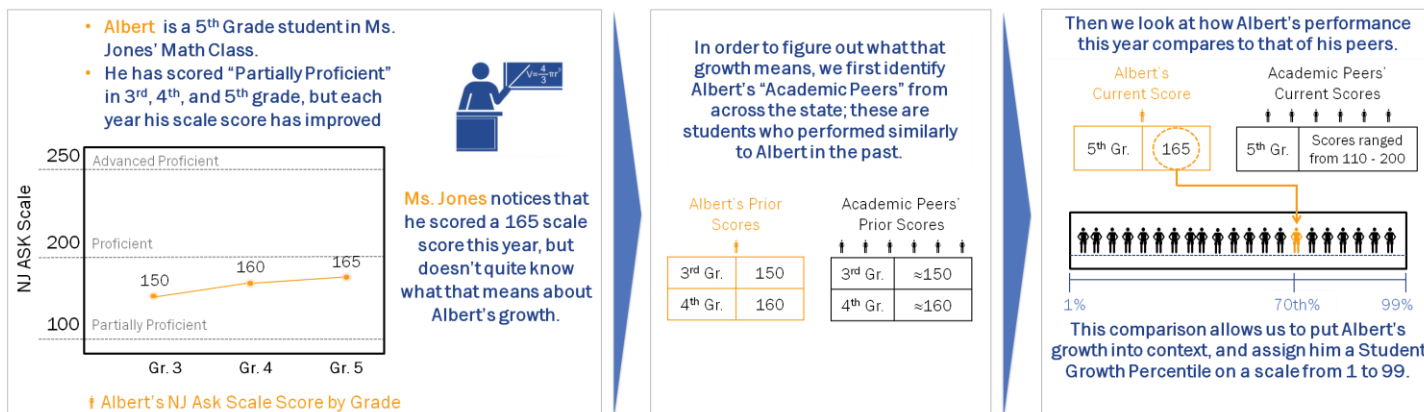


AchieveNJ: Student Growth Percentiles in 2013–14

A More Complete Picture of Student Progress

Under **AchieveNJ**, Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) are one of the multiple measures used to assess teachers and principals whose students are in grades 4–8 and take the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJ ASK) math or Language Arts Literacy (LAL) test. An SGP score compares a student’s academic growth on the NJ ASK from one year to the next to the growth made by that student’s academic peers (students from around the state with similar test score histories).

By using SGPs, we can answer the critical question: “How much academic progress did a child make during a given school year?” For example, a student with an SGP of 70 in his 5th-grade math class grew as much or more than 70 percent of his academic peers in that subject. Proficiency rates show whether students are performing on grade level, but student growth provides a much more complete picture of achievement and progress. In particular, SGP is able to distinguish high growth from low growth at any scale score on the NJ ASK. A student may be below proficiency in math or LAL, but he or she could earn a high SGP score, which, combined with other evidence, signals that the teacher’s instruction and/or principal’s leadership are helping that child catch up. Students at the highest end of proficiency can also show growth – so no educator is ever “penalized” for teaching students of any achievement level.



Assigning SGP Scores to Teachers

Under **AchieveNJ**, qualifying teachers of tested grades and subjects (4th-8th-grade LAL and math) are assigned an SGP score, which represents the median SGP score of all of that teacher’s qualifying students. This process is depicted in the graphic on the following page.

- SGPs are one of several measures used to examine the work of educators under **AchieveNJ**, and will account for **30 percent** of a teacher’s overall rating. The rest will be based on classroom observations and goals teachers set for their students at the start of the year.
- SGP data are available only for those who teach LAL or math in grades 4–8 because their students typically have baseline and end-of-year NJ ASK scores.

- Because 3rd grade is the first testing year of the NJ ASK, there is no baseline data to create an SGP for that grade.
- For SGP to be part of a teacher’s evaluation, a teacher must have 20 separate students with SGP scores, and students must be enrolled in the teacher’s class for at least 70 percent of the school year.
- In future years, if two or three years of data are available, a teacher will be evaluated on the best available score for the teacher – either the teacher’s median score from his or her current roster of students or the median of all student scores over the available years.

Assigning SGP Scores to Principals

Under **AchieveNJ**, principals will be held accountable for schoolwide SGP data if enough tested grades and subjects are taught in their school. These scores represent the median of all qualifying SGP scores in a principal’s school.

- For principals who lead schools with two or more tested grades or subjects, **30 percent** of their evaluation will be based on schoolwide SGP data.
- For principals with only one SGP grade or subject, **20 percent** of their evaluation will be based on schoolwide SGP data.

A Growing Movement

Many other states, including Massachusetts, Indiana, and Rhode Island, are using SGPs to assess the effectiveness of educational programs and policies and educator practices. Educators nationwide say it is a fairer way of evaluating their effectiveness than simply looking at a snapshot of student achievement at one period in time. Parents say looking at student growth gives them a more complete picture of how their children are doing in school. This measure of student achievement also has been included in many state applications, including New Jersey’s, for the federal Race to the Top grant program and for waivers to the federal No Child Left Behind law.

Resources and Contact Information

To learn more about SGPs, please see this video on the state Department of Education website: <http://survey.pcgus.com/njgrowth/player.html> or access additional research and information at: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/njsmart/performance/>.

You can learn more about **Achieve NJ** and share your feedback by:

- Contacting your school and district administration to ask about your School Improvement Panel and District Evaluation Advisory Committee, which include teachers and principals.
- Visiting the **AchieveNJ** website at www.nj.gov/education/AchieveNJ.
- E-mailing educatorevaluation@doe.state.nj.us, or calling the **AchieveNJ** Help Line at 609-777-3788.

Median SGP Score

Student	SGP Score
Hugh	12
Eve	16
Clarence	22
Clayton	24
Earnestine	25
Helen	31
Clinton	35
Tim	39
Jennifer	44
Jaquelyn	46
Lance	51
Roxie	53
Laura	57
Julio	61
Selena	65
Ashlee	66
Albert	70
Mathew	72
Maria	85
Charles	89
Milton	97

Albert’s SGP score is then placed on Ms. Jones’ course roster so that we can see how she did with all of her students.

Student	SGP Score
Hugh	12
Eve	16
Clarence	22
Clayton	24
Earnestine	25
Helen	31
Clinton	35
Tim	39
Jennifer	44
Jaquelyn	46
Lance	51
Roxie	53
Laura	57
Julio	61
Selena	65
Ashlee	66
Albert	70
Mathew	72
Maria	85
Charles	89
Milton	97

Ms. Jones would then receive an effectiveness rating by taking the median SGP score on her roster.

In this scenario, Ms. Jones would receive a rating of **51**.