

How to Read Standardized Test Scores

What is “average”?



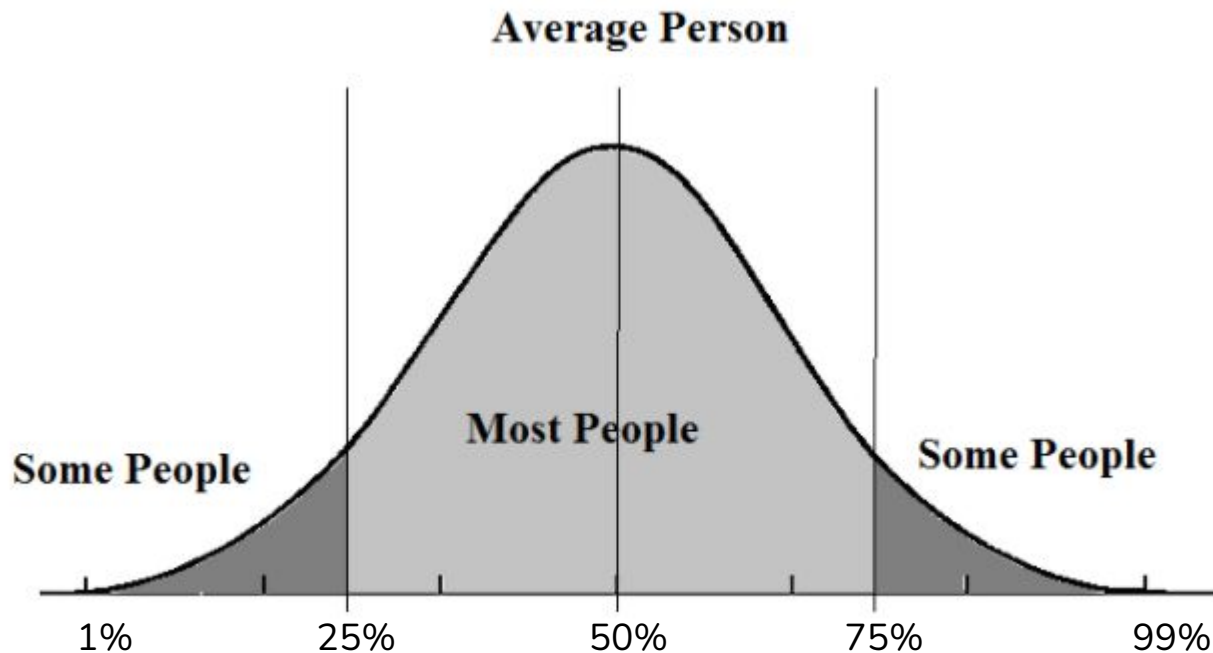


Don't fall into the trap of looking to see who's “passing”!

DO NOT use standardized scores to see if students are “passing” - that's not what they are used for. It is only comparing everyone to an average and if there are 100 students and you find the one in the middle, then it is normal to have 50% of students be below the average student.

Scoring a 50% does not mean you only got 50% of the questions correct, it means that you did as well as the average person (the one in the middle) taking the test.

**When looking at standardized test scores,
an average student would score 50%.
Most people would score between 25%-75%.
This is normal.**

