

What is a Scaled Score?

A scaled score is a conversion of a student's raw score on a test to a common scale that allows for a numerical comparison between students. Because most major testing programs use multiple versions of a test, the scale is used to control slight variations from one version of a test to the next. Scaled scores are particularly useful for comparing test scores over time, such as measuring semester-to-semester and year-to-year growth of individual students or groups of students in a content area.

The Iowa Assessments scale scores are called standard scores (SS) and they describe the location of a student's test performance on a common achievement continuum across all academic areas tested. The three testing periods associated with the Iowa Assessments are fall, midyear and spring. Each testing period produces different average national SS (NSS). Across all three testing periods, the Iowa Assessments SS reveal that the average annual growth decreases as students move from grade to grade. This more typically reflects actual student growth. The table below provides the 2000 average NSS for the ITBS/ITED and the average growth achieved between grades. Iowa Assessments from 2011-2012 forward will have different median NSS for each testing period and there will be a different median NSS scores for each subject tested.

ITBS/ITED National Standard Scores

Average Standard Score	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Fall	120	140	158	175	191	205	218	231	243	254	263	270	277
Average Growth		20	18	17	16	14	13	13	12	11	9	7	7
Midyear	126	143	162	180	196	210	223	235	247	257	266	273	279
Average Growth		17	19	18	16	14	13	12	12	10	9	7	6
Spring	130	150	168	185	200	214	227	239	250	260	268	275	280
Average Growth		20	18	17	15	14	13	12	11	10	8	7	5

Another advantage that SS have is that they are ratio scores. Thus, we can add, subtract, multiply and divide these scores meaningfully. For example, means, standard deviations, significance testing (where appropriate) and percent of growth achieved for various groups and individual students between years can be calculated using these scores.