June
2025

ISASP

IOWA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT of STUDENT PROGRESS

Using Growth on the ISASP to Establish Goals in Reading and Mathematics

Prepared By
Iowa Testing Programs

Acknowledgements

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Using Growth on the ISASP to Establish Goals

The Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) Scale Score metric can be used to measure growth between two administrations of the assessment. The difference between two scale scores can be calculated and compared against state and district results. Growth can also be used to set a goal for future performance on ISASP.

State Growth Results

The tables on pages 3–6 in this document provide the average growth between grades in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for Reading (Table 1a) and Mathematics (Table 2a) for all students in Iowa. In addition, similar information is provided for English Learners, students that are eligible for free and reduced lunch, and students with IEPs (Tables 1b-1d and Tables 2b-2d).

The averages are based on **matched groups of students**. For example, all students included from 2023 were also included in 2024. The same is true for the 2024-2025 comparison. The nonconsecutive grade levels for Science (Grades 5, 8, and 10) do not lend themselves to parallel information and are not included in this document.

The results provided in Tables 1 and 2 describe the average growth in the state of Iowa for multiple two-year comparisons. Comparing student or school growth to these averages can be useful in establishing goals for instruction and future ISASP performance.

Setting Goals

Growth can also be used to set a goal for future performance on the ISASP. Setting growth goals for future performance should use as much information as possible (for example, knowledge of your student population, state results, transition years, and student-specific considerations). Growth results can also be compared against the state's average changes between two years. The results in Table 3 provide general guidelines for setting growth goals. Based on the state's averages, students demonstrating greater than a 40-point increase in scale scores between two years is above the 75th percentile. Students demonstrating less than a 15-point increase in scale scores are below the 25th percentile.

Table 3. Setting Goals for Growth

	Difference Between Scale Score (Year 2) and Scale Score (Year 1)
Outpacing	> 40
Steady Pace	15–40
Slower Pace	< 15

Evaluating Growth

The ISASP tests are vertically aligned and scaled. This means that each successive test level builds upon the content and skills previously measured to ensure that tests taken over multiple grade levels show a coherent progression in learning. As each test is developed for and aligned with a different grade level, student growth and progress can be monitored using the same scale. Predicted growth expectations between grade levels are shown in Table 4.

Gain scores quantify the change in student performance from one year to the next, either for individual students or groups. They are calculated by subtracting each student's prior scale score from their current-year score (i.e., $SS_{Year2} - SS_{Year1}$). The magnitude of the gain score indicates how much the group of students has changed, whereas the sign indicates if the gain is positive (signifying improvement) or negative (signifying decline).

Gain scores are especially useful for evaluating growth goals by providing insight into both the extent and direction of student progress. These results can also be compared against the predicted growth values that were defined as part of the ISASP development (Table 4). To evaluate groups, such as a class or school, average gain scores are calculated by first calculating each student's individual gain score and then taking the average over all students in the group.

A summary of student performance changes in specific groups may be found here: ISASP Matched Cohorts_2025_2024_Final

The graphs on pages 7–16 display gain score distributions for Reading and Mathematics across all Iowa students. Plotted in each graph is the predicted growth for one academic year (the red vertical line) given the ISASP Scale Score assumptions (Table 4). Also plotted is the average gain score for the matched cohort (the blue vertical line) represented by the difference between scale scores in 2025 and 2024.

Table 4. Predicted Growth Based on ISASP Vertical Scale

Grade	Mean Scale Score	Standard Deviation	Predicted Growth for One Year
03	409	28.7	
04	432	34.4	23
05	454	41.3	22
06	476	45.5	22
07	500	50.0	24
08	521	55.0	21
09	544	60.5	23
10	568	60.5	24
11	593	60.5	25

Average Change in Reading Performance Tables

Tables 1a-1d on pages 3–4 provide the average growth between grades in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for Reading.

Table 1a. Average Change in Reading Performance for Matched Cohorts of All Students

	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	36771	26.59	37354	30.41
4 to 5	36517	28.51	37639	27.61
5 to 6	36188	26.10	37331	25.42
6 to 7	35919	28.36	36936	25.08
7 to 8	36868	23.32	36809	21.59
8 to 9	37302	31.01	37436	23.06
9 to 10	38014	28.11	38026	26.17
10 to 11	36567	28.75	37484	21.55

Table 1b. Average Change in Reading Performance for Matched Cohorts of English Learners

	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	2436	20.57	2564	24.25
4 to 5	2156	26.22	2314	26.48
5 to 6	1888	21.99	2110	24.63
6 to 7	1692	24.59	1885	25.77
7 to 8	1607	24.72	1872	23.90
8 to 9	1607	24.91	1738	20.83
9 to 10	1808	19.27	1971	19.85
10 to 11	1662	31.27	1839	30.41

Table 1c. Average Change in Reading Performance for Matched Cohorts for Students Eligible to Receive Free and Reduced Lunch

	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	16136	24.67	15410	27.89
4 to 5	15802	27.38	15518	26.87
5 to 6	15168	23.42	15004	23.48
6 to 7	14897	26.87	14522	24.56
7 to 8	14962	23.67	14172	21.77
8 to 9	15023	29.16	14084	22.48
9 to 10	14724	23.99	14050	23.83
10 to 11	13232	27.90	13002	22.61

Table 1d. Average Change in Reading Performance for Matched Cohorts for Students with IEPs

	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	5481	19.12	5545	21.83
4 to 5	5262	25.37	5495	25.24
5 to 6	4847	25.14	5160	26.41
6 to 7	4544	22.87	4637	21.27
7 to 8	4450	22.25	4313	21.48
8 to 9	4200	25.75	4123	19.13
9 to 10	4056	19.92	3803	22.16
10 to 11	3342	29.51	3487	27.87

Average Change in Mathematics Performance Tables

Tables 2a-2d on pages 5–6 provide the average growth between grades in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for Mathematics.

Table 2a. Average Change in Mathematics Performance for Matched Cohorts for All Students

	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	36788	22.85	37370	23.29
4 to 5	36524	19.82	37652	20.56
5 to 6	36180	24.20	37340	25.98
6 to 7	35948	23.60	36944	25.72
7 to 8	36900	32.14	36834	33.32
8 to 9	37301	12.99	37448	15.26
9 to 10	38038	24.52	38030	25.57
10 to 11	36618	26.70	37499	29.03

Table 2b. Average Change in Mathematics Performance for Matched Cohorts for English Learners

	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	2440	18.34	2569	18.69
4 to 5	2157	20.64	2322	20.09
5 to 6	1883	19.94	2114	21.34
6 to 7	1696	21.10	1884	23.30
7 to 8	1611	27.94	1875	28.81
8 to 9	1605	9.22	1741	10.93
9 to 10	1819	32.94	1970	34.73
10 to 11	1668	20.94	1846	24.97

Table 2c. Average Change in Mathematics Performance for Matched Cohorts for Students Eligible to Receive Free and Reduced Lunch

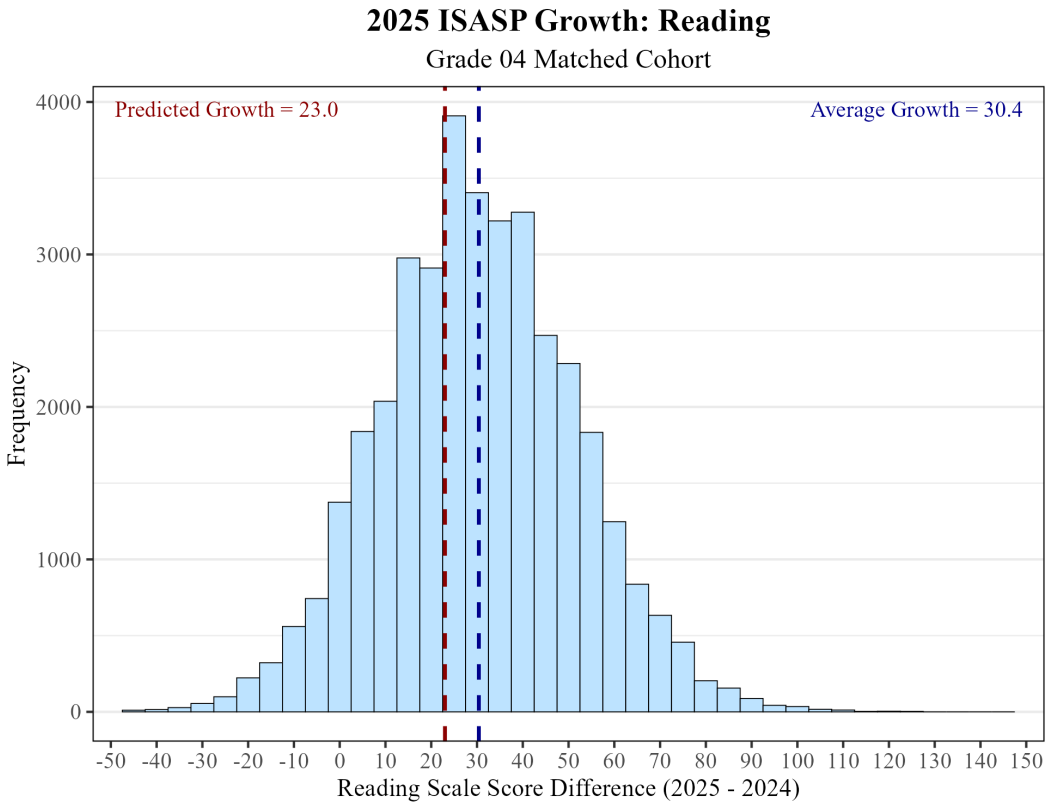
	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	16141	20.29	15417	20.25
4 to 5	15801	19.24	15531	19.68
5 to 6	15163	20.38	15009	21.97
6 to 7	14916	21.70	14529	24.00
7 to 8	14986	29.78	14195	30.48
8 to 9	15017	10.10	14101	12.36
9 to 10	14739	27.05	14053	28.15
10 to 11	13254	22.83	13013	24.52

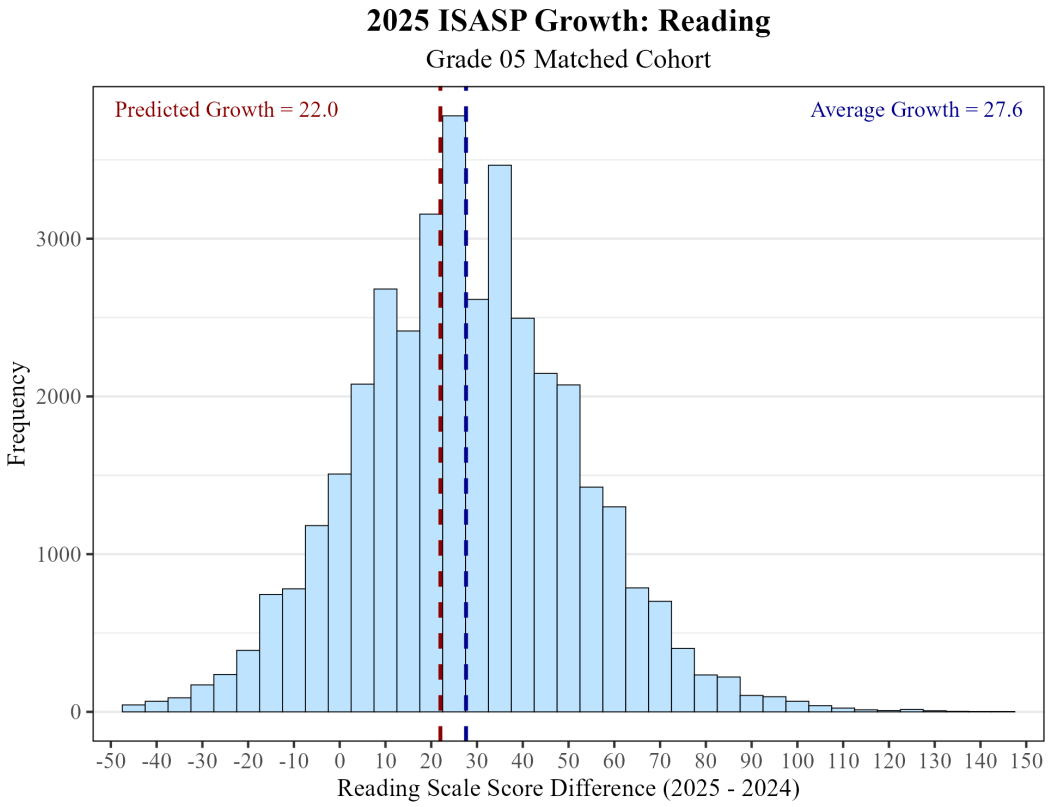
Table 2d. Average Change in Mathematics Performance for Matched Cohorts for Students with IEPs

