

Measure: 8th Grade Reading

What is 8th Grade Reading?

Eighth Grade Reading is a measure of student success on the 8th 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. Performance on the 8th grade ELA test can be an indicator of a student’s preparedness for high school and may be used as a data point for high school course taking.

How is the data used?

Eighth 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 8th 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 high 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 8th grade Smarter Balanced assessment has slightly decreased. Results have shown slight decreases from 71.1% in 2022–23 the school year to 70.2% in 2024–25.

Percent of Students at Foundational Grade Level and Above

School Year	Percent
2022–23	71.1%
2023–24	69.9%
2024–25	70.2%



What are the business rules for calculating 8th Grade Reading?

The 8th Grade Reading measure is defined as the rate of 8th 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 8th grade students scoring a Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4 on the Smarter Balanced ELA content assessment.

Denominator = Number of 8th grades students expected to test on the Smarter Balanced ELA content assessment.

OSPI Contact Information

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