

Understanding Your Child's Academic Progress

The attached report is being provided to help inform you about the progress of your child in regards to their understanding of the Colorado Academic Standards as measured by the state Math and English Language Arts assessments. The report works to answer the question, 'How is my child doing?' This is a question many parents ask when they see a child's test score. There are actually two possible answers involved based on test results. Specifically, what is the **Level of Achievement** and what is the **Growth** of my child?

- When asking, was my child's test score high enough? We are asking about the Level of Achievement
- When asking, are my child's test scores improving quickly enough to move up to the next level, keep from falling behind, or catch up? We are asking about the level of growth

Growth: The other half of the story. Most tests we take give only a score reflecting something about our level of achievement (e.g. pass/fail, A, B, C, D, or F grade, etc.). In the past, Colorado children received a single test score, plus an *Achievement Level* label of performance. Achievement levels provide only one part of the story - a snapshot of performance at a single point in time. **The other half of the story is each child's growth in learning.** Growth shows success in the education system, because it shows us where positive change is happening for students and schools. Growth tells us about the progress students are making over time.

The Colorado Growth Model measures the academic progress each student has made in a year. However, instead of just saying how many points a student has gained or lost since the previous year, the model **tells us how a student's progress compares** to other students with similar past assessment scores. These **student growth percentile** scores range from 1 (lowest growth) to 99 (highest growth). Percentiles are not percent correct scores, and do not tell us anything about students' achievement levels. Even students with low test scores can get high student growth percentiles, if they made progress since the previous year's test compared to other similar students. Likewise, students with high achievement can also show high growth. Your child's growth and achievement history are available on the attached report.

We hope that this report of your child's growth scores will help you see your child's academic progress in an additional way. This academic growth report can form the basis of informed conversations with your child's school and teachers because it provides another understanding of performance. We encourage you to discuss your child's **achievement levels** and **growth**. Instead of "*How is my child doing?*" you can ask a teacher or principal more focused questions such as:

- ***What steps can we take since my son's growth in Math wasn't good enough to meet expectations?***
- ***Is my daughter's academic growth enough to keep her at grade level in English Language Arts next year?***
- ***What will it take for my son to move up to meeting expectations in English Language Arts next year?***

On our website, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/schoolview/coloradogrowthmodel>, you will find detailed explanations and interactive tools to help you explore all the exciting information that the Colorado Growth Model provides. Also, on the website, you will find a two page document to help you understand this report.

For additional questions about growth please feel free to contact us via e-mail at: growth.questions@cde.state.co.us.
