

Scale Score Conversion Tables for the 2010 NeSA-Reading Assessment

The “Scale Score Conversion Tables” on the following pages may be used to interpret student scores on the 2010 NeSA-Reading Assessment. The terms defined below are essential for understanding the information presented in the Scale Score Conversion Tables.

Definitions:

Raw Score: for the NeSA, the number of correct responses.

Scale Score: a transformed version of the raw score determined by the raw score and the difficulty of the items on the specific form of the test that the student took. The main advantage of the scale score over the raw score is that a scale score will have the same meaning every year. A scale score of **85** will always be the beginning of the “Meets Standards” performance level and a scale score of **135** will always be the beginning of “Exceeds Standards.” The raw score associated with a scale score can vary if the items on forms administered in subsequent years are a little easier or a little harder.

Standard Error: an indication of statistical precision with which the scale score is measured. It will always be smallest near the center of the test and largest for extreme scores (i.e., the highest and lowest possible scores). The standard error is used to determine the upper and lower boundaries for the scale score.

Percentile Rank: the percentage of students who took the test and whose scale scores were below the scale score shown. Students who maintain the same percentile rank from year to year are progressing at the same rate as the other students in the same grade.

Performance Level: a range of scale scores—determined by NDE and a panel of Nebraska educators—that relate the scale scores to the *Content Standards*. It was determined that a scale score of **85** indicates the student meets content standard expectations for the grade; and a scale score of **135** indicates the student exceeds the content standard expectations.