

Growth

Special Note

When using data to measure student outcomes, it is important that any determination is based on multiple pieces of data. Although this document focuses on growth, it should be coupled with proficiency, student attendance, student's on-going benchmark results, and their social and emotional learning to fully evaluate student outcomes.

What are Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs), and how are they usually calculated?

Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) is a metric that provides a measure of the degree to which a student's achievement has changed from the prior year(s) to the current year, in comparison to other students in the same grade who performed similarly in the past. SGPs use students' current and prior scores to assign an SGP that ranges from 1 to 99. Students who have a current year score and a prior year score—and have met the consecutive grade requirement—are issued an SGP.

Usually, “norm-referenced” growth is calculated. In a typical year, students perform and grow, on average, similarly to students in the prior year. The average SGP per grade and subject is 50, and the distribution is flat so that equal percentages of students' growth across the 1 to 99 range.

This growth is shown in the static file as “SGP_CCR”, Student Growth Percentile Current-Year Cohort Referenced.

How did the pandemic affect our method for calculating SGPs?

The pandemic functioned as an academic headwind for most students, slowing their educational progress and growth. The decreased educational progress and growth resulted in much lower 2021 academic attainment, and this was a significant departure from the typical achievement and growth patterns in prior years. Score changes between 2019 to 2021 were much larger than those seen between 2018 and 2019, and all the changes showed declines in grades 3-8.

To accurately reflect the extent to which educational progress and growth slowed during the pandemic, a slightly different method for calculating SGPs in 2021 was used: baseline SGPs. With baseline SGPs, student growth in 2021 is compared to pre-pandemic growth. That is, instead of comparing student growth to the current 2021 cohort of students—all of whom experienced the impacts of the pandemic in one way or another—baseline SGPs compare growth to that exhibited by students *before* the pandemic so it is possible to see to what extent student learning slowed. The baseline SGPs are reported on the same 1 to 99 scale as 2019, allowing for comparisons between SGPs in 2021 to SGPs in prior years. Because student growth slowed due to the pandemic, the baseline SGPs in 2021 show higher percentages of students in the lower growth categories.

This growth is shown in the static file as “SGP_PPCR”, Student Growth Percentile Pre-Pandemic Cohort Referenced.