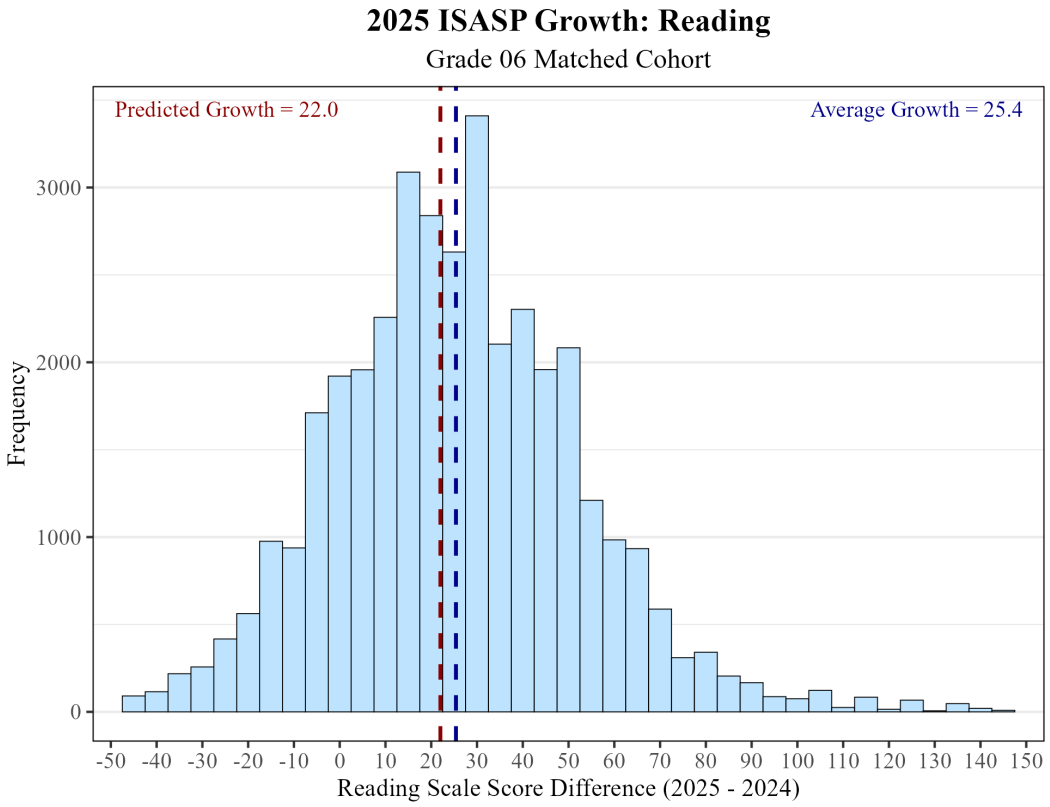
	2023–2024		2024–2025	
Grade	**N**	**Mean**	**N**	**Mean**
3 to 4	5498	17.49	5555	17.36
4 to 5	5268	17.87	5499	18.12
5 to 6	4847	19.26	5169	21.00
6 to 7	4555	19.73	4644	20.85
7 to 8	4463	27.16	4318	26.99
8 to 9	4204	9.62	4130	10.27
9 to 10	4054	32.41	3803	33.52
10 to 11	3351	18.24	3490	20.28

Gain Score Distributions for Reading

The graphs on pages 7–11 display gain score distributions for Reading across all Iowa students. Plotted in each graph is the predicted growth for one academic year (the red vertical line) given the ISASP Scale Score assumptions. Also plotted is the average gain score for the matched cohort (the blue vertical line) represented by the difference between scale scores in 2025 and 2024.




