

Growth to Standard

New MCAS Growth Metric

The Office of Student Assessment Services

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Presenters

- Robert Curtin, Deputy Commissioner
- Julia English, Data Analyst
- Sarah Jo Torgrimson, Coordinator of Research & Psychometrics
- Jodie Zalk, Manager of Test Administration and Publications

Logistics for This Session

- Use the Q&A feature to ask a question.
 - We will answer some questions aloud at specified times during this training session, and we will email the Q&A afterwards.
 - Use the thumbs-up icon to “upvote” someone else’s question.
 - Email student-specific questions to mcas@mass.gov instead of asking here.
- Closed captioning has been enabled for participants who need it.
- This session is being interpreted into ASL. Our interpreting team will be onscreen with the presenters.
- Please be advised that DESE does not authorize attendees to record or to use AI transcription tools during the meeting and DESE does not endorse any unauthorized transcripts created by third parties of its meetings.

Slides for This Session

- Slides were emailed to participants before this session from MCASEvents@cognia.org.
- Slides are now being posted in the chat.
 - If you cannot access the slides in the chat, ask in the Q&A.
- After the session, we will send the slides again to participants, and they will be posted in the MCAS Resource Center along with the recording.

Today's Agenda

1. Motivation for Growth to Standard
2. What Is Growth to Standard?
3. Using Growth to Standard for Continuous Improvement
4. Data Delivery to Schools and Districts

1. Motivation for Growth to Standard

Student Growth Percentile (SGP)

Our current growth metric, student growth percentile (SGP), provides context into how students are growing relative to their academic peers statewide.

SGP	Growth Level
1–19	Very Low
20–39	Low
40–59	Moderate
60–79	High
80–99	Very High

Example:

Math SGP of 30

This student grew as much or more than 30% of their academic peers.

This student is categorized as showing low growth because 70% of their academic peers grew more in their math skills.

SGP Does Not Consider Achievement

However, relative growth rates are not synonymous with improvement.

MCAS Assessment Histories of Actual Students

Data Description	ELA	Math
2025 Grade	6	7
2024 Scaled Score	452	467
2025 Scaled Score	448	464
Scaled Score Difference	-4	-3
2025 SGP	66	54
2025 Growth	High	Moderate

Students may show **moderate or high growth** even if they **decrease in a scaled score** from one year to the next.

Motivation to Add MCAS Growth to Standard Metric

- While SGP highlights the relative progress a student makes in a year, it does not clarify how much growth is sufficient to meet or exceed expectations in grade 8. Growth to standard is being introduced as an additional measure to help schools and districts better understand student growth and progress towards grade-level expectations.
- Growth to Standard will allow DESE to:
 - Track progress for students that achieve the Not Meeting or Partially Meeting expectations levels
 - Monitor maintenance of achievement for students already Meeting or Exceeding Expectations

Alignment with DESE's Educational Vision

Growth to Standard aligns with DESE's vision to have **ambitious but achievable** expectations for all students in the Commonwealth.

