

# Measure: 4th Grade Reading

## What is 4th Grade Reading?

Fourth Grade Reading is a measure of student success on the 4th grade Smarter Balanced English Language Arts (ELA) assessment. In this measure, students are considered to have demonstrated foundational knowledge or above on grade-level content if they score a 2, 3, or 4 on the assessment.

## Why is this measure important?

Students are tested using the Smarter Balanced ELA assessment in grades 3–8 and once in high school. Text complexity and academic language increase in 4th grade, so students continue to need strong foundational skills **and** ongoing instruction in vocabulary, language, and comprehension.

## How is the data used?

Fourth grade reading data is used to show the percentage of students who are demonstrating foundational grade-level knowledge (scoring a Level 2, 3, or 4) on the 4th grade Smarter Balanced ELA assessment. These results measure how well students are progressing toward the state’s ELA learning standards and provide information about their readiness for more progressed school coursework.

## What does the data show?

The data show that over the past three school years, the percentage of Washington’s students who are demonstrating foundational level and above skills on the 4th grade Smarter Balanced assessment has been stable.

### Percent of Students Scoring at Foundational Grade Level or Above

School Year	Percent
2022–23	67.8%
2023–24	67.6%
2024–25	68.0%



## What are the business rules for calculating 4th Grade Reading?

The 4th Grade Reading measure is defined as the rate of 4th grade students who scored at foundational grade-level knowledge and above (considered a Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4) on the Smarter Balanced ELA content assessment.

Numerator = Number of 4th grade students scoring a Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4 on the Smarter Balanced ELA content assessment.

Denominator = Number of 4th grade students expected to test on the Smarter Balanced ELA content assessment.

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### **OSPI Contact Information**

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