



### Guide to Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Test

Attached, you will find your child's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test results. This test is one of many that we use to determine student progress. This particular test assesses your child's level of ability as compared to other students who have taken this test in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests. Adaptive tests become increasingly more difficult as your child answers questions correctly. When your child incorrectly answers a question, the test adjusts its level of difficulty to find the type of questions your child can answer correctly. Your child's MAP results are reported in *RIT scores*. RIT stands for Rasch Unit. The RIT score is a standard scale score, like centimeters and kilograms, that is independent of grade level. Thus, we can measure growth in learning over time and through many grade levels. This type of score increases the value of the test as a tool to improve student learning. You'll also find score comparisons on the attached report to National (United States) norms and our Shanghai Community International Schools (SCIS) District. Essentially, these scores are averages for these test groups and you can make comparisons for your child to these averages by grade level.

Remember that the rate of skill development differs widely among children of the same age or grade. Some students learn rapidly, while others take more time. Children can be more proficient in some skills than in others. Tests can provide information about each student's most developed and least developed skills. Some of the purposes of using a standardized test are:

- To determine areas of relative strength and weakness in skill development and to examine growth over time
- To compare individual student achievement with averages of norm groups
- To provide HIS with information for making educational programming decisions that will accommodate developmental differences

There are several possible factors that may impact outcomes, such as:

- Level of English language proficiency
- Mobility of students and their families between schools from year to year
- Cultural backgrounds: unfamiliarity and/or experience with American English terms
- Previous educational history of the students (including exposure to standardized tests)

The NWEA MAP test is only one factor in looking at academic performance. The test does not cover all academic skills nor does it cover such areas as physical, artistic, or interpersonal development. Parents will gain a more complete picture of student performance by looking at this test in conjunction with a variety of student work samples and other assessments over a period of time.

We hope you find the enclosed reports informative. More information regarding the NWEA and MAP tests can be found on the HIS website, under the "Learn: NWEA MAP Testing" section <https://www.his-china.org/learn/nwea-map-testing>

As always, we thank you for taking an active interest in your child's education.