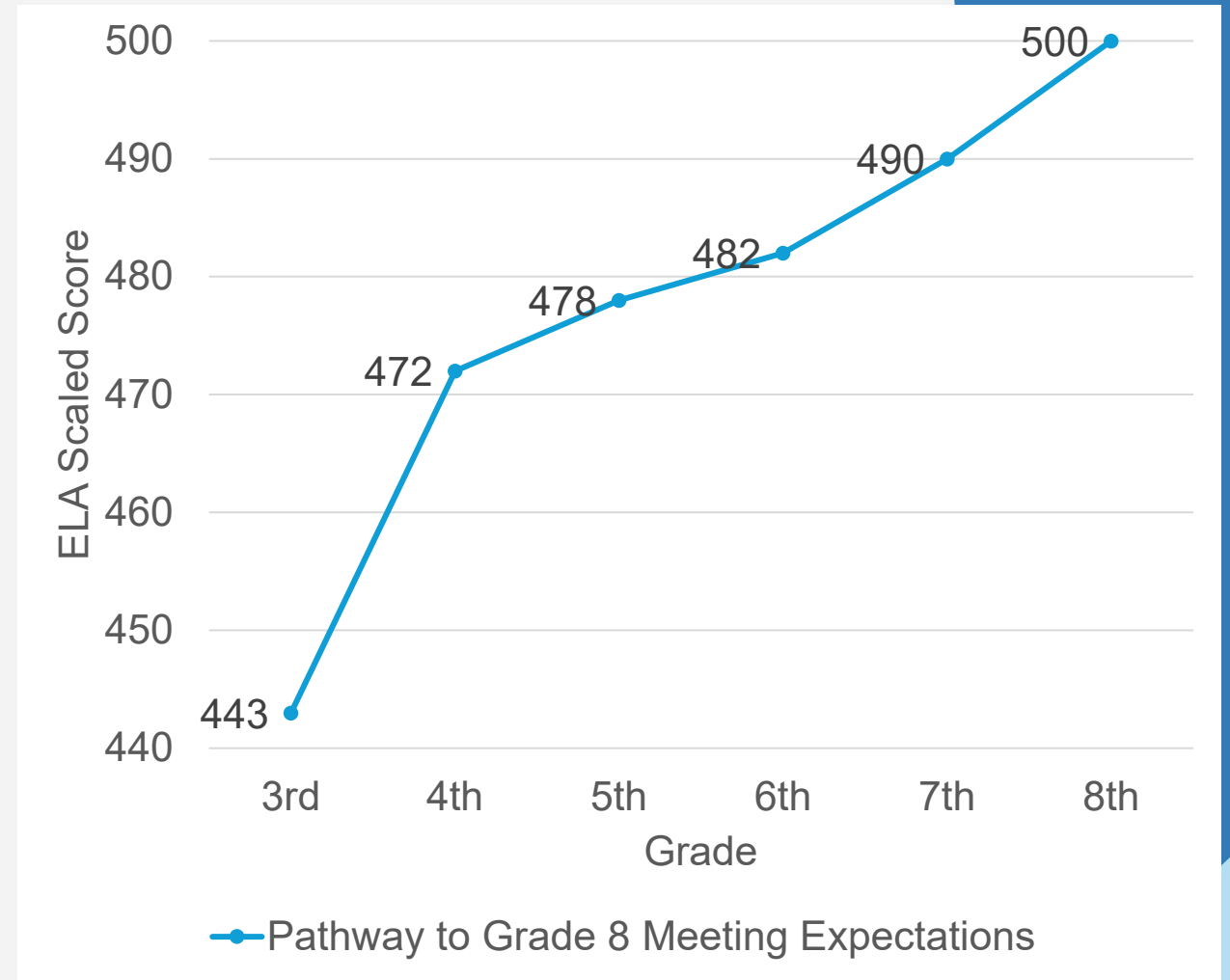
“All students in Massachusetts, particularly students from historically underserved groups and communities...are held to high expectations with targeted support... [and students] excel at grade level (or beyond).”

2. What is Growth to Standard?

Tracking Progress Toward Meeting Expectations

For students in the Not Meeting or Partially Meeting achievement level, **yearly progress targets** will be mapped between a student's current achievement and grade 8 Meeting Expectations.

