

Considerations for STAR assessments within New York’s educator evaluation framework

Five-point plan

STAR Enterprise™ is linked to the New York State Assessment Program¹ and aligned to the Common Core State Standards. STAR data can be an additional indicator within an educator evaluation framework. Renaissance Learning™ suggests considering the 5-point plan below when using STAR data for this purpose.

1. *Start with your plan.*
2. *Focus on teaching and learning.*
3. *Support your district’s efforts with professional development.*
4. *Reflect and act mid-year with 3+1.* We recommend screening with STAR Enterprise assessments in fall, winter, and spring, plus one extra test. This way, STAR will provide a trend line by mid-winter so teachers and principals can see the path ahead—in time to adjust it.
5. *Look at the big picture: district-wide improvement.*

Using STAR data

When using STAR assessment data as an additional indicator within an educator evaluation framework, Renaissance Learning strongly encourages educators to focus on growth as opposed to end-of-year spring scores. We also recommend screening in fall, winter, and spring, plus at least one extra test. This way, STAR will provide a trend line by mid-winter so teachers and principals can see the path ahead—in time to adjust it.

STAR assessments will begin reporting student growth percentile (SGP) in Spring 2012. SGP compares a student’s growth to that of his or her academic peers nationwide. By academic peers we mean students of the same ability level as well as the same grade level. SGP is reported on a 1 to 99 scale. For example, if a student has an SGP of 90, it means his growth from one test to another was better than 90 percent of students of the same ability in the same grade. Many states already report student growth percentile including New Jersey, Colorado, and Indiana. New York is considering using this metric.

Renaissance Learning collects data for the student growth percentiles in STAR during three time periods: fall, winter, and spring. Therefore, to see SGPs, students must be tested within the following date ranges: Fall: August 1—October 15; Winter: December 15—February 15; Spring: April 15—June 15

As one possibility, New York educators can consider using the SGP ranges below in relation to New York’s four educator evaluation categories. Please note, you should always consider your students, your experiences, your goals, your state guidelines, and measurement error when defining the best approach and assigning score ranges.

NY level	Median SGP
Ineffective	1-20
Developing	21-40
Effective	41-60
Highly Effective	61-99

Safeguards

Renaissance Learning takes educator evaluation as seriously as you do. Therefore, we recommend also reviewing the 10 safeguards to ensure thoughtful use of short-cycle interim assessment within evaluation. These safeguards were developed with input from a panel of experts and can be of great help to you during this process. <http://www.renlearn.com/lp/PolicyBrief/default.asp>

¹ STAR Reading Enterprise™ is linked to NYSTP for ELA. A linking between STAR Math Enterprise™ and NYSTP for Math is forthcoming.