



Division of Academic Services/Special Programs

SGO 2.1 Guidelines 2025-2026





An Excellent Student Growth Objective is...

- Representative of the majority of the teacher's students
- Inclusive of start and end dates that consist of a significant proportion of the school year/course length
- Inclusive of a significant proportion of standards for which the teacher is responsible during the instructional period
- Developed with the Quality Rating Rubric as a guide to ensure assessment validity

Legislation for 25-26

School Year

- On June 30, 2025 Governor Murphy signed P.L.2025, c.79 extending the halt of the collection of new SGO data for teachers.
- The law requires the following educators to design and complete SGOs during the 2025-2026 school year:
 - *Staff in their first year of employment with PPS*
 - *All Non-tenured teachers*
 - *Those who do not have a pre-existing SGO or PGO with PPS*

Tenured teachers have the option to create a new SGO if they choose to do so.

This year 2 SGOs or 2 PGOs are required

*Who Should Create...**

SGO

(Student Growth Objective)

- Teachers
- Technology Teachers
- Media Specialists
- Athletic Trainers
- Vice Principals

PGO

(Program Growth Objective)

- Non-Classroom Staff
- Counselors
- Nurses
- Deputy Directors
- Directors
- Executive Directors
- Supervisors

*If your title is not listed, please confer with the Department of Accountability.

SGO Requirements

SGOs must be...

Specific and measurable academic goals that are aligned to New Jersey Student Learning Standards

Based on student growth and/or achievement using available student learning data

Developed by a teacher in consultation with his or her administration

Approved by a teacher's building administrator

PGO Requirements

PGOs must be...

Specific and measurable academic goals that are aligned to best practices for providing quality services

Based on professional growth and/or achievement

Developed by staff in consultation with his or her administration

Approved by the staff member's building administrator

What Do I Need to Know?

The SGO form is available on the Achieve NJ website. [AchieveNJ: SGO Forms \(state.nj.us\)](https://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/achievenj/sgo-forms)

There is no distinction between a specific and general SGO. All SGOs should include a significant number of standards and be representative of a majority of the teacher's students

The use of multiple data points is encouraged when determining growth targets for SGO

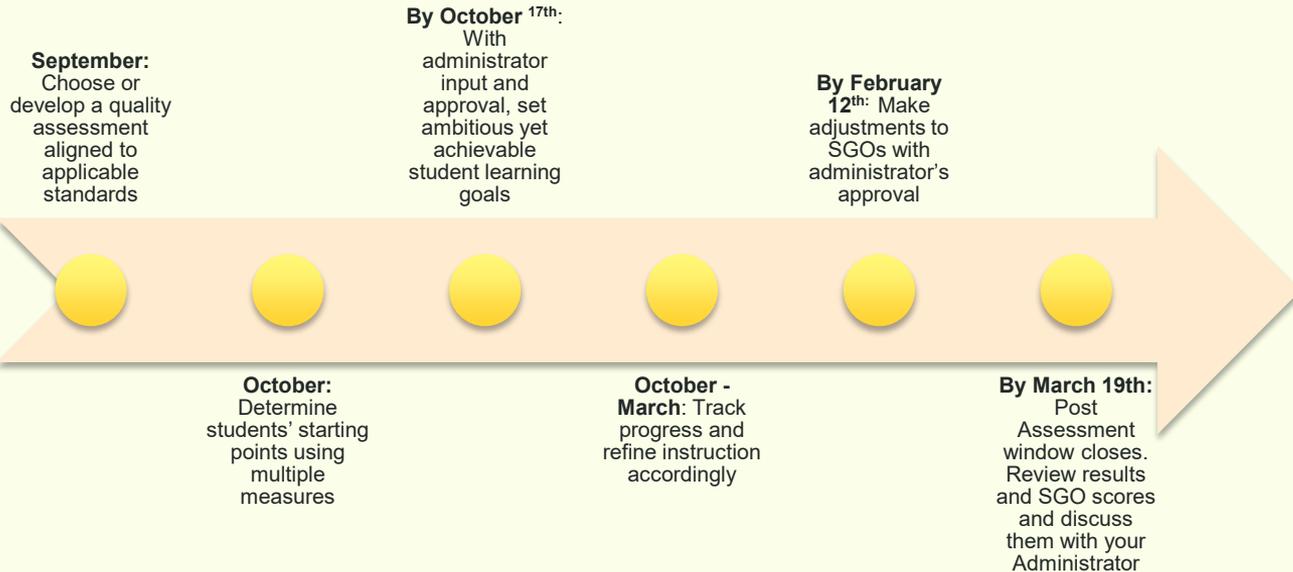
For education services staff the SGO is referred to as a PGO (Program Growth Objective)

Developing PGO's

- **Step 1:** Identify critical outcomes associated with your role that most impacts students' success. The goal may seek to increase the following:
 - Your knowledge and skills
 - Quantity of students, staff or parents you support
 - Effectiveness and/or efficiency of programs that fall within your primary responsibilities
- **Step 2:** Choose what you will utilize to measure the improvement of your goal. Consider using rubrics, surveys, and or/portfolios to determine the degree of growth for your PGO
- **Step 3:** Create a goal that clearly articulates the nature and degree of professional growth or improvement. Target scores should represent success or mastery of knowledge/skills, improvement in programs/services, and include a reasonable range of improvement levels
- **Step 4:** Identify strategies that will support achievement of the goal

Timelines for the SGO Process

In setting SGOs, teachers should take the following steps:



SGO Excel Scoring and Tracking Tool

The NJDOE Office of Evaluation is providing SGO Tracking and Scoring Tools as resources for school districts and their educators to use in tracking the progress and goal attainment of their students. This tool will allow educators to load in student information and data about their learning once and will prevent them from needing to re-enter information throughout the steps in the SGO process. While this tool may not work for everyone, and is certainly not mandated, the hope is that it helps those who choose to use it work more efficiently compiling data and information.

