

Growth Assessment FAQs

Why are growth assessments administered to students?

2021 General Assembly legislation mandated the development of computer adaptive tests for grades 3-8 reading and mathematics. These tests are administered twice a year and used in conjunction with the Standards of Learning tests administered in the spring. Students who are enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry in middle school do not take a math growth assessment.

What is a computer adaptive test?

A computer adaptive test is customized for every student. A student's response determines the difficulty of the next question. Like Standards of Learning math and reading tests, students can see test content from more than one grade level.

What is a vertical scaled score?

Student results for Growth and Standards of Learning tests for math and reading are reported as a vertical scaled score. The vertical scaled score allows for measure of student progress from one test to another. The vertical scaled scores for all tests from grades 3-8 fall within a range between 900-2000. Each grade level tests has its own distinct range. Please view the table below to see the vertical scaled score range of each test. For each range, students scoring in the lower portion of the range would require more instructional support than students scoring in the upper half of the range.

Vertical Scaled Score Ranges		
Grade Level	Reading	Mathematics
3	900-1870	900-1770
4	950-1920	945-1830
5	1000-1950	990-1890
6	1150-1980	1050-1930
7	1100-1990	1940-1940
8	1150-2000	1170-1945

What information does the growth assessment provide?

The growth assessment indicates a student's current level of performance. It indicates if a question was answered correctly and incorrectly, the level of the question, and a description of the type of question. The student detail by question report indicates potential areas of strength and areas that might need additional support.

How do teachers use this data?

Teachers and schools use the student detail by question reports to indicate areas of strengths and concern for their students. This information is used to drive instruction and identify standards that might require additional time and supports.

How can parents utilize this data?

The Virginia Department of Education has curated a wealth of resources that can be used at home to help you support your child's learning. On each linked page, there are multiple resources that you can use.

[Strengthening Math at Home](#)

[Literacy Resources for Families and Communities](#)