

Session 1 Activity

Learning objective: Explain how growth percentiles are derived from SOL scores in Virginia.

Task: Review the data in the Tables and the questions that follow. Discuss the answers with a partner then write your answer below each question.

Table 1. Suzie's scores

Student	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	SGP associated with Grade 5 score
Suzie	270	300	365	70

1. How would you describe Suzie's 5th grade scaled score?
2. What can you tell from Suzie's student growth percentile of 70?
3. What information can be gained from knowing that her student growth percentile is 70 even though her score was 365?
4. Can you calculate Suzie's student growth percentile just by knowing her previous years' scores?

Table 2. Scores for Suzie and a selection of students with similar score histories

Student	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	SGP associated with grade 5 score
Peer student A	270	300	290	22
Peer student B	270	300	310	40
Peer student C	270	300	330	53
Suzie	270	300	365	70
Peer student D	270	300	380	88

5. Look at all the students' 4th and 5th grade scores in relation to the 5th grade growth percentiles. For the group as a whole, how do the growth percentile numbers relate to the difference between the 4th and 5th grade scores?

Table 3. Scores for Suzie and her classmates

Student	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	SGP associated with Grade 5 score
Suzie	270	300	365	70
Victor	310	340	365	30
Keisha	410	435	460	60
Dante	400	-	460	-
Jamar	-	470	500	50
Mya	260	290	335	65
Zachary	420	450	430	8

6. Explain to their 5th grade teacher how Suzie and Victor achieved the same 5th grade scaled score but different growth percentiles.

7. Does Victor's growth percentile of 30 have any relation to Suzie's growth percentile of 70?

8. How can Suzie and Mya have almost the same growth percentile, but different achievement?

9. Why does Jamar but not Dante, have a student growth percentile?

10. Should Zachary's teacher be concerned about his performance, given his scaled score and growth percentiles?

Table 4. Data including previous growth percentiles for Suzie and her class

Student	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	SGP associated with Grade 5 score
Suzie	270	300 (30)	365	70
Victor	310	340 (25)	365	30
Keisha	410	435 (40)	460	60
Dante	400	-	460	-
Jamar	-	470	500	50
Mya	240	290 (35)	335	65
Zachary	390	450 (85)	440	8

11. Do you notice any trends, patterns or discrepancies? Which students would you be most concerned about, and why?