



2026 Illinois Report Card

Understanding Student Growth

Growth shows a student's progress compared with academically similar students statewide.

What Does Growth Measure?

Growth is measured with a Student Growth Percentile (SGP). An SGP describes a student's relative rate of progress from one year to the next compared with academically similar students statewide. It does not describe whether the student is proficient.

Growth is useful in accountability because students at every performance level can show high growth. It can also measure progress across assessments, including when a student moves from one grade or assessment to another.

How Are Academically Similar Students Identified?

The reference population for an SGP includes students with the same grade, subject, and assessment pathway and similar prior-year assessment performance. SGP calculations may use up to two prior years of assessment data to make the comparison more precise.

Academic peers are identified statewide based on where students start academically – not by their school, district, classroom, course, or demographic characteristics.

Two Levels of Growth Information

Individual SGP

A percentile from 1 to 99 showing a student's position among academic peers. It is a relative measure of progress.



Composite Growth

The mean of eligible student SGP records for English language arts and mathematics. It combines the subjects into one accountability result.



Because high and low individual SGPs balance each other, the range of Composite Growth means is narrower than the 1–99 range for individual SGPs. Composite Growth uses the performance criteria for the selected SGP type.

How Composite Growth is Calculated

The system pools eligible English language arts (ELA) and mathematics SGP records:

$$\text{COMPOSITE GROWTH} = \left(\text{Sum of eligible ELA SGPs} + \text{Sum of eligible math SGPs} \right) \div \left(\text{Count of eligible ELA SGPs} + \text{Count of eligible math SGPs} \right)$$

- A subject is included only when it has at least 20 eligible records.
- The system does not mix cohort and baseline SGPs in one Composite Growth result.

Which SGP Type Is Used?

Cohort SGP is the default calculation. For the elementary/middle grade band, Illinois compares the statewide cohort and baseline mean SGPs within the applicable grade band.

Cohort SGP

Use cohort SGPs when the **statewide cohort mean is equal to or greater than the statewide baseline mean**.

Baseline SGP

Use baseline SGPs when the **statewide baseline mean is greater than the statewide cohort mean**.

Where Does Growth Data Come From?

A composite indicator combines related information into one result. The information is combined differently for each core indicator because each one answers a different question.

Grade band	Assessment information
Elementary/middle school	Illinois Assessment of Readiness results provide the English language arts and mathematics SGP records. The applicable cohort or baseline calculation is selected for the grade band.
High school	ACT assessment results provide growth information; Pre-ACT Secure is used for Grades 9 and 10. High schools currently use cohort growth.



Essential Takeaways

- Growth measures relative progress, not proficiency.
- Individual SGPs use statewide data to compare students with academic peers.
- Composite Growth pools eligible ELA and mathematics SGP records.
- Each included subject requires at least 20 eligible records.
- The selected SGP type determines the applicable performance criteria.

Related Resources:

[Accountability Indicators Measure by Measure](#); [Accountability for Success: Composite Growth](#); [An Overview of Profiles of Performance](#); [How to Read a Profile of Performance](#); [Building a Profile of Performance](#)