2025 ISASP Growth: Reading
Grade 05 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 22.0
Average Growth = 27.6
Frequency
0
1000
2000
3000
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
Reading Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Reading
Grade 06 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 22.0
Average Growth = 25.4
Frequency
0
1000
2000
3000
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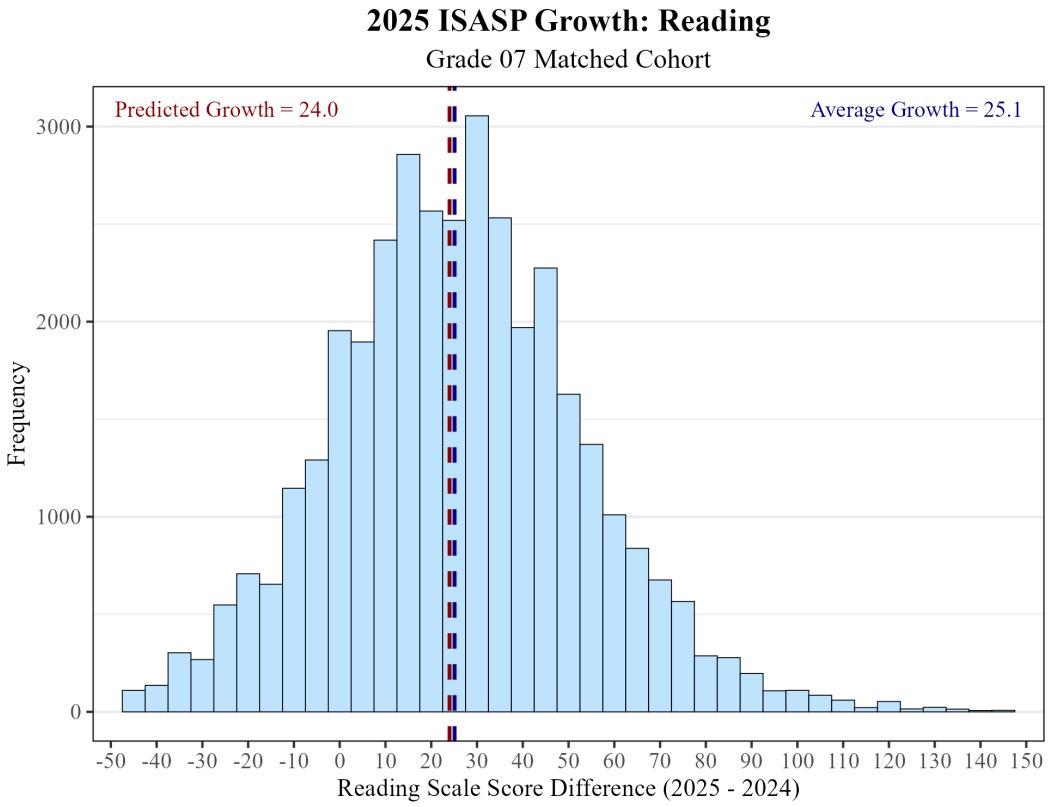
Reading Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Reading
Grade 07 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 24.0
