The WIAT-4 Progress Monitoring Assistant (PMA)

The Progress Monitoring Assistant (PMA), a tool provided in the Q-global® Resource Library, provides the capability to track and analyze an examinee's Growth Scale Values (GSVs) and standard scores by subtest across two or more administrations. The PMA automatically determines if differences between GSVs and between standard scores are significant and provides interpretive statements for describing changes in GSVs in relation to changes in standard scores.

DID YOU KNOW? This downloadable digital asset is delivered on Q-global. It is part of the WIAT®-4 CDN Complete Kit.

This Progress Monitoring Assistant analyzes changes in an examinee's WIAT-4 CDN scores over time, such as for progress monitoring or evaluating response to intervention. When a WIAT-4 CDN assessment is administered to an examinee at two or more points in time, the GSVs and standard scores from each administration are compared to answer the following questions:

1. Is the examinee making progress relative to their past performance?
2. Is the examinee improving faster, slower, or at the same rate as their peers?
3. Do the score differences over time reflect a meaningful change?

FOR EXAMPLE:

Sam was administered the WIAT-4 CDN Phonemic Proficiency subtest in the fall of Grade 4 and again in the fall of Grade 5.

Administration 1: standard score=92, GSV=425

Administration 2: standard score=98, GSV=500

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT:

Sam received a GSV of 425 on Phonemic Proficiency at the first testing in grade 4 and a GSV of 500 at the second testing in grade 5, and the improvement in performance was significant. However, Sam's standard scores did not significantly change, from 92 at the first testing to 98 at the second. These results suggest that the student's phonological processing skills improved relative to personal performance but at a similar rate relative to peers.

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Background on measuring growth

Growth scale values (GSVs) are preferred over standard scores and percentile ranks for measuring growth because GSVs reflect the examinee's absolute (rather than relative) level of performance. GSVs, which are derived from raw scores and ability scores, are useful for comparing an examinee's *performance relative to their own past performance*. Unlike standard scores and percentile ranks, GSVs do not compare an examinee's performance to that of their peers. Raw scores by themselves are undesirable for measuring growth because they are not on equal interval scales, which means that a given difference in raw score points does not have the same meaning at different score levels.

To enhance interpretability of the GSVs, the average GSV for Grade 3 on every subtest is anchored at 500. Across all WIAT-4 CDN subtests, the GSVs range from about 400 to 610; however, the minimum and maximum GSV varies for each subtest, depending on the nature of each subtest's raw score distribution.

The following guidelines apply when using GSVs:

- An examinee's GSVs for the same subtest across administrations can be subtracted or averaged, which makes them well-suited for progress monitoring.

- GSVs obtained on different subtests cannot be averaged or compared.

- Consider whether the change in GSVs is significant when reporting results.

- Use caution when interpreting scores if fewer than 3 months have passed between testing sessions; with short testing intervals, growth rates may be inflated due to practice effects.

- Use caution when interpreting fewer than three GSVs—although the WIAT-4 CDN scores are reliable, fewer than three GSVs may not form a reliable growth trend.

Unlike standard scores, GSVs do not describe the examinee's performance relative to a normative sample.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION:

- Comparing standard scores (and percentile ranks) over time indicates whether the examinee has improved faster than, slower than, or at the same rate as their peers in the normative sample.

- Comparing GSVs over time indicates whether the examinee's performance, or skill level, has changed relative to their own previous performance.

Breaux, K. C., & Witholt, T. (2021). Progress monitoring assistant. (U.S. Patent Application No. 17394663). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Contact your **Assessment Consultant** for more information on WIAT-4 CDN and the PMA!

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