

Smarter Balanced Rough Cohort Report FAQ

What does the report show?

The report shows the achievement of a group of students across grade and time (e.g., Grade 3 in 2016-17 to Grade 4 in 2017-18 to Grade 5 in 2018-19). The measure used to track this change is the average Smarter Balanced scale score. To provide a reference for interpretation, the average scale score is plotted on a chart that displays the Smarter Balanced achievement levels for all grades 3 through 8.

How are students grouped into “rough cohorts”?

For the purposes of this report, students are assigned to a high school graduating class based on the grade in the year in which they tested. For example, a student who took the 7th grade Smarter Balanced assessment in spring 2018 is assigned to the Class of 2023 while a student who took the 3rd grade assessment in spring 2016 is assigned to the Class of 2025.

How is this report different from Connecticut’s Smarter Balanced growth model results?

Connecticut’s growth model is based on matched cohorts; growth is calculated for the same student from one year to the next. The rough cohort report, on the other hand, is not based on matched students. Another difference is that Connecticut’s growth model establishes individual student growth expectations while the rough cohort report presents average change in achievement over time and across grades.

How is this report different from the Trend Data report?

The data points in the Rough Cohort report are the same as those in the Trend Data report. The difference between the two reports is that the trend report links “the same grade across years” together (yellow highlighted in the table below) while the rough cohort report links “the same rough cohort across years” together (green highlighted).

District		School Year									
		2015-16			2016-17			2017-18			
		Total Number with Scored Tests	Percentage Level 3 or 4 (Met or Exceeded) %	Average VSS	Total Number with Scored Tests	Percentage Level 3 or 4 (Met or Exceeded) %	Average VSS	Total Number with Scored Tests	Percentage Level 3 or 4 (Met or Exceeded) %	Average VSS	
State of Connecticut	03	38,867	52.8	2438	38,013	53.1	2439	37,470	53.8	2440	Grade 4 Trend
	04	38,384	47.9	2478	39,160	50.0	2482	38,304	51.3	2484	
	05	38,938	40.8	2501	38,655	42.9	2505	39,533	45.0	2510	
	06	38,962	40.6	2521	39,030	43.6	2526	38,942	43.9	2527	
	07	39,954	41.8	2538	39,032	42.7	2541	39,261	44.1	2542	Class 2023
	08	39,179	40.3	2551	39,954	41.8	2554	39,296	43.0	2558	

What questions can this report help me answer?

- How are different groups of students achieving over time in my district/school?
- Is growth greater in some grades than others? Does that pattern hold for all graduating classes?
- How does growth in the elementary grades compare to that in the middle grades?
- Are newer classes entering at similar/lower/higher achievement levels than prior classes?

What other tips can you offer with regard to making the most of this report?

Select no more than two to three graduating classes at a time. Hover over the data points to see additional information. To clear all filters and start afresh, simply refresh the page.