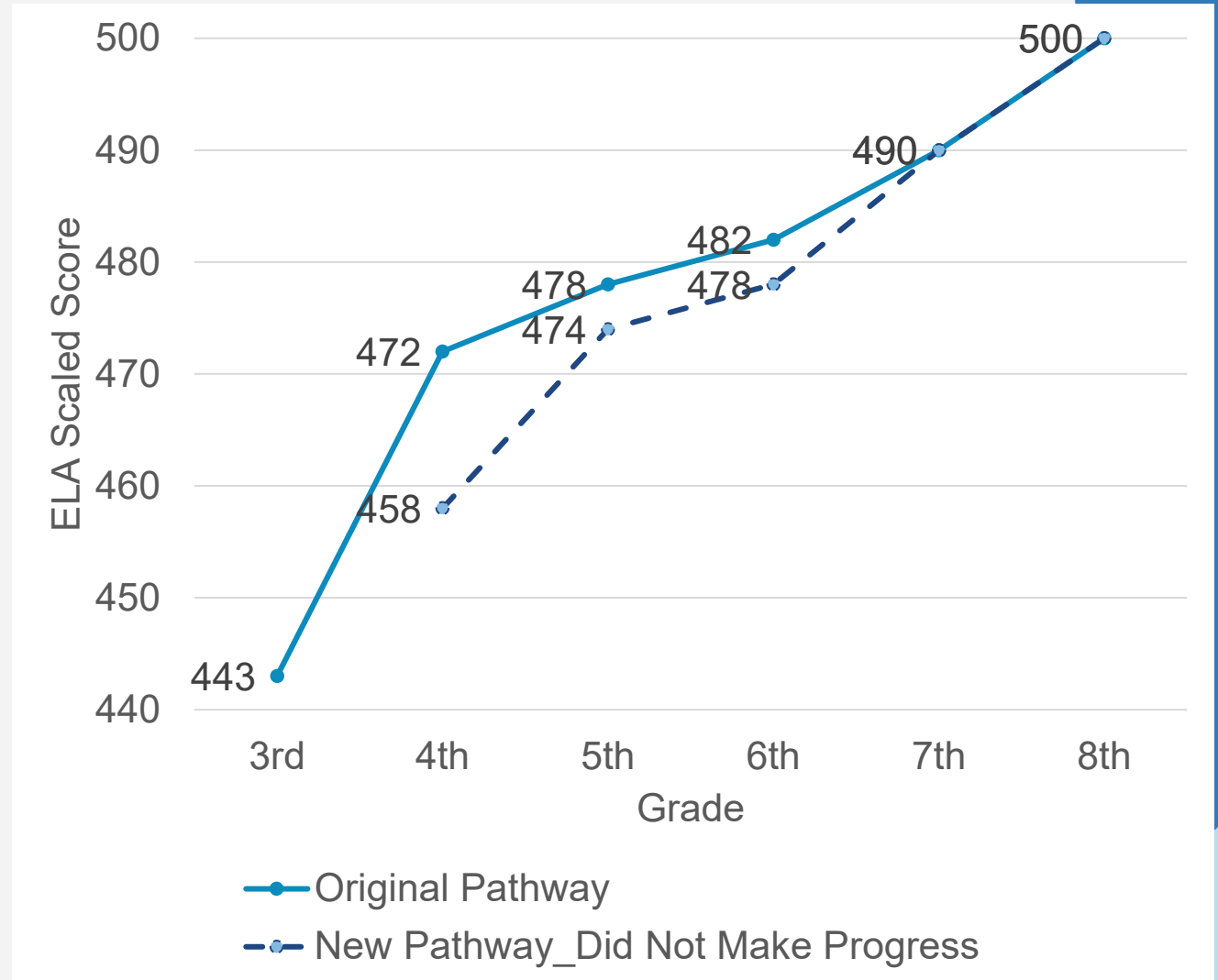
In graph, a student with a scaled score of 443 in 3rd grade should score at least a 472 in 4th grade to be considered "on track" to meet or exceed expectations in grade 8. To reach this progress target, a student needs to demonstrate high growth.



Targets Are Updated Annually Based on Most Recent Achievement

Students will also receive annual indicators of whether they met their progress targets set in the prior year for the ELA and Mathematics MCAS tests.

