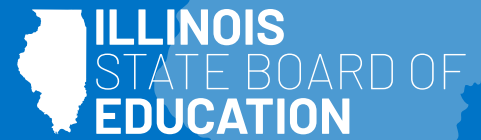




2025 ILLINOIS REPORT CARD

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT GROWTH



What is the Student Growth Percentile (SGP)?

While the benchmark for “proficiency” (or the minimum score a student needs to earn to be considered “proficient”) has changed in 2025, this change does not affect scale scores or the calculation of SGP. This measure is based entirely on scale scores, not on proficiency benchmarks or performance levels. SGP remains the best way to compare student progress over time.

Growth is responsive to changes in classroom structures and practices.

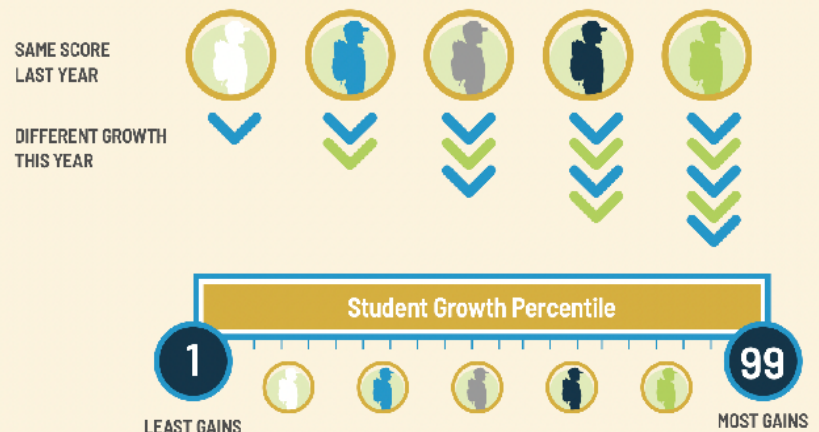
Percentile, Not Percent

The SGP represents a percentile, not a percent. It tells you how your students’ growth on average compares to other students’ growth. It does not tell you how much they grew – only whether their growth was above or below the state average, which is always the 50th percentile. It’s like when the pediatrician says your child is in the 75th percentile for height, that means your child is taller than 75% of other children of the same age.

Why Growth?

Growth recognizes learning gains for all students, whether or not they achieve proficiency. Compared to other growth measures, school’s SGPs had slightly lower correlations with prior year achievement, percent English Learners, percent children with disabilities, and percent low-income.

SGP Compares a Student’s Growth to Academic Peers in Illinois



How do I talk about my school’s SGP?

Example

- 2025 School Cohort ELA SGP of 62.1, compared to 2025 State Cohort ELA SGP of 50

“Our school achieved higher than average growth. Our students grew faster than 62% of comparable students in the state.”

Example

- 2025 School Baseline ELA SGP of 65.6, compared to 2019 School Cohort ELA SGP of 47.3

“Our students continued to experience accelerated growth last year. Our students’ growth was in the 65th percentile last year, compared to the 47th percentile in 2019 prior to the pandemic.”

