



Methodology

Elementary Schools (Grades 3-8)

Calculations are based on the most recent data available, which are 2012-13 assessments, based on the 2011-12 teaching year. Data used in the school calculation includes grades 3-8 students who participated in the NECAP in fall 2012, or were assessed using the PAAP in spring 2012, and who were continuously enrolled at the teaching year school listed on their assessment results. It takes two years of assessment data for a student to be included in the calculations – hence, a K-3 school cannot be graded. Excluded from the calculations are: schools that have low “n sizes” (fewer than 10 students in a calculated group, to protect student confidentiality, as required by the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act-FERPA); have no or limited data due to school configuration (K-3); or have changed school configuration.

Elementary school grades are based on the following:

Measures

Proficiency

- **Math Proficiency** – Percent of the students in each school who achieved an achievement level of proficient or proficient with distinction, in mathematics.
- **Reading Proficiency** – Percent of the students in each school who achieved an achievement level of proficient or proficient with distinction, in reading.

Growth - Individual student growth, year to year, collectively for the school.

- **Math Growth* – All Students** – Measures the collective growth of individual students – that is, how well did individual students improve from the previous testing year. Calculation: total mathematics growth points in a school, divided by the number of all students used in the calculation. (See notes below)
- **Reading Growth* – All Students** – Measures the collective growth of individual students – that is, how well did individual students improve from the previous testing year. Calculation: total reading growth points in a school, divided by the number of all students used in the calculation. (See notes below)
- **Math Growth – Bottom 25%**** – Growth among students in math who scored in the bottom 25 percent in the previous testing year – that is, what was the growth (calculated same as for All Students) among the most struggling students.
- **Reading Growth – Bottom 25%**** – Growth among students in reading who scored in the bottom 25 percent in the previous testing year – that is, what was the growth (calculated same as for All Students) among the most struggling students.

Assessment participation

Schools are required to meet at least a 95 percent participation rate in the state assessments for validity. Participation of less than 90 percent results in an automatic “F”; participation above 90 percent but below 95 percent results in a one letter grade reduction (those that are already an “F” remain an “F”); above 95 percent there is no reduction.

*Growth Calculation

The growth calculation measures whether students are improving (or declining) one year to the next based on achievement levels. It is calculated on each individual student’s growth (or decline).

Students who advance a proficiency level, regardless of what level they were at, as well as students who maintain a proficiency level of 3 (proficient) or 4 (proficient with distinction) are considered to have made growth. There is a bonus weighting for students who advance more than one proficiency level in a year.

Level 1 (substantially below proficient) and level 2 (partially proficient) have been broken into two levels each: 1A, 1B, 2A, and 2B, making it easier to show growth and recognize advancement even at levels below proficient.

A “1” or greater is considered to be a year’s growth.

		Current Year					
		1A	1B	2A	2B	3	4
Past Year	1A	0	1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4
	1B	0	0	1	1.1	1.2	1.3
	2A	0	0	0	1	1.1	1.2
	2B	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
	3	0	0	0	0	1	1.1
	4	0	0	0	0	0	1

**Bottom 25%

If there is a null value in the Bottom 25% growth measures (due to the “n size” requirement described earlier), the Bottom 25% value will be replaced with the All Students value for the same subject.

Secondary Schools (Grade 11)

Calculations are based on the most recent data available, from the 2011-12 Maine High School Assessment (MHSA) and Personalized Alternate Assessment Portfolio (PAAP) in grade 11. High school grades are based on the following:

Measures

Proficiency

- **Math Proficiency** – Percent of the students in each school who achieved an achievement level of proficient or proficient with distinction, in mathematics.
- **Reading Proficiency Level** – Percent of the students in each school who achieved an achievement level of proficient or proficient with distinction, in reading.

Progress

- **Math Progress – All Students 3-year Average** – The most recent three-year average of math proficiency (2012, 2011, 2010) plus the difference between that average and the previous three-year average of math proficiency (2011, 2010, 2009).
- **Reading Progress – All Students 3-year Average** – The most recent three-year average of reading proficiency (2012, 2011, 2010) plus the difference between that average and the previous three-year average of reading proficiency (2011, 2010, 2009).
- **4-year Graduation Rate** – Percentage of students from a cohort who graduated after 4 years of high school. (see explanation of [Maine's 4-year and 5-year graduation rates](#))
- **5-year Graduation Rate** – Percentage of students from a cohort who graduated after 5 years of high school. (see explanation of [Maine's 4-year and 5-year graduation rates](#))

Assessment participation

Schools are required to meet at least a 95 percent participation rate in the state assessments for validity. Participation of less than 90 percent results in an automatic “F”; participation above 90 percent but below 95 percent results in a one letter grade reduction (those that are already an “F” remain an “F”); above 95 percent there is no reduction.