

Good morning Members of the Authority and Staff, my name is Emma Davis, and I'm the Dean of Faculty for Equipo Academy. Today, I'm here to shed light on the challenges and limitations of the growth data that was used for last year's state reporting. Additionally, I want to advocate for Title I schools that serve our most underserved communities, particularly those with positive records of achievement before and during the pandemic.

Due to systemic inequities in communities like East Las Vegas, students often enter Equipo Academy far below grade level. Therefore, while a student in 6th through 8th grade may not be proficient by the end of the year, they often grow multiple grade levels per annum. However, the largest school district in the state chose not to require state testing during the pandemic, which obscured the data that was the key to our middle school's five-star rating in 2019.

In 2021, Equipo Academy made every effort to ensure that we tested over 95% of our student body, while Clark County School District, on average, tested only 54% of its students. The Nevada Department of Education even admitted to this skewing of Student Growth Targets in a memo sent out in September 2023. Despite the flawed data set, the Nevada Department of Education went ahead with the star rating without correcting for the skew, even though 50% of the Nevada School Performance Framework is based on student growth.

Our recent MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) growth scores, provided to you show that our students outperformed many of the 9500 schools and districts that take the quarterly exam in reading. As evident from the graphs provided, 45% of our sixth, now seventh-graders, met or exceeded their MAP growth goals. Additionally, 44% of our seventh, now eighth-graders, and 52% of our eighth, now ninth-graders, met or exceeded their MAP growth goals, outperforming 62% of all eighth-graders that take MAP across the country.

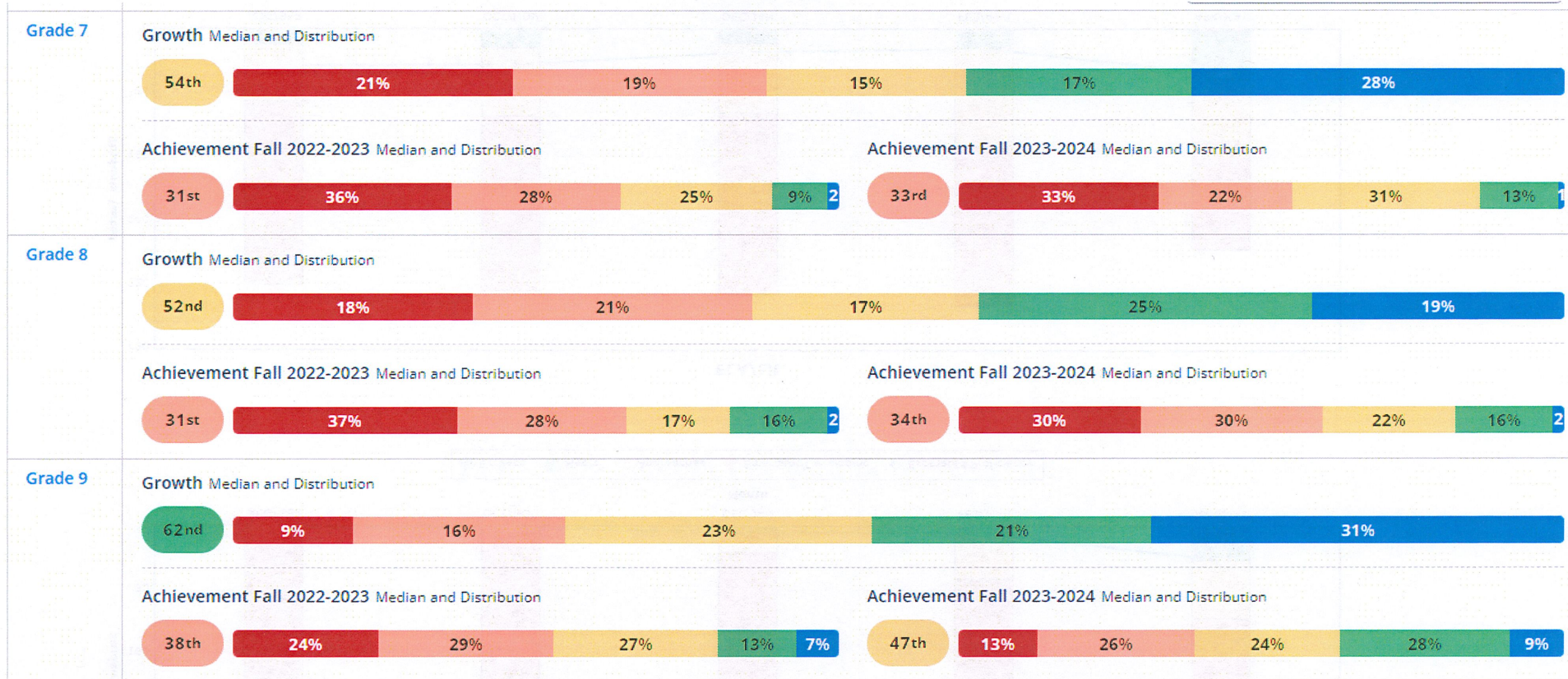
At Equipo Academy, our middle schoolers take a monthly assessment aligned with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), the standardized test on which NSPF ratings are based. The proficiency rates of our students throughout the year on an aligned standardized exam are displayed in another graph I have provided. Notice how the red sections, students far below grade level, shrink as the year goes on, while the green section, students on grade level grows. Even students who stay in the red exhibit growth that can't be captured in these broad strokes of data.

For example, last year's sixth-grade class showed an average movement in their math Evaluate proficiency scores from 24% in August to 42% by April. And last year's eighth-grade class more than doubled their proficiency scores from 21% to 54% mastery of the same skills the SBAC tests for. Despite the pandemic's lingering effects that are still affecting schools like ours nationwide, growth is continuing at Equipo Academy.

It is essential to note that 50 of the 100 points on the Nevada State Performance Framework are based on student growth. At Equipo Academy, our students are demonstrating growth according to data points beyond SBAC. However, this growth is not recognized because of the choices made for us by others, rather than the choices and work we have made ourselves. This sends the wrong message to schools and undermines the efforts of students and faculty alike.

What message does it send to our students when we can point to the growth they have made, but due to choices made by others, that progress doesn't count? I urge this esteemed body to recognize the inequity of this year's NSPF scores and choose not to deliver letters of concern to schools with a proven track record for student growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



# Measures Academic Progress (MAP) Reading Comparing Fall 2022-2023 to Fall 2023-2024

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# Evaluate Proficiency Data Across 2022-2023

