California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-002 (REV. 11/2017)

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# MEMORANDUM

**DATE:**  October 14, 2021

**TO:**  MEMBERS, State Board of Education

**FROM:**  TONY THURMOND, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Implementation of the Integrated Local, State, and Federal Accountability and Continuous Improvement System: Progress Report on Ongoing Work on the Student-Growth Model.

## Summary of Key Issues

At the May 2021 meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the student growth model methodology, which includes using residual gain (RG) scores and the Empirical Best Linear Prediction (EBLP) hybrid approach to report aggregated student growth (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr21/documents/may21item03.docx>). Prior to this approval, the California Department of Education (CDE), the Educational Testing Services (ETS), and the SBE had been engaged in developing a student growth model for California’s schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) since 2017.

The attached report provides the SBE with an update on the release of the historical growth data that was calculated from Smarter Balanced Assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in 2016–17, 2017–18, and 2018–19, as well as the communication and tools released to the field to assist in understanding the growth data. It also briefly outlines the work moving forward through the next release of growth data in 2024.

## Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: Summary of Work on Student Growth from May 2021-Present and Future Updates on Growth (2 pages).

# Attachment 1

## Summary of Work on Student Growth from May 2021-Present and Future Updates on Growth

### Releasing Student Growth Model Data & Student Growth Toolkit

Following the adoption of the student growth model methodology by the State Board of Education (SBE) at the May 2021 meeting, the California Department of Education (CDE) began preparations to release the student growth data that was used to model and build the methodology.

On June 14, 2021, the CDE held a webinar with nearly 800 participants to review the technical details and scope of the historical growth data. Later that same day, local educational agencies (LEAs) were provided with access to both their individual student growth scores via the Test Operations Management System as well as a private preview of the aggregate student growth file. Following the private release of the data, CDE determined that additional support materials would need to be developed in order to support the upcoming public release of the data files. Therefore, the data release for late June was rescheduled for September 2021 to accommodate this work.

CDE spent the summer hiatus building a series of tools, known as the Student Growth Toolkit, to better assist both LEAs and the general public with understanding California’s growth model in general as well as the caveats specific to this release of historic growth data. The Growth Model Toolkit includes frequently asked questions and answers, information about appropriate uses of growth scores, a video, and other helpful communication tools. Specifically, CDE aimed to clarify through these materials that the historical growth data release was not actionable due to being sourced from 2016–17, 2017–18 and 2018–19 Smarter Balanced Assessments, that individual growth scores should not be recombined or used on their own, and that there had been no SBE action taken with regards to the incorporation of growth scores into California’s state accountability system. CDE held a webinar with over 500 participants on September 13, 2021 to review the Growth Model Toolkit with the field. The webinar also served as an additional opportunity for questions and answers about the student growth data being released.

The Growth Model Toolkit was released on September 20, 2021, and the CDE released the student growth data on September 22, 2021, for schools and LEAs on its Growth Model web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/acctgrowthmod.asp>. The data files contain growth scores at the LEA, school, and student group levels, is limited to results from grades four through eight, and is intended for informational use only.

### 2021–2024 Timeline for Student Growth

California’s adopted growth methodology requires assessment results from three consecutive years of Smarter Balanced Assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Therefore, it is anticipated that they next set of aggregated student growth data will be available in late Fall 2024 and will be based on the 2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24 assessments. Prior to the next release, CDE will also report on the reliability, validity and comparability of these scores to the SBE.

CDE intends to continue its work over the next three years using the foundation of understanding built through the release of the historical student growth data in September 2021. CDE will work with LEAs and the public to develop best practices for communication, data use and data visualization strategies with regards to student growth and the aggregate student growth data provided by CDE. Additionally, CDE will research the development of a data report to combine English Language Proficiency Assessment for California levels with growth scores.

CDE will update the SBE annually, at a minimum, through 2024, on the progress and status of these additional tasks.