

State law¹ requires that 50% of the student growth portion of summative ratings for teachers of core content areas – grades 4-8 in ELA and math² – be measured using state assessment data. But how is this determined?

While there is no requirement to use a specific measure³ to determine student growth from state assessments, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recommends the use one of two available models: Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) or Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS).



Designed Purpose of SGPs and EVAAS

Within the MDE’s educator evaluation guidance, SGPs focus on how much students’ growth is above or below average within groupings for districts, schools, and teachers. With EVAAS, district, school, and teacher reports focus on the statistical certainty the growth measure is above or below expected growth. Additionally, EVAAS teacher reports also focus on both how much students’ growth is above or below average.

Digging Deeper

The following chart further differentiates between SGPs and EVAAS and their use in Michigan. It is important to note that some differences may be attributed to policy choices rather than limitations or characteristics of each model. More in-depth information regarding the characteristics outlined below may be found on page 2.

Key Characteristics	SGPs	EVAAS
Sophisticated statistical approaches to calculate growth	✓	✓
Constructed using state assessment data	✓	✓
Used by Michigan’s school accountability model	✓	
Calculates growth for individual students	✓	
Calculates growth for groups of students		✓
Uses the MDE’s SGP Educator Evaluation Calculator Tool	✓	
Use of outside vendor is required		✓
Data can be locally linked to student-teacher rosters	✓	
Data can be automatically linked to student-teacher rosters via vendor	✓	✓
School and district student growth reports are publicly available	✓	

NOTE: The information provided in this document aims to outline the similarities and differences of SGPs and EVAAS in an effort to help better inform district choice. Guidance documents, such as this, are an important part of the MDE’s continued work toward developing, supporting and sustaining a high-quality, prepared and collaborative education workforce – goal #3 of the Top 10 in 10 strategic initiative. Questions? Visit <http://michigan.gov/mde-edevals> or contact Brian Lloyd, MDE Student Growth Consultant at 517-241-7053 or LloydB@michigan.gov.

¹ MCL 380.1249(2)(a)(ii) (<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-380-1249>)

² Core content areas with viable student growth data available have been interpreted by the MDE as grades 4-8 in ELA and math

³ The MDE does not mandate the use of any specific student growth model for use within educator evaluations

How is growth calculated?

Both SGPs and EVAAS use sophisticated statistical approaches to calculate student growth on state assessments. Neither is classified as a “simple” model that could be easily replicated by non-technical educators. In addition, both models are constructed using state assessment data and both follow similar business rules as to which students are included or excluded when building the model. Please visit the *Statistical Models and Business Rules for Michigan EVAAS Analyses* (<http://bit.ly/2IFXkw2>) and *Spring 2018 SGP AGP Technical Report* (<http://bit.ly/2m0w5MK>) for technical details of the models and their business rules.

How is growth currently used in Michigan?

Michigan’s school accountability model uses only SGPs to measure student growth. EVAAS is not used for school accountability. The MDE’s educator evaluation guidance provides supports for districts and PSAs to use either SGPs or EVAAS to measure state assessment student growth as part of the evaluation process. In either instance, the growth measure is one data point among several used to consider students’ academic outcomes.

At what levels are growth data provided (district, school, teacher, student)?

SGPs calculate growth for individual students which can then be aggregated to determine a combined score at the district, school, teacher, class, or other level of grouping. EVAAS does not calculate growth for individual students, but rather calculates growth exclusively for groups of students at the district, school, and teacher levels.

How is student data linked to teachers?

For SGPs, any district can locally link student-teacher rosters with students’ state assessment growth data using the MDE SGP Educator Evaluation Calculator Tool (http://bit.ly/MDE_SGPs) to reference and include student Unique Identification Codes (UICs) within teacher rosters located in district/school student information systems (SIS). Alternatively, districts that have integrated their local SIS with Eidex, Munetrix, OurSchoolData, or Illuminate will automatically have teacher roster and student assessment data linked to produce more efficient SGP reports. For EVAAS, districts that use MiDataHub and opt to share roster and student assessment data with SAS, the program’s vendor, will have that data automatically linked for EVAAS teacher-level reports.

How is growth reported?

Any district can locally produce SGP teacher reports using the MDE SGP Educator Evaluation Calculator Tool. Districts can access vendor-produced SGP teacher reports through their Eidex, Munetrix, OurSchoolData, or Illuminate systems if they have integrated those systems with their local SIS. SGP school and district reports are publicly available for all schools and districts on <http://MISchoolData.org>.

Districts can access EVAAS teacher, school, and district reports through a SAS interactive web application. However, teacher reports are only available to districts that opted to provide student-teacher linkages to SAS through MiDataHub. Additionally, no Michigan EVAAS data, at any level, is available publicly. Districts and PSAs are provided usernames and passwords to access their data, and the general public cannot view the reports without these credentials.

How are the reporting systems supported?

The SGP Educator Evaluation Calculator Tool (http://bit.ly/MDE_SGPs) is supported by the MDE. SGP reports produced by Eidex, Munetrix, OurSchoolData, and Illuminate are supported by those vendors who receive consultative guidance from the MDE. The EVAAS reporting system is supported by its vendor, SAS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A Technical Overview of the Student Growth Percentile Methodology

Detailed explanation of the statistical methodology used to calculate student growth percentiles.

<http://bit.ly/SGPOverview>

Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs)

Guidance for using SGPs in educator evaluations.

http://bit.ly/MDE_SGPs

School Index System

Student Growth Percentiles (Growth Scores) are used in combination with Adequate Growth Percentiles (Growth Targets) to make school-level growth measures in the School Index system.

<http://mi.gov/mde-accountability>

Workforce Webinar Series: SGPs

Recorded discussion with educators across the state on the use of SGP within educator evaluations.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=S4yXzkPlweg>

Workforce Webinar Series: EVAAS

Recorded discussion with educators across the state on the use of EVAAS within educator evaluations.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=-JnFFEUizo4>

EVAAS Michigan

Information, support and guidance documents from SAS.

<http://mi.sas.com>