



Guidance for Grades 3 – 5

Above, On, and Below Grade Level Determinations

In a standards-based curriculum and assessment system, specific grade-level benchmarks serve as the key reference points in determining the level of student performance.

The St. Johns County Instructional Services Department recommends the following:

- “On Grade Level” applies to students whose instruction is based upon the specific grade-level benchmarks. (For example, a fourth grader is instructed and assessed on fourth grade benchmarks.)
- “Above Grade Level” applies if the students have exhibited mastery of all of the current benchmarks, and instruction is being adjusted to include benchmarks from one of more grade levels above the students’ current grade level.*
- “Below Grade Level” applies to students for whom instruction requires that the previous year’s benchmarks are consistently applied in place of benchmarks designed for the current year.

NOTE:

- The previous message does not imply that reviewing or reteaching benchmarks from a previous year is always an indication of below grade level work.
- Students may be above grade level in one subject and below in another. Acceleration options exist for single subjects

**If a student has demonstrated thorough mastery of the current grade level’s standards and requires instruction at the next year’s level, it is recommended that acceleration be considered. The explanation of and protocol for acceleration are described in the Student Progression Plan.*