The above graph provides information regarding the score distribution of first takers from your medical school relative to the distribution for all U.S./Canadian first takers on the ICE and CIS subcomponents of Step 2 CS. The Spoken English Proficiency (SEP) subcomponent is not included because performance of U.S./Canadian students is uniformly high on that subcomponent and feedback will not be particularly meaningful. All scores are scaled in standard score units based on the performance of U.S./Canadian first takers: the mean and standard deviation (SD) for this group are 0 and 1, respectively, for each subcomponent. To facilitate interpretation, the reliability of each subcomponent has been used in adjusting the standard scores. The mean performance of U.S./Canadian first takers is represented by the vertical solid green line at 0.0. Roughly 68% of U.S./Canadian first takers scored within one SD of the mean, between -1.0 and 1.0. The distribution of performance for first takers from your school is represented by the red boxes and horizontal lines. The red box depicts the mean performance for first takers from your school. The distance from the red box to one end of the red line indicates one SD for your school. The interval spanned by each red line represents your school mean plus/minus one SD.

By comparing the locations of the red boxes, you can determine the subcomponents on which the performance of your students was relatively strong or weak. However, caution should be used in interpreting differences between the means of the subcomponents, especially when the differences are smaller than a few tenths of an SD.