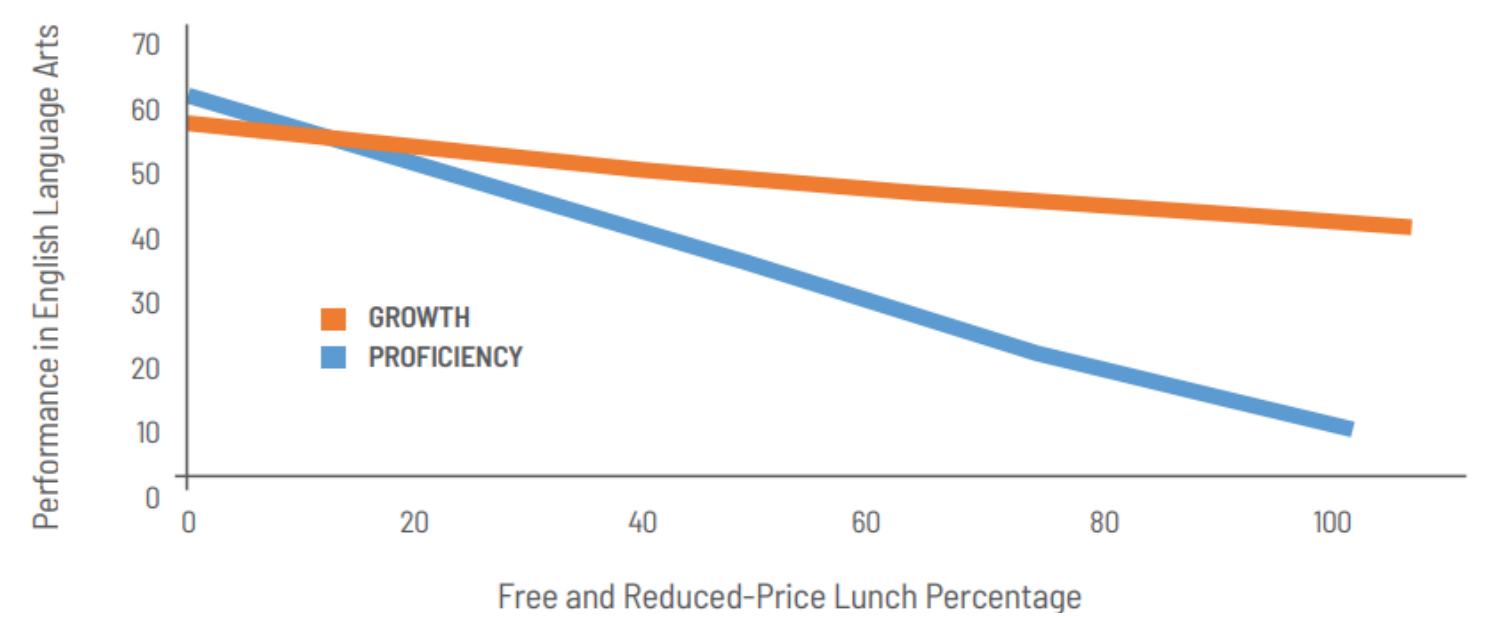
What’s the difference between proficiency and growth?

Proficiency shows whether or not students have mastered a common, high standard; it’s a yes or no question. Growth is responsive to changes in classroom structures and practices; whereas proficiency correlates strongly with family income and education levels. Growth recognizes progress toward and beyond the standard, no matter where each student started. Demographics do not predict growth. Data show that students of all races, income levels, languages, and disability statutes demonstrate growth across the full range.

Proficiency is like the height cut off to ride rides at the fair. A child is either tall enough or not. The growth percentile is a totally different measure that doesn’t care how tall a child is, just how much they grew over the past year.

Illinois has new proficiency benchmarks in 2025, so performance levels and proficiency rates for 2025 and onward cannot be compared to prior years. Instead, educators and families should use SGP to see how a student or school’s performance compares to others . Growth data remains comparable and provides the most reliable way to understand how students are progressing compared to their peers.

Proficiency and Growth: Correlation with Income



What is Mean SGP?

A school’s mean SGP is the average of its individual students’ SGPs. If 100 cars drive from Springfield to Chicago, each car’s “SGP” would be its average rate of speed across the entire journey. The “mean SGP” would be the average of all 100 cars’ individual rates. The mean SGP accounts for 50 percent of a P-8 school’s annual summative designation.



