

Composite Growth

Accountability for Success: Measure by Measure

Composite Growth Definition

- Growth is measured using a Student Growth Percentile (SGP)
 - Measures progress from one year to the next compared to **academically similar students** statewide
 - Combines eligible ELA and math SGPs into one result
 - Describes the relative rate of progress (faster or slower than expected)
- SGP has two major advantages when used for accountability
 - Students in all performance levels can show high growth
 - Growth can be calculated across tests (e.g., from 8th to 9th grade)

Academically Similar Students

- Academically similar students (i.e., the reference population) have:
 - The same grade, subject, and assessment pathway
 - Similar prior-year(s) assessment performance
 - To further differentiate the comparison groups, SGP calculations can use up to two prior years of assessment data.
- Academic peers are identified statewide based on **where students start academically** – not by:
 - School or district
 - Classroom or course
 - Demographic characteristics

Different Reference Populations Create Different SGPs

The calculation is the same. The reference population changes.

Cohort-referenced SGP

Academic peers from the current testing period (e.g., SY 2025-26)

Comparison distribution is rebuilt each year

Statewide results always centered at 50

Which students or groups are learning faster or slower than peers now?

Baseline-referenced SGP

Academic peers from a fixed baseline population (e.g., SY 2018-19)

Comparison distribution remains static over time

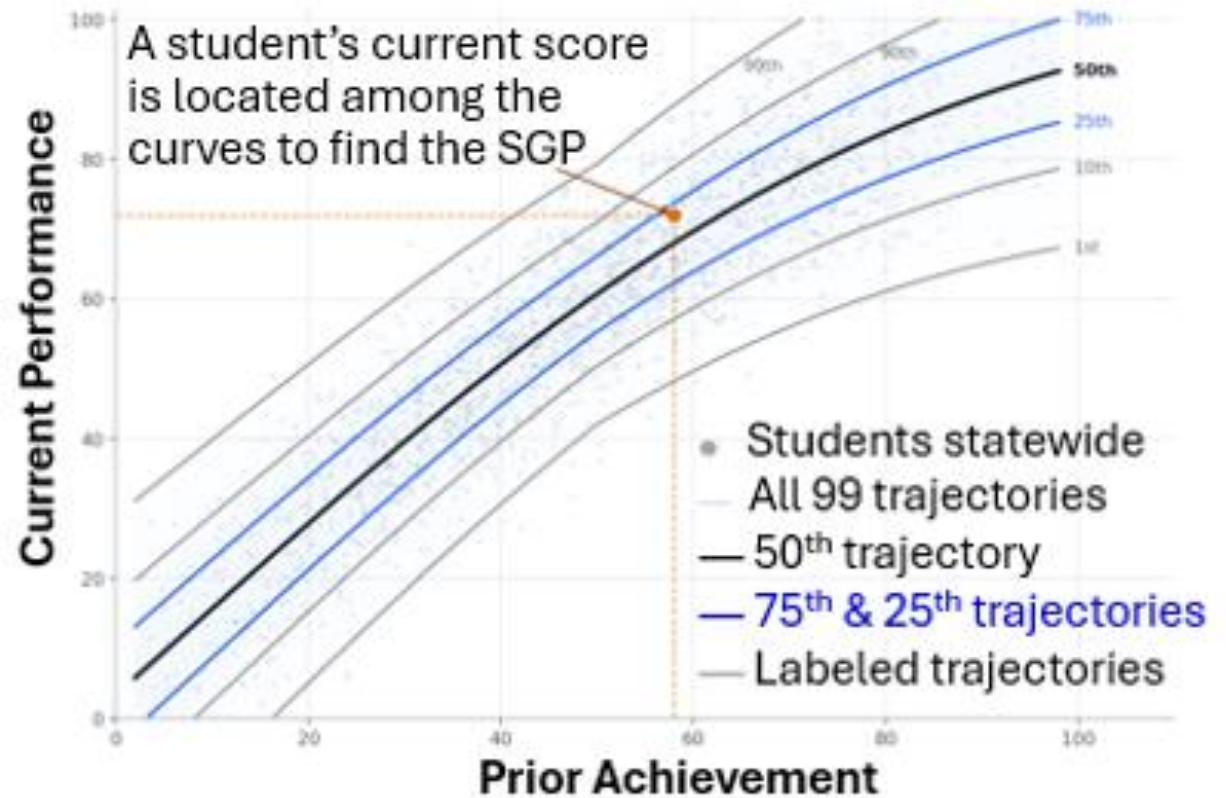
Statewide results may move above or below 50

Which students or groups are learning faster than peers in the past?

