2018-2019 Grade 4-8 Progress Index Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the school performance score (SPS) progress index?

The Louisiana accountability system includes an index that recognizes the growth made by *all* students in grades 3 through high school for ELA and math. Representing 25% of an elementary or middle school's overall SPS, the index replaces progress points, which only rewarded schools for growth with non-proficient students.

The index uses results from two questions:
- Step 1: Are students on track to Mastery?
- Step 2: How are students doing compared to similar peers?

Schools are awarded up to 150 points for student growth using the step above that awards the greatest number of points.

The simple Growth to Mastery targets are used to award points in question 1.

2. How are growth targets set for students in grades 3-8?

> ### Step 1: Are students on track to Mastery?

For each student, Step 1 measures the distance between the student's current ELA or math scale score, and the scale score required to achieve Mastery by grade 8 (750).
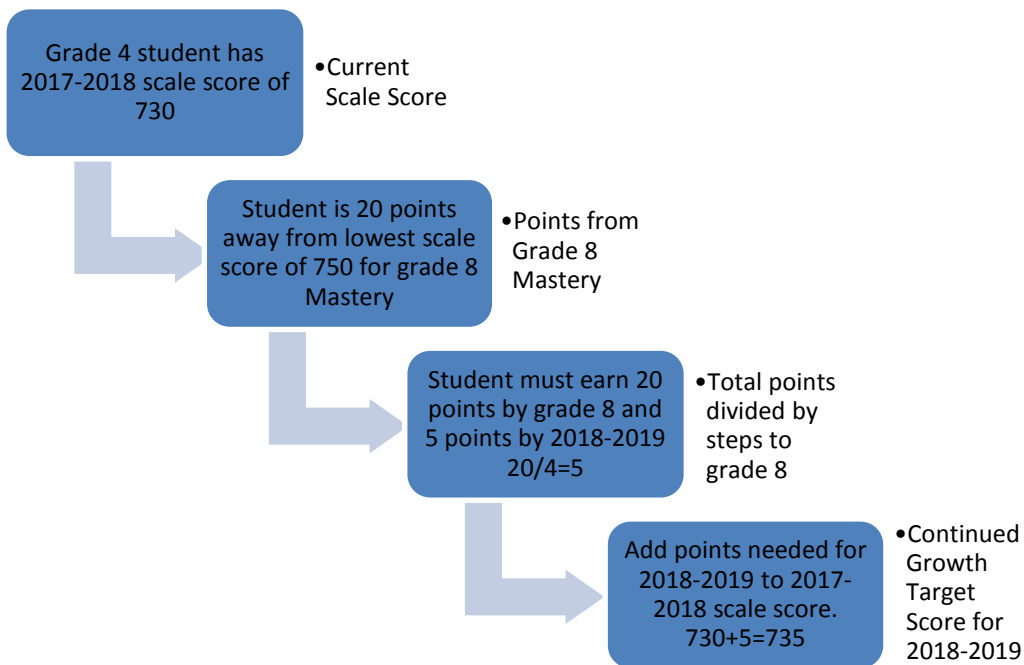
Current ELA Achievement Level in 2017-2018	How is the ELA Growth to Mastery Target Calculated for Step 1?
Unsatisfactory, Approaching Basic or *Basic*	1. Subtract current scale score from 750 2. Divide by number of years remaining to grade 8 (2017-2018 and beyond) 3. Add to current scale score
Mastery	Once a student has attained *Mastery*, they receive a Continued Growth Target which measures their success toward attainment of Advanced as outlined below. 1. Subtract current scale score from 794 (8th grade ELA *Advanced*) 2. Divide by number of years to grade 8 3. Add to current scale score OR Score *Advanced* for next grade level*
Advanced	Score *Advanced* for next grade level

*The lowest scale score for *Advanced* varies by grade level. It is possible for a student to have a *Mastery* scale score that exceeds the lowest scale score for the next grade level. In this case, or when the points to *Advanced* are less than the Growth to Mastery target points, the student's target is the lowest scale score for *Advanced* at the next grade level.

Current Math Achievement Level in 2017-2018	How is the math Growth to Mastery Target Calculated for Step 1?
Unsatisfactory, Approaching Basic or Basic	1. Subtract current scale score from 750 2. Divide by number of years to grade 8 3. Add to current scale score
Mastery	Once a student has attained *Mastery*, they receive a Continued Growth Target which measures their success toward attainment of *Advanced* as outlined below. 1. Subtract current scale score from 801 (8th grade math *Advanced*) 2. Divide by number of years to grade 8 3. Add to current scale score OR Score *Advanced* for next grade level*
Advanced	Score *Advanced* for next grade level

*The lowest scale score for *Advanced* varies by grade level. It is possible for a student to have a mastery scale score that exceeds the lowest scale score for the next grade level. In this case, or when the points to *Advanced* are less than the Growth to Mastery target points, the student's target is the lowest scale score for *Advanced* at the next grade level.

Example: A student in grade 4 achieved a scale score of 730, *Basic*, on ELA in 2017-2018. This student is 20 points away from the lowest scale score for *Mastery* at grade 8 (750).