Average Growth = 25.1
Frequency
3000
2000
1000
0
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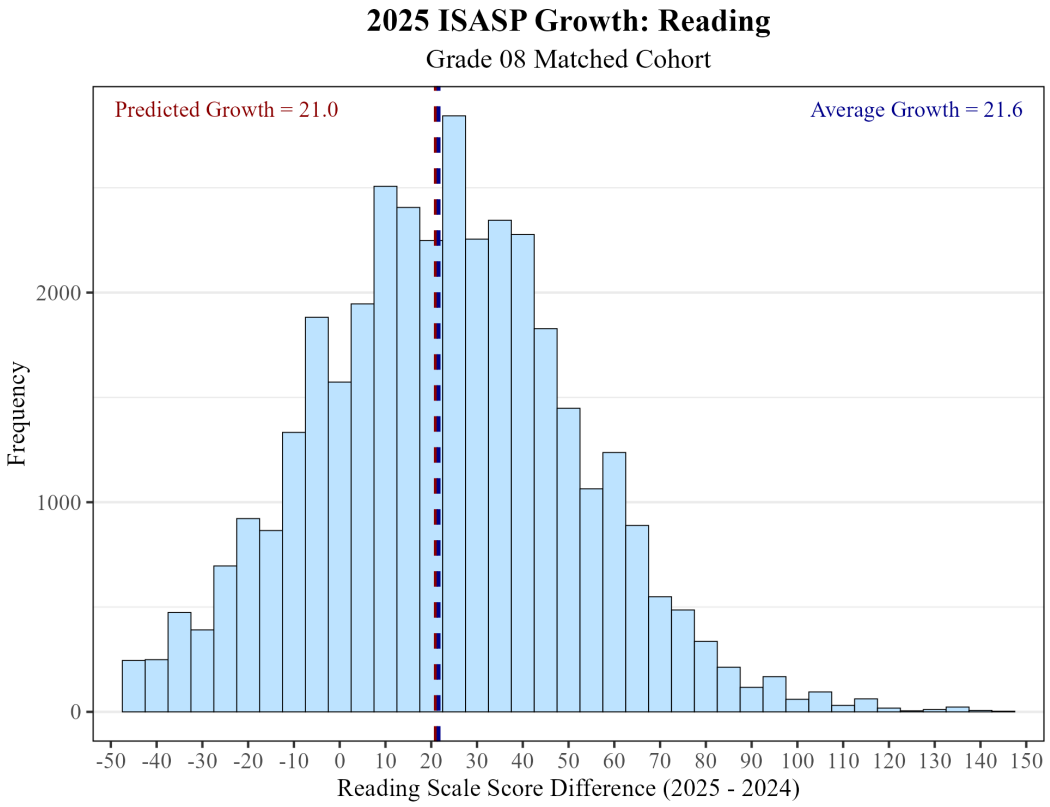
Reading Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Reading
Grade 08 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 21.0
Average Growth = 21.6
Frequency
2000
1000
0
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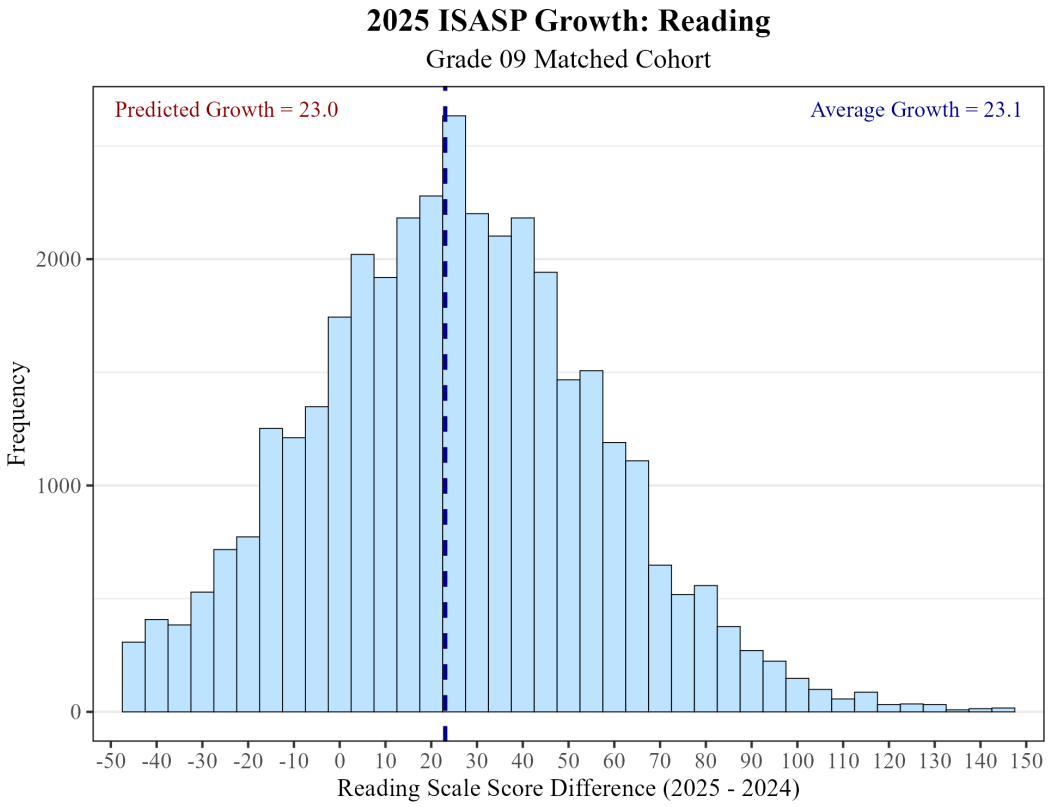
Reading Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Reading
Grade 09 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 23.0
Average Growth = 23.1