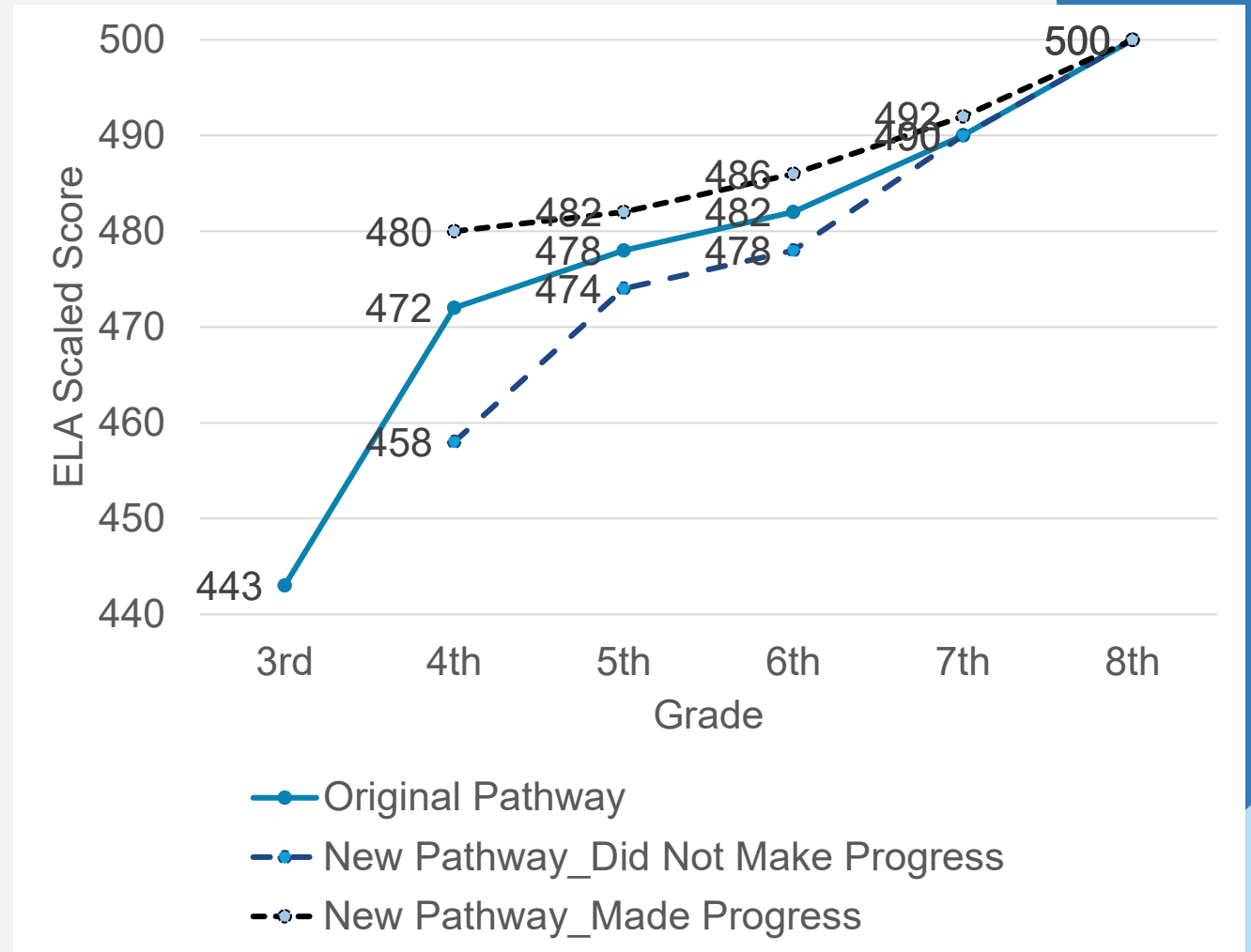
Students that scored below their progress target will need to show even greater growth in the following year to get back on track to meet or exceed expectations in grade 8.



Examples of How Targets Are Adjusted Based on Recent Achievement

Students that meet their progress target are considered on track to meet or exceed expectations in grade 8.

