

Composite Performance Index (CPI)

A 100-point index that combines the scores of students who take standard MCAS tests (the Proficiency Index) with the scores of those who take the MCAS-Alternate Assessment (MCAS-Alt) (the MCAS-Alt Index) and is a measure of the extent to which students are progressing toward proficiency in ELA and mathematics, respectively.

What Is a Student Growth Percentile (SGP)?

A student growth percentile is a measure of student progress that compares changes in a student's MCAS scores to changes in MCAS scores of other students with similar achievement profiles. The model establishes cohorts of students with "similar performance profiles" by identifying all students with the same (or very similar) MCAS scores in prior years; all MCAS data for a student since 2006 are used (where available) to establish academic peers.

Percentiles are familiar to most educators and parents because they are used to report performance on some national standardized tests and in other common arenas such as pediatrics, where charts put children in percentiles depending on their height and weight. The key distinction between those customary uses of percentiles and those used to measure academic progress in this report is that student growth percentiles measure change instead of an absolute quantity. For example:

- A student with a growth percentile of 90 in 5th grade mathematics grew as much or more than 90 percent of her academic peers (students with similar score histories) from the 4th grade math MCAS to the 5th grade math MCAS. Only 10 percent of her academic peers grew more in math than she did.
- A student with a growth percentile of 23 in 8th grade English language arts grew as much or more than 23 percent of her academic peers (students with similar score histories) from the 7th grade ELA MCAS to the 8th grade ELA MCAS. More than three-fourths of her academic peers grew more in ELA than she did.