

Understanding the SAFAL Report

About SAFAL

Structured Assessment for Analyzing Learning (SAFAL), a competency-based assessment as per the recommendation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at para 4.40, was launched by CBSE in its affiliated schools in July, 2021. This computer-based assessment is designed to assess the students of Grades 5, and 8 in key competencies across core curricular domains of Language, Mathematics, and EVS/Science. The results represent the overall performance of a grade and help monitor learning levels while assessing the effectiveness of educational systems.

Schools can use SAFAL data to identify areas for targeted academic support. These results offer a dependable measure of school performance on fundamental concepts and are intended for developmental purposes, as outlined in NEP 2020.

Please note that SAFAL provides reports only on school-level performance and does not include individual student-level reports.

About the SAFAL Report and Reporting Scales

Reporting for SAFAL focuses on school-level achievement of learning by reporting on proficiency levels across grade-level competencies. These proficiency levels provide a convenient way to describe the overall achievement of the students in a grade. Each level shows what skills and knowledge the students should have at that level (including skills of the levels below). For example, if the proficiency level is 'Advanced' on the proficiency scale, the students would have the skills expected at the Advanced level, as well as the Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic levels. Similarly, for the Proficient level students would have the skills expected at the Proficient level, as well as Basic and Below Basic levels.

The raw or percentage scores in this assessment are converted to scaled scores to make the data comparable from one test administration to another. For instance, the schools that have participated in SAFAL 2024-25 and also in the SAFAL Pilot (February 2023), will be able to see the school's performance for these two SAFAL assessments. This way, schools will be able to monitor their progress in learning levels in the core areas.

A separate scale has been developed for each subject-grade combination tested. Hence, there are a total of 6 scales. The school's performance in each subject/grade is placed in a specific band which will either be two grade levels below (**Below Basic**), one grade level below (**Basic**), at grade level (**Proficient**) or above the minimum standard set for the grade and subject tested (**Advanced**).

For example, if the above scale is used for Grade 8 Science, and a school's average scaled score is 310.55 (as shown in Image 1), we can determine the performance level by referring to the illustrative proficiency scale. Since the score falls within the range of 300 to 342.64, the performance level would be classified as "Proficient."

The SAFAL report provides the schools with insights about their overall performance at the class/grade level for all three core subjects. Using the scaled scores derived from the raw scores of all participating students, a school's performance in each subject/grade is categorised into one of four proficiency bands, as illustrated in the figure (the *numbers depicted in the figure are for example purposes only*).

The report enables schools to determine the proportion of students that fall in each proficiency band and compare their overall performance with the national, regional, state and district averages for each respective subject-grade combination. Additionally, the SAFAL report also allows schools to identify the percentage of students performing at different proficiency levels for each specific competency. The four proficiency levels are: **Below Basic** (two grades below), **Basic** (one grade below), **Proficient** (at grade level), and **Advanced** (above grade level).

The SAFAL report supports schools in identifying learning gaps and tailoring instructional strategies to improve their student's learning.



(Illustrative Proficiency Scale: Scaled Scores Representing Each Proficiency Level)

The SAFAL report has been divided into sections, one for each subject-grade combination tested. For each section (subject-grade combination), the report contains the following:

1. Average score: This provides the average scaled score for the school versus the national, regional, state and district average scaled scores. It will also provide the school's previous year's average scaled score, in case the school participated in the previous year. (Refer Image 1 for example)

Average Scores						
#	No. of Schools		No. of Students		Average Score	
	2024-25	Pilot	2024-25	Pilot	2024-25	Pilot
All CBSE Schools	8014	1785	600072	158077	271.51	274.87
Region	685	127	50761	10611	267.96	279.2
State	276	92	21509	6757	272.32	285.12
District	35	25	4075	2406	284.44	297.83
School	--	--	507	436	310.55	332.5

Image 1 (For representative purposes only)

2. Proficiency distribution: This provides the distribution of students in each proficiency band. These proficiency bands group the collective achievement of the participating students into four levels. Each level represents the skills and knowledge the students should have at that level (including skills of the levels below). For example, if the proficiency level is Advanced on the proficiency scale, the students would have the skills expected at the Advanced level, as well as the Proficient, Basic and Below Basic levels. Similarly, for the Proficient level students would have the skills expected at the *Proficient* level, as well as *Basic* and *Below Basic* levels.

The graph also provides a comparison of the proficiency distribution of the school with that of national, regional, state and district along with the previous year's distribution, if applicable.

For instance, in the example shown below, 31.56 % of the students in the school are at grade level (proficient level) for the given subject-grade combination, whereas only 16.52 % of the students in the region are at grade level (proficient level). (Refer Image 2 for example)

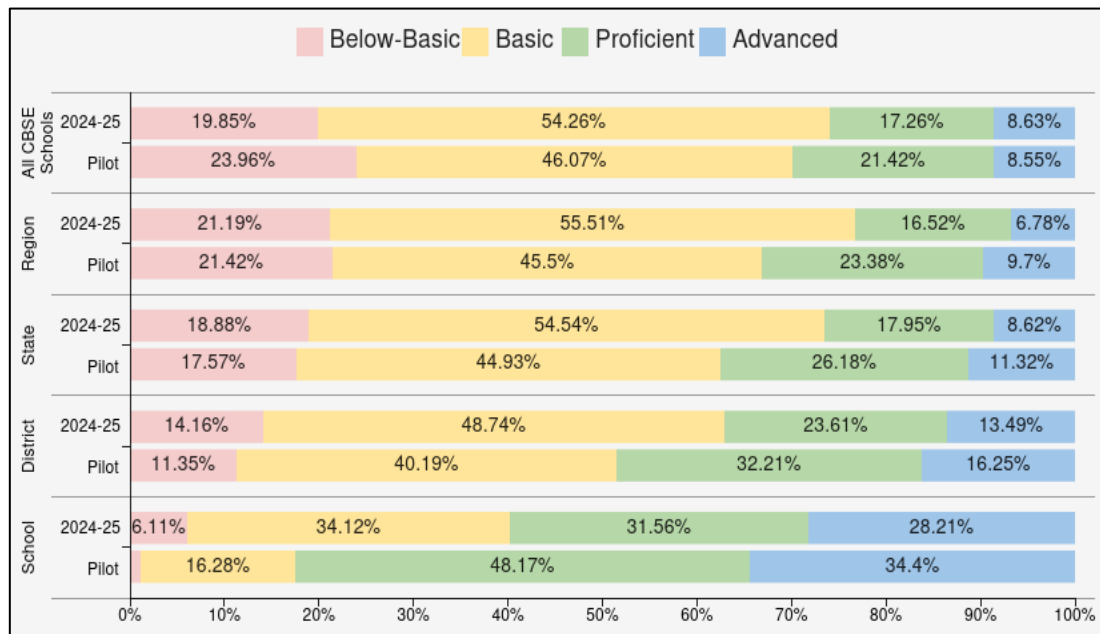


Image 2 (For representative purposes)

3. Competency Report: Each subject is broken down into various competencies. The competency report provides the percentage of students who answered all questions correctly for each targeted grade level of all tested competencies. (Refer Image 3 for example)

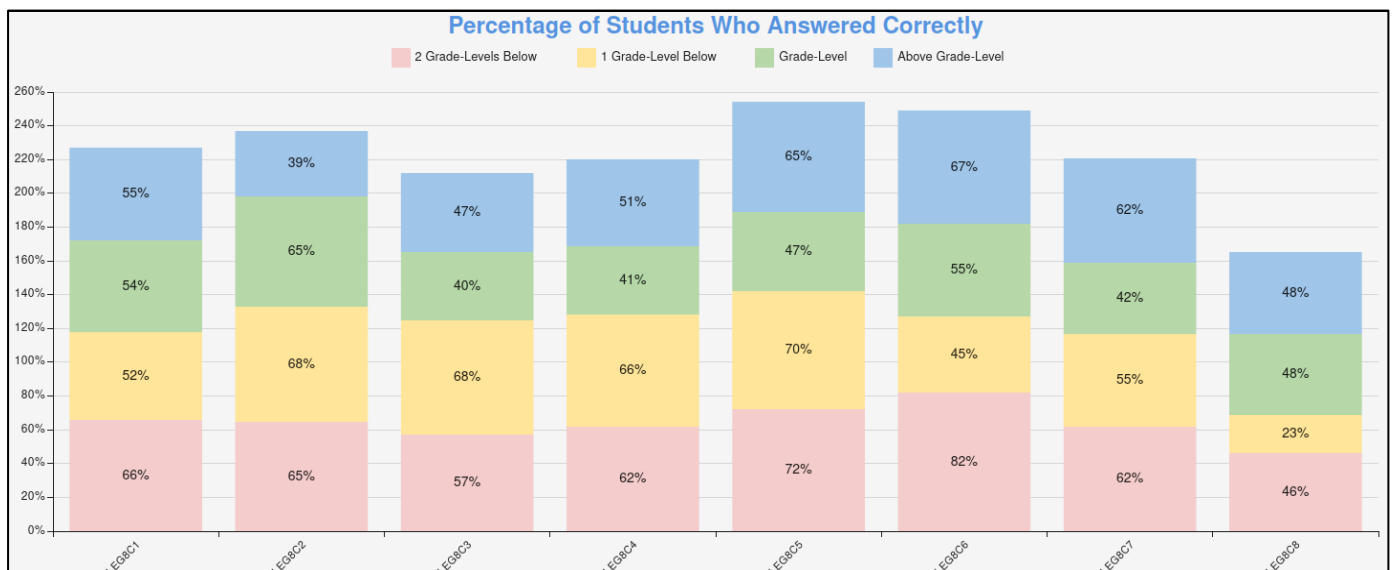


Image 3 (For representative purposes)

4. Competency Chart: The chart lists down all competencies along with the competency codes. It also provides the percentage of students who answered the questions correctly for each targeted grade levels of the competencies. (Refer Image 4 for example)

Competency Code:	Competency	Percentage of Students Who Answered Correctly			
		2 Grade-Level Below	1 Grade-Level Below	At the Grade-Level	Above Grade-Level
LEG5C1	Recognises the meaning of common grade-level words	46%	31%	46%	35%
LEG5C2	Retrieves explicit information in a grade-level text by direct- or close-word matching	50%	48%	44%	39%
LEG5C3	Retrieves explicit information in a grade-level text by synonymous word matching	41%	38%	41%	36%
LEG5C4	Makes inferences in a grade-level text	33%	31%	37%	45%
LEG5C5	Identifies the main and secondary ideas in a grade-level text	--	41%	43%	29%
LEG5C6	Identifies the purpose and audience of a text	--	47%	38%	42%

Image 4 (For representative purposes)