



Fall Grade-Level Reading Competency using *i-Ready*: Guidance for Grades K–3 to Meet the Colorado READ Act

Curriculum Associates Guidance Brief | July 2025

Guidance Overview

The [Colorado READ Act](#) stipulates that students who demonstrate competency on an approved reading assessment in a specific academic year are not required to be administered the approved reading assessment for the remainder of the year. This document provides the cut scores that can be used with *i-Ready Diagnostic* to determine if students do not need to be administered the Diagnostic for the remainder of the year in Colorado.

According to [Colorado's HB 15-1323](#):

If, based on a student's scores on the approved reading assessments in a specific school year, a teacher finds that a student demonstrates reading competency appropriate for his or her grade level, the local education provider is not required to administer the approved interim reading assessments to the student for the remainder of the specific school year.

The Colorado Department of Education has made it clear that this requirement was not simply to identify which students are on track for success versus those who are off-track, but rather to identify those students who have demonstrated sufficient proficiency such that interim testing using an approved reading assessment is no longer needed during that year. Not only should the student have demonstrated this proficiency, but we should also be very sure that the student will be proficient on end-of-year testing.

Curriculum Associates has conducted linking studies as well as a standard setting to determine the optimal cut scores on *i-Ready Diagnostic* for students to determine whether they are likely to be considered proficient in college and career readiness standards. In our standard setting, our Mid On-Level placement is described as follows:

Students at this level have met or surpassed the minimum requirements for the expectations of college- and career-ready standards in their grade level. Students will benefit from instruction in late on-grade level topics or above-grade level instruction.

While this threshold can serve as the baseline for determining whether students have demonstrated sufficient proficiency, to be very sure that a student will be proficient in year-end testing, we recommend setting the cut score to at least two mean standard errors of measurement above these placement cut scores.

Therefore, students who score **at or above** the *i-Ready Diagnostic* cut scores in the following table are considered to demonstrate grade-level competency at the beginning of the school year for READ Act purposes:

Grade	Cut Score
Grade K	420
Grade 1	482
Grade 2	540
Grade 3	572

Additional information on *i-Ready* and the READ Act is available at <https://www.curriculumassociates.com/CO-uses>.