

Growth Measures in State Accountability Systems

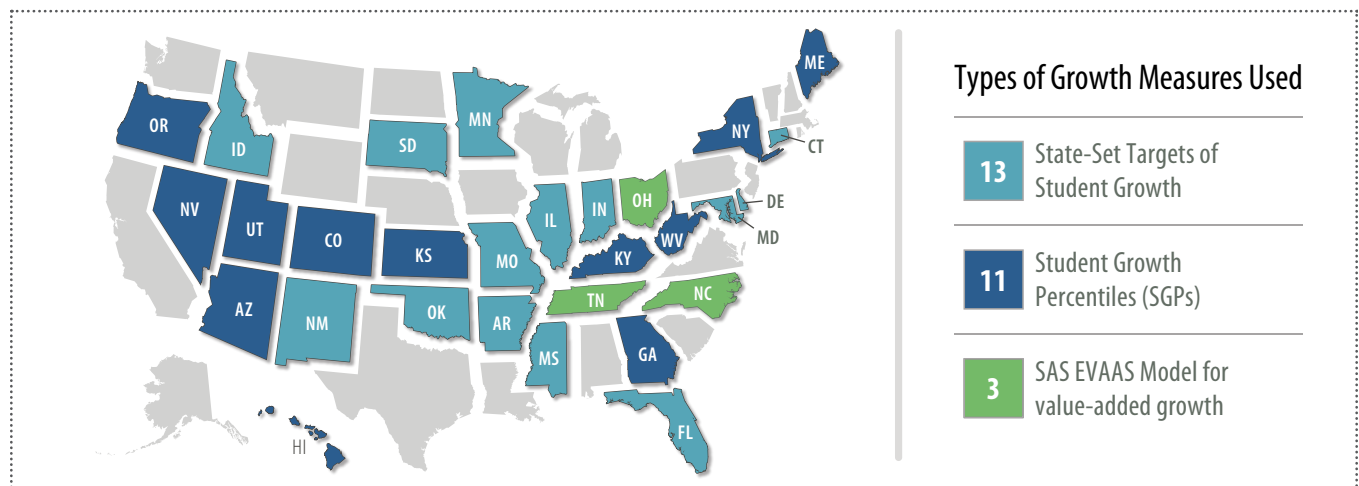
How are states incorporating growth measures into their accountability systems?

With the increased inclusion of student academic growth in school accountability decisions, the Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI) has received multiple queries regarding how states are incorporating student growth measures into their accountability systems. CSAI recently sought to answer this question through a scan of state systems, reviewing states' Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waivers to find out what states use student growth measures and which measures they use. This CSAI Update provides the results of that scan, results that might provide some insight for states looking to add this kind of measure or to rethink the growth measure they are currently using.

Measuring Growth

For purposes of the scan, a state is considered to have incorporated student growth measures in its accountability system if it uses a measure focused either on individual student growth over multiple years or on measures of student growth relative to other students. Some states (Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and South Dakota) also include an additional indicator for the growth of the lowest-performing students as a way to measure how well schools are supporting these particular students.

The scan found that 29 states include one of three types of student growth indicators in their accountability system, as illustrated by the color-coded map below. The types of growth measure used include *state-set targets* of student growth, by which growth is identified as the degree to which students achieve a state-set amount of growth or benchmark; *student growth percentiles*, by which students are grouped according to their prior year performance and their growth is assessed compared to other students in that same group; and the *SAS EVAAS Model for value-added growth*, a proprietary program that provides projection reports on individual students' future performance based on past performance.



1 Information for this scan was drawn from state Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waivers. These waivers can be found at the U.S. Department of Education site at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/esea-flexibility/index.html>.

Additional Indicators

In each of the 29 states that incorporate student growth measures, the accountability systems also includes a status indicator, which is a measure of student proficiency based on statewide assessments. In addition, these states have incorporated one or more other indicators of proficiency and positive student outcomes in their accountability systems. The table below lists the various types of indicators used in these state systems, along with examples of how states are measuring these indicators:

INDICATOR	EXAMPLE FROM SCANNED STATES
Achievement Gap Reduction	Reduce gaps in student performance between highest- and lowest-performing students.
Assessment Participation Rate	Ensure that schools and districts meet 95% student participation rate on state assessments.
Attendance Rate	Meet state set target for daily attendance.
College and Career Readiness	Calculate student participation in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Career and Technical Education courses.
Course-Taking and Completion Rates	Calculate percentage of grade 9 students that have earned at least four credits in certain subject areas by a fixed date.
Dropout Rate	Calculate dropout rate for all schools.
English Language Learner Reclassification Rate	Determine progress of ELL students toward English proficiency.
Graduation Rate	Calculate four- and/or five-year cohort graduation rates.
K–3 Literacy Improvement	For each grade, determine how well each school moved students who were not on track to read at grade level to being on track.

Though ESEA Flexibility Waivers will be null and void on August 1, 2016, states may elect to maintain the same accountability system indicators. CSAI will monitor future state changes and update this information accordingly.

For more information on state accountability systems and school ranking formulas, including further details about the other indicators used in these states' accountability systems, please visit the [CSAI web site](http://www.csai.org) or contact our center at csai@wested.org.



CSAI Update is produced by the The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI). CSAI, a collaboration between WestEd and CRESST, provides state education agencies (SEAs) and Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs) with research support, technical assistance, tools, and other resources to help inform decisions about standards, assessment, and accountability. Visit www.csai-online.org for more information.



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