



WHAT IS THE BELL CURVE?

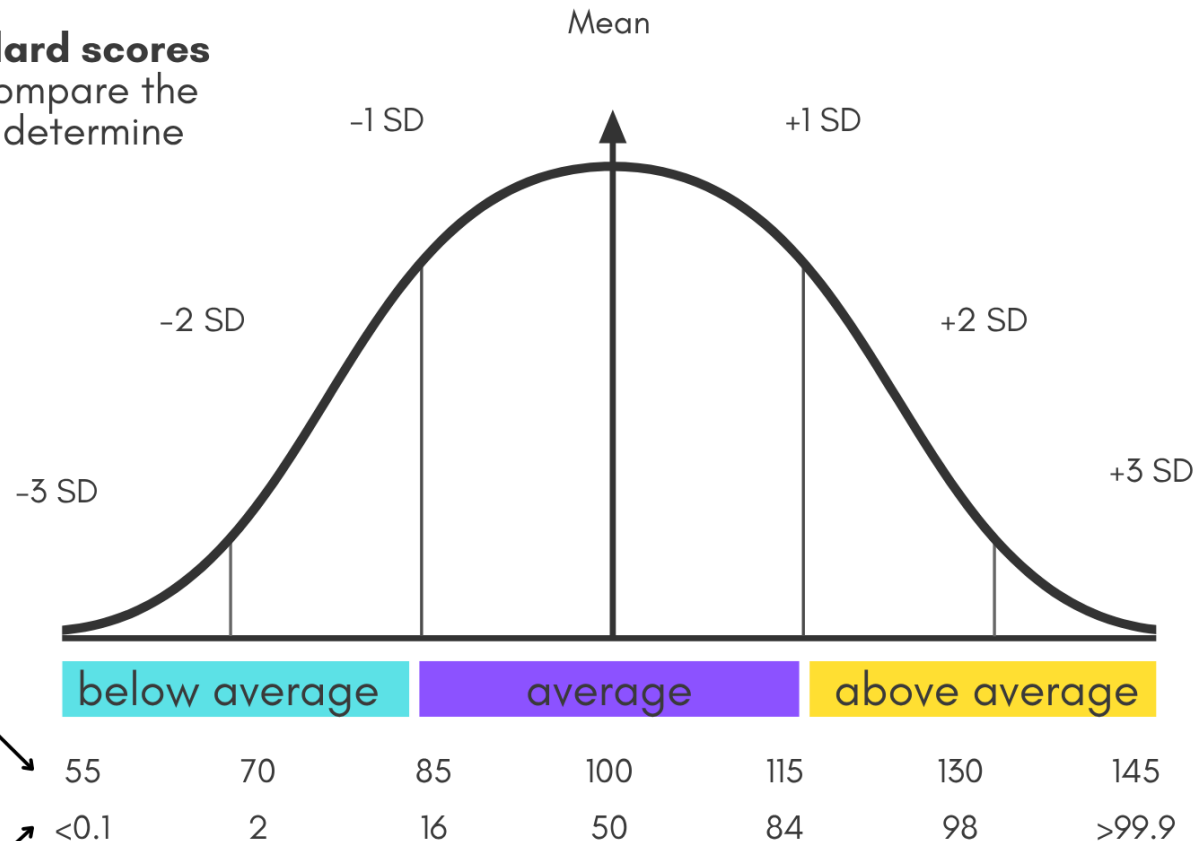
The bell curve shows a student's **standard scores** and **percentile ranks**. These scores compare the student to same-aged peers and help determine the need for special education.

Standard deviation (SD) tells you how far the scores are from the average (mean).

Standard scores (SS) have a mean of 100.

- An *average* score is between 85 and 115.
- A *below average* score is under 85.
- An *above average* score is over 115.

The **percentile rank** has a mean of 50 and indicates the percentage of children who scored lower than the student.



A student who achieves a standard score of 85 and a percentile rank of 16 scored higher than approximately 16% of same-aged peers. About 84% of peers scored higher than the student. This score falls in the low-average range and is 1 standard deviation from the mean.



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Let's take a closer look:

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