



On Track Growth

Background

Colorado’s educational accountability law requires a metric that determines whether a student is making enough growth to reach a target level of achievement within a given timeframe. Called On Track Growth (OTG), this measure assesses whether students are *catching up* to grade-level expectations or *keeping up* with expectations. Each student will have one of the two following On Track designations for a given school year:

- **Catch Up:** Indicates whether students scoring below grade level are catching up to grade-level expectations quickly enough.
- **Keep Up:** Indicates whether students who are already meeting grade-level expectations are maintaining their performance.

Reintroducing the On Track Growth Measure

The OTG measure has not been part of school and district ratings since the transition to the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments in 2015, when it was referred to as adequate growth. Based upon feedback from districts that the expectations were not always reasonable, the department retired the metric and began to explore other methodologies in partnership with the state’s [Technical Advisory Panel \(TAP\)](#). After adopting a calculation methodology for elementary and middle schools in 2019 (described on the next page), discussions on how to approach this measure for high schools and districts were scheduled for late spring 2020. However, because of disruptions created by the pandemic, these plans were paused. Currently, schools and districts receive a performance framework rating each year based on their achievement, growth, and postsecondary & workforce readiness results. The addition of OTG will create another performance indicator (i.e., three for elementary and middle schools; four for high schools and districts).

Implementing the On Track Growth Measure

CDE has been working with the TAP and the state board to investigate calculation methodologies for high schools and districts. However, the transition to digital PSAT and SAT assessments in spring 2024 prevents implementation of an OTG measure until 2026 performance frameworks at the earliest. In response, the State Board of Education voted to delay implementation of the OTG indicator in the performance frameworks until all school levels are available for inclusion. In the meantime, because CMAS growth is available across all typical grades and content areas, CDE released a public report on this measure in the [District and School Dashboard](#), see the tab titled “On Track Growth”. Once OTG is available for all school levels, CDE will first release the data for informational purposes, with the intention of including the measure for points in the performance frameworks the following year.

On Track Growth Methodology

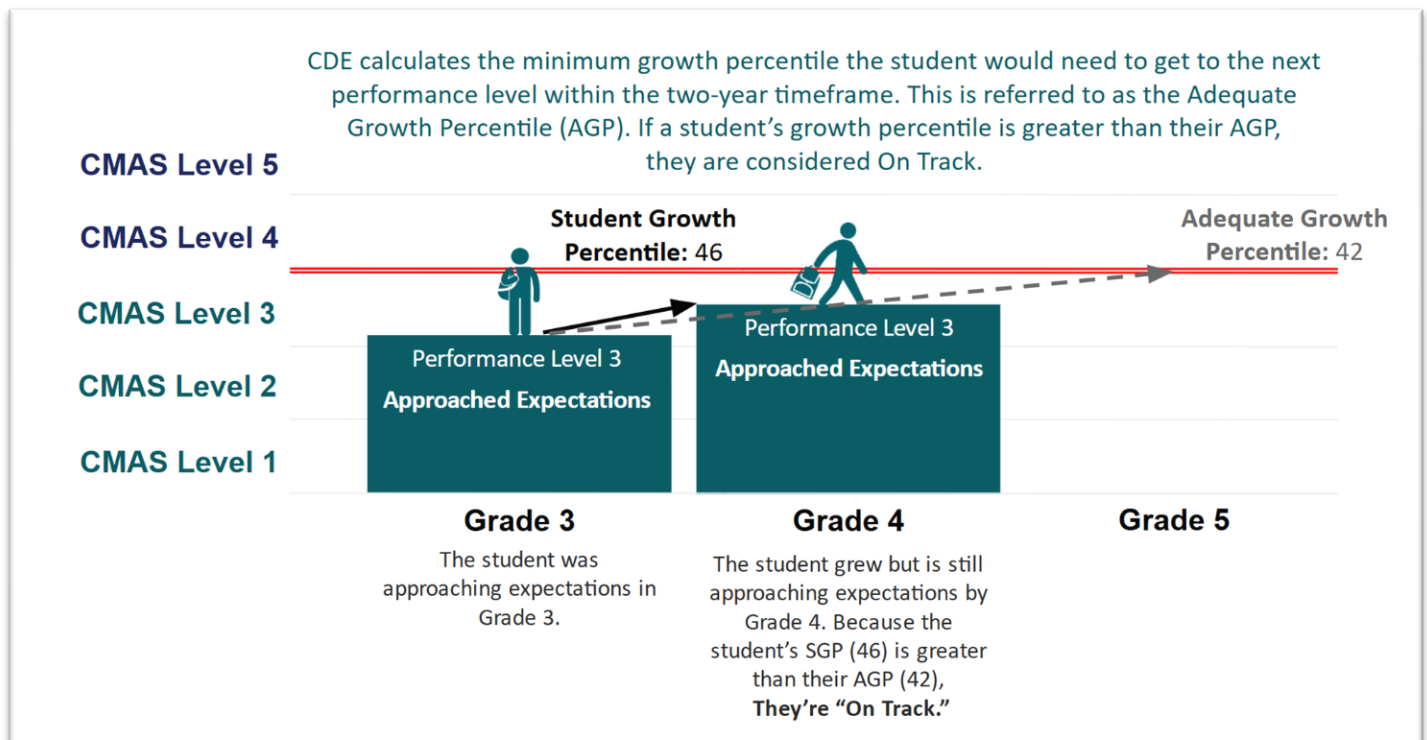
In October 2019, the State Board of Education voted to adopt the following methodology for grades 3-8 for inclusion in the performance frameworks:

