

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/literacy (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.

For which grade levels are growth scores calculated?

Statewide test results for ELA and mathematics 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. Science will not have growth scores because the California Science Test is not taken in consecutive grades.

How does the growth model calculate growth scores?

The first step in calculating student growth scores is to determine the student's typical test score. The typical 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 a typical test score is determined for each student, the difference between the student's typical 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?

Growth scores released in early 2025 will use ELA and mathematics assessments scores from 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24.

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

Individual student growth scores should NOT be used for measuring individual student progress. 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>.



January 2025