

# UNDERSTANDING ERB RESULTS

## WHAT DOES THE ERB REPORT TELL YOU?

The Individual Subscore Report that your child's school has given to you with this guide describes your son's or daughter's performance on the CTP tests. The report contains two kinds of information about your child:

- The first page of the report contains a table showing your child's relative position on each test compared to the National Norm, Independent Norm and Grade.
- The rest of the report contains a table and a graph showing the Student Percent Content Mastery scores that your child earned on each test and on the questions in each content category.

## WHAT IS A NORM GROUP?

A norm group is a group of students with whom your child is being compared— usually other students in the same grade.

- The independent norm group consists of students in independent schools that use the CTP tests. The independent norm group those independent schools who took that test during the three previous years.
- The national norm group includes all the students at the appropriate grade level in all schools in the nation— large and small schools; rich and poor schools; urban, suburban, and rural schools. The statistics for the national norm group are estimates based on data from a that administered the CTP 4 tests in a special “national norming” study. The national norm group statistics are estimates that show how your student's performance would compare with the scores that would have resulted if all the students in your child's grade had taken the test during their grade year.

## WHAT IS A PERCENTILE RANK?

A percentile rank is one way of comparing your child's performance with the performance of a norm group. Your child's percentile rank is the percentage of the norm group who had lower scores than your child (plus half the percentage who had exactly the same score as your child). A student who performed better than 70 percent of the norm

group but not as well as the other 30 percent would have a percentile rank of 70 in that norm group.

A percentile rank does not indicate the percentage of the questions that your child answered correctly. The percentile rank is a percentage of students in a norm group. Because some norm groups perform better than others, your child’s percentile rank will differ from one norm group to another. A student's percentile rank will be lower in a stronger norm group and higher in a weaker norm group. The students in schools using the CTP test tend to be an academically strong group in comparison to all students in the nation.

### WHAT IS A STANINE?

A stanine is another way of comparing your child’s performance with the performance of a norm group. Stanines are formed by dividing the students in the norm group into nine subgroups on the basis of their test scores. These subgroups are called “stanines” and are numbered 1 to 9, lowest to highest.

The nine subgroups are not all the same size. The middle stanines include more students; those at the ends include fewer students. Stanine 5 is the largest; stanines 1 and 9 are the smallest. The following table shows the percentage of the students in the norm group who are in each stanine. Because these percentages are always the same, each stanine is associated with a range of percentile ranks. Those percentile ranks are also shown in the table.

A student in stanine 5 of a norm group has performed about as well as the average student in the norm group. In general, the middle three categories—stanines 4, 5, and 6—can be considered to represent average performance for that norm group; stanines 1, 2, and 3 can be considered to represent below-average performance for that norm group; stanines 7, 8, and 9 can be considered to represent above-average performance for the norm group.

<b>STANINE</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTILE RANKS</b>
9	4	96-99
8	7	89-95
7	12	77-88

6	17	60-76
5	20	40-59
4	17	23-39
3	12	11-22
2	7	4-10
1	4	1-3

### WHAT ARE LEXILE® AND QUANTILE® MEASURES?

Because some norm groups perform better than others, your child’s stanine will be lower in a stronger norm group and higher in a weaker norm group. The stanine is not a very precise measure. Percentile rankings are much more accurate when determining your child's performance compared to their peers.

You may see reported Lexile and Quantile measures on your child’s report. A Lexile measure represents your child’s reading ability and can be used to match him or her with books and other materials at an appropriate difficulty level. A Quantile measure describes your child’s mathematical ability and can be used to determine his or her readiness to learn new mathematical skills and concepts. Please visit [erblearn.org/ctp](http://erblearn.org/ctp) for more information.

## TESTS AND CATEGORIES

The questions on each CTP test are classified into "Content Standards Mastery" categories. They show your child’s performance on each test as a whole and on each content category in the test. The numbers at the left (Percent Content Mastery) indicate the Student Percent Mastery of Content your child earned.

### WHAT IS A STUDENT PERCENT MASTERY OF CONTENT SCORE?

While the percentage score may look like the percentage of answers your student answered correctly, it is not. Based on a student’s performance and the characteristics of the items answered correctly, it is an estimate of the percentage of items a student would get correct if he or she could take all items in a particular content area. Student Percent Mastery of Content scores have a higher degree of reliability compared to percent correct scores because the Percent Mastery of Content scores are based on both the characteristics of the items answered correctly and the student’s performance level.

The bar graph compares your child's performance with the average performance of the students in the independent school norm group. In the graph, the black diamond indicates your child's performance – the Student Percent Mastery of Content score that your child earned. The bar indicates the average performance of the students in the norm group.

*The content on this page was written by the ERB. [www.erblearn.org](http://www.erblearn.org),*