Grades 4–8 Student Growth Measures Frequently Asked Questions

Background

In response to feedback from educators and stakeholders, the Department has worked to simplify and streamline the growth model while retaining elements deemed useful and relevant for continuous improvement. This information is an important complement to achievement data and can play a critical role for targeted goal setting to meet the unique needs of students.

Beginning with the 2023–24 school year results, the Department will no longer generate the following:

- Grades 4–8 and 9–12 adjusted growth results, including Highly Effective, Effective, Developing, or Ineffective (HEDI) ratings.
- Adjusted student growth scores that incorporated students' prior test histories as well as student demographics (e.g., English language learners, students with disabilities, or economically disadvantaged) and school characteristics. The following document was developed based upon inquiries made directly by stakeholders across the State.
- Grades 9–12 unadjusted growth results.

The adjusted growth scores, which were used to generate State-provided growth results, including the HEDI score and rating, were calculated for Grades 4–8 teachers, principals, and schools, as well as Grades 9–12 principals and schools. These scores were not required to be used for educator evaluations pursuant to Education Law 3012-d or 3012-e.

The Department will continue to provide Grades 4–8 unadjusted growth scores to facilitate local improvement planning and support district-based accountability systems. These scores will be attributed to individual teachers, principals, and schools and Mean Growth Percentiles (MGPs) will be provided.

- Unadjusted student growth scores account for students' prior test histories and are used to generate school and district accountability Student Growth measures at the elementary/middle level under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The Department calculates the Grades 4–8 Student Growth measure using one year of student growth percentiles (SGPs) and reports them for information and improvement planning purposes only.

1. How are student growth scores calculated?

   A "student growth percentile" (SGP or student growth score) is calculated for all students in grades 4 through 8 with a current and prior year test score in the same subject. SGPs measure a student's improvement, or growth, relative to other students with similar test histories.

   SGPs range from 1 to 99, and they describe where a student stands in a distribution of similar students (specifically, what share of students they performed the same as or better than). SGPs are calculated separately by subject and grade. For example, a SGP of 70 for grade 4 ELA indicates that the student scored as high or better than 70 percent of similar students on the grade 4 ELA assessment that year.

2. What is a mean growth percentile (MGP) or a Growth Index?

   An MGP is the aggregate measure of the growth of the students who meet the attribution requirement. To be included in a MGP (or Growth Index), students must have a valid SGP and be continuously enrolled (i.e., BEDs Day and last day of the assessment period).

6. How are students linked and attributed to institutions and educators?

TEACHERS

Students are linked to their teachers using two collections:

- Course Instructor Assignment (CIA): The CIA collection links teachers to courses. Teacher entry and exit dates are used to capture the proportion of time a primary instructor taught a course that is tied to a Grades 4-8 ELA or Math State assessment or Algebra 1 Regents examination.
- Student Class Entry Exit (SCEE): The SCEE collection links students to courses. Student entry and exit dates per course are used to ascertain when the student was enrolled in a course.

The CIA and SCEE files are combined to determine which students are linked to which teachers and also to determine whether students and teachers were in the classroom at the same time.

PRINCIPALS

Students are linked to their principals based on the grade(s) for which the principal is responsible, which is determined using the Staff Assignment collection.

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