

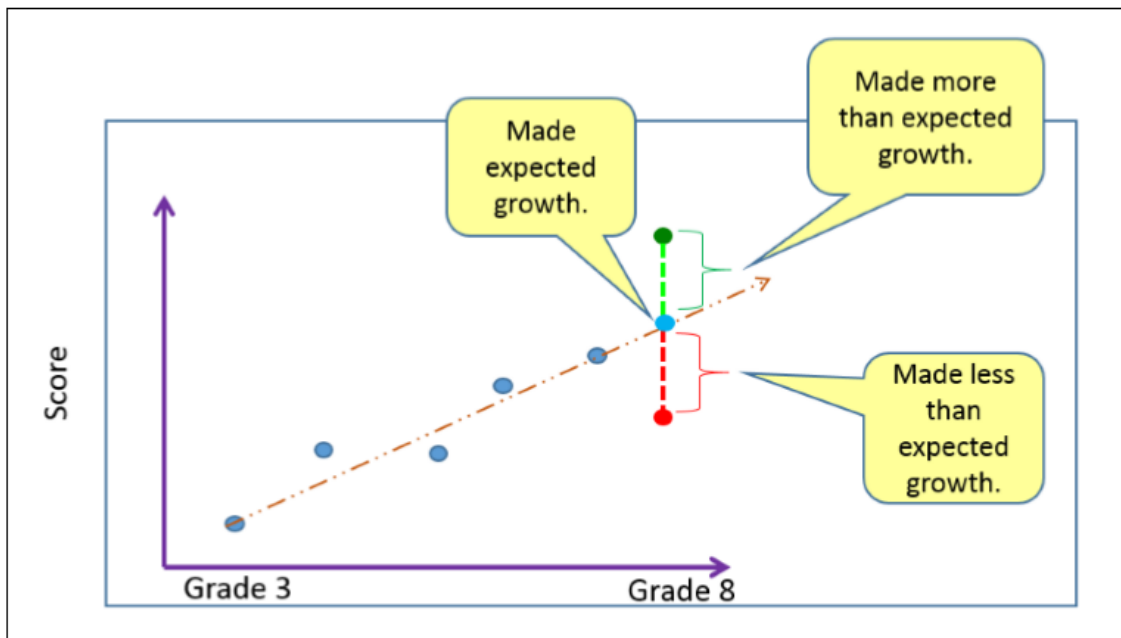
School Growth Explanation: School Value-Added Growth

What is a Growth Model?

A growth model describes the change in student achievement over a period of time. The growth model used in Arkansas is a value-added growth model that helps answer the question:

How much did a student grow this year compared to how much we thought he/she would grow based on what we know about his/her achievement in prior years (the student's score history)?

The chart below illustrates how a value-added score is determined for a student.



The student growth score is the difference between what the student is expected to achieve, based on prior achievement scores, and what the student achieves in the current year. Each growth score tells us whether each student performed as well as expected, based on how he/she performed in earlier years. We expect students to meet or exceed their expected growth if they are to be ready for college, career, and life.

Why Use a Value-added Model?

A value-added model helps separate the effects of non-school related factors (e.g. poverty) on the student's change in achievement so that the student's growth expectation is more precise. This means students are expected to learn and grow by at least a certain amount each year based on their own score history, regardless of how high, low, or average their achievement is entering the year.