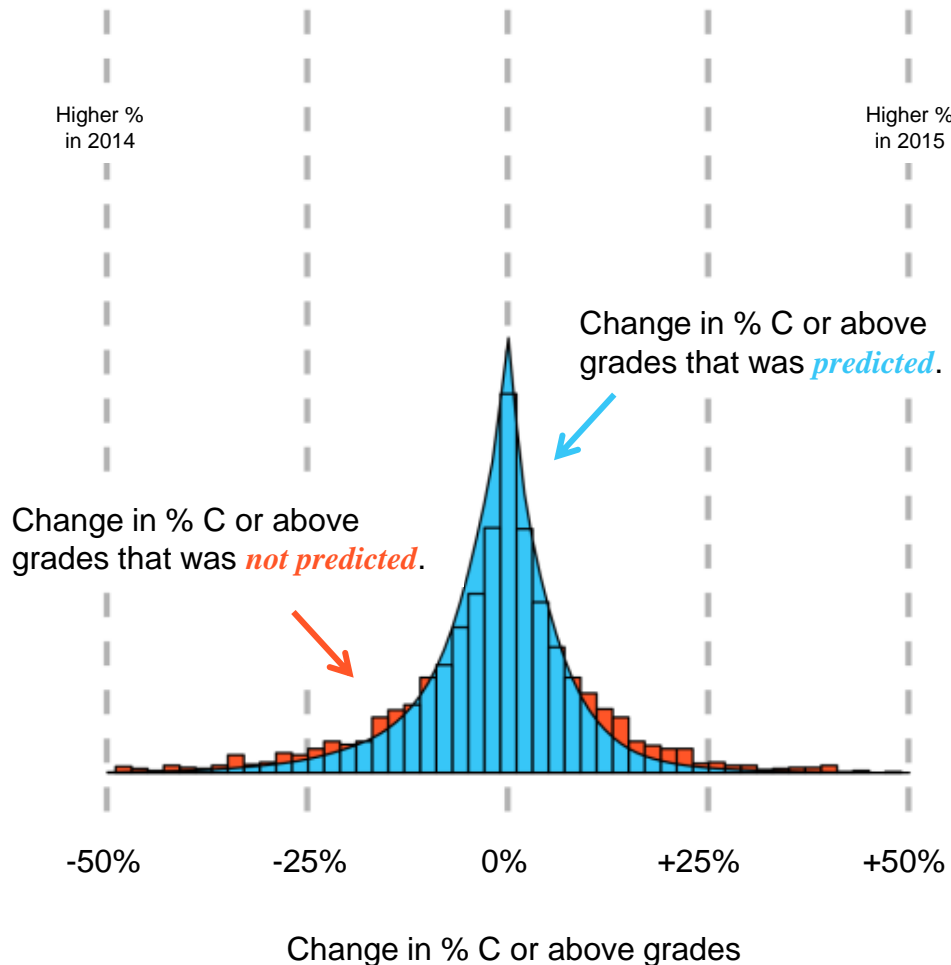


Volatility happens: Why?

Change in schools' results on English Literature GCSEs
2014 vs. 2015 % C or above grades



It's normal for schools' results to change – even when teaching practices stay the same.

Results change because:

- You never know what grade a student will get before they take a test.
- This year's class is different than last year's class (as seen by their results in other subjects).

These two things account for most of the changes in schools' % A*-C grades from year to year, as shown by the blue distribution. The red distribution shows the additional change that actually occurred.

Why this is important: If most of the changes in results can be predicted without any information about schools, then changes in test scores are not necessarily a reliable indicator of school effectiveness.