

2018-2019 Independent Reading Levels

What is an independent reading level?

An independent reading level is the highest level at which a child can read on his/her own without any assistance. The child should be able to understand the book he/she is reading alone in addition to actually reading the words on the page(s).

Is my child reading at grade level?

There are three levels at which students tend to work in reading:

1. *Instruction level* - this is the level at which teachers provide instruction to students in reading. Research shows that when students read books in which they are familiar with the words, they can focus on skills and become more accurate readers and understand what they read better.
2. *Independent level* - this is the level, as mentioned above, at which a child can read without assistance and read both the words and understand the material.
3. *Frustration level* - this is the level at which a student struggles to read the words on the page(s) and cannot understand the material

As a result, there is no clear answer to this question. There are a range of levels that would be considered "at grade level" for a child. The ranges are below. But, we hope to help students achieve as high a level as possible with each year of growth and practice. You can help, too, by reading at home to your child, or by listening to them read. It doesn't have to be perfect - practice makes permanent - and practicing reading will help your child acquire a habit of reading, useful for life! It will also help them practice the skills that teachers are working with them on.

Grade Level	Independent Reading Level Ranges
K	Levels A - C
1	Levels B - I
2	Levels H - M
3	Levels L - P
4	Levels O - T

At Watertown City School District, we strive to help students to love reading. Students who read for fun will love reading, and will, in turn, become better readers. If you have further questions, please feel free to visit our website at www.watertowncsd.org under Departments and Curriculum & Instruction or contact your building principal.