**Interpreting Score Changes**

The “box and whisker” plots in Figure 2.5 show effect size distribution across CLA measures for longitudinal schools. The plot shows the effect sizes between Phase 1 (first-year students) and Phase 3 (seniors). NDSU’s effect sizes are shown in red.

Effect sizes were calculated at a school by taking the difference in mean (or average) CLA scores of the same students from two different phases (e.g., Phase 1 and Phase 3), standardized by the standard deviation of the earlier phase. In each plot, the extreme left hand vertical bar shows the 5th percentile. The “box” itself shows the 25th (left face), 50th (internal vertical line), and 75th (right face) percentile points. The extreme right hand vertical bar shows the 95th percentile. The horizontal axis shows the effect size scale.

An effect size of 0 indicates no difference between phases. Positive effect sizes indicate that scores in later phases are higher than those of earlier phases, with larger effect sizes corresponding to larger score differences.