

## Chapter 9 Definitions

**Aggregation:** Combining several data points to make one statistic for reporting.

**Criterion referencing:** Interpreting students' performance by comparing it with a defined standard.

**Disaggregation:** Separating summary data into component parts, typically separating test results for all students tested into results by subgroup.

**Distribution:** A description of a set of scores over the range of performance.

**Error (in measurement):** Variation in assessment results due to chance or other factors.

**Growth measure:** A measure of change in performance over time.

**Norm referencing:** Interpreting students' performance by comparing it with the performance of other students.

**Reliability:** The degree to which scores are consistent across various factors influencing measurement (e.g., time, occasions, scorers, forms).

**Standards referencing:** Interpreting students' performance by comparing it to clearly defined levels of proficiency that are set by using a combination of criterion-referencing and norm-referencing techniques.

**Unit of analysis:** The entity being measured or studied (e.g., individual students, classes, schools)