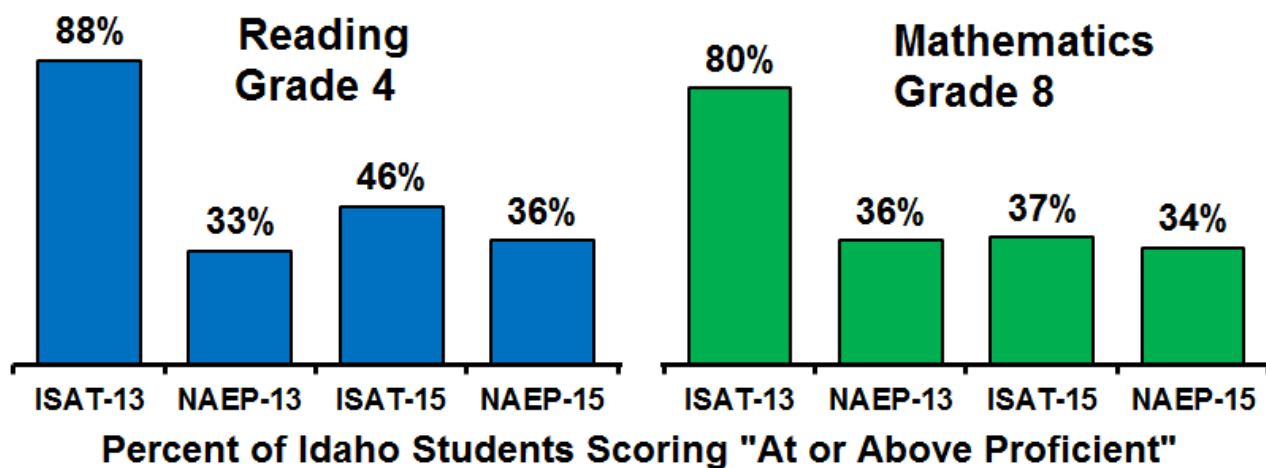




What “Percent Proficient or Advanced” Means in the New ISAT

The new *Idaho Standards Achievement Tests* were developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), and adopted by Idaho State Board of Education. Since Idaho will use *Percent Proficient or Advanced* to report ISAT results, it is important to understand what it means. The new ISAT *Proficient* defines a level of performance that approximates an “A” grade in a classroom setting. Thus, the new *Percent Proficient or Advanced* is the percentage of students who are performing in the classroom at the “A” level. [By contrast, the previous ISAT defined *Percent Proficient or Advanced* to include all students who were performing in the classroom at the “C”, “B” or “A” levels, as required by the *No Child Left Behind Act*.]

As illustrated below, the new ISAT performance level results are much more like NAEP than the previous ISAT. This being the case it is appropriate to use the NAEP definitions to understand the new ISAT’s proficiency labels (*Below Basic*, *Basic*, *Proficient*, and *Advanced*).



The descriptors in the table below were gleaned from a variety of NAEP publications and presentations. They help define and clarify how NAEP and new ISAT achievement levels should be understood, interpreted, and used. See <http://www.idahoednews.org/voices/use-grade-levels-to-understand-naep>

NAEP Achievement Level	English Language Descriptors Used to Explain the Meaning of the NAEP Achievement Levels	Letter Grade (A-F)	
		Stoneberg (2007)	Ravitch (2012)
<i>Advanced</i>		A to A+	A+
<i>Proficient</i>	Some of the best students you know Many words and terms above grade level Mastery of complex material Higher than grade level performance	B+ to A	A
<i>Basic</i>	Proficiency in subject (common language meaning) Overall understanding of grade appropriate text More than minimal competency	C- to B	B and C
<i>Below Basic</i>	Minimal competency	F to D+	Concern

Ravitch: <http://dianeravitch.net/2012/05/14/what-do-naep-scores-mean/>
Stoneberg: <http://pareonline.net/getvn.asp?v=12&n=5>