

The Use of Multiple Years of Data to Calculate Median Student Growth Percentiles

Background

Educators who qualify to receive the median Student Growth Percentile (mSGP) score as one factor in their evaluation earn that score based on a) the most recent year or, b) the median of the previous three years combined – whichever is most advantageous to the educator. This document explains this process and answers several related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Qualifications for Teachers to Receive the 2017-18 mSGP Score

2017-18 mSGP data are available for those who taught language arts in grades 4 to 8 and/or math in grades 4 to 7. For the mSGP to be part of the evaluation, a teacher must:

- Have been the teacher of record for at least 60% of the course prior to the state assessment, and
- Have valid SGP scores for at least 20 separate students who were enrolled in the class for at least 70% of the school year before taking the assessment in 2017-18 or in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2017-18 combined.

Multiple Years of Data from the Same District

State evaluation requirements allow for the use of multiple years of mSGP data for educator evaluations within the same district. The analysis of several years of student growth provides the opportunity to demonstrate a fuller picture of educator effectiveness.

- In 2017-18, a teacher may qualify to receive the mSGP score based on a total of qualifying students from up to the previous three years *in the same district* that reaches or exceeds the minimum number of 20 students. For example, if a teacher has eight qualifying students from 2015-16 plus ten from 2016-17, and then ten from 2017-18, this totals 28 students, enough to qualify the teacher to receive the mSGP this year even though the teacher did not receive it last year.
- Each teacher receives the mSGP of the most recent school year **or** of the previous three years combined – whichever is most advantageous to the teacher. So, if the median score from 2017-18 is 55 but the median from 2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2017-18 taken together is 60, the educator will receive the 60.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the multi-year mSGP the average of the three previous years taken together?

No, the multi-year mSGP is derived by creating an ascending list of all qualifying student SGPs from the previous years and identifying the *median* score on that list. The use of the median versus the average was selected because the measure is less sensitive to outliers (a handful of students who may have performed at the extreme end of the range in a given year).

Will multiple years of data be considered for my mSGP even if I had more than 20 students in each of the two previous years?

Yes, multiple years are considered for all qualifying teachers. For some teachers, the combination of students in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2017-18 is needed to reach at least 20. In that case, the multi-year median must be used for the 2017-18 evaluation. In other cases, the teacher had at least 20 qualifying students in any of those years, and so the mSGP that will count for the 2017-18 evaluation will be the higher of either 2017-18 alone or the median of 2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2017-18 combined.

If I taught the same students in consecutive school years, do those students “count twice” for my multi-year mSGP?

The scores for the same students will count in each year. If you had eight students in 2015-16 and ten in 2016-17 and ten in 2017-18, and some or all of those students were the same across the three years, you would earn the multi-year mSGP for 2017-18 based on the 28 SGP scores accumulated over that time. Please note that in this case, the same *students’* SGP scores would be assigned to you for the three years, but each student’s scores are likely to be different in the different years (i.e., Albert could score a 52 in 2015-16 and a 58 in 2016-17, and each of those numbers would be included in the total list from which your multi-year median is drawn).

If I have earned the mSGP for 2017-18 based on accumulating 20 students in the three years of data (2015-16 and 2016-17 and 2017-18), can I use just the 2017-18 median, for example, for my mSGP?

No, you would not qualify for mSGP in 2017-18 alone because you would not have the minimum of 20 unique students assigned to you for that school year. Because you accumulated the minimum requirement of 20 students over the span of three school years, you must use the mSGP from the *combined* years.

If I have moved to a different district, does my mSGP information from my previous district travel with me to be factored in to my score in my new district?

No, the use of multiple years of data to calculate mSGP must be within the same district. Therefore, if you moved to a new district for the 2017-18 school year, your 2017-18 mSGP is based only on that year and cannot include data from your previous district from 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Can I use the mSGP from any of the previous three years for my evaluation?

No, you will receive the higher of two scores – either the mSGP from the most recent school year, OR the median of all of the most recent three years combined.

Additional Resources

- [Teacher Evaluation Scoring Guide](#)
- [Principal Evaluation Scoring Guide](#)
- [AchieveNJ SGP web page](#)

For More Information

- Visit the [AchieveNJ website](#)
- Questions or feedback? Please email edueval@doe.nj.gov, or call the AchieveNJ Help Line at 609-376-3974.