Calculating an Individual SGP

- Treats prior achievement as continuous vs. discrete
- Estimates 99 percentile lines using statewide data
- Creates customized percentile reference points for each student
- Uses nearest percentile curve to assign the SGP (1–99)
- Districts can use the results to:
 - Examine relationships between growth and proficiency for groups or individual students
 - Reproduce composite growth using reported student SGPs

Illustration of Continuous SGP Trajectories



Interpreting an SGP

- **Individual SGP**
 - Range from 1 to 99
 - Describes a student's percentile position among academic peers
- **Composite Growth**
 - Is the mean of eligible student SGP records
 - The range of mean SGPs is narrower because high and low SGPs balance
 - Use different performance criteria for cohort and baseline SGPs

Performance Level	Cohort SGP	Baseline SGP
Exemplary	≥ 60	≥ 67.5
Approaching Exemplary	$\geq 52.5 < 60$	$\geq 60 < 67.5$
Commendable	$\geq 43 < 52.5$	$\geq 45 < 60$
Developing	$\geq 32.5 < 43$	$\geq 35 < 45$
Comprehensive	< 32.5	< 35

Which SGP Becomes Composite Growth?

- Cohort SGP is the default calculation
 - Compare the statewide cohort and baseline mean SGPs within the applicable grade band
 - Use cohort SGPs when the statewide cohort mean is equal to or greater than the baseline mean
 - Use baseline SGPs only when the statewide baseline mean is greater
 - Do not mix cohort and baseline SGPs
 - High schools currently have cohort SGPs only

Where Does Growth Data Come From?

Elementary/Middle Grade Band (ES)

Subjects	Grades	Assessments
ELA	4–8	IAR [†]
Math	4–8	IAR
Science	—	Not included

[†] IAR: Illinois Assessment of Readiness

High School Grade Band (HS)

Subjects	Grades	Assessments
ELA	9, 10, 11	Pre-ACT [◇] & ACT
Math	9, 10, 11	Pre-ACT & ACT
Science	—	Not included

[◇] Pre-ACT Secure for grades 9 and 10

Where Can Growth Data Be Found in SIS?

- **Most accurate – Summative Roster Reports**
 - Schools that borrow data or use a 3-year average due to size also need the Summative Designation Supplemental Roster Report.
 - Columns G and H contain each student's SGP.
- **Quick and easy – Assessment Scores Grid**
 - Elementary/middle school use the IAR grid report and decide between baseline or cohort growth.
 - High schools use the ACT grid report and only have cohort growth through SY 2026-27.
 - ACT must use the grade-specific pages, not the summary page.

How is Composite Growth Calculated?

$$\frac{[(\text{Sum of ELA SGPs} + \text{Sum of Math SGPs})]}{(\text{Count of ELA SGPs} + \text{Count of Math SGPs})}$$

Include only subjects whose count of records is at least 20

Worked Example: Building One Growth Result

Subject	ELA	+	Math	=	Composite
Scores	39, 53, 18, 91, 67, 15, 80, 28, 62, 97, 10, 74, 24, 99, 33, 47, 94, 58, 71, 45, 73, 96, 30, 40	+	82, 15, 4, 95, 36, 32, 29, 18, 85, 14, 87, 75, 70, 12, 76, 55, 5, 4, 12, 28, 62, 8, 45	=	All SGPs
Sum	1,344	+	949	=	2,293
Count	24	+	23	=	47
SGP	56		41.26		48.79

Composite Growth Performance Criteria

Performance level	Criteria
Exemplary	≥ 60
Approaching Exemplary	$\geq 52.5 < 60$
Commendable	$\geq 43 < 52.5$
Developing	$\geq 32.5 < 43$
Comprehensive	< 32.5
Automatic Comprehensive*	< 30

◀ **48.79**

*Note: This slide is animated. Positioning reflects starting point and ends at Commendable.

Composite Growth: Essential Takeaways

- Measures relative progress, not proficiency
- Uses statewide dataset to calculate individual SGPs
- Pools eligible ELA and mathematics SGP records
- Requires at least 20 records within a subject
- Uses the performance criteria for the selected SGP type