



April 27, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

On Monday, May 9, 2022, the 2020-21 Academic Growth data will be added to the Future Ready PA Index (<http://futurereadypa.org>). When viewing this data, the following context is critical:

- PDE extended the 2020-21 assessment window through fall 2021 to maximize schools' ability to safely administer federally-mandated assessments. The extension of the window delayed reporting of this data accordingly.
- Participation in 2020-21 state assessments decreased more than 25% from 2018-19, the last regular administration of the assessments.
- Pandemic-related disruptions impacted testing conditions to varying degrees across schools and regions. Given the differential effects of the pandemic, comparisons between schools across districts or across school years are improper. Individual school or student specific growth data may be more useful.
- In any year, multiple data points, such as participation and attendance rates, academic performance data, and local assessment data, should be considered simultaneously when analyzing student growth.
- 2020-21 Academic Growth results were not used in educator evaluation.

Data from the 2021-22 assessments will be used for state and federal accountability purposes. The penalty for participation below 95% on this year's assessments has not been waived. A school's Proficiency ratings will be adjusted to reflect low participation rates. Academic Performance and Growth data associated with the assessments for the 2021-22 school year will be available on the Future Ready PA Index in Fall 2022.

Any questions may be directed to the PDE Division of Assessment and Accountability at [ra-edfuturereadypa@pa.gov](mailto:ra-edfuturereadypa@pa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian W. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Brian W. Campbell  
Director  
Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction