

May 26, 2011

Dear District Administrator:

I am writing to inform you that student growth percentile reports are now available. Districts may access and download individual student growth reports as well as a variety of aggregate growth reports from the Secure Access File Exchange (SAFE).

Student growth percentile reports are part of DPI's longitudinal data system (LDS), and because these reports contain confidential student data, they are available only to districts through SAFE, a password protected tool. Access to SAFE/LDS is monitored by your district's Application Security Manager (ASM) Administrator. If you would like to access these reports, or request access to SAFE for others on your staff, please contact your district's [ASM Administrator](#). If your district does not yet have access, follow the steps in this [SAFE Quick Start Guide](#) for accessing your reports.

We envision using the growth reports in conjunction with other measures—AYP reports, end of year report cards, local assessment reports—to examine the progress of students, classes, grades, schools, and even the district as a whole. For more on what these growth reports can and cannot tell us, see DPI's [Growth Webpage](#). We have also posted guiding documents that will assist you in reading and interpreting both individual student and aggregate reports.

Growth reports can be a terrific resource. I hope this increased access to data enriches your conversations around student achievement, and aids your planning for next year. Please contact us (ldshelp@dpi.wi.gov) if you have any questions on the interpretation or use of these reports.

A final bit of good news: the growth reports will be available for districts in a secure, highly interactive online tool in September 2011. The online tool will allow authorized district users to drill through aggregate reports to access individual student longitudinal growth information, filter and examine growth for different groups, and look at growth data alongside other performance indicators. More information about DPI's new reporting system, called a business intelligence tool, is available from our LDS webpage: <http://dpi.wi.gov/lds>.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Thayer, PhD
Assistant State Superintendent
Division for Student and School Success

JT:sjb

c: DACs, District LDS Security Administrators