



July 2025

NWEA FAQ

Who will be tested? Which subjects will be tested?

Students in the following grades will be tested on the following subjects:

	Kindergarten & 1 st grade	2 nd and 3 rd grade	4 th and 5 th grade	6 th through 8 th grade	9 th grade
Acadience Reading	X	X			
NWEA Language Usage 2+			X		
NWEA Reading 2-5			X		
NWEA Reading 6+				X	
NWEA Math K-2	X				
NWEA Math 2-5		X	X		
NWEA Math 6+				X	

How often will students be administered the NWEA?

Students will be administered the NWEA two times per year (i.e., fall and winter). The testing windows are in September and January. Each administration period is approximately two weeks. On average, each assessment generally takes 45 minutes to complete, but the assessment is not timed, and students can take longer or shorter as needed. Most test takers will have approximately 40 to 43 questions per test.

What are these assessments measuring?

The NWEA assessments measure students’ progress in reading, math, and language usage. Over time, a student’s progress is tracked across multiple years. After two testing sessions, the assessment will also articulate a student’s growth and progress. The NWEA assessment has been linked to the Connecticut Core Standards and is predictive of Smarter Balanced Assessments.

Do all students take the same assessment?

Although each student will use the same platform, they will not be administered the same assessment. Each assessment is individualized to target performance in mathematics, language usage, and reading. The computer will adjust the difficulty of the questions as each student takes the test.

How will results be shared?

Similar to the STAR assessment reporting, each student will have an individual score report that will be shared with families after each assessment period in the Infinite Campus Digital Backpack.

How is student performance measured?

The NWEA uses a RIT scale (i.e., Rasch Unit), which is an equal interval achievement scale. The RIT score is a measurement of an individual student's achievement in a particular subject (e.g., math and reading) and indicates where each student is performing academically.

There is no "perfect" score on the NWEA assessment. The score is calculated by both the accuracy of answers and the difficulty of the questions. Valid scores range from 100 to 350. Each grade level and content assessment is "normed" to provide the average score for that particular test, grade level, and time of the year.

Are practice tests or sample questions available for preview?

Students can see a practice test at <https://studentresources.nwea.org/>. The username and password are *grow*.

Why are the K-2 assessments, which appear the same as the upper grades, different?

The K-2 assessments are more suitable for our youngest learners. These assessments allow for the use of headphones, as many questions include audio for our students who are still learning to read.

How will my child's teacher use these data in the classroom?

The NWEA assessment allows teachers to track progress and growth over time. The assessment also provides information on students' relative strengths and weaknesses to better inform instructional decisions in the classroom. This information is linked to Common Core Standards, as is our curriculum, and provides information on how each student is progressing along our curriculum and meeting state standards.

Where can I go for more information?

For more information on the NWEA MAP Growth Assessment, please visit the [NWEA – MAP Growth Family Guide](#). More detailed information and FAQs regarding the NWEA assessment can be found [here](#).

In closing, please remember that test scores provide one source of evidence about a student's performance. This information should be included with other assessments and data to draw the most accurate conclusions and inform decision-making.

For more information on the Smarter Balanced Assessment, please visit www.ct.gov/sde/parentguides. Information regarding the Next Generation Science Standards can be located at: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides/>. If you have any additional questions regarding your child's performance, please contact your school's administration.

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