Frequency
0
1000
2000
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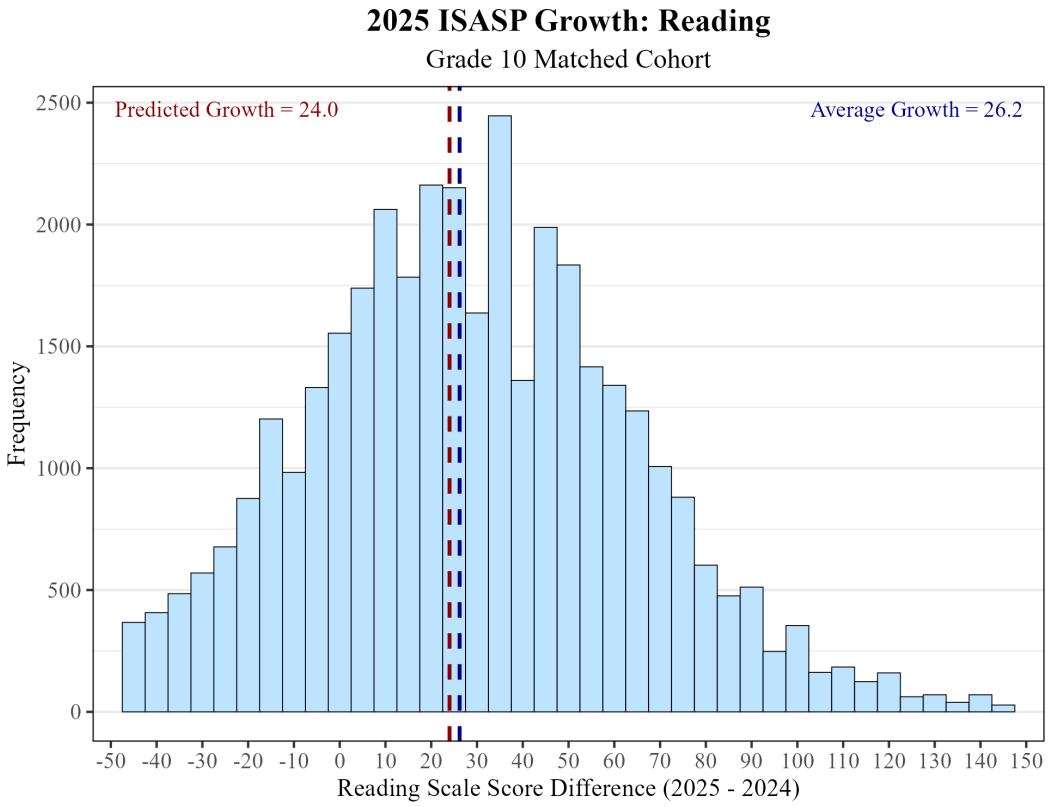
Reading Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Reading
Grade 10 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 24.0
Average Growth = 26.2
Frequency
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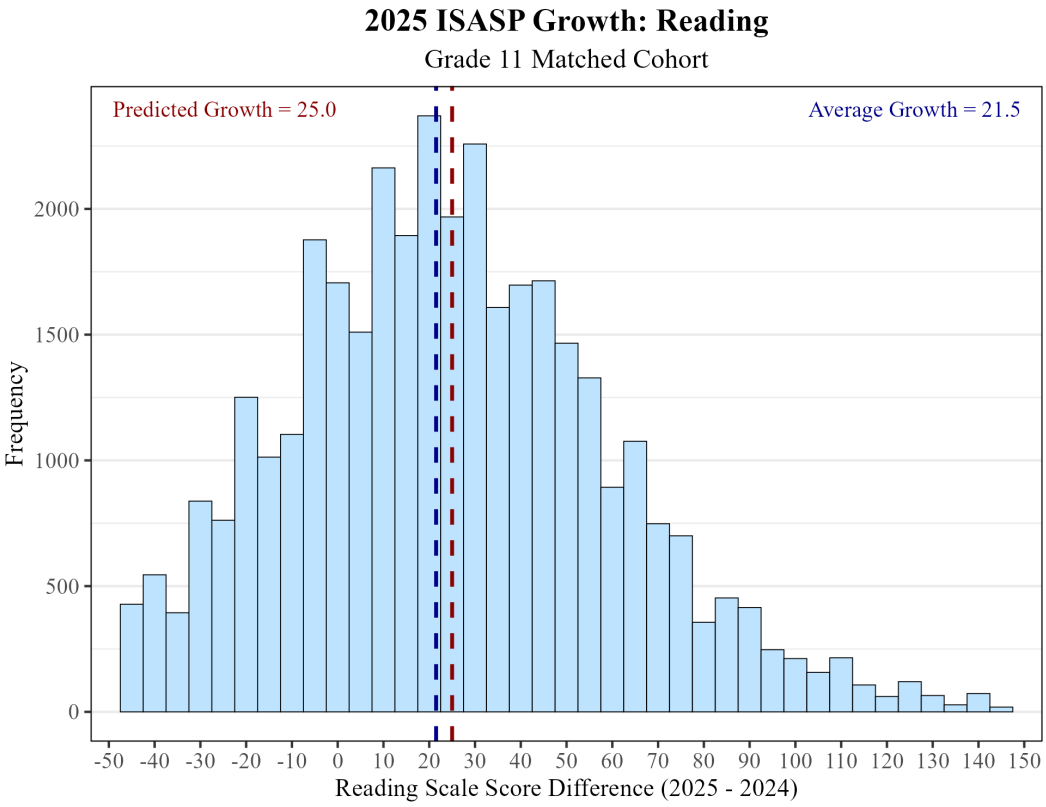
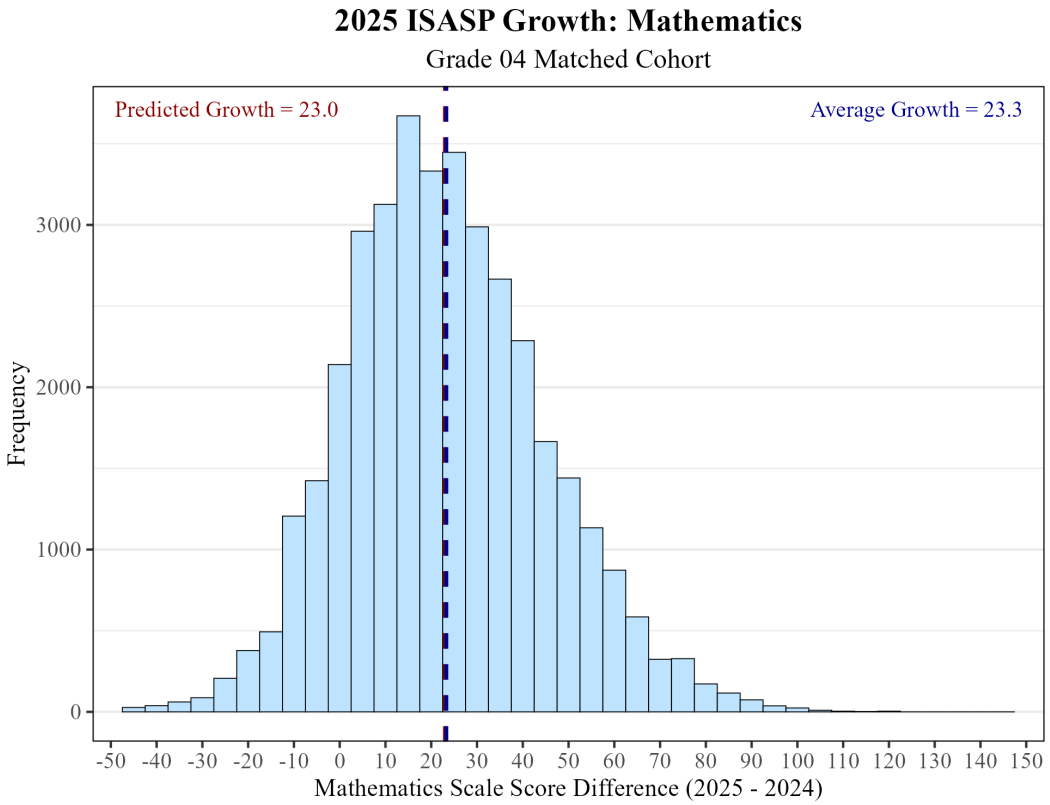
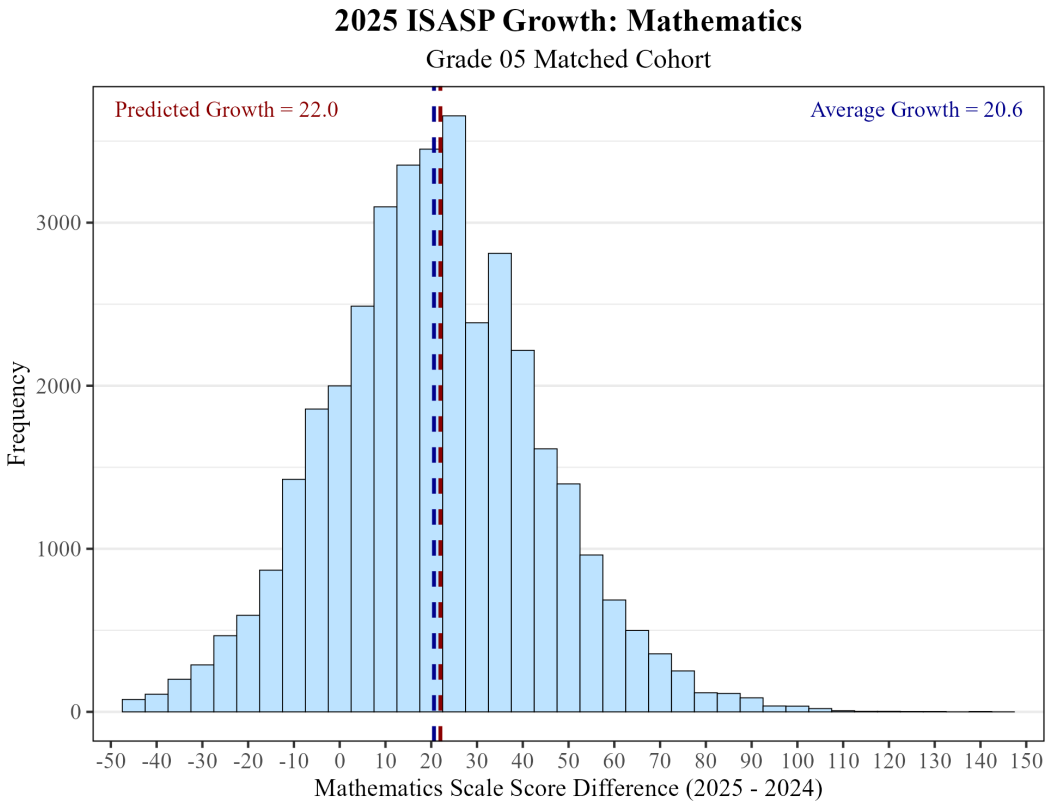
1000
1500
2000
2500
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
Reading Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)