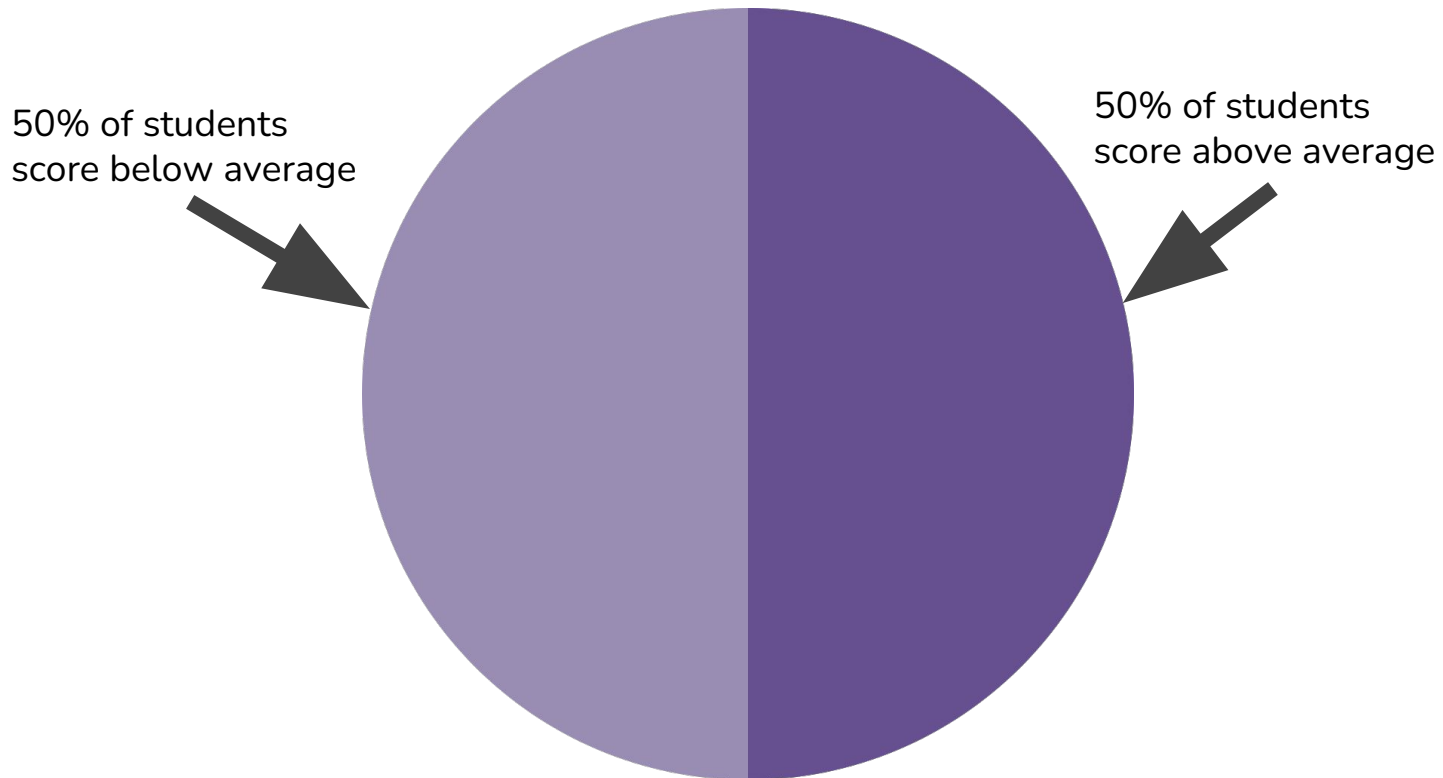




An average school would have 50% of students scoring above average, 50% below average.

This is normal.

