Defining performance bands

Many educators use performance bands or categories to cluster the results of standards-based assessments. For example, you can use performance bands to show selected student data when you run reports or intervention groups based on benchmark exams.

Edusoft automatically defines four overall performance bands, plus two each per standard and for question groups for aligning assessments. When you define performance bands, you select the number of bands, assign a name to each band, and determine its range of points. Defining a new set of performance bands replaces the current ones.

**Note:** If a test already has performance bands defined, those bands stay in place until someone resets them. Resetting performance bands sets them to use the district defaults.

**Defining overall performance bands**

Overall performance bands are a way of looking at results for an entire assessment. They give you a sense of how students are performing on the test as a whole rather than in specific areas.

**To define overall performance bands:**

1. Click the Benchmark Exams tab. Click the Assessments link or icon.
2. In your Assessment Locker, select an assessment and click View/Edit Details.
3. In the Performance Bands area, click Create New Bands.
4. Choose the type (Overall) and number of performance bands you want to create. Click Continue.
5. Choose the type (Overall) and number of performance bands you want to create. Click Continue.
6. Click Continue to overwrite the existing performance bands.

**Tip:** To see the assessment’s current performance bands, click the View Details link. Click Back to return to the Test Detail page.

**Note:** If performance bands already exist, Edusoft asks you to confirm that you want to replace the existing performance bands with new ones.

3. In the Performance Bands area, click **Create New Bands**.

4. Choose the type (Overall) and number of performance bands you want to create. Click **Continue**.

5. Click **Continue** to overwrite the existing performance bands.

6. In the Name Performance Bands page, type a name for each performance band, and select the At Level band. Click **Continue**.

**Note:** For overall and per-standards bands you must create new bands to change band names.
**Note:** If you set an At Level band you see the percent of students scoring at this level or higher on the Performance Band report.

7 Type a point value or percent for the bottom of each performance band range. Click **Continue**. Edusoft displays the new performance bands.

8 Click the **Back** link to go to Test Details or **Create** to create more bands.

### Defining per standard performance bands

When you create performance bands per standard, you can set a single range that applies to all standards, or define a separate range for each standard.

**Note:** If, at a later time, you add or delete questions or assessment sections, your question groups will be deleted.

**To create per standard performance bands:**

1 In the Assessment Locker, select an assessment and click **View Details** to view its Test Details page.

2 Click the **Create New Bands** link in the Performance Bands area to define per standard performance bands for this assessment.

3 Click **Per Standard** to create bands for each standard. Choose the number of bands you want to create. Click **Continue**.

4 Type a name for each performance band. Choose whether to use the same performance bands for all standards. Click **Continue**.

5 Type percents for the bottom of each performance band range. If necessary, choose whether you want to edit ranges for individual standards. Click **Continue**.

6 If you chose to edit ranges, adjust the points or percentages for each standard. Click **Continue**.

7 To create additional bands, click the **Create** link at the top of the page. Otherwise, click the **Back** link to return to the Test Details page.

8 If you chose to edit ranges, adjust the points or percentages for each standard. Click **Continue**.

### Defining question groups with performance bands

The steps for creating both types of category performance bands are almost identical. If you’re creating question groups there is an extra step where you enter a name for each question group and designate the questions in the group.

**To define question groups with performance bands:**

1 In the Assessment Locker, select an assessment and click **View Details**.

2 Click the **Create New Bands** link in the Performance Bands area.

3 Click **Question Groups** and select the number of question groups you intend to create. Choose the number of bands you want to create. Click **Continue**.

4 Type a name for each performance band. Choose whether to use the same performance bands for all question groups. Click **Continue**.

5 Type percents for the bottom of each performance band range. Choose whether you want to edit ranges for specific question groups. Click **Continue**.

6 If you choose to edit ranges, adjust the points or percentages for each standard or question group as the opportunity occurs. Click **Continue**. Repeat for each standard.

7 Type a name for the question group and click the check box for each question to be included. Click **Continue**.

8 Click **Continue** to name and select questions for all other question groups.