



POWERSHOT COMPANION

Baseball and PVAAS: What's the Connection?

This document supports the presentation and video PowerShot:

**Baseball and PVAAS:
What's the Connection?**

available on PDE's PA Data

PowerShot webpage at

[pa.gov/education >](http://pa.gov/education)

Who might use this Powershot?

The intended audience is LEA/District Leaders, School Leaders, K-12 Content Leaders, Teacher Leaders, and Teachers.

Why use this PA Data Powershot?

This Powershot uses a simple baseball analogy to illustrate the concept of growth. While it takes liberties with both the rules of baseball, as well as the statistical modeling behind the PVAAS growth measure, the analogy is useful to:

- Explain the overall concept of growth as measured by PVAAS, and how growth, along with achievement, provides a fuller picture of student outcomes;
- Clarify misconceptions about growth, specifically the misconception that it is harder or easier to show growth with certain types of learners; and
- Ensure a solid understanding that growth is about groups of students and moving all students forward from their starting points each year.

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

There are several opportunities to make use of this Powershot! For example:

- **Induction program:** To introduce and emphasize the concept and power of growth
- **PLCs and data meetings:** To reinforce concept of growth and clarify misconceptions about growth
- **Professional learning sessions:** As an introduction to a discussion that explores attitudes and beliefs regarding the statement, “all students can grow”
- **Upon PVAAS data release:** For a review of growth (faculty meetings, grade/subject meetings, etc.)
- **LEA/District administrative meeting:** To confirm a strong grasp of growth as measured by PVAAS across LEA leadership.

What are possible follow-up action steps?

- Ask a teacher to view the Powershot video prior to teacher conferences on PVAAS data and other key data sets.
- Ask a teacher to view and discuss the video prior to the principal-teacher collaborative process of working through the *Teacher Self-Reflection Guides*. Guides for Data Available and Non-Data Available Teachers are available on the [Using PVAAS as a Teacher webpage](#).
- Develop a professional learning activity that engages staff in a discussion about student learning. The activity might include checks for understanding (with why or why-not responses) with the following types of questions:
 - » If students on 3rd base were “blue,” is it because those students grasp learning easily? — or — If students on 3rd base were “red,” is it because they are already high achieving, and they have no room to grow?
 - » Is it easier to get a “blue” with students with a history of lower achievement (1st base) because they have more room to grow? — or — Is the “red” for students on 1st base because those students are hard to teach?
 - » Do you think a 6th grade group of math students is “red” is because they were “blue” the year before and it is hard to make that level of growth in consecutive years? — or — Do you think our 6th grade group of math students was “blue” because they were “red” the year before and we were able to make up ground in their learning?
 - » If students on 1st base are “blue,” does that mean the students in that group are all proficient?
 - » If students on 3rd base are “red,” is it possible that all of the students may still be scoring in the proficient and advanced ranges?
- Use prior to a professional learning opportunity around teaching students with a history of higher achievement, as well as teaching students with a history of lower achievement, utilizing *PVAAS Digging Deeper Guides* for students with a *History of Higher Achievement* and with a *History of Lower Achievement*.

Links to Resources

Access the resources referenced in the PA Data Powershot with the links provided below:

- [Digging Deeper Resources webpage](#) with access to five (5) Digging Deeper Guides:
 - » ELA and Keystone Literature
 - » Math and Keystone Algebra
 - » Science and Keystone Biology
 - » Students with a History of Higher Achievement
 - » Students with a History of Lower Achievement
- [Teacher Self-Reflection Guide \(Data Available Teachers\)](#)
- [Teacher Self-Reflection Guide \(Non-Data Available Teachers\)](#)

