

Beginning in 2017-2018, for school performance scores, growth of students will be measured in two ways – Value-Added Model and Growth to Mastery.

Growth Measure	Growth to Mastery	Value-Added Model
<p>How is the measure calculated?</p>	<p>Growth to Mastery measures the distance between the student’s current ELA or math scaled score, and the scaled score required to achieve Mastery by grade 8 in elementary/middle schools (750) and by the second high school LEAP assessment in high schools.</p> <p>For students who are already at Mastery, Continued Growth measures the distance between the students’ current ELA or math scaled score, and the scaled score required to achieve Advanced on the same timelines listed above.</p>	<p>The Value-Added Model (VAM) measures students’ success compared to similar peers year to year.</p> <p>Value-added is a statistical model that uses student characteristics to determine anticipated student performance in the current year. The VAM anticipates how well students will perform on the test in comparison to their peers with similar prior test scores and background. Once a student has taken the test, the model shows the extent to which their achievement was on target with what was expected (student expected score). The difference between a student’s actual achievement and his or her expected achievement is called a residual and is known as the “value added.”</p> <p>VAM includes the following student characteristics: prior achievement on assessments for up to three years, special education status and disability category, gifted status, section 504 status, economically disadvantaged status, English language proficiency status, student absences, mobility, and student suspensions.</p>
<p>What is the difference between both measures?</p>	<p>Growth to Mastery is a simple calculation of the scaled score points a student needs to improve each year to reach Mastery status by the grade 8 or second high school assessments.</p> <p>It consists of the prior year performance, the distance to Mastery, and the number of years left to grade 8 or the second high school assessments. This measure is known in advance.</p>	<p>VAM is a prediction of how a student is expected to score on state assessments for the current year relative to the student’s peers including prior achievement and demographics.</p> <p>The actual score for each student is compared to the expected score to determine if he or she has made more, less, or an expected amount of progress. The following example illustrates how these variables would apply to a student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzy scored Approaching Basic in ELA each of the past three years with no grade retention. As a result, she is expected to score Approaching Basic (719) this year. • Suzy has a speech/language disability. All students with speech/language disabilities scored, on average, 1.5 points below their peers. Thus, her expected score is reduced to 717.5. • Suzy missed ten days of school. All students missing ten days of school scored, on average, 1.5 points below their peers. Thus, her expected score is further adjusted to 716. • No other influencing VAM characteristics apply to Suzy, so they do not impact her expected score.

Growth Measure	Growth to Mastery	Value-Added Model
<p>How are the data used?</p>	<p>Teacher evaluation: Growth to Mastery is not used in teacher VAM calculations, but is available for use in student learning targets.</p>	<p>Teacher evaluation: Teachers are evaluated for 50 percent professional practice and 50 percent student growth. For those teachers eligible for VAM, per state law, VAM will be 35 percent of a teacher’s student growth score beginning in 2017-2018. Student learning targets make up the remaining 15 percent.</p> <p>When VAM data are not applicable for a teacher, the student growth portion will be comprised of only student learning targets to account for 50 percent of the total evaluation.</p>
	<p>School Performance Score Calculation: Beginning in 2017-2018, Growth to Mastery and VAM will be used jointly to determine the student growth measure of school performance scores. See this link for details on the school accountability system.</p> <p>This progress index will be calculated by answering two questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Are students on track to Mastery? <i>Growth to Mastery target</i> • Step 2: How well are students growing relative to similar peers? <i>VAM target</i> <p>Schools are awarded up to 150 points (considered an “A” for student growth using the step above that awards the greatest number of points.</p> <p>For students scoring Mastery in the prior year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once students achieve Mastery, they will receive a Continued Growth target that illustrates what it will take to get to Advanced by 8th grade or the second high school assessment. If a student achieves this target, then the school is awarded 150 points or an A+. • If a student does not achieve the Continued Growth target, the school is awarded points based on the student’s performance compared to similar peers (Step 2). <p>For students scoring Advanced (the highest possible rating) in the prior year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the student maintains a score of Advanced, the school earns 150 points or an A+. • If the student drops to the Mastery level or below, the school is awarded points based on the student’s performance compared to similar peers (Step 2). 	

For detailed information on the Value-Added Model, please refer to the [Value-Added Model Frequently Asked Questions List](#)