



What is a Student Growth Percentile?

A Student Growth Percentile, or SGP, compares a student's growth to that of his or her academic peers nationwide. Academic peers are students in the same grade with a similar scaled score on a STAR assessment at the beginning of the time period being examined. SGP is reported on a 1–99 scale, with lower numbers indicating lower relative growth and higher numbers indicating higher relative growth. For example, if a student has an SGP of 90, it means the student has shown more growth than 90 percent of academic peers.

Why are SGPs useful?

SGPs add significantly to your understanding of how well a student is doing in school. While knowing a student's level of achievement tells you whether the student is performing below, above, or on grade level, an SGP indicates what kind of progress the student is making. For example, a student may be performing at a low level, yet experiencing high rates of growth. Conversely, a high-performing student could be stagnating.

Specifically, SGPs tell you whether a student's growth is more or less than can be expected. For example, without an SGP, a teacher would not know whether an increase of 100 scaled scores represented average, above-average, or below-average growth. This is because students of differing achievement levels in different grades grow at different rates. For example, a high-achieving second grader grows at a different rate than a high-achieving eighth grader.

Because STAR assessments are given to so many students, Renaissance Learning has data for millions of testing events. Using a dataset of more than 11 million students, we are able to calculate growth norms. In other words, we can approximate how much growth is typical for students of different abilities in different grades from one time period to another. Thus we can provide a score that is a fair representation of just how well a student is growing using our Student Growth Percentile or SGP calculation in STAR. Furthermore, because all SGP scores are reported on the same scale (1–99) we can calculate a median, or middle score, that represents an SGP for a group, such as a class, grade, or school as a whole. Median growth percentiles can be used for comparison purposes.

Who developed Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) used in STAR Assessments?

SGP was developed by Dr. Damian Betebenner from the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education.

For more frequently asked questions, please see the Student Growth Percentile FAQ (<http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R005843653129F34.pdf>). For greater detail of functionality from a statistical and psychometric perspective, please see the Technical Manuals, available in Renaissance Place under STAR > Resources.