# Overview of Academic Goal Setting Strategies

##### **Option 1. Using Benchmarks**

* Description: Identify the grade level winter or end-of-year benchmark and use for goal.
* Advantages:
  + Easy-to-use when progress monitoring tool provides benchmarks.
  + Tracks progress toward grade-level expectations.
  + Efficient for setting goals for large numbers of students
* Considerations:
  + Not appropriate for those students significantly below or above benchmark. To determine appropriateness, ensure that the expected weekly growth is also realistic (e.g., no more than twice average growth, at least average growth)

**Option 2. National Norms for Rate of Improvement (ROI)**

* Description: Identify average growth per week (ROI) for grade and number of weeks left in the instructional period (when we want the goal to be reached). Use the following to calculate a realistic goal.

**ROI × # Weeks + Baseline Score = GOAL**

* Advantages:
  + Provide more realistic goal when using benchmarks are not appropriate
* Considerations:
  + If a student is behind, matching the ROI norm will maintain the same level of achievement gap.
  + Some progress monitoring tools provide recommendations for “ambitious” ROIs.
  + When national norms are not available, consider using local norms or estimating ROI by dividing growth between benchmark periods by the number of weeks of instruction.

**Option 3. Intra-individual Framework**

this image shows a formula where the student's R O I is multiplied by one point five and again multiplied by the number of weeks left in the instructional period. This product representing target growth is then added to the student's baseline score, which is the mean of the three most recent data points, to find the goal 

* Description: Uses an individual growth rate based on past performance instead of a national normed growth rate.
* Advantages:
  + Provides valid goal setting strategy in situations where students are performing far below grade level and typical growth rates are not appropriate.
* Considerations:
* Use three most recent data points to calculate baseline score.
* Calculate student’s ROI (SROI) based on at least eight data points
* **Why 1.5?** Since the current SROI is insufficient to close the achievement gap, we want to increase current growth by at least half (x 1.5).
* A more ambitious goal may be set if appropriate (e.g., if after several weeks of progress monitoring, the current SROI exceeds the goal SROI).

# *Practice*: Academic Goal Setting Activity

Jane is a 1st grade student who scored below benchmark during Winter screening on the Reading Connected Text assessment. Use the information below to develop a progress monitoring goal using the benchmarking strategy and norms for weekly rate of improvement.

* **Winter** Screening Benchmark: **23**
* Weeks remaining in the semester: **16**
* National norms and benchmarks by grade level:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Task | End-of-Year Benchmark\* | Rate of Improvement (ROI) |
| K | Word Identification Fluency | 40 sounds/minute | 1.0 |
| 1 | Reading Connected Text | 60 correct words/minute | 1.8 |
| 2 | Reading Connected Text | 75 correct words/minute | 1.5 |

\*These assessments and norms are for illustrative purposes only. For information about your tool, visit the National Center on Intensive Intervention’s Academic Progress Monitoring Tools Chart, <http://www.intensiveintervention.org/chart/progress-monitoring>.

Worksheet for Calculating Goals

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Benchmark | Norms for Weekly Rate of Improvement (ROI) |
| ***Instructions:***  Using the information and chart in this handout, identify the appropriate grade-level, end-of-year benchmark. | ***Formula:***  ROI x # Weeks + Baseline Score = GOAL  ***Steps:***   1. Gather Data   ROI from norms table: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  # of weeks left in instructional period: \_\_\_\_\_\_  Baseline score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   1. Calculate   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  ROI #weeks Baseline Goal |
| Goal = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Goal = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

# *Practice*: Intra-Individual Goal Setting Activity

Jack is a 4th grader who has significant challenges in reading. On the fall 4th grade screening, he scored 18 words read correctly (WRC) which is considered well below benchmark. His teacher conducted a survey level assessment and determined that his instructional level and appropriate progress monitoring level is 2nd grade. His teacher will use weekly Reading Connected Text probes to monitor his progress. Use the information below to help the teacher create a goal based on the intra-individual framework, or student rate of improvement (SROI).

**Information you will need:**

* Weeks remaining in the semester: 10
* Data points over last eight weeks: **37, 36, 38, 41, 40, 42, 44, 48**
* Baseline: **Median of last three data points**

Worksheet for Calculating Goals

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| --- |
| Student Weekly Rate of Improvement (ROI) |
| **Guide**  *SROI:* Student rate of improvement  *Median*: take the middle score of three scores.  If data are collected weekly: # baseline weeks = # data points - 1  ***Formula:***  SROI x 1.5 x # Weeks + Baseline Score = GOAL  SROI = (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) / \_\_\_7\_\_\_\_  **Last Median First Median # Baseline Weeks**  ***Steps:***   1. Gather Data   SROI from above: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  # of weeks left in instructional period: \_\_\_\_\_\_  Baseline score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   1. Calculate   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ x 1.5 x \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  SROI #weeks Baseline Goal |
| Goal = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |