



Interpreting and Using the Growth and Achievement Report in Fusion

(November 2014)

The WDE data and assessment teams are pleased to announce a new report has been added to the Fusion repository. The new report, called Growth and Achievement, employs data visualization techniques to present information graphically on both achievement (reported in terms of the percent of students proficient) and growth (reported in terms of the median growth percentile from the Wyoming growth model) for elementary and middle schools across Wyoming. Both growth and achievement data are displayed simultaneously so that viewers can see schools (or student groups within schools) in one of four quadrants: high growth, high achievement; low growth, low achievement; high growth, low achievement; and low growth, high achievement.

In the graph, each bubble represents a school (or sub-set of a school if you are filtering by grade or student group). The size of the bubble is determined by the number of students in the group you selected. In addition to the legend that appears to the right of the graph, users can hover over a bubble to see the name of the school/group it represents, along with performance data for that group. Users can employ multiple filters to examine reading or math results, disaggregate by different student groups, and select a year to depict (only 2013-14 appears now) for districts, schools, and grades within schools. Use the various filters to select the area(s) of interest, and then click on "View Report" to refresh the report with the parameters you identified. These new reports help to answer questions like these:

- How does my school compare to other schools in my district or in the state in terms of overall proficiency and growth?
- Which subjects and grades in my school are relative strengths compared to the state and other schools in my district (or state)? Which student groups demonstrate stronger achievement and growth in my school/district?
- How well are students who were below proficient last year growing (below proficient students comprise the "consolidated subgroup" for state accountability)? In other student groups?
- Are there other schools of similar size and proficiency rates that have demonstrated higher growth?

At a glance, it's easy to see which schools/grades have similar achievement but very different patterns of growth. Educators might find it useful to work with peer schools – those with similar rates of proficiency -- to identify particular instructional support strategies that help students with similar achievement to grow more quickly academically. And within a school, users can readily identify which student groups/grades/subjects are experiencing the best academic outcomes.

These reports are fully accessible to the public under the Accountability folder in Fusion; suppression rules have been applied to ensure confidentiality for individual students. If you have questions about the information in these reports, please contact Deb Lindsey at 777-8753.