



NEVADA
Department of
Education

Nevada Growth Model Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

NDE Office of Assessment, Data and Accountability Management
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General Questions

Question 1: What is the Nevada Growth Model (NGM)?

The Nevada Growth Model is a high-quality, valid statistical model that measures the progress of individual students over time. The model indicates whether students are on track to maintain proficiency and are reaching Growth targets toward proficiency.

Question 2: What isn't the Nevada Growth Model?

The NGM is different from other performance indicators such as the percentage of students at specific performance levels. The NGM is not a ranking system or a representation of how a school is ranked across the state.

Question 3: What does the Nevada Growth Model provide?

The NGM shows individual student and school progress toward meeting state standards. Each student's progress is compared to the progress of other students in the state who have a similar score history.

Question 4: What is Growth?

Growth is a measure of progress in academic achievement. In Nevada, Growth is calculated using two consecutive years of student Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) assessment results data.

Question 5: Why is Growth important?

Growth is focused on student progress over time. It informs Nevada's statewide system of supports for first grade through twelfth grade educational achievement. Student growth provides another perspective of what is happening in schools and may promote meaningful conversations about what is working in our schools and what may need adjustment.

Question 6: How much Growth is enough?

The Nevada Growth Model set targets called Adequate Growth Percentiles, that determine what scores on assessments are needed to reach or maintain proficiency. These targets are different for every student. For more information on the Adequate Growth Percentile, please refer to Question 14 below.

Question 7: What grade level assessments are used to calculate a Growth Score?

Growth Scores are calculated using scale scores from the State's current Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) assessment in English Language Arts/ literacy (ELA) and mathematics. The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC) is Nevada's current CRT assessment. Scores from local assessments are not used in the Growth Score calculation. Growth for English Learners (ELs) is measured using WIDA Access Assessment (ELPA) results data.

Question 8: How many years of data are used to calculate Growth?

Two years of consecutive assessment results are required to calculate growth scores in the NGM.

Question 9: Which students have Growth data on the NGM?

Students in 4th through 8th grade who were administered the Smarter Balanced assessment for two consecutive years. English Learners (ELs) students in 1st through 12th grade who were administered the WIDA Access Assessment for two consecutive years.

Question 10: How does Nevada measure Growth?

Nevada uses growth-to-standard measure and a student growth percentile measure. This approach provides stakeholders insight into both how students are performing compared to their academic peers and how they are progressing toward their attainment of the Nevada state standards.

Question 11: What is a Student Growth Percentile, SGP?

Student Growth Percentiles, or SGPs, use historical student assessment data to model how students performed on earlier assessments, how they performed on current assessments, and the level of growth they demonstrated between the two assessment periods, compared with their academic peers. Percentiles range from 1 to 99 and indicate how many scores in the comparison group are below that score. For example, an SGP of 75 means the student's learning was the same or greater than 75 percent of all students who took the same test and had comparable test scores.

Question 12: What does Percentile mean, and how is it used in the NGM?

In statistics, a Percentile is a term that describes how a score compares to other scores in the same set. The NGM utilizes a percentile rank which indicates how well a student performed in comparison to similar students, for example, students in the same grade and subject. A student's percentile rank indicates that the student scored lower, as well as, or better than a percent of similar students.

Question 13: What is an Academic Peer?

An academic peer group is a group of students who took the same assessment in the same year and whose scores are similar. The data used from an academic peer group is gathered from schools across the entire state, not just data in the same school or district.

Question 14: What is an Adequate Growth Percentile, AGP?

Adequate Growth Percentiles, or AGPs, are calculated to determine if a student is making adequate academic growth toward proficiency. A baseline assessment is given, and a growth target to proficiency is calculated. An SGP Target is then calculated to determine how much growth a student needs to make each year to reach or maintain proficiency in a given time frame. The student's SGP is compared to the student's SGP Target for each year's assessments. This comparison is used to determine if the student is on track to reach or maintain proficiency. If their SGP meets or exceeds their SGP Target, then the student is making adequate growth toward proficiency. In contrast, if their SGP does not meet their SGP Target, then adequate growth toward proficiency has not been met. The SGP Target for Smarter Balanced assessments identifies how much a student needs to

grow, in Mathematics or ELA, to reach or maintain proficiency in three years or by the end of 8th grade. The SGP Target for the WIDA assessment identifies how much a student needs to grow to achieve proficiency in five years or by the end of 12th grade.

Question 15: What is a Median Growth Percentile, MGP?

Median Growth Percentiles, or MGPs, are determined by identifying the median SGP for students at a school. The MGP is calculated by rank ordering all the students' SGP's within a school from highest to lowest. Once a school's SGPs have been rank ordered, the median is calculated for these SGPs and becomes the school's MGP.

Question 16: What is considered Low and High Growth?

Student growth percentiles in the 1st – 39th percentile are identified as low growth. Student growth percentiles ranging from 40th – 60th are identified as typical growth and student growth percentiles ranging from 61st – 99th are identified as high growth. For example, a student growth percentile of 70 indicates that this student's growth was better than 70% of his/her academic peers. In the Nevada Growth Model, this is considered high growth. In other words, 30% of similar students statewide made less growth than this student in the current year. Put another way, this student's latest score is particularly high, considering the way his/her academic peer group also scored.

Question 17: What years of Assessment Data were used to calculate the recently released Growth Scores?

The most recent two years of consecutive assessment data is utilized for Growth calculations. For example, the data seen on the NGM for 2022 used the assessment results for SY2020-21 and SY2021-22.

Question 18: When will the next release of Growth Scores take place?

Although the exact date varies slightly annually, the Nevada Growth Model is released shortly after the Nevada Report Card every early fall.

Question 19: Are student demographics used in calculating Growth Scores?

No. When Growth scores are calculated, students are not separated by any demographic factors. Once Growth calculations are made, the data can be filtered by specific student populations (students who have IEPs, Free and Reduced Lunch status, English Language learners, and Gifted and Talented) and by Race and Ethnicity.

Question 20: Is Growth the same as Proficiency?

Proficiency tells us whether a student or school has “hit the bar.” Growth tells whether students are progressing over time.

Question 21: What laws pertain to the NGM?

NRS 390.125 - <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Legal/LawLibrary/NRS/NRS-390.html#NRS390Sec125>

NV Consolidated State ESSA Plan – pg. 45-66

https://doe.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ndedoenvgov/content/Boards_Commissions_Councils/ESSA_Adv_Group/NevadaSubmittedConsolidatedPlanFinal.pdf

ESSA (§1111(c)(4)(b))- pg. 37- <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/essa-act-of-1965.pdf>

Question 22: When was the NGM created?

The Nevada Growth Model was designed in response to the Nevada Legislature’s 2009 call for improving the measurement of student achievement through Assembly Bill 14. The NGM website was launched in late 2018.

Question 23: What if I have a question about the NGM that is not answered in this FAQ document?

The Help Guide <https://ngma.bighorn.doe.nv.gov/nvgrowthmodel/Content/doc/help.pdf> also located under the FAQ/Help tab is a valuable resource for any questions regarding the NGM. Please any questions you may have on the Nevada Growth Model to adaminfo@doe.nv.gov

Accessing Individual Student Growth Scores

Question 1: How do Local Education Agencies (LEAs) access individual student Growth Scores?

Access to the Nevada Growth Model is provisioned based on LEA role. An LEA can access individual student growth scores by logging using the Identity Management Tool link at the top of the NGM. On the district bubble chart, bubbles representing schools to which you have access to student level data will display in green. Clicking on these bubbles reveals a link to drill down to grade level.

Question 2: Who at the LEA will be given access to the Individual Student Growth data?

Any school or district representative for whom an LEA has provided an Identity Management Account. LEAs are responsible for authorizing access within their schools and district.

Question 3: Will parents be given access to their child’s individual Growth scores?

No. Parents do not have access to see individual Growth data on the NGM.

Question 4: Are there individual student Growth reports?

Yes. After login a user can drill down and specify the data set they wish to access, down to grade and student level information. Depending on the level of access a user has, student level data will display in green on the bubble chart. Clicking on these bubbles reveals a link to drill down to grade level. Drilling to the grade level bubble chart will display a bubble for each student in the selected school. The chart defaults to show students in the lowest available grade in the school, but grade may be selected, or all grades by using the drop-down menu on the right side of the chart.