

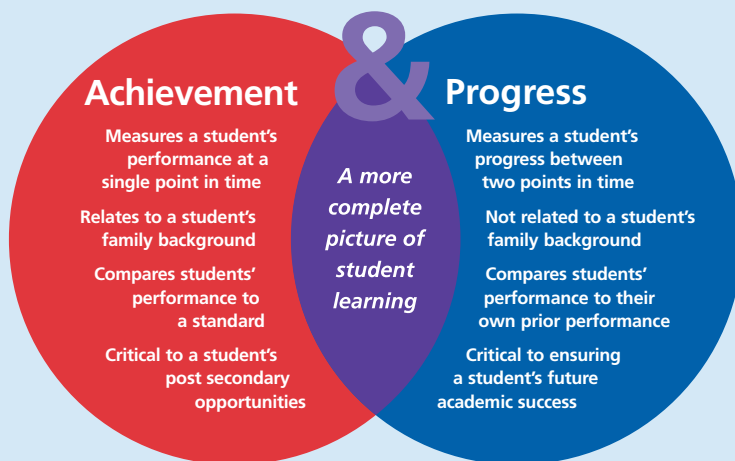
What is Value-Added Analysis?

Value-added analysis is a statistical method that helps educators measure the impact schools and teachers have on students' academic progress rates from year to year.

Using this growth metric, teachers, schools and districts can better determine the impact of their curriculum, instruction, programs and practices on student achievement.

Achievement vs. Progress

In education, the words "achievement" and "progress" are often used interchangeably. However, their meanings are very different.



Achievement is measured by students' performance at a single point in time and how well those students perform against a standard. Achievement typically has been measured by students' performance on state tests and how well students perform in relation to state standards and the "bar" established for proficiency. To date, performance of districts, schools and teachers has been determined almost exclusively by the number of students who pass the state tests.

Progress is measured by how much "gain" or "growth" students make over time (i.e., year to year, semester to semester, etc.). Think of academic progress in terms of a child's growth chart. A growth chart shows a child's height at age two, three, etc. These data points can be plotted to display that child's physical growth over a specific period of time.

Why Measuring Students' Academic Progress is Important

Consider this example:

Johnny is scoring above state and federal proficiency levels, but is experiencing less than expected academic growth. **Suzy** isn't meeting academic standards, but she is making significant growth for the year and making progress in the right direction.

To date, most state accountability systems annually evaluate a school's success based on the average achievement level of students at each grade. In this type of system, Johnny and his school would be considered successful, while Suzy and her school would be below standard.

By measuring students' academic achievement and progress, schools and districts have a more robust, comprehensive picture of their effectiveness in raising student performance.

