Frequently Asked Questions:
NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Assessment

What is MAP?

MAP is a computer adaptive screening tool created by NWEA that students take three times per school year. The results provide teachers with information to help them deliver appropriate instruction for each student and to determine their academic growth and progress over time.

What does it mean to be computer adaptive?

Computer adaptive screening tools adjust to each student's learning level, providing a unique set of test questions based on their responses to previous questions. As a student responds to questions, the test responds to the student, adjusting up or down in difficulty. This feature contributes to reducing student stress and supports a positive experience.

Why do we need MAP?

Children learn better when teachers have a clear picture of what each student knows and what they are ready to learn next. MAP Growth will provide this information to parents and teachers three times a year.

What does MAP measure?

MAP is used to measure a student's performance in reading and mathematics at different times during the school year and reports their academic growth..

Should I prepare my child for taking this screener?

No, no special preparation is necessary in fact it is discouraged. MAP is intended to be an assessment tool that is used as part of the regular classroom routine to help teachers target instruction to meet students' academic needs.

When will my child take MAP tests?

The MAP assessments will be administered to students in the fall, winter and spring as part of our regular school program. This year, the fall screener sessions were administered in October, the winter session was given in January and February, and the spring assessment are projected for late May/early June administration.

What information will I receive from my child's school?

You will receive your child's *Family Report*, which displays the results of all your child's MAP Grow assessments.

Will MAP scores be used as criteria for any district programs or class placement?

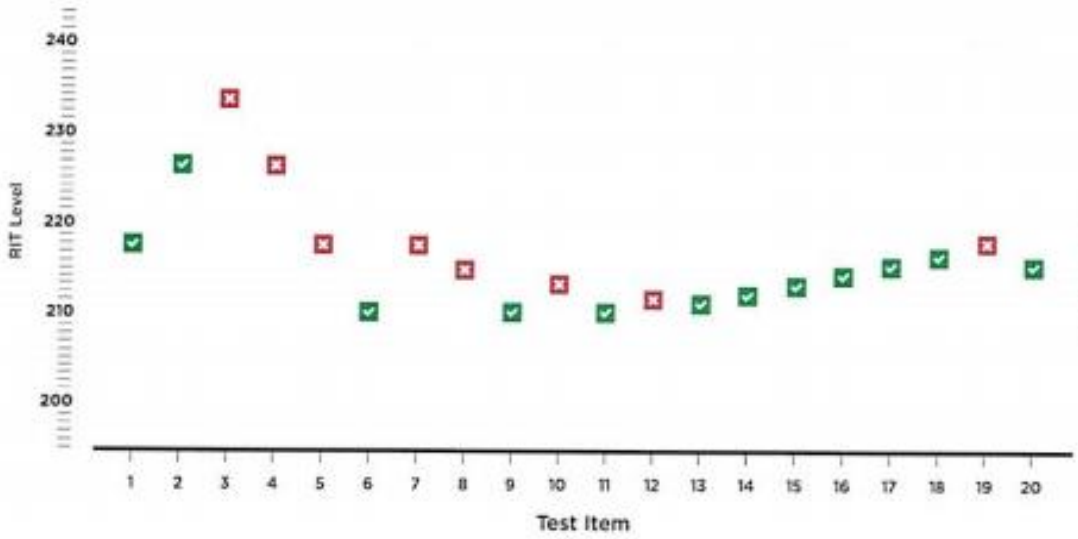
MAP scores will be used to measure a student's growth in reading and math and to inform parents and teachers of students' progress for instructional decision making only. The results will not be used as entry criteria for specific courses or programs, with the exception of academic support services in reading and mathematics. Results will also be used to monitor the progress of students receiving intervention services.

A family guide to MAP Growth

Children learn better—and faster—when teachers have a clear picture of what each student knows and is ready to learn next. That's why a group of educators and researchers founded NWEA®, a not-for-profit organization that has created some of the most trusted and reliable assessment solutions available. More than 11 million students in the US and in 140 countries worldwide use MAP® Growth™.

How it works

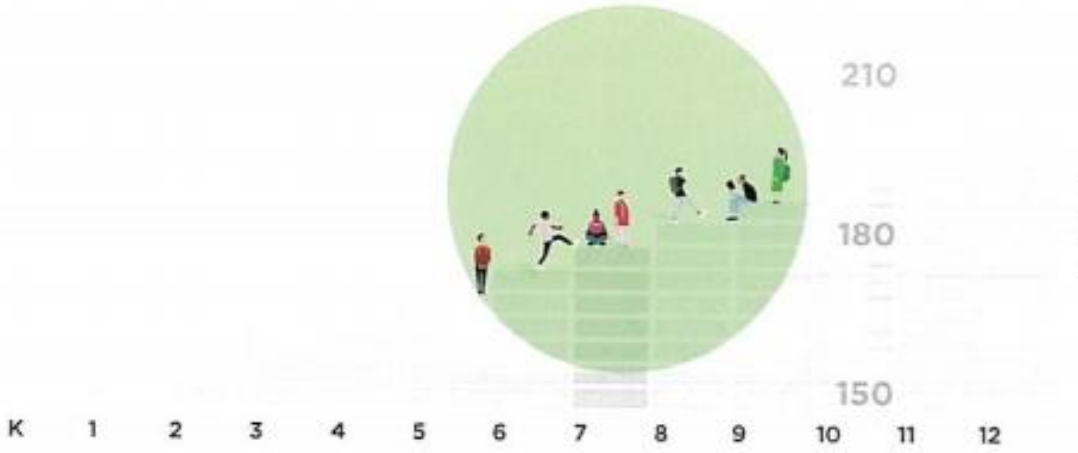
MAP Growth is a computer-adaptive test. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This type of assessment challenges top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.



MAP Growth begins with a question at each student's grade level and adjusts the level of difficulty based on individual performance.

What it measures

MAP Growth uses a RIT scale to accurately measure what students know, regardless of their grade level. It also measures growth over time, allowing you to track your child's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years. Once your child completes a MAP Growth test, they receive a RIT score.



The RIT scale precisely measures student performance, regardless of whether they're performing on, above, or below grade level.

map GROWTH

Your child's RIT score

RIT scores have the same meaning across grade levels. If a fourth-grade student and an eighth-grade student have the same RIT score in reading, then they are testing at the same level in that subject. This stable scale allows teachers to accurately measure each student's academic growth throughout the school year and over time.

You can use your child's RIT score to help them meet their goals. For example, students can enter their RIT scores into our college explorer tool to see which colleges and universities they're on track to enter. You can also check out online resources that use RIT scores to provide students with book recommendations and web-based exercises, such as YourReadingPath.com and KhanAcademy.org.

"MAP Growth is important because it allows my teacher and me to see how much I know and my percentile growth. In math, my score used to be 227 (70th percentile), but it is now 240 (87th percentile). I didn't know I was capable of so much growth, but in the end I was."

Kayla, 6th grade
Santa Ana, CA

COMMON QUESTIONS

How do schools and teachers use MAP Growth scores?	Teachers can use the score to inform instruction, personalize learning, and monitor the growth of individual students. Principals and administrators can use the scores to see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district.
Can MAP Growth tell me if my child is working at grade level?	Yes, but please note that MAP Growth scores are just one data point that teachers use to determine how a student is performing. Please discuss any questions that you have about your child's performance with their teacher.
How often will my child take MAP Growth tests?	Most schools give MAP Growth tests to students at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year (in the fall, winter, and spring). Some schools choose to administer tests only twice a year.
What are norms?	NWEA provides schools with norms by utilizing anonymous data from more than 10 million students around the US. Knowing the top, middle, and bottom scores of all these students combined allows teachers to compare where your child is to other students and help them grow. In addition, NWEA provides comparison data for private, accredited, English-based, international schools using MAP Growth outside the US.
Is MAP Growth a standardized test?	MAP Growth is administered periodically during the school year. Instead of asking all students the same questions, it adjusts to each child's performance—giving a more accurate measure of what they know. Teachers also receive results right away, which enables them to react more quickly.
What types of questions are on MAP Growth tests?	The MAP Growth tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. For sample tests, visit Warmup.NWEA.org.

For tips on getting ready for MAP Growth testing, check out our blog:
nwea.org/blog/category/supporting-families
Find more family resources at nwea.org/familytoolkit

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NWEA is a not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by providing assessment solutions, insightful reports, professional learning offerings, and research services. Visit NWEA.org to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

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