



Northwest Evaluation Association

Partnering to help all kids learn

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Reading, Mathematics, and Language Usage tests measure growth to inform teaching and learning.



FAQ

What are Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP tests?

- MAP assessments are adaptive achievement tests in Mathematics, Reading, Language Usage, and Science that are taken on a computer.

What are computerized adaptive tests?

- Computerized adaptive tests are taken on a computer. The difficulty of a test is adjusted to the student's performance so each student sees different test questions. The difficulty of each question is based on how well the student has answered the questions up to that point. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.

How often can a student be tested?

- Districts have the option of testing their students up to four times a year. Students typically take tests at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the school year. Some districts may also choose to test students in winter and summer.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test?

- No. The computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

What type of scores are reported on NWEA MAP assessments?

- Percentile scores
- Achievement scores
- Growth scores

What is the RIT scale?

- The scale NWEA uses to measure a student's progress is called the RIT scale, short for Rasch Unit. The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like centimeters on a meterstick. It is used to chart a student's academic growth from year to year.
- If you would like more information on the RIT scale, refer to the following materials:



Hambleto, R.K., Swaminathan, H., & Rogers, J. (1991). *Fundamentals of Item Response Theory*. Newbury Park: Sage.

Ingebo, G. (1997). *Probability in the Measure of Achievement*. Chicago: MESA Press

Wright, B.D. & Stone, M. (1979). *Best Test Design*. Chicago: MESA Press.

Visit <http://edres.org/irt/> for introductory material about the item response theory and the Rasch model.

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The words ride, electric, and sturgeon have their meanings listed below. Choose the word meaning that does not go with one of these words.

1. the past tense of ride
2. a machine that looks like a human
3. a broad trail
4. to propel a boat with oars

Read the sentences about four animals.

A. A large electric eel can release powerful electric currents.
B. Currents produced by electric eels can be used to cook food.
C. The sturgeon fish may use electric power to communicate.
D. The sturgeon fish may use electric power to move.

What do all these fish have in common?

1. All live in fresh water rivers.
2. All have the ability to harm humans.
3. All have a way to communicate with other animals.
4. They have a way to communicate with other animals.

The following directions tell how to make a clay hook. Which step in the directions will be a tiny hole and hand to hold it?

1. Remove the size from the clay.
2. Pull out the inner tube to make a hole.
3. Put the inner tube in the hole to hold the place where the hook is set in the sun.
4. Rub glue all around the hole to make it bigger than the hook.

What grades are MAP tests applicable for?

- In general, students in grades 2 through 10 take MAP tests because the tests are grade independent, they may be appropriate for students in lower or higher grades. NWEA is completing the development of tests for early primary grade students.

How do MAP tests tie in with local curriculum?

- MAP tests are aligned to the content and structure of state standards.

Can students with special needs take MAP tests?

→ Because the tests are adaptive and un-timed, they often are appropriate for special needs students.

What are the minimum technical requirements for administering MAP?

→ See [Technical Requirements](http://www.nwea.org/technical) (<http://www.nwea.org/technical>) .

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Sample MAP Test Items

(<http://www.nwea.org/assessments/ritcharts.asp>)

View RIT charts of sample test items.