute timed measures: letter names and sounds, phonemes, nonsense words, oral reading

The Unified Scale (default since August 2021)

One scale across Star Early Literacy and Star Reading: 200 to 1400 in all, Early Literacy 200 to 1100, Reading 600 to 1400. Categories, percentile ranks and growth norms did not change; only the numbers did, so a pre-2021 scaled score is not comparable to a later one. Compare percentiles.

The percentile categories (Renaissance defaults, as Wisconsin DPI publishes them)

Percentile rank	Category	What it means
41 to 99	At/Above Benchmark	On track; students above the 40th percentile will likely meet end-of-year goals
26 to 40	On Watch	Below the benchmark; re-test and watch the skill scores
11 to 25	Intervention	Needs targeted help
1 to 10	Urgent Intervention	Needs intensive help now

The 2022 cut scores: the 40th-percentile Unified scaled score (Nebraska Department of Educatio

Grade	Test	Fall	Winter	Spring
Kindergarten	Star Early Literacy	690	730	769
Grade 1	Star Early Literacy or Star Reading	752	790	828
Grade 2	Star Early Literacy or Star Reading	868	893	918
Grade 3	Star Early Literacy or Star Reading	939	955	970

From sciencewithshobha.com/blog/renaissance-star-test-explained-star-reading-math-and-early-literacy-the-unified-scale-the-percentile-categories-and-the-2022-cut-scores-by-grade/ · 1-on-1 online tutoring for US families, Grade 1 to AP, free 30-minute first class.

Fluency thresholds, growth, and your child's report

Star CBM reading thresholds, correct per minute (the same 2022 tables)

Grade	Measure	Fall	Winter	Spring
K	Letter naming	25	38	49
K	Letter sounds	16	30	42
K	Phoneme segmentation	8	15	20
1	Passage oral reading (words correct per minute)	23	35	49
2	Passage oral reading	81	91	102
2	Expressive nonsense words	24	28	33
3	Passage oral reading	106	112	118

The student growth percentile (SGP)

Compares the child's change with students who started at the same score, 1 to 99. About 35 to 65 is typical growth; above 65 is strong; below 35 is slow even when the percentile rank is high. A child At/Above Benchmark with an SGP of 20 is coasting; one in Intervention with an SGP of 80 is on the way out.

Reading the report, in order

[ ] Percentile rank first: it carries the category and survives the change of scale.
[ ] Then the SGP.
[ ] Then the skills estimated to be mastered (reading) or the domains (math): that list is the teaching.
[ ] Which benchmark the school uses: the default 40th percentile or a state-linked line (the report footer says).
[ ] Star, i-Ready and MAP disagree by design: a percentile band, a grade-level placement, a RIT against a mean.

Your child's report

Test, date, Unified scaled score, percentile rank, category: _____

SGP since the last test: _____

Lowest skill area or domain: _____

CBM measure below the threshold, if any (fluency is the work): _____

Next test date and the score that would reach the 41st percentile: _____