Student Targets. The OTG achievement target for students designated as “**Catch Up**” is to advance to the next performance level (see table to the right). This allows students to show progress toward grade-level proficiency. The OTG achievement target for students designated as “**Keep Up**” is to maintain grade-level proficiency (e.g. Meets or Exceeds Expectations), ensuring that higher-performing students stay at grade level.

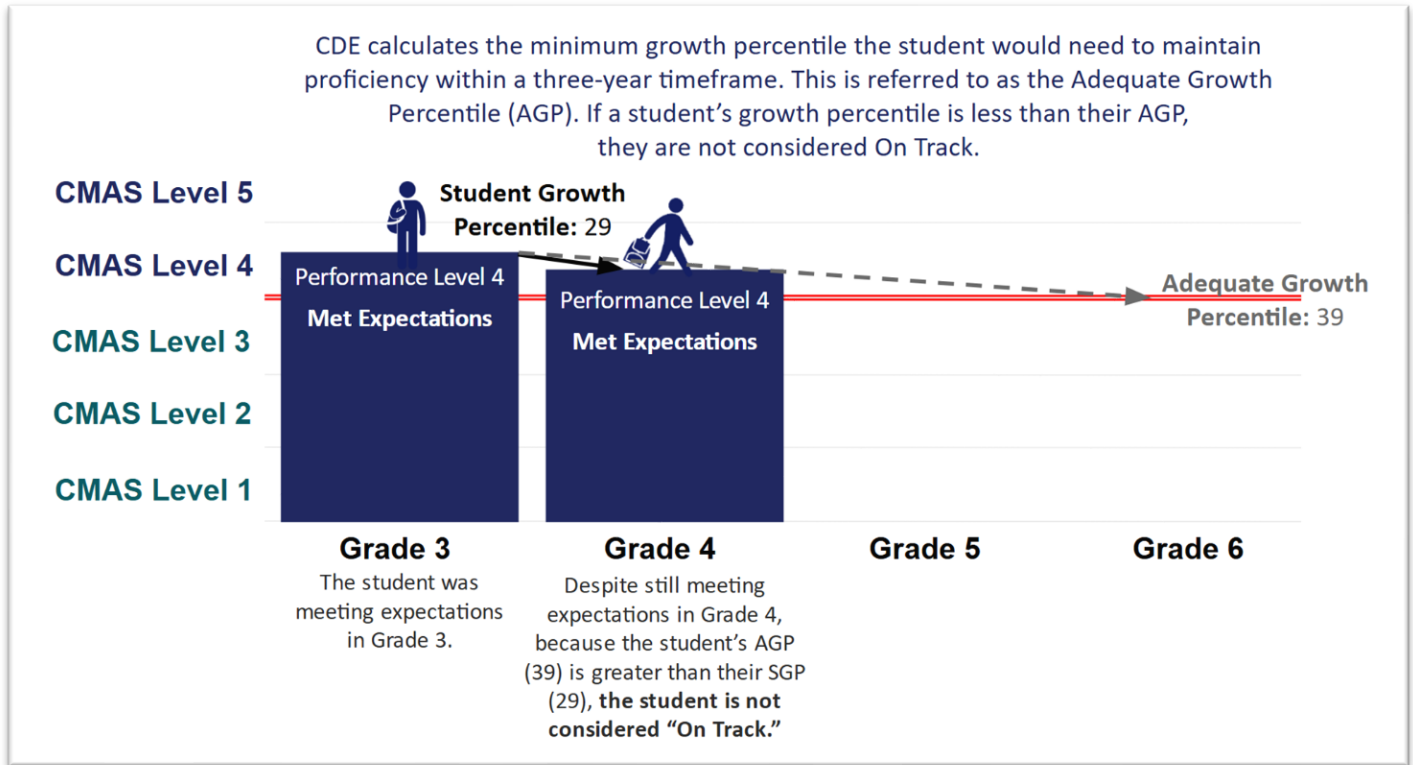
CMAS Performance Level	Description
Level 5	Exceeded Expectations
Level 4	Met Expectations
Level 3	Approached Expectations
Level 2	Partially Met Expectations
Level 1	Did Not Yet Meet Expectations