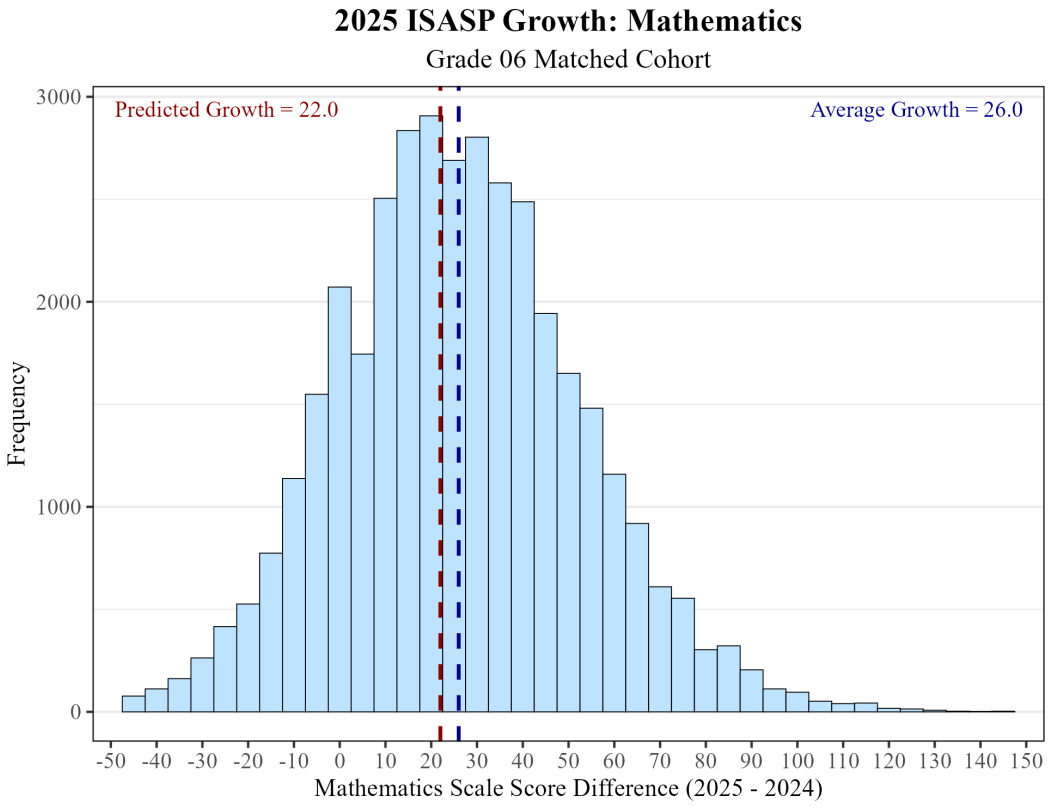

2025 ISASP Growth: Reading
Grade 11 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 25.0
Average Growth = 21.5
Frequency
0
500
1000
1500
2000
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
Reading Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)

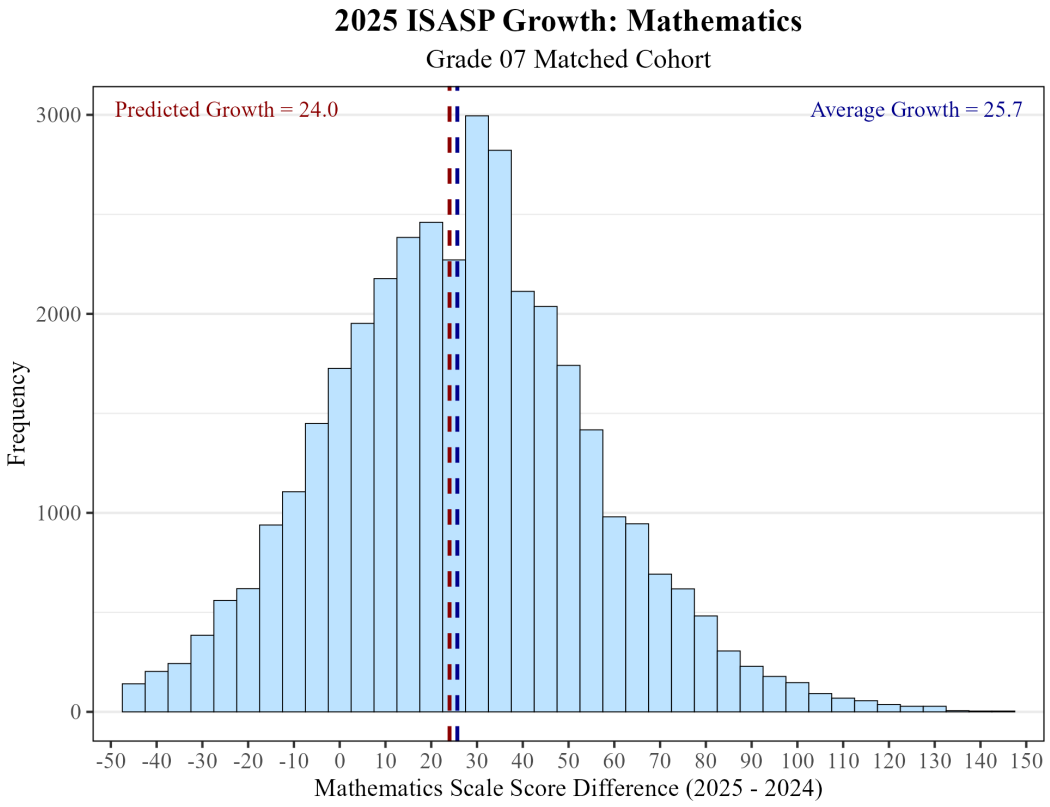
Gain Score Distributions for Mathematics

