

"How is my student doing?"



This is the question most parents and guardians want answered when they receive their student's test score. However, the PSAT and SAT test results can answer two questions about how your student did on the test and how well your student is progressing through the years:

1

What is your student's academic achievement?

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Performance or academic achievement on the PSAT/SAT tests help students, families and educators understand how students are performing in math and evidence-based reading and writing.

The achievement score (scale score) provides a snapshot of performance on a test at a single point in time. When asking, "Was my student's score high enough?" We are asking about the level of achievement.

For this report, **Colorado scale score percentile ranks** show us the performance of your student compared to other Colorado students that also participated in the same assessment. For example, a scale score percentile rank of 55 on the PSAT 10 indicates that your student performed as well as or better than 55 percent of his or her Colorado peers that were also tested on the PSAT 10 assessment.

The growth bands reflected in the report indicate the cuts for the 20th, 40th, 60th, and 80th scale score percentile ranks.

2

What is your student's academic growth?

ACADEMIC GROWTH

Academic growth tells us about the progress students make over time. Instead of just saying how many points a student has gained or lost since the previous year, the Colorado Growth Model tells us how a student's progress compares to other students with similar past test scores. This provides us with a Student Growth Percentile, with scores that can range from 1 (lowest growth) to 99 (highest growth).

Growth percentiles are not "percent correct" scores and they don't tell us anything about student achievement levels. Student growth percentiles describe your student's relative progress. For example, a student growth percentile of 60 indicates the student grew as much or more than 60 percent of his or her academic peers. Students with test scores that are very low in achievement levels can receive high growth scores. Likewise, students with high achievement scores can also show high or low growth.

HOW TO USE THE REPORT

Your student's growth and achievement results are available on the attached report. This report can help form the basis of informed conversations with your student's school and teachers. We encourage you to have discussions with your student about their achievement level and growth.

When asking, "How's my student doing?" You can also ask a teacher or principal more focused questions, such as:

- What steps can we take to improve my student's growth in math?
- Does my student's performance on the SAT meet the district grade level expectations?

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- [Additional Growth resources.](http://www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/coloradogrowthmodel)
www.cde.state.co.us/accountability/coloradogrowthmodel

Direct questions to: Growth.questions@cde.state.co.us