Grade 4 student has 2017-2018 scale score of 730
- Current Scale Score

Student is 20 points away from lowest scale score of 750 for grade 8 Mastery
- Points from Grade 8 Mastery

Student must earn 20 points by grade 8 and 5 points by 2018-2019 20/4=5
- Total points divided by steps to grade 8

Add points needed for 2018-2019 to 2017-2018 scale score. 730+5=735
- Continued Growth Target Score for 2018-2019

Rounding: For decimals greater than 1.0, the value is rounded to the nearest whole number. For decimals that are less than 1.0, round to 1.

3. How are points awarded for students?

For every student achieving his/her Growth to Mastery target, the school is awarded 150 points or an A+ within the growth index for that student.

4. What happens when a student does not meet the Growth to Mastery target?

For each student who does not achieve his/her target in Step 1, the value-added model (VAM) is used to measure performance relative to students with similar backgrounds and test histories.

> Step 2: How did students perform compared to their peers?

5. How is student success compared to peers measured using the value-added model (VAM)?

The value-added model (VAM) determines a student's expected score using a broader range of contextual information including test history and other key characteristics (e.g., disability status). The expected score is compared to a student's actual score and the difference (called a residual) is calculated.

6. When will districts and schools receive the VAM expected scores for each student?

The VAM expected scores, also used for teacher VAM, will be available in August for the purposes of determining 2017-2018 results in the accountability system.

7. How many points are awarded to schools for student growth in Step 2?

Schools are awarded up to 150 points for student growth in Step 2, depending on the amount of growth made by students compared to their peers. Students who score Mastery in the current year will earn a minimum of 85 points.

8. Are all students included in the progress index?

Yes, students in grades 3-8 who have a valid, earned score from the spring 2017-2018 LEAP ELA and math assessment administration will be included in the progress index for the 2018-2019 school year.

9. How does the new progress index affect the school and district performance scores?

The new progress index is 25% of the SPS for a K-8 school, and represents the average progress index results across two years (e.g., the 2017-2018 K8 SPS includes progress index calculations for 2016-2017 and 2017-2018).

10. When will growth targets for students entering high school and students who took End-of-Course tests in middle or high school grades in 2017-2018 be available?

The growth targets for students entering high school or who took an End-of-Course test in 2017-2018 will be available in early fall.

Definitions for Column Values

Column	Column Heading	Possible Values for Column
A	LEA Code	Three digit/letter value assigned to school system
B	Site Code	Six digit/letter value assigned to school
C	Site Name	Name of school
D	Last Name	First three letters of student's last name
E	First Name	First letter of student's first name
F	LASID	Ten-digit Louisiana secure ID for student
G	DOB	Student's birthday
H	2017-2018 Grade	Grade level of student in 2017-2018
I/Q	2017-2018 Scale Score	Range: 650-850 Scale score earned by the student on the spring 2018 ELA or math grade level assessment. Middle school students who took a high school assessment will be released with high school rosters.

J/R	2017-2018 Achievement Level	LEAP achievement level determined by scale score earned on spring 2018 ELA or math grade level assessment. • *Advanced* • *Mastery* • *Basic* • *Approaching Basic* • *Unsatisfactory* N/A=student does not have a valid LEAP test or middle school student took high school assessment (For middle school high school assessment, target will be released with high school.)
K/S	2018-2019 Growth Target Track	Student is assigned to one of three tracks based on 2018 achievement level • *On Track to Mastery* for students who earned *Unsatisfactory*, Approaching *Basic*, *Basic* • *Mastery to Advanced* for students who earned Mastery • *Maintain Advanced* for students who earned *Advanced*
L/T	Points from *Mastery* (or *Advanced* if already at *Mastery*)	• For *Unsatisfactory, Approaching Basic*, or *Basic: 750-Current Scale Score* • For *Mastery*: ELA=794-Current Scale Score; math=801-Current Scale Score ○ If current scale score exceeds next grade level *Advanced* scale score, then N/A. ○ If difference between current scale score and next grade level *Advanced* scale score is less than value in M, then N/A • For *Advanced*=N/A; goal is to maintain *Advanced* at next grade level • For no test or invalid test, N/A
M/U	Number of Years to Grade 8	Grade 8 - Grade level in 2017-2018 (Column H) Example: Student in grade 4 8-4=4
N/V	Number of Points Needed to Meet Growth to *Mastery* Target	• Column K /Column H *Example*: A student in grade 3 is 20 points from *Mastery*. 20/5=4 • Decimals are rounded to nearest whole number, except for decimals that are less than 1.0, which are rounded to 1.
O/W	2018-2019 Target	2018 ELA or math scale score + Number of Points Needed to Meet Target • If *Mastery* scale score exceeds next grade level lowest *Advanced* scale score, then use lowest *Advanced* scale score • If student took high school assessment, target will be released in fall

		• If N/A for invalid test or no test taken, student is not included in growth
P/X	2018-2019 Target Achievement Level	Achievement Level that corresponds to scale score in Column O for ELA and W for math.