The graphs on pages 12–16 display gain score distributions for Mathematics across all Iowa students. Plotted in each graph is the predicted growth for one academic year (the red vertical line) given the ISASP Scale Score assumptions. Also plotted is the average gain score for the matched cohort (the blue vertical line) represented by the difference between scale scores in 2025 and 2024.




2025 ISASP Growth: Mathematics
Grade 05 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 22.0
Average Growth = 20.6
Frequency
0
1000
2000
3000
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
Mathematics Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Mathematics
Grade 06 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 22.0
Average Growth = 26.0
Frequency
0
1000
2000
3000
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
Mathematics Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Mathematics
Grade 07 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 24.0
Average Growth = 25.7
Frequency
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2000
1000
0
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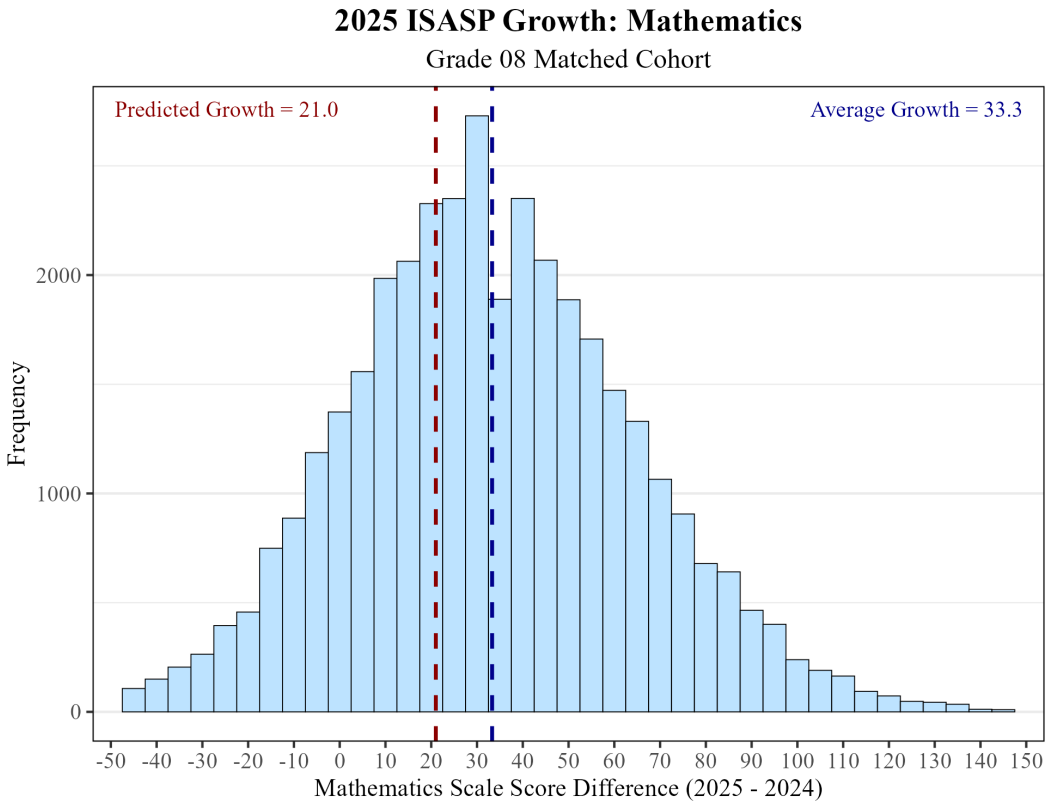
Mathematics Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Mathematics
Grade 08 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 21.0
Average Growth = 33.3
Frequency
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1000
0
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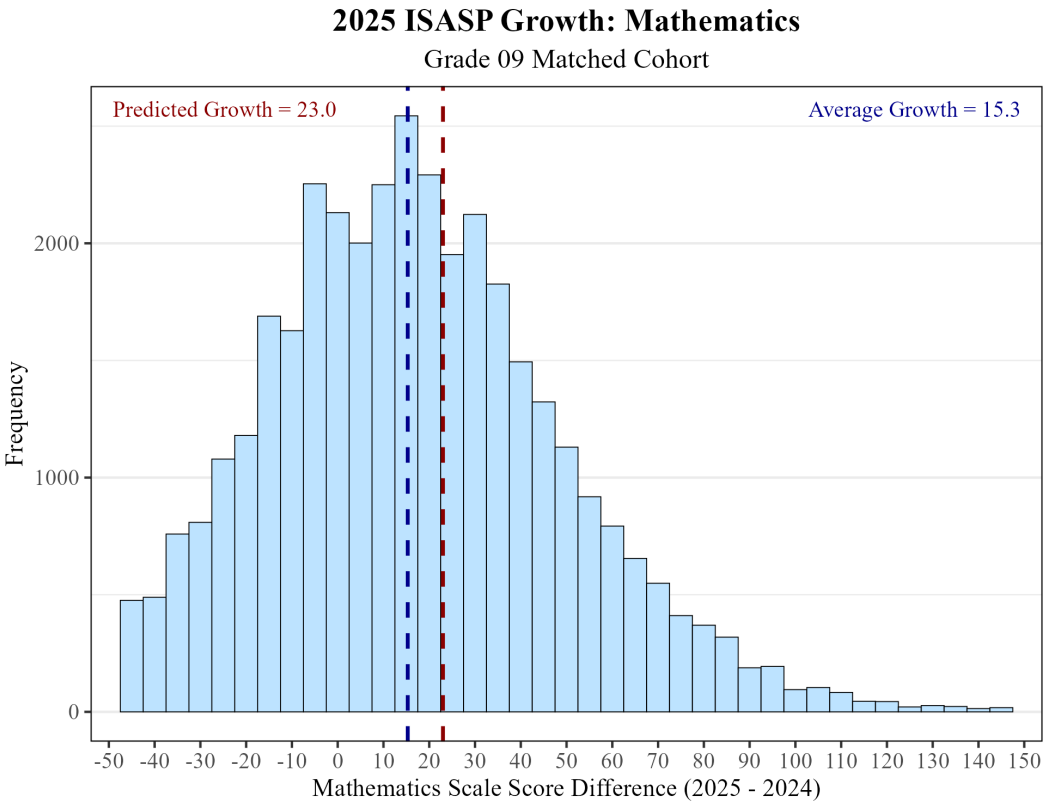
Mathematics Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Mathematics
Grade 09 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 23.0
Average Growth = 15.3
Frequency
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1000
2000
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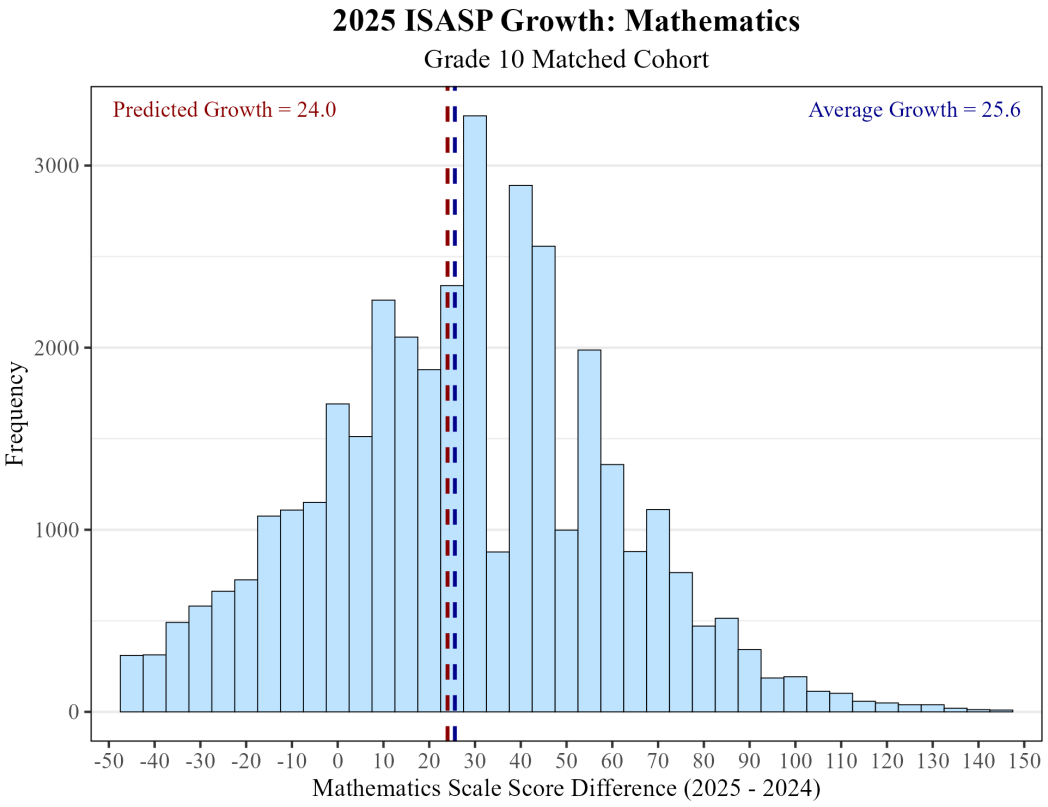
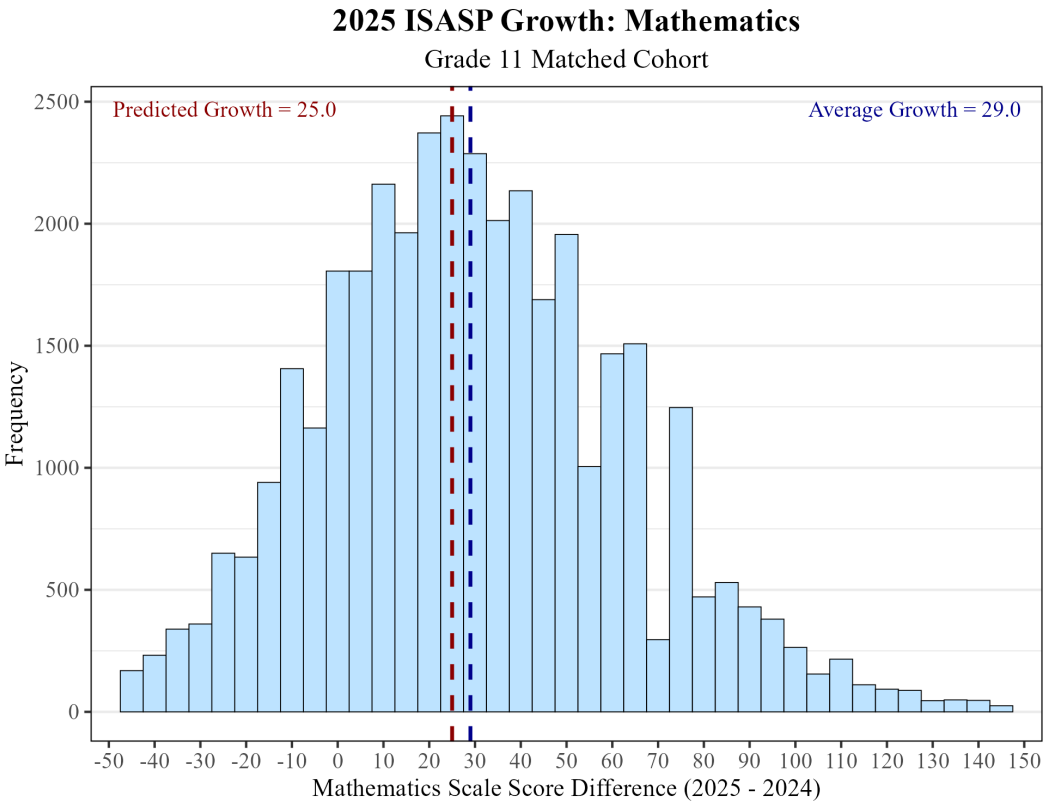
Mathematics Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Mathematics
Grade 10 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 24.0
Average Growth = 25.6
Frequency
0
1000
2000
3000
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
Mathematics Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)


2025 ISASP Growth: Mathematics
Grade 11 Matched Cohort
Predicted Growth = 25.0
Average Growth = 29.0
Frequency
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
-50 -40 -30 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120 130 140 150
Mathematics Scale Score Difference (2025 - 2024)