

PALS Benchmarks

Grade	Fall	Spring
Kindergarten	28	81
1 st grade*	39	35
2 nd grade	35	54
3 rd grade	54	65

*The first grade benchmark decreases from fall to spring since the letter sounds task is not included in the spring summed score.

It is also helpful to review PALS benchmarks by task.

PALS benchmarks are not outcome measures. PALS benchmarks indicate a minimum level of developmentally appropriate performance.

High Benchmark Designation

Students are eligible for high benchmark designation in the spring of first grade or the fall of second grade. Student are not eligible for the high benchmark earlier than the spring of first grade because student performance is too variable at these ages.

First grade students in the spring must meet all three of the following criteria, in addition to meeting or exceeding the Entry Level Summed Score benchmark:

- Read 18 or more words from the second grade word list
- Read the second grade passage with 98% or greater accuracy
- Read the second grade passage with a fluency rating of 3

Second grade students in the fall must meet all three of the following criteria, in addition to meeting or exceeding the Entry Level Summed Score benchmark:

- Read 18 or more words from the third grade word list
- Read the third grade passage with 98% or greater accuracy
- Read the third grade passage with a fluency rating of 3

Higher level passages (i.e., third grade, fourth grade, etc.) will also be accepted for the high benchmark if the passage is read with both 98% or greater accuracy and a fluency rating of 3.