

## WHAT IS CTP?

CTP (Comprehensive Testing Program) is an achievement assessment produced by ERB—a not-for-profit member organization that has provided student assessment services for over 90 years.

CTP is a summative assessment of learning achievement. Its purpose is to identify the academic strengths and weaknesses of both individual students and groups of students. This enables schools to make informed decisions about their curriculum to better serve their students.

## SUBTESTS AND CONTENT STRANDS

CTP is comprised of individual subtests to assess different subject areas. The subtests your student takes will vary depending on your student's current grade and the needs of your school.

The questions on each CTP subtest are further classified into “content strands or domains” that identify the specific skill each question is designed to measure.

## WHAT DOES THIS REPORT TELL YOU?

The Individual Narrative Report describes your student's CTP performance on different subtests.

- The **Scale Scores, Percentiles, and Stanines** table displays your student's relative performance on each subtest when compared to various “norm groups.”
- The **Percentile Rank** graph contains a graph showing a “probable range” for your child's relative position on each test in one of the norm groups.

## NORM GROUPS

A norm group is a group of students from other schools who also took the CTP— usually students who tested around the same time of year (fall or spring) as your student and who are in the same grade as your student. CTP reports compare your student's scores to the average scores achieved by student's in these norm groups.

- The **Suburban Norm (SN)** is comprised of students at suburban public schools who took the CTP at the same time of year as your student over the past three years.
- The **Independent Norm (IN)** is comprised of students from independent schools who took the CTP at the same time of year as your student over the past three years.
- The **National Norm (NN)** is comprised of students across the nation (based on a representative sample of all students in the U.S. at the relevant grade level).
- The **Association Norm** is comprised of students in an association of independent schools to which your student's school belongs. These students took the CTP at the same time of year as your student over the past three years.

## SCALE SCORES

Scale scores are based on the actual number of questions your student answered correctly as well as the difficulty level of those questions.

For example, Student A answers five difficult questions correctly and five easy questions correctly. Student B answers two difficult questions correctly and eight easy questions correctly. Even though they both answered ten questions correctly, Student A's scale score is higher than Student B's because Student A answered more difficult questions correctly.

## PERCENTILE RANKS

The percentile rank indicates how many students in a norm group had scores that were the same or lower than your student's score. A percentile does **not** indicate the percentage of questions that your student answered correctly.

For example, a student with a percentile of 70 performed better than 70% of the students in the norm group but not as well as the remaining 30% of students in the norm group.

Because some norm groups perform better than others, your student's percentile will change when compared to different norm groups. A student's percentile is usually lower when compared to a stronger norm group and higher when compared to a weaker norm group.

## STANINES

A stanine is another way of comparing your student's performance to the performance of students in a norm group. Stanines are calculated by dividing the students in the norm group into nine subgroups, called stanines, based on their scores. These stanines are numbered one to nine, lowest to highest, and different percentages of students fall into each stanine. The middle stanines include more students; those at either end include fewer students.

In general, stanines four, five, and six represent average performance—over half the students in the norm group fall into these stanines. Stanines one, two, and three represent below-average performance for the norm group and stanines seven, eight, and nine represent above-average performance for the norm group.

The following table shows the percentage of students in the norm group that fall into each stanine. Because these percentages are always the same, each stanine is also associated with a set range of percentiles.

STANINE	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS	PERCENTILE
9	4%	96-99
8	7%	89-95
7	12%	77-88
6	17%	60-76
5	20%	40-59
4	17%	23-39
3	12%	11-22
2	7%	4-10
1	4%	1-3

Because some norm groups perform better than others, your student's stanine will change when compared to different norm groups. A student's stanine is usually lower when compared to a stronger norm group and higher when compared to a weaker norm group. Stanines are not the most precise measure of a student's ability as they only allow for nine different levels of ability.

## PROBABLE RANGE

Any given test presents only a small sample of questions to assess a student's skills and knowledge. If a different selection of questions were used to assess the same skills and knowledge, a student's score might be expected to differ somewhat, simply due to differences in the way the questions are written or nuances in the skills assessed. The probable range of percentile ranks uses a "confidence level" to estimate how your student might perform if presented with a different selection of questions.

When the probable ranges from two subtests overlap, the student's achievement on those two subtests is likely quite comparable; the student's relative strengths in these areas is not significantly different. If the probable ranges for two subtests do not overlap, it is likely that the student's relative performance on the skills tested is, indeed, different.