FAQS: Normed Scoring in Panorama Surveys and Feedback



What is Panorama's approach to normed scoring?

For our normed topic scores, we are using stanine scoring. Stanines (which stands for "standard nines") are normalized scores with a long history of use in education and testing. Stanines divide a score distribution into nine intervals, with each of the intervals (1-9) containing a certain percentage of scores. Scores in the lowest stanines (i.e., stanines 1-3) represent the lowest scores, while those in the highest stanines (i.e., 7-9) represent the highest scores. Scores in the middle (i.e, 4-6) represent typical or average scores. With stanines (as with percentiles) you can easily tell where a score falls relative to other scores.

Strength

Life skills scores exceed the average of their peers.

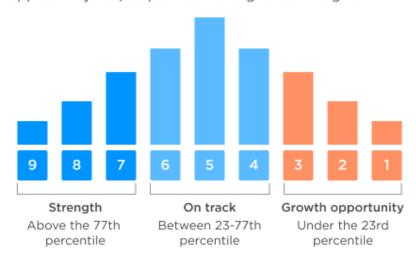
On track

Most students fall into this group.
Scores closely align to the average of their peers.

Growth opportunity

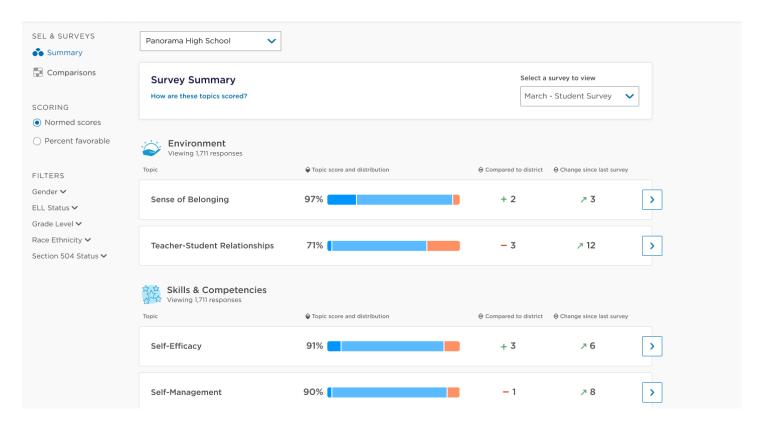
The largest opportunity to improve their life skills standing.

Each group is then sorted into three sections (Strength: 9-7, On track: 6-4, Growth opportunity: 3-1) to provide more granular insight.



To get to our stanine topic scores, we first convert raw question responses (the responses selected on our surveys) into standardized scores that indicate a score's relative position above or below the mean. For each respondent, we then take the average standardized score of items in a topic and map that score to the stanine intervals. These calculations leverage our grade-level data sets, ensuring appropriate comparisons for students' scores. The final topic scores represent the total percentage of students mapped to the "on track" and "strength" stanine groups.





For our normed item-level scores, we take a slightly different approach, focusing on the mean z-scores of items. Z-scores are a normalized score that indicates a score's relative position above or below the mean. (A positive z-score indicates a score is above average, while a negative score indicates a score is below average. A z-score near 0 indicates that a score is close to the average.) This approach combines mean z-scores for items with an item specific scaling factor (a mathematical transformation based on an item's response distribution that places scores on a -5 to +5 scale) to enable partners to accurately compare items within and across topics. As depicted below, many scores will be near the average, 0.

