



On October 18, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) was alerted to a data processing error with the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS). The data processing error was confined to the district- and school-level Keystone Exam growth calculations. These scores, in turn, are part of the School Performance Profile (SPP) growth measures. The data in question was supplied by SAS, the Department's contractor for PVAAS reporting for Pennsylvania's Local Education Agencies (LEAs).

The Department is in the process of communicating with LEA administrators to notify them of the data inaccuracies and important next steps. The FAQ below is intended as a communications tool to support this effort.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1. What is the nature of the SAS data processing error?**

The district- and school-level PVAAS results for Keystone Exams released on October 6 did not include students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs). These measures in turn impacted the SPP results released on October 13.

#### **2. Are the individual student results from Keystone Exams accurate?**

Yes. The individual student results from Keystone Exams are accurate. The data processing error is ONLY related to PVAAS Keystone Exam growth measures.

#### **3. What is the magnitude of the SPP score changes?**

Based on all available data from SAS, a small number of schools will see a modest change in their overall SPP scores. The Department recognizes that any score change creates concern, and is committed to supporting LEAs in messaging on this issue.

#### **4. Does the data processing error impact PVAAS Teacher-Specific Reporting?**

No. The data processing error was confined to the district- and school-level Keystone Exam growth calculations. The release of PVAAS Teacher-Specific Reporting has been delayed out of an abundance of caution.

#### **5. What is being done to ensure that other PVAAS data elements, including prior year PVAAS measures, are accurate?**

Immediately upon learning of the data processing error, the Department directed SAS to recheck all PVAAS calculations by reviewing processing steps and decision rules. SAS was also directed to review PVAAS data from prior years. SAS reports that the data processing error was confined to the SY 2015-16 district- and school-level PVAAS Keystone Exam growth calculations.

**6. When will revised SPP scores be available?**

The Department's priority is ensuring complete accuracy in SPP score calculation and reporting. SAS has started the work to recalculate and verify all analyses. These data will be reported to the Department for review and use in the SPP as quickly as possible.

**7. Will LEAs be provided a preview window for revised SPP data prior to public reposting?**

Yes. LEA administrators will be notified of the preview window.

**8. Who should I contact with additional questions?**

Questions regarding this specific issue can be directed to: [spp@pattan.net](mailto:spp@pattan.net). Please include name, phone number, best times to call, and the specific nature of the question.