

GROWTH MODEL

Fact Sheet

What is a growth model?

A growth model is a way of measuring the growth of students' assessment scores year to year based on their statewide assessment scores in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Growth is different from achievement. Achievement—such as a single assessment score—shows us how much students know at the time of the assessment. Growth shows us how much students' scores grew from one grade level to the next. In an accountability system, aggregate student growth can provide a picture of average growth for students within a school, local educational agency, or student group.

Why did California develop a growth model?

Looking at student growth shows districts and schools if students' assessment scores grew as much as expected from year to year, and where improvement is needed. Growth data can also show districts and schools whether one group of students had growth that was higher than, similar to, or lower than the growth for another group. Student growth is one more piece of information teachers and other educators can use to make sure that all students are successful in school. With this growth model, California joins 48 other states that also use growth scores to measure student learning.

For which grade levels are growth scores calculated?

Statewide test results are available for grades three through eight and grade eleven. Because consecutive years of results are necessary to calculate growth scores, they are calculated for grades four through eight. Grades three and eleven will not have growth scores because there are no prior year test scores.

How does the growth model calculate growth scores?

The first step in calculating student growth scores is to determine the student's expected test score. The expected test score is determined by looking at students who had similar test scores in the previous grade and then evaluating their typical test scores in the current year. Once an expected test score is determined for each student, the difference between the student's expected test score and their actual test score is compared to arrive at their individual growth score.

These individual scores are averaged for students at the district, school, and student group levels, using either a simple average—when there are large numbers of students, or a weighted average—when there are small numbers of students.

When will growth scores be released?

Due to changes in instruction and assessment caused by COVID-19 in the last two years, the growth scores released in 2021 were calculated based on historical data and are not actionable. Growth scores will be calculated and released again in 2024, once three consecutive years of test scores are available.

How can I find out about my student's learning?

Parents should access their child's Student Score Report to get information about their current performance on the statewide assessments. Parents can also reach out to teachers to discuss classwork, grades, and other measures of student success.

For additional information, visit the California Department of Education Growth Model web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/acctgrowthmod.asp>.



September 2021