

SECTION SEVEN: APPENDIX

KEY TERMS DEFINED

- **Baseline:** A measure of the level of knowledge that students in a class are beginning with at the start of the year/semester. Used when setting a growth goal that involves progress. For each source of evidence, the numerical quantity that represents student learning prior to instruction is the baseline; it is the starting point used in the SLO. Growth is determined by student learning as the student progresses over a period of time from baseline performance.
- **Evidence:** The assessment of student learning or other form of student work product that is used to determine how much the educator's students have learned. It is not necessary to use an identical assessment for determining progress from baseline to target; it is possible to use a collection of evidence from different assessment(s)/measure(s).
- **Goal:** A specific and measurable learning objective/goal that can be measured over the course of a year (or other interval of time, where applicable, e.g., for a teacher with semester-long courses).
- **Mastery:** An SLO whose target is expressed in terms of how many or which students will reach a certain level of achievement. Does not require a baseline for those students, although may be expressed as a change in the percentage of students who have attained mastery since the beginning of the year or as percentage of standards that will be mastered by the end of the year.
- **Progress:** Any SLO whose target represents a change in the level of learning for each student over two points in time. Progress goals require a baseline and a target that is higher than the baseline for the same students.
- **State-Provided growth or value-added measures:** For all teachers whose students take State assessments in grades 4-8, ELA/Math, NYSED will provide a teacher growth score comparing the gain the teacher's students made between two points in time to the gains made by students with similar academic and other characteristics across the State.
- **Target:** The numerical outcome expected at the end of the instructional period for student learning.