

### **Overview:**

Student learning targets (SLTs) are tools that enable teachers to set meaningful goals for academic progress over a given period of time. SLTs set an expectation of student growth over a given period of time and provide a metric of teacher evaluation. Below are answers to frequently asked questions about student learning targets (SLTs).

### **Can an SLT be based on a group or class average or does it have to be based on individual students?**

It is up to the school system, local education agency (LEA), or educator to determine the targeted student population.

### **Can tiered or individual SLTs be used for whole-class SLTs or targeted SLTs?**

Tiered and individual growth targets are suggested when setting SLTs for the whole class. Targeted growth targets are an appropriate measure to use as a second SLT when the first includes all students.

### **How often and under what circumstances can an SLT be revised by a teacher/leader after it is submitted?**

Teacher - The revision of SLTs can be made December through January during the mid-year review for year-long SLTs and October through November for semester-long SLTs.

Principal - Revisions to SLTs are unable to be made as SLTs are based on overall school performance improvement and growth in a component (ELA or Math) of the school performance score.

### **Who is required to write SLTs?**

A minimum of two student learning targets shall be identified for teachers and administrators per [Bulletin 130](#).

### **How do you determine the achievement ranges?**

Teachers- Achievement ranges are determined by the LEA or school system.

Principal- See the [K-8 Goal Setting Targets](#), [High School Goal Setting Targets](#), or the [Combination Principal Goal Setting Toolkit](#) for guidance on setting achievement ranges. Additional requirements may also be determined by the LEA or school system.

### **Can a school or LEA prescribe SLTs for teachers?**

Yes. LEAs may define consistent student learning targets across schools and classrooms for teachers with similar assignments, provided that they allow for ample flexibility to address the specific needs of students in each classroom.

### **Can you list all appropriate elementary assessments that can be used to write SLTs?**

The [Student Learning Target Assessment Identification Guidebook](#) provides a list of appropriate assessments for each grade band and subject.

- **Can you use a portion of a LEAP 360 assessment for an SLT?**

Yes, as long as the portion utilized is in alignment with the set growth measure.

### **What is the best data to use when writing SLTs?**

The [Student Learning Target Assessment Identification Guidebook](#) provides a list of suggested baseline data appropriate for each grade band and subject.

### **How do you use LEAP 360 Diagnostic assessments when writing SLTs? (See above guidebook).**

Diagnostic assessments pinpoint existing strengths and weaknesses of students entering classrooms. In math, items assess students' mastery of prerequisite standards for the major work of the course. In ELA, items have been developed using readily accessible and moderately complex texts. Results of diagnostic assessments allow teachers to identify areas where students are likely to struggle so that they can write meaningful goals.

**As a regular education teacher, am I required to include SPED in my SLT when the SPED teacher already includes those students?**

Yes. SLTs should be a reflection of all students taught in the class or course. However, regular education and special education teachers can work collaboratively to create SLTs.

**What assessments can be used to write SLTs for special education?**

Special education teachers should use the same assessments as indicated in the [Student Learning Target Assessment Identification Guidebook](#) taking into consideration any additional data as defined by the student's individual education plan. (IEP) LEAP Connect data should be used for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities.

**Additional Resources**

[Understanding the Evaluation Framework: SLTs and VAM](#)

[Teacher Goal Setting Worksheet](#)

[CIS User Guide \(Student Learning Targets\)](#)

[Bulletin 130](#)