

Interpreting ILR Floor and Ceiling Ratings in Reading and Listening Tests

Progress within a proficiency level can be described using the mnemonic “**REDS**”, where:

- **R** stands for **Random** ability – or a score that is at or below the level of random guessing.
- **E** stands for **Emerging** ability – or a score that is at least one item better than chance, but does not total more than half of the items at that level.
- **D** stands for **Developing** skills – or a score that shows the ability to answer more than half of the items correctly, but not does not demonstrate sustained performance at that level.
- **S** stands for **Sustained** ability – or a score that exceeds the threshold qualifying score that defines sustained performance at a given level. By definition, it is not possible to earn an ILR Plus (+) rating for a given level unless one shows both sustained ability at that level and developing skills at the next higher level.

Level 0

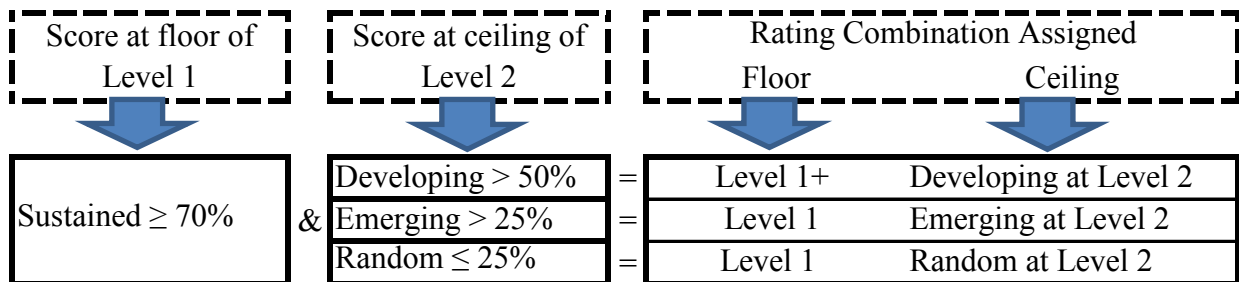
There are three possible rating combinations below sustained Level 1:

0+ with Developing skills (> 50%) at Level 1.

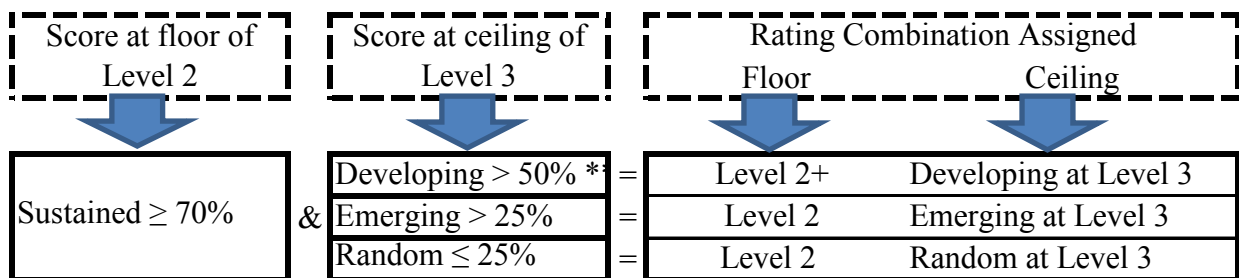
0 with Emerging skills (> 26%) at Level 1.

0 with Random skills (\leq 25%) at Level 1.

Sustained Level 1



Sustained Level 2



Sustained Level 3

In a 0-to-3 range test, there are no "ceiling scores" available for those who demonstrate sustained (\geq 70%) performance at Level 3.