A new progress target is calculated reflecting the easiest pathway to grade 8 Meeting Expectations.



Monitoring Maintenance of Meeting or Exceeding Expectations

For students in the Meeting or Exceeding achievement level, their yearly progress target will be set to maintain Meeting or Exceeding Expectations.

Current Achievement Level	Next Year Target
Meeting Expectations (ME)	Meeting Expectations (ME)
Exceeding Expectations (EE)	Exceeding Expectations (EE)



Q&A

Check-In #1

3. Using Growth to Standard for Continuous Improvement

Determining Student Support

Student MCAS Achievement Level	Did Student Meet Progress Target?	Student Support Level
Not Meeting or Partially Meeting Expectations	No	The student likely needs additional supports to help them get on track to reach grade-level expectations.
Not Meeting or Partially Meeting Expectations	Yes	This student's current supports are helping them to reach grade-level expectations and should be continued.
Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	No	The student should be monitored by their classroom teacher to make sure they maintain grade-level expectations.
Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	Yes	The student is likely to maintain grade-level expectations.

Growth to Standard for District and School Improvement

DESE hopes Growth to Standard will help address questions such as:

- How many students in classrooms with Curriculum X are on track to reach Meeting Expectations in grade 8? Is this the same, higher, or lower than students in classrooms with Curriculum Y?
- Are all schools in my district showing similar or different percent of students meeting progress targets? What grades/schools need additional resources to help students get on track to reach Meeting Expectations in grade 8?

4. Data Delivery

.CSV Files in DropBox Central

District & School Files

In DropBox, all users will find a file layout describing variables included in .CSV files.

- All Users: “Growth to Standard_2025 FileLayout.xlsx”

In Dropbox, school and district users will find .CSV files of student data.

- District Users: “Growth to Standard_2025_00XX0000.csv”
- School Users: “Growth to Standard_2025_00XX00XX.csv”

School and district files include all students that tested in your school or district in Spring 2025 .CSV files are a combination of 56 variables taken directly from Spring 2025 Official MCAS file in DropBoxes and 10 new Growth to Standard variables.

Growth to Standard Variables

10 variables (5 each for ELA and Mathematics).

Measure	Description
2025 Progress Target	The scaled score or achievement level a student needed to attain on 2025 MCAS to be considered “on track” for Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in grade 8.
2025 Difficulty Index	The expected growth level required for a student to achieve the 2025 progress target. Values are very low, low, moderate, high, or very high.
Progress Met in 2025	An indicator of whether a student met (1) or did not meet (0) the 2025 progress target.
2026 Progress Target	The scaled score or achievement level a student needed to attain on 2026 MCAS to be considered “on track” for Meeting or Exceeding Expectations in grade 8.
2026 Difficulty Index	The expected growth level required for a student to achieve the 2026 progress target. Values are very low, low, moderate, high, or very high.

Demonstration

- DESE will walk through an example file that schools will receive in DropBox Central containing Growth to Standard variables.
- DESE will show how to filter data and where to find Growth to Standard variables in the file.

Future Reporting of Growth to Standard

- Schools and districts will receive 2026 results and 2027 progress targets in the fall of 2026.
- Public reporting of any aggregate data will be posted in the fall of 2027 at the earliest.
- There is no current plan to incorporate Growth to Standard in the accountability system.
- DESE plans to collect feedback on the metric usage in districts over the course of the 2026-2027 school year.



Q&A

Check-In #2

Next Steps

- **Today:** Complete the evaluation form to provide feedback on Growth to Standard.
 - Responses are associated with the name and email address used to log in.
 - Email your input to mcas@mass.gov if you have problems accessing or completing the form.
- **Within one week:**
 - Receive an email with the Q&A from this session.
 - Recording will be available.
- **By the end of the month:**
 - Receive DropBox files with your school/district data.

THANK YOU

The Office of Student Assessment Services



781-338-3625



mcas@mass.gov



www.doe.mass.edu/mcas



135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149