Timeline. Students that are not at grade level and need to **Catch Up** should be supported to move to the next performance level within **two years**. The two-year timeframe sets an expectation that schools can help lower-performing students increase their performance on CMAS by at least one performance level over the course of two years. The two-year timeframe for catching up is intended to balance the desire for increased student rigor with the need to create a fair and meaningful metric in the school and district performance frameworks. Students who are currently meeting expectations and need to **Keep Up** should be supported to maintain grade level proficiency for the next **three years**. For Keep Up students, this timeframe establishes that students can maintain grade level proficiency over the course of at least three years (i.e., students do not begin falling behind after reaching grade level proficiency). A student’s On Track Target resets each year reflecting the changes in performance over time and their updated achievement target expectations.

Catch Up Calculation Methodology



Keep Up Calculation Methodology



On Track Growth Webinar Modules

The [On Track Growth webinar series](#) provides stakeholders with the tools to use and understand the new OTG measure to support improved student academic outcomes. The series consists of six short standalone modules that explore the Colorado growth model, On Track Growth, OTG in accountability, OTG reporting, and the use of OTG for continuous improvement at a conceptual level.

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On Track Growth Webinar Series

DESCRIPTION: The On Track Growth (OTG) webinar series, provides stakeholders with the tools to use and understand the new OTG measure to support improved student academic outcomes. The series consists of six short standalone modules that explore the Colorado growth model, On Track Growth, OTG in accountability, OTG reporting, and the use of OTG for continuous improvement at a conceptual level. (Created: July 2024).
audience: School/District Administrators & staff

Need additional support with any of these topics? The School Improvement and Planning Team is available throughout the year to provide further training. Reach out to sgib@doe.state.co.us to submit a training request!

Webinar 1: Overview of the Webinar Series
This webinar module provides a brief overview of the on track webinar series along with key content related to on track growth.

resources:

- Presentation
- Growth in Colorado
- On Track Growth Fact Sheet
- Technical Advisory Panel

Webinar 2: The Colorado Growth Model
This webinar module provides a conceptual overview of the Colorado Growth Model including its relationship to the on track growth measure.

resources:

- Presentation
- Colorado Growth Model Fact Sheet (DOC)

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