

# Student Growth Percentile



## What is a student growth percentile?

➤ Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) describe a student's learning over time compared to other students with comparable prior test scores.

Percentiles range from 1 to 99 and indicate how many scores in the comparison group are below that score. For example, a Student Growth Percentile (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 test scores.

Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) help students, parents, and educators determine if a student's learning is above, near, or below the average of their comparison group. It is not about how high or low the student's current score is but rather how much learning a student has shown since the prior test. Even students with very low test scores can demonstrate high levels of learning over time.

Since the number of students included in determining statewide Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) is very large and often hard to imagine, let us consider how SGPs would work on a group of 15 students (pictured to the right).

In our group of 15 students, all students took the same prior test and had a comparable starting point. The students are sorted by their learning over time and assigned the appropriate student growth percentile.

The graphic to the right shows our group of 15 students. The student with a Student Growth Percentile (SGP) of 87 demonstrated greater learning than 13 of the 15 students ( $13/15 = 87\%$ ). Likewise, the student with a SGP of 7 demonstrated greater learning than 1 of the 15 students ( $1/15 = 7\%$ ).

How the "average student" in the group performed is best described by the mean (average) score. The mean SGP is calculated by adding the SGP scores and then dividing that sum by the number of SGP scores.

