Student Growth

Student Growth Percentile (SGP) slowed significantly during the pandemic. But the 2022 baseline SGP shows that students’ growth has rebounded and even slightly outperformed pre-pandemic levels, thanks to statewide investments of federal pandemic relief funds in academic and social-emotional interventions.

What is the Student Growth Percentile (SGP)?
The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) describes how much a student grew compared to their academic peers who started at the same level. A student in the 99th percentile grew much more than their peers; a student in the 1st percentile grew much less. A school’s mean SGP is the average of its individual students’ SGPs.

Why Proficiency?
The “percent proficient” in a school represents the number of students who met proficiency standards. It’s a simple yes or no question. Proficiency strongly correlates to a student’s family income and education levels, as low-income students often start school already multiple years behind.

Why Growth?
Growth recognizes learning gains for all students. For example, a student who enters an excellent school multiple grades behind may grow much faster and much more than their peers, but still not yet be proficient for that grade at the end of the year. This student would achieve a high growth percentile but still not be proficient. Unlike proficiency, growth does not penalize schools for where students started. Growth data show that students of all races, income levels, languages, and disability
Cohort SGP
The cohort SGP compares a student's assessment score this year to all other Illinois students (in the same grade and same subject) who had the same scale score last year. The state mean will always be 50 in a cohort SGP calculation.

Baseline SGP
The baseline SGP compares a student's assessment score this year to all other Illinois students (in the same grade and same subject) who had the same scale score in a specified previous baseline year. A state mean above 50 in a baseline SGP calculation means students overall grew more this year than in the prior baseline year.

Distribution of ELA School Mean SGPs
Cohort vs. Baseline in 2019, 2021, and 2022

- **2021 Baseline SGP**: State mean in this 2021 baseline SGP, which compares 2021 students to 2019 students, is much lower than in 2019, indicating a much slower rate of growth.
- **2019 Cohort SGP**: State mean in this pre-pandemic cohort SGP is 50. This is the baseline for 2021 and 2022 comparisons.
- **2022 Baseline SGP**: State mean in this 2022 baseline SGP is much higher than in 2021 and even higher than the 2019 baseline, indicating that the rate of growth has rebounded from the pandemic. The 2022 rate of growth is even faster than in 2019.