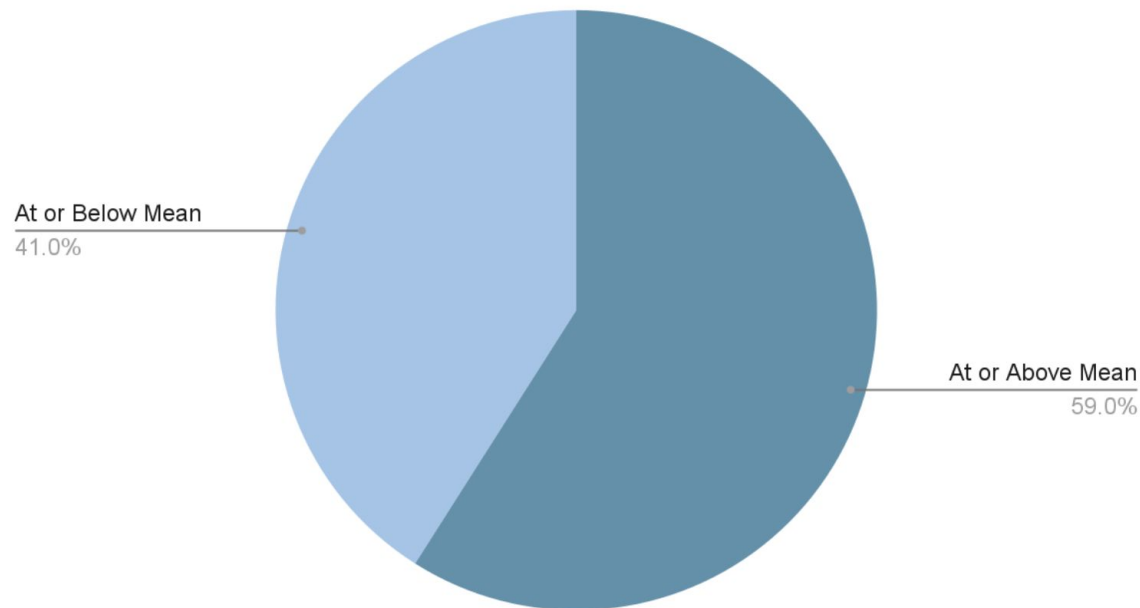
An average school, where students perform normally:





Example of a school performing above average levels:

Grade 9 Reading

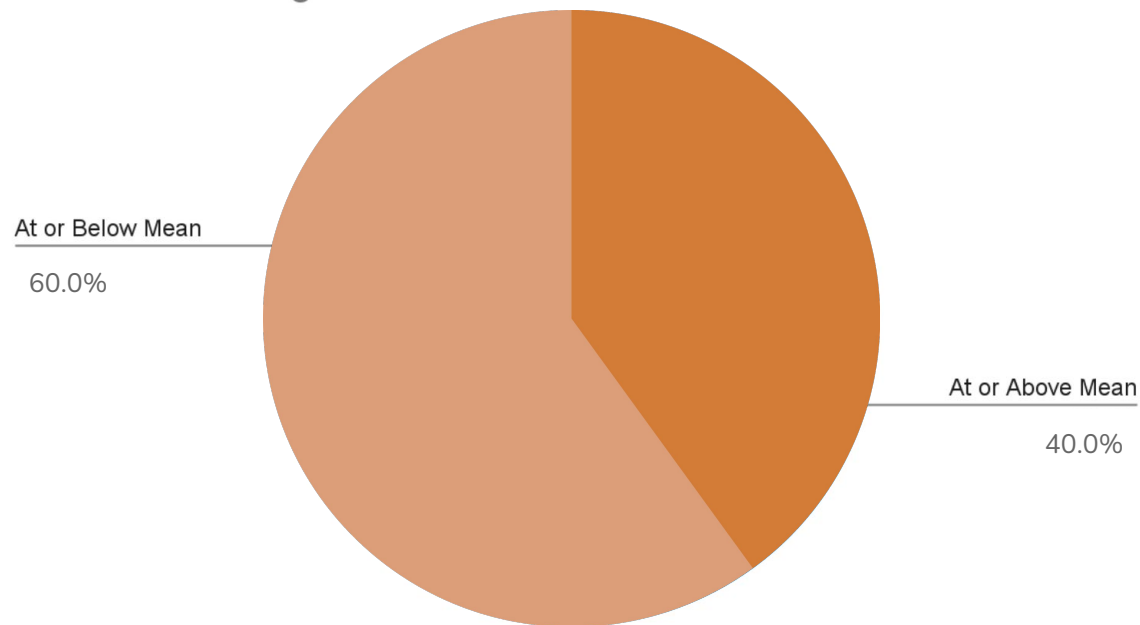


At this school, 59% of students performed above the average level, 9% more than normal. So this school is doing better than most.



Example of a school performing below average levels:

Grade 9 Reading



At this school, 40% of students performed above the average level, 10% less than the normal of 50%. So this school is not doing as well as an average school and may need to add staff or resources to help improve student reading.