Measuring Growth in High School

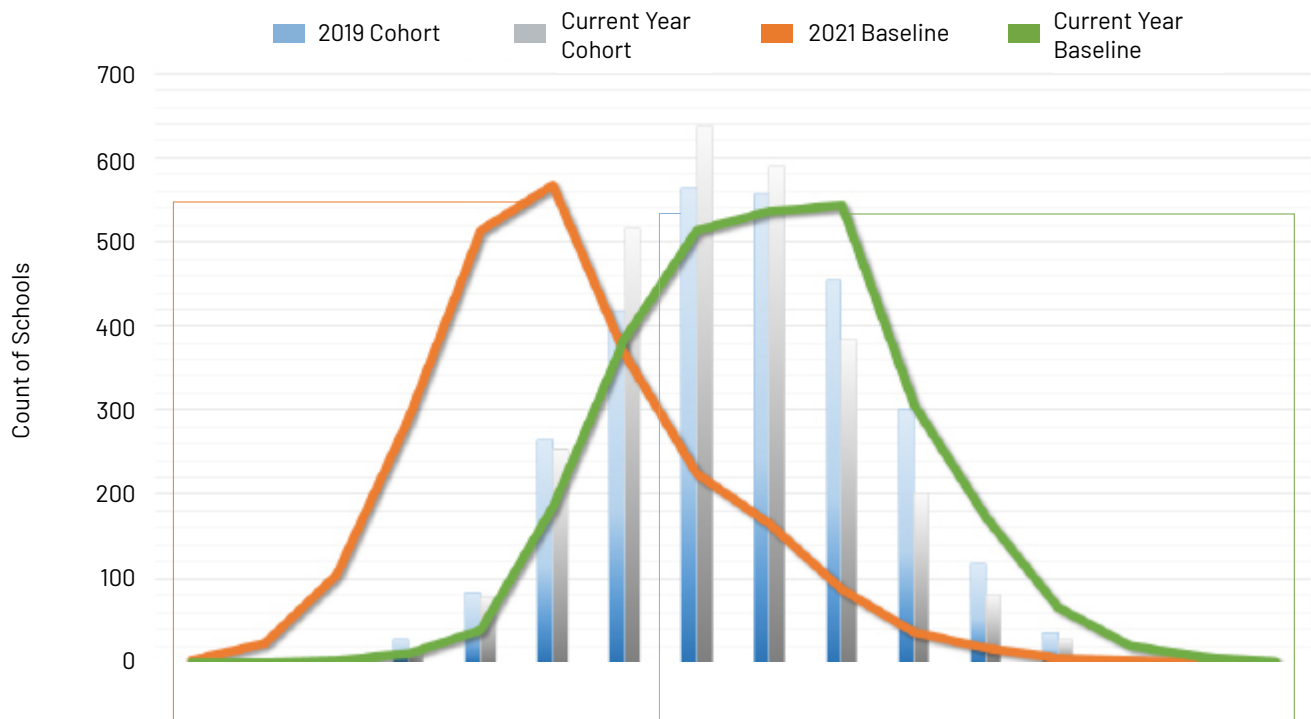
At the high school level, SGP will be calculated for the first time beginning with 2025 data. SGP is test-agnostic, meaning that as long as students have a prior assessment score, their growth can still be measured even if they take a different assessment the next year. This allows SGP to track growth when students transition from taking the Illinois Assessment of Readiness in grade 8 to taking the PreACT and ACT in high school.

Cohort vs. Baseline SGP

The **cohort SGP** compares the growth of academic peers across the state who had the same scale score **last year**. The state mean SGP will always be the 50th percentile in a cohort SGP calculation.

The **baseline SGP** compares the growth of academic peers across the state to academic peers who had the same scale score in a **specified previous baseline year**. A state mean SGP above the 50th percentile in a baseline SGP calculation means students overall grew more this year than in the prior baseline year.

Sample Distributions of Mean SGPs
Cohort vs. Baseline in 2019, 2021, and Current Year



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.

Current Year Baseline SGP: State mean in this current year baseline SGP is much higher than in 2021 and even higher than the 2019 baseline, indicating that the rate of growth in the current year is even faster than in 2019.