



## Can I compare scale scores from one grade to another?

No, you cannot compare scale scores from one grade to another.

MCA scale scores are based on grade-level content; therefore they are independent from grade to grade and do not overlap. This means that the lowest performing fifth grader will always receive a higher score than the highest performing fourth grader.

Since MCA scale scores are independent, you cannot subtract scale scores from one year to the next. For subtraction to have meaning, students in multiple grades would need to be able to have the same score. For more information about determining if a student has improved from year to year, please refer to the help document, [What Are Appropriate Uses of Scale Scores?](#)

## How do the MCA scale scores translate into MCA Achievement Levels?

Each grade and subject has four achievement levels:

- D – Does Not Meet Standards
- P – Partially Meets Standards
- M – Meets Standards
- E – Exceeds Standards

**Does Not Meet Standards** does not have a set student score or range; both vary by grade and subject.

**Partially Meets Standards** always starts at a student score of 40, and the range is always the same.

**Meets Standards** always starts at a student score of 50, and the range varies by grade and subject.

**Exceeds Standards** does not have a set student score or range; both vary by grade and subject.

