MEETING ADEQUATE GROWTH

Overview

To help students, parents, and educators better understand whether students are demonstrating high enough levels of learning to be on a path to reach, or maintain, proficiency, Michigan has developed the metric Meeting Adequate Growth. This new metric, "Meeting Adequate Growth", is:

- Conceptually defined as the percent of students on a path to become proficient, or to maintain proficiency, within a specific timeframe

- Measured by the percent of students that either:
    - Have a growth score meeting their growth target
    - Were previously not-proficient but moved to proficiency

Growth Scores (Student Growth Percentiles, SGPs)

Michigan's growth scores (Student Growth Percentiles, SGPs) describe a student's learning over time compared to other students with similar prior achievement scores (scale scores).

Growth scores (SGPs) range from 1 to 99 and indicate what percent of similar students had lower growth than that student. For example, a growth score (SGP) of 60 means the student's learning was greater than 60 percent of all students who took the same test and had comparable prior achievement scores (scale scores).

The average growth score (SGP) is 50 because, by definition, half (50%) of similar students had a growth score (SGP) below that value and half (50%) had a growth score (SGP) above that value.

Growth Targets (Adequate Growth Percentiles, AGPs)

On their own, growth scores (SGPs) can only describe whether a student's level of learning is above, near, or below the average of their comparison group. This is of some value, but the primary question raised is whether a student's growth is high enough to place, or keep, them on a path to proficiency. To help answer this question, Michigan uses growth targets (Adequate Growth Percentiles, AGPs).

Growth targets (AGPs) range from 1 to 99 and describe how much growth (i.e., what growth score [SGP]), a student needs to consistently attain to be on a path to reach, or maintain, proficiency within a set timeframe.

Growth targets are set using by a process that maps out the observable paths a student could take within the set timeframe, and chooses the least aggressive path that will lead to proficiency at the end of the timeframe.

Growth Target Timeframes

A vital component of growth targets (AGPs) is the timeframe in which students are expected to reach proficiency.

Growth target timeframes vary from one to three years. They are set based the average time (in years) previous students with similar scores took to reach proficiency. The maximum time the growth model can project forward, at the current time, is 3 years due to the limitations of currently available data.