

How to Read the Value-Added Charts

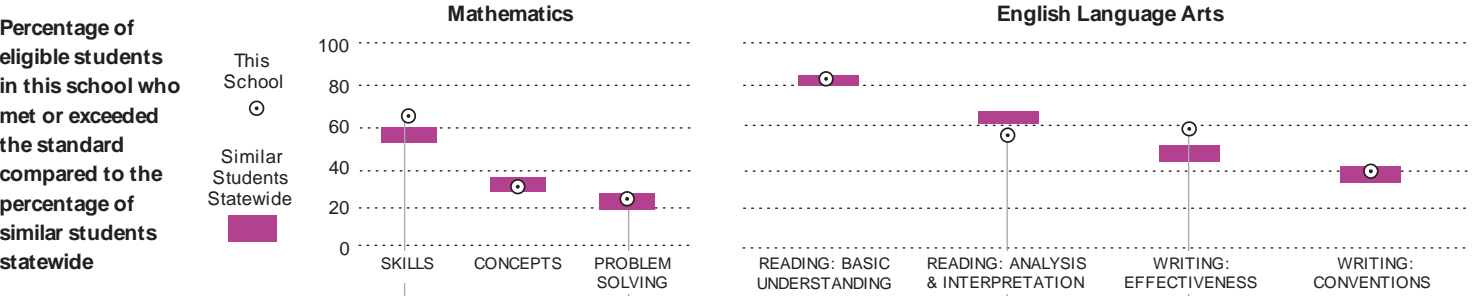
What is "value added"?

The chart below shows a sample of one of the fields that appears on the first page of each school report. This chart shows the relationship between the actual performance of students in this school -- expressed as a percentage of the students who met or exceeded the standard on the state tests -- compared with the statistically generated performance range of similar students statewide. The bull's-eye indicates the actual performance in this school; the shaded rectangle shows the performance of similar students statewide.

What is the value-added list?

The lower chart on this page -- "Your school in the Value-Added list" -- illustrates how the value-added list is drawn from each school report. A **purple** number indicates that the school's students performed better than their counterparts statewide (wherever the bull's eye is above the shaded area on Field 2). The **italic black** number indicates that the school's students performed worse than similar students statewide (wherever the bull's eye is below the shaded area). 'Regular type' indicates that the school's students performed the same as similar students statewide (wherever the bull's eye falls within the shaded area).

The value-added field from your school's Information Works! report card:



Your school in the Value-Added list:

School Name & District	Mathematics: Skills	Mathematics: Problem Solving	ELA Reading: Analysis & Interpretation	ELA Writing: Effectiveness
Example School, RI District	64%	23%	55%	58%

All numbers are expressed as the percentage of students who met or exceeded the standard.

Purple % shows that the percentage is **more than** the proportion of similar students statewide.

Regular type % shows that the percentage is the same as the proportion of similar students statewide.

Italic black % shows that the percentage is **less than** the proportion of similar students statewide.

Modeling Rhode Island Schools

Because Rhode Island is such a small state, the entire body of students enrolled in public schools serves as a context from which the test and grade-specific ranges were derived. (In 2002, this was 158,046 students.) Thus, groups of students within a school are compared with similar groups of students statewide; schools themselves are not sorted for comparisons. The computer-generated ranges will change depending on the test because, for example, a writing assessment is more strongly affected by language minority status than a math test. The model uses one year of assessment data.

How Schools are Assigned to Cohorts in the Value-Added Charts

	Subtest	Subtest	Subtest	Subtest
Cohort 1: Set of schools performing at above average level in all of the reported subtests.	Above	Above	Above	Above
Cohort 2: Set of schools performing at above average level in three of the reported subtests and at the average in one subtest.	Above	Above	Above	Within
Cohort 3: Set of schools performing at above average level in three of the reported subtests and below average in one subtest.	Above	Above	Above	Below
Cohort 4: Set of schools performing at above average level in two of the reported subtests and at the average in two subtests.	Above	Above	Within	Within
Cohort 5: Set of schools performing at above average level in two of the reported subtests, at the average in one subtest, and below average in one subtest.	Above	Above	Within	Below
Cohort 6: Set of schools performing at above average level in two of the reported subtests and below average in two subtests.	Above	Above	Below	Below
Cohort 7: Set of schools performing at above average level in one of the reported subtests and at the average in three subtests.	Above	Within	Within	Within
Cohort 8: Set of schools performing at above average level in one of the reported subtests, at the average in two subtests, and below average in one subtest.	Above	Within	Within	Below
Cohort 9: Set of schools performing at above average level in one of the reported subtests, at the average in one subtest, and below average in two subtests.	Above	Within	Below	Below
Cohort 10: Set of schools performing at above average level in one of the reported subtests, and below average in three subtests.	Above	Below	Below	Below
Cohort 11: Set of schools performing at the average level in all of the reported subtests.	Within	Within	Within	Within
Cohort 12: Set of schools performing at the average level in three of the reported subtests, and below average in one subtest.	Within	Within	Within	Below
Cohort 13: Set of schools performing at the average level in two of the reported subtests, and below average in two subtests.	Within	Within	Below	Below
Cohort 14: Set of schools performing at the average level in one of the reported subtests, and below average in three subtests.	Within	Below	Below	Below
Cohort 15: Set of schools performing below average in all of the reported subtests.	Below	Below	Below	Below

Please note:

Schools are merely alphabetized within each cohort. Within each band, all the schools' performance are statistically the same. Not all charts need to use all 15 cohort arrangements.