



Question:

Should the target independent reading level for kindergartners be increased from text Level 3 to Level 4 for the spring administration of the DRA2?

Answer: Yes

Using text Level 3 as the criterion for kindergarten proficiency appears to overestimate how well-prepared those students are for future grade levels, as supported by the following:

A) Students reading at Level 4 at the end of kindergarten are more likely to score proficient or advanced (72%) on the 3rd Grade Reading CSAP than students who are reading at Level 3 (51%). See Figure 1.

B) There is a dramatic drop in the percentage of students reading at or above grade level as students move from kindergarten (72%) to first grade (42%) when Level 3 is used as the kindergarten expectation. See Figure 2.

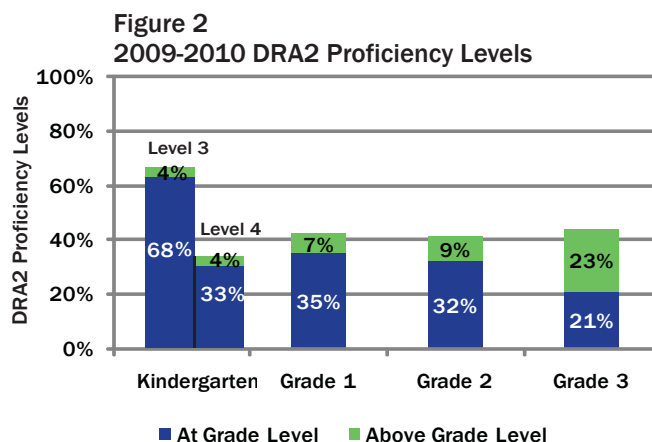
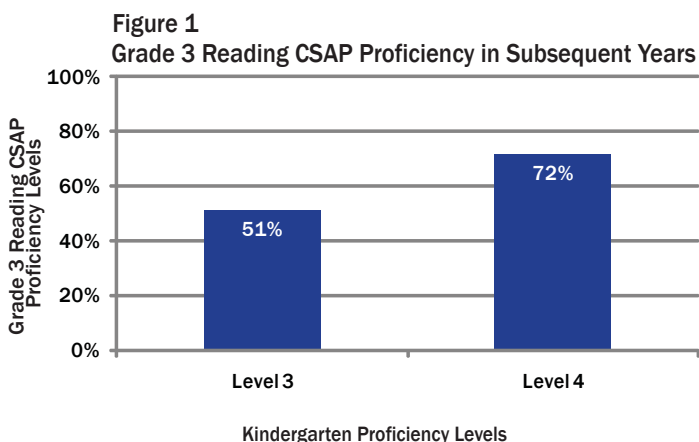


Figure 1 is based on one cohort of students who received DRA2 scores at the end of the 2006-2007 school year and CSAP scores at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
Figure 2 is based on all DRA2 scores reported at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.