

## **What is a Learning Gain?**

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Since FCAT reading and math exams are given in grades 3 – 10, it is possible to monitor how much students learn from one year to the next.

Schools earn one point for each percent of students who make learning gains in reading and one point for each percent of students who make learning gains in math. Students can demonstrate learning gains in any one of three ways:

1. Improve achievement levels from 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, or 4-5; or
2. Maintain within the relatively high levels of 3, 4, or 5; or
3. Demonstrate more than one year's growth within achievement levels 1 or 2 (does not include retained students).

Special attention is given to the reading and math gains of students in the lowest 25 percent in levels 1, 2, or 3 in each school. Schools earn one point for each percent of the lowest performing students who make learning gains in reading and math from the previous year. It takes at least 50% to make “adequate progress” for this group. If a school has less than 50 percent of this group making gains, schools can still make “adequate progress” for the group if they demonstrate improvement over the prior year.