Link to Tools:

- [Summative Score Calculators](#)

Assessments

- There are no District Created assessments.
- For **all** contents and programs, teachers have the opportunity to create their own SGO Assessments (must adhere to the NJDOE guidelines).
- For these courses and/or grades, teachers will create learning targets for key concepts and skills that students are expected to master by the end of the SGO period.
- SGOs do not need to be entered into LinkIt

Assessments

An assessment created within the school by the teacher(s) MUST:

Include an answer key (teacher copy) and a student copy



Have a minimum of 15 questions



Be approved by the building administrator

Assessment(s) Creation

Examples of Assessments include

Skills/Performance Rubrics

- Students demonstrate proficiency on a set of skills or performance-based tasks that are grade level appropriate
- Example: By the end of the year students will demonstrate proficiency on 12 of 20 skills

Portfolio Assessment

- Teacher collects evidence over the course of the SGO time period and meets targets for improvement as defined by a rubric

Intervention platforms can be used:

- Amira (ELA Grades 3-5)
- BeAble (ELA/Social Studies Grades 6-12)
- SuccessMaker (Math Grades 2-8)
- ALEKS (Math Grades 9-12 & Grade 8 Algebra I)

Important Dates



September 12

- The assessment(s) must be submitted to Principals for approval

September 19

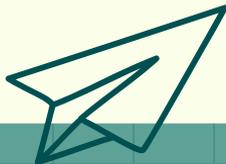
- Principals will return assessment(s)

October 3

- The SGO testing window will close

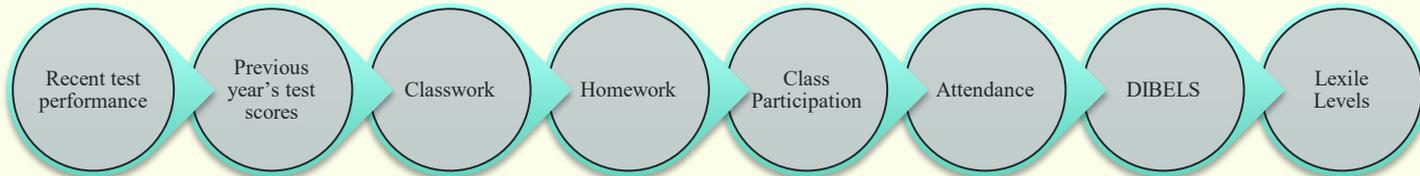
October 17

- Teachers must submit their SGO to their administrator with supporting data



Using Multiple Measures

In addition to assessments, multiple measures can be utilized to further inform the creation of the SGO. Additional sources of data include:



Example of Using Multiple Measures



After giving the Geometry baseline assessment to a class of 25 students it is determined that 10 of the students performed below 60%, 8 of the students performed between 61-80%, and 7 students performed above 80% on the assessment.

The teacher grouped these students into high, medium, and low groups for her SGO. The teacher then reviewed prior test scores and determined that 3 of the 10 students who performed below 60% had passed the state exam in math the previous year.

After reviewing additional data sources, the teacher sees that these same 3 students were actively participating in class, completing homework, and had improved in their classwork. The teacher then determined that these 3 students were more appropriate in the medium group and could achieve the growth target set for that group.

English Language Learner Teachers

Teachers must create their own assessments following the assessment creation guidelines

Teachers utilizing BeAble can utilize Lexile levels as a growth target

WIDA Model Kits can be used to create SGO's to measure students CPL growth in one of the domains (speaking, listening, reading and writing)

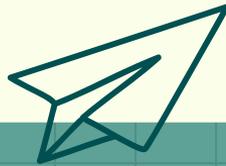
Special Education Teachers



Special Education teachers in co-teaching or inclusion situations are recommended to include a majority of students in the class as opposed to only classified students



Accommodations and modifications that are specified in students' IEPs will be adhered to for assessments given for SGO purposes



Leave of Absence and Late Hiring



- Teachers hired after February 1st must set an SGO to encompass the instructional period between February 2nd and March 13th

- Teachers hired after March 15th will not be required to set an SGO for the remainder of the school year

- Teachers on a Leave of Absence: “It is recommended that teachers are present for a continuous 9-week period. In cases where this is not possible, the teacher should set SGOs for as much time as is available, provided that the teacher has an opportunity to have a significant impact on students' learning during that abbreviated period of time. Teachers who did not set SGO(s) before the deadline due to an extended absence should set the SGO(s) as soon as possible after returning to the classroom and use an assessment that makes sense for the learning goals they set for their students in this timeframe.” (cited from AchieveNJ)

- Teachers who begin the year with a written SGO and take a leave of absence, upon return will continue with that SGO

- Any teacher hired after October 1st has 20 working days to develop an SGO (cited from code)

***For additional information, please contact The Department of Accountability, ext. 10715**



Protocol for Consultation with Teachers

Teachers receive a consultation with their principal and/or principal's designee (vice principal or designated administrator) to finalize and approve their SGO/PGOs.

Adjustment Window

- Teachers can make one adjustment to their SGOs prior to the February 12th Deadline. Teachers MUST submit their adjustments by February 10th
- The adjustment must be signed off by the Principal
- Example of adjustments: if a majority of the students originally represented are no longer in the class

Who To Contact....

For process, procedures and compliance please contact the Department of Accountability

Extension 10715

For questions regarding content please contact the office of Academic Services/Special Programs

academicservices1@paterson.k12.nj.us or Extension 10896

SGO Resources

For Frequently Asked Questions please visit:

http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_eval.shtml

