

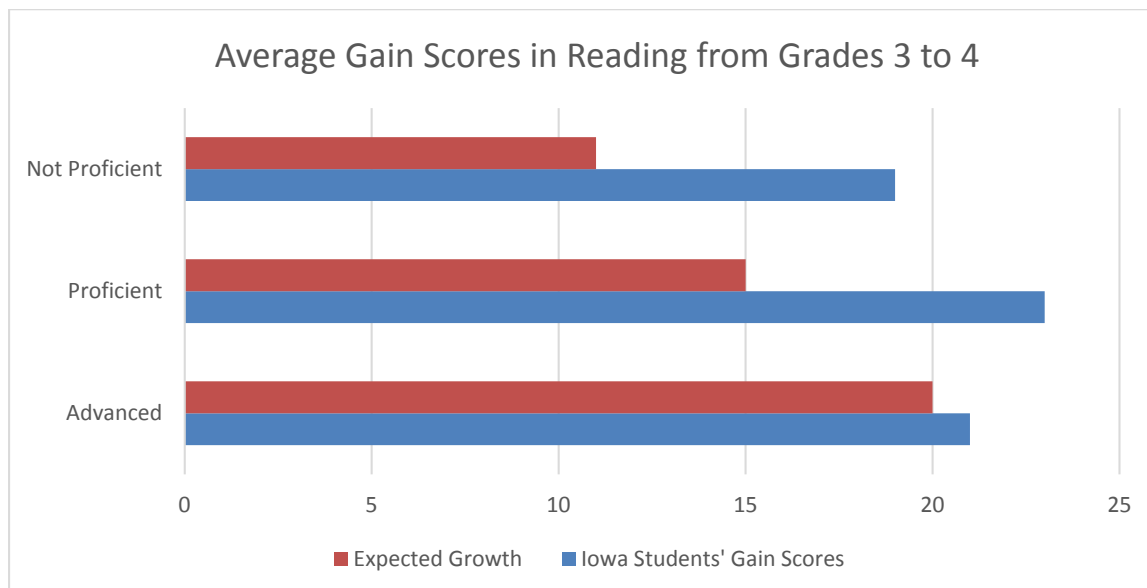
Iowa 3rd Graders Show Strong Reading Gains on the *Iowa Assessments*

Tracking student growth provides information to educators that goes well beyond proficiency levels. Research recently conducted on growth at the University of Iowa found that Iowa students demonstrated strong Reading gains from Grades 3 to 4. This research was part of a larger study that considered multiple subject areas and included over 230,000 students in Grades 3-10 who were enrolled in Iowa schools from 2014-2016. Growth was measured on the National Standard Score (NSS) scale. Key results for Grade 3 include:

Students showed more growth than expected. Across all proficiency levels, Iowa students showed more growth in Reading than expected. Expected growth is based on a nationally representative group of students. Average *Gain Scores* were calculated by subtracting student's prior year score from the current year score and then taking the average over all students.

Not proficient students exceeded expected growth even more than other students. While students at all proficiency levels showed more growth than expected, students at the not proficient level exceeded expected growth by 8 points. These students showed more growth than is expected of students at the proficient level.

Promising findings for Iowa. Iowa students are growing faster in Reading than students at the national level. It is especially notable that Iowa students who were not proficient in Grade 3 are growing more than expected, as this trend will lead to not proficient students becoming proficient.



For more information see:

Welch, C., Dunbar, S., & Rickels, H. (2016). *Measuring Student Growth in Iowa with the Iowa Assessments*. <https://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/documents/Measuring-Student-Growth-in-Iowa-with-the-Iowa-Assessments.pdf>