

Growth Data



On the California School Dashboard (Dashboard), local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools that serve students in grade four through grade eight receive Growth Performance Levels for both English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. Growth Performance Levels are based on students' performance on the statewide California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress' Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. The Growth Performance Levels are Minimal, Moderate, Average, Accelerated, and Exceptional. Science does not have growth scores because the California Science Test is not taken in consecutive grades. For the 2025 Dashboard, Student Growth is published to the Dashboard in the informational purposes section and will not be used for Local Control Funding Formula eligibility criteria.

What Is Growth?

Growth data on the Dashboard measures how an LEA's or a school's ELA and mathematics assessment scores have grown between the current year and the previous years and how that growth compares to average growth across the state. While individual growth scores look at the difference between the students' expected test score and their actual test score from one grade level to the next, the average growth scores shown on the Dashboard for LEAs, schools, and student groups provide a picture of average growth for students. In California, growth data was developed specifically to be used for accountability purposes only and therefore is focused on producing average growth scores rather than individual student growth scores.

Growth and Distance from Standard

Growth is different from Distance from Standard (DFS) measurement used for the Academic Indicators.

DFS measures how students at a school or LEA have performed on the ELA and mathematics assessments in the current year using scale score points. This average performance provides an overall status level for a school on the same scale as the assessments and shares the distance the average student performance is from the lowest scale score for Level 3. The change metric for the Academic Indicator shows how the school or LEA's average performance improved or declined between the current and prior year.

Growth measures the difference in student assessment scale scores from one grade level or year to the next grade level or year. Any student whose assessment scale score is higher in the current year than it was in the prior year will be reflected as making growth. Additionally, the category for the growth score reflects the average magnitude of growth at a school or LEA, as compared to average growth within California that year.

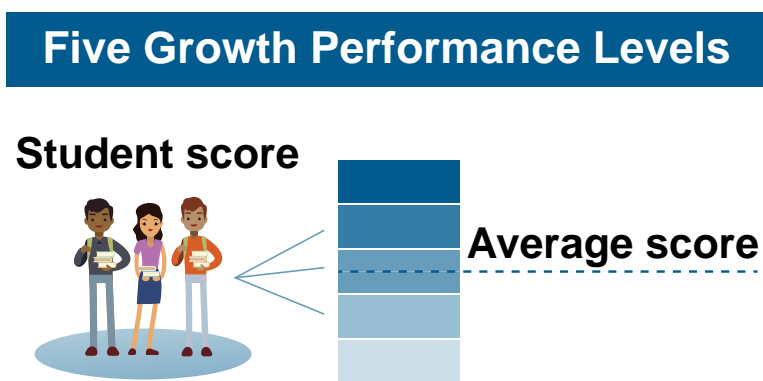
Calculating Growth Scores

Growth on the Dashboard is calculated by looking at the performance of all students in California, and then averaging individual scores at the school, LEA, and student group levels. California's student-level growth data uses the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments results from students in grades four through eight in both ELA and mathematics. Students who take the California Alternative Assessments are not included in the calculations.

The first step in calculating individual student growth scores for a subject area (ELA or mathematics) 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 test scores in the current year. Once expected test scores are determined for each student, the differences between student's expected test scores and their actual test scores are compared to arrive at their individual growth scores. Below is an example of a growth score calculation:

- **Step 1:** Organize students by their performance on the previous grades' test. In this case we consider scores from 2023, 2024, and **2025 (current year)** for a group of high achieving students.
- **Step 2:** Determine students' scores on the current grade's tests. In this case, we consider the average or typical score of the previous grades' high-achieving group.
- **Step 3:** Map each student's scores relative to the current year's average score and place into one of five Growth Performance Levels—Minimal, Moderate, Average, Accelerated, and Exceptional.

For example, one student scored much higher than the average score so they made **Accelerated growth**. Another student scored right around the average score, so they made **Average growth**. And lastly, a third student scored lower than the average score on their current year test so they made **Moderate growth**.



These individual scores are averaged for students at the LEA, school, and student group levels, using either a simple average, for student groups with more than 500 students with a test score. A weighted average is used when there are 500 or fewer students with test scores at a school, LEA, or within a student group. For the 2025 Dashboard, the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Smarter Balanced Assessments will be used to calculate aggregate growth scores and determine Performance Levels for schools, LEA's, or within student groups that require the weighted average.

