

# STUDENT GROWTH

North Carolina's educator effectiveness model is designed to support and enhance the overall outcome of effective teaching: student learning. In order to know whether, and the degree to which, students are learning, the State must use a variety of assessments and processes for examining student progress over time. The educator effectiveness system focuses on growth of students, not on their proficiency level.

## WHAT IS STUDENT GROWTH?

Student growth is the amount of academic progress that students make over the course of a grade or class. Students enter grades and course at different places; some have struggled while some have excelled. Regardless of how they enter a grade or course, students can make progress over the course of the school year.

## WHAT IS STUDENT PROFICIENCY?

Student proficiency is whether or not students have scored at a level that indicates that they consistently demonstrate mastery of the content standards and are well prepared for the next grade or course. On the End-of-Grade and End-of-Course assessments, students are considered proficient if they score a Level III.

A teacher can help students grow at high rates even though they do not reach proficiency. Effective educators can push students to make progress regardless of where they started.

## HOW IS STUDENT GROWTH MEASURED?

North Carolina's content standards are diverse; our assessments must be as well. The State uses multiple assessments and processes to measure student learning.

- **End-of-Grade and End-of-Course assessments** for grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics, grades 5 and 8 science, and Biology, Math I, and English II
- **Career and Technical Education State Assessments** for Career and Technical Education courses at the middle school and high school levels
- **NC Final Exams** for courses and subjects in grades 4-12 English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies when an End-of-Grade or End-of-Course assessment is not administered
- **K-3 Checkpoints** for measuring students' reading skill development in grades K-3

The State Board of Education has approved the use of the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) to calculate student growth values with results from the End-of-Course assessments, End-of-Grade assessments, Career and Technical Education State Assessments, and the NC Final Exams.

### [Guide to Measuring Student Growth](#)

The Guide to Measuring Student Growth for Educator Effectiveness provides more details about how North Carolina measures student growth