

Diamond Lake Students are Growing!

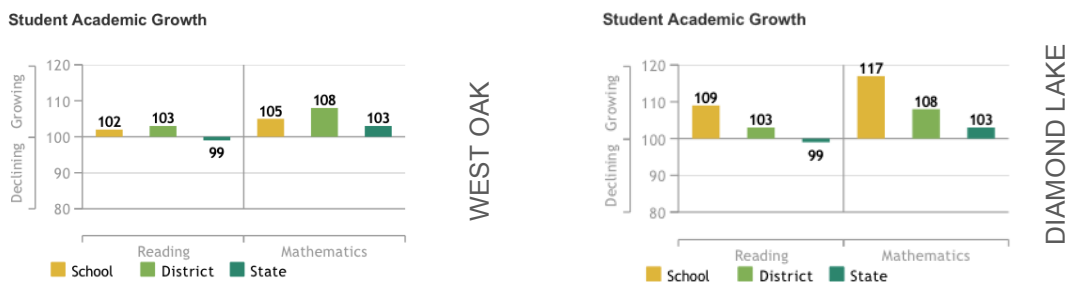
Diamond Lake and West Oak Exceed State Averages for Growth in Reading and Mathematics

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) was determined by whether a school or district was able to meet an established performance target. AYP only reflected how schools and districts performed at one point in time and did not reflect changes over time in student achievement.

The new national trend in analyzing school or district data is to closely examine *student growth* by calculating a growth metric for each individual student and averaging these metrics to obtain a school and district score. These metrics are used solely to calculate a school and district growth score and are not meaningful information for individual students. Simply stated, examining student growth provides another way for schools and communities to measure the effectiveness of academic programs at the school and district level and can be used for efficient and effective planning.

All members of the Diamond Lake 76 community have worked collaboratively and diligently throughout the past two years to strengthen the academic program and enhance services for students. Deliberate initiatives were implemented to enhance district curricula and assessment capabilities, procure academic interventions, and improve instructional design methodologies.

Fortunately, the District is beginning to see the fruits of its labors. In addition to other achievement data that quantifies formidable academic improvement, the State of Illinois has validated that our students who were assessed via ISAT are *growing*. In fact, our students have exceeded the state average for growth! The following graphs depict school, District, and state growth scores.



This is an exciting time for the District and underscores the fact that we are doing exceptional things for our students. Detailed information about the Illinois growth model and other pertinent school and District data can be found within this year's *District Report Card*, which can be found on the District website in the days ahead.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Our intent is to provide robust information regarding the District's reform efforts. I am confident that each of our schools is equipped to meet the diverse needs of our outstanding students. More importantly, as the students' needs are met, they will continue to *grow* academically.

Sincerely,
Joseph A. Petrella, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools