



## POWERSHOT COMPANION

# Students with a History of Lower Achievement: Can They Grow, Too?

*This document supports the presentation and video PowerShot:*

**Students with a History of Lower Achievement: Can They Grow, Too?**

*available on PDE's PA Data PowerShot webpage at [pa.gov/education](https://pa.gov/education) >*

### Who might use this Powershot?

The intended audience is LEA/District, School, and Teacher Leaders.

### Why use this Powershot?

This Powershot provides a brief overview of how an LEA/District, School, or Teacher Leader can:

- Examine the process and data used to identify students with a history of lower achievement;
- Enhance the belief that this group of students can show academic growth, even if they have not yet achieved proficiency; and
- Examine effectiveness of past practices and supports for students with a history of lower achievement to inform current needs, interventions, and resource allocations.

### How might you use this PA Data Powershot in your work?

There are a number of opportunities to make use of this Powershot! Below are some examples to get started:

- Use in an LEA/district meeting to identify patterns or trends in growth and achievement for students with a history of lower achievement, with the goal of informing current practices that influence the identification, supports, services, and resources to support teaching and learning for this student group.
- Use in a school-level faculty meeting to: (1) examine past growth of students with a history of lower achievement, to enhance service delivery and instruction to best meet the needs of this student group, and (2) identify current students who have a history of lower achievement to discuss instructional needs and reinforce the understanding that this group of students can grow.
- Use in new teacher induction training to: (1) support learning about the differentiation of instruction for all types of learners, and (2) discuss the importance of measuring achievement and growth for all learners and the impact the teacher has on learning.



## What are possible follow-up action steps?

- Watch the Powershot as part of a broader discussion about growth for all types of learners and the need to use data to differentiate for individual students and groups of students.
- Examine demographic data to gain a complete understanding of representation of this student group across the LEA/district, school, and grade. This could include a review of the criteria used for identification of students with a history of lower achievement.
- Review historical growth and achievement data for this student group across schools and grade levels.
  - *Utilize PVAAS reporting, particularly the Growth of Student Groups and Diagnostic reports along with local assessment data, to include all students identified as having a history of lower achievement .*
  - *Celebrate success and identify areas of need.*
- Review service delivery models across grades and subjects, and review student outcomes (achievement and growth data, along with perceptual data) to identify what's working and where improvements are needed.
- Facilitate networking across schools, subjects, and grades to share effective practices relative to the teaching and learning of students with a history of lower achievement.
- Provide professional learning opportunities that prepare teachers to support students who have a history of lower achievement, utilizing the *PVAAS Digging Deeper Guide for Students with a History of Lower Achievement* and other related resources.

## Resources

You may access the resources referenced in the PA Data Powershot with the links provided below:

- [e-Learning Module: Concept of Growth](https://pvaas.sas.com/videos/PA/e-Learning/Concept-of-Growth/index.html#/)  
<https://pvaas.sas.com/videos/PA/e-Learning/Concept-of-Growth/index.html#/>  
Self-paced professional learning module designed to support the understanding and application of growth data as measured by PVAAS
- [Digging Deeper: Students with a History of Lower Achievement \(PDF\)](https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/education/documents/instruction/assessment-and-accountability/pvaas/diggingdeeper/pde_diggingdeeper_lowerachievement.pdf)  
[https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/education/documents/instruction/assessment-and-accountability/pvaas/diggingdeeper/pde\\_diggingdeeper\\_lowerachievement.pdf](https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/education/documents/instruction/assessment-and-accountability/pvaas/diggingdeeper/pde_diggingdeeper_lowerachievement.pdf)  
Provides data teams with specific variables in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Organization (CIAO), relative to the needs of students with histories of lower achievement, for the purpose of determining root causes to guide current planning strategies