An Overview of Student Growth Percentiles (SGP)

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What is a Student Growth Percentile?

- The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) quantifies the academic progress of individual students or groups of students (median SGP).
- The SGP serves as a way for educators to understand how much growth a student makes relative to a student's "academic peers."

How are SGPs calculated?

- Students are matched to "academic peers" or those students in a particular grade and content area with a similar test score history. The score history examined includes all past scores available for each student.
- A regression based procedure is used to determine the probability of the student's outcome in the current year based on previous years' performance. This is expressed as growth percentile.

What are some of the advantages of the SGP approach?

- Accounts for different "starting positions."
- SGPs allow for meaningful differentiation of performance for students across the full distribution.
- Based on multiple prior scores, which increases precision.
- Interpretation is straightforward.
- Can be meaningfully related to "criterion-referenced" expectations.
- Is not tied to a particular score scale and can help with a transitions to new assessments.

What questions can SGPs help answer?

- Did my students make sufficient growth toward meeting state standards?
- Did my students make as much progress as students in other classrooms within my school or across schools?
- Did my students learn as much in mathematics as they did in reading?
- Are there students with unusually low growth who need special attention?
- Do these growth results generally appear consistent with or differ from what I already know about how my students have progressed during the school year?