For a complete technical review of the growth, please view the Additional Resources found on the [California Department of Education \(CDE\) Growth Data web page](#).

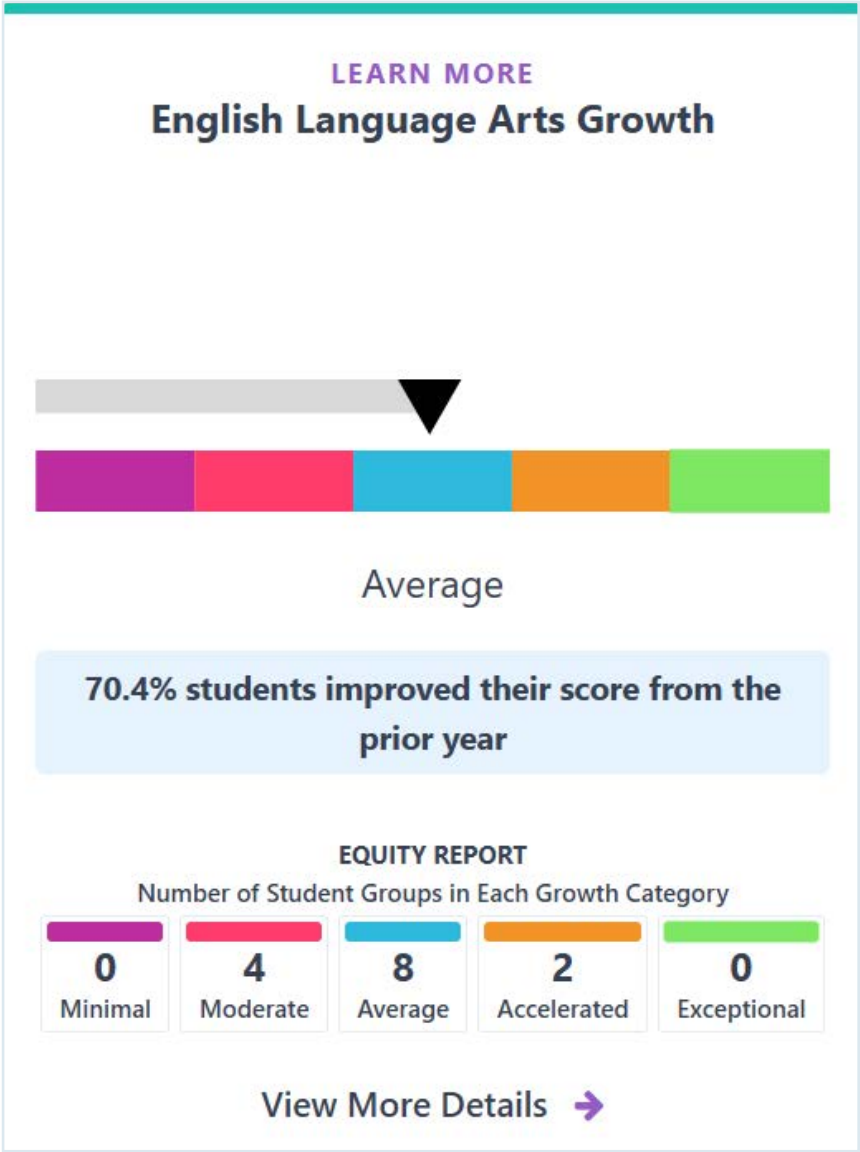
Dashboard Card

ELA and mathematics growth have individual Dashboard cards for the first time on the 2025 Dashboard. The Dashboard cards include a graphic displaying the performance level of the school, LEA, or student group as well as the percentage of students whose scores improved from the prior year. Like other Dashboard cards, growth will have an equity report with the number of student groups in each Performance Level.

On the sample ELA Student Growth Dashboard card provided, the LEA received an **Average** Growth Performance Level and that 70.4 percent of students improved their score from the prior year.

At the bottom of the card is the Equity Report. This report prominently displays the number of student groups placed in each Growth Performance Level. In the equity report on the sample student growth card provided, zero student groups made Minimal growth, four student groups made Moderate growth, eight student groups made Average growth, two student groups made Accelerated growth, and zero student groups made Exceptional growth.

Select the **View More Details** button below the Equity Report for detailed information on the growth each student group made.



For more information, visit the [CDE California School Dashboard and System of Support web page](#).

Contact the Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division by email at dashboard@cde.ca.gov.

