



ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Ann Arbor Public Schools NWEA Benchmark Assessment Results Spring/Fall 2025 Annual Report

Board of Education
March 11, 2026

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We will review:

- Background Information and Key Understandings
- New NWEA Norms
- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Results Discussion
 - Spring 2025 Achievement Comparison to National Norms By Grade Level
 - Fall to Spring 2024-2025 Performance and Growth
 - Fall 2025 Achievement Comparison to National Norms By Grade Level
 - Fall 2025 Achievement Comparison to National Norms Over Time

Norm-referenced vs. Criterion-referenced

Norm-referenced means that we are comparing student scores to other students' scores.

E.g., Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) results are norm-referenced, comparing a student a large national set of students' scores that NWEA used to create “norms”.

Criterion-referenced means that we are comparing student scores to a defined set of knowledge.

E.g., Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) scores are designed to determine proficiency against a set of skills/knowledge.

NWEA Norms (1)

As stated previously, *norm-referenced* means that students scores are compared to other students' scores. Every several years, NWEA updates their norms based on newer national student results data. This happened and we are now moving from a set of 2020 norms to a new set of 2025 NWEA norms. These new norms are based on samples of nation-wide data from Academic Years 2022-23 and 2023-24.

At the beginning of this year, we compared the 2020 and 2025 NWEA norms over two of the NWEA 2024-25 administrations to see how this would impact our student results, and found the following:

NWEA Norms (2)

1. Overall the nationwide sample shows that mean student RIT scores on the NWEA tests in both math and reading subject areas have generally decreased between 2015 and 2020, and again between 2020 and 2025
2. Expected NWEA growth means have generally decreased in reading, but increased in math above grade 1 during the same time period.
3. The change from using 2020 norms to 2025 norms on AAPS student performance across two test administrations in 2024-25 generally shows students posting more positive results in comparison to the new, lower norms. Across all the results we considered, student quintile decreased less than 1% of the time, and increased 13.8% of the time. A solid 85% of results showed no change under the new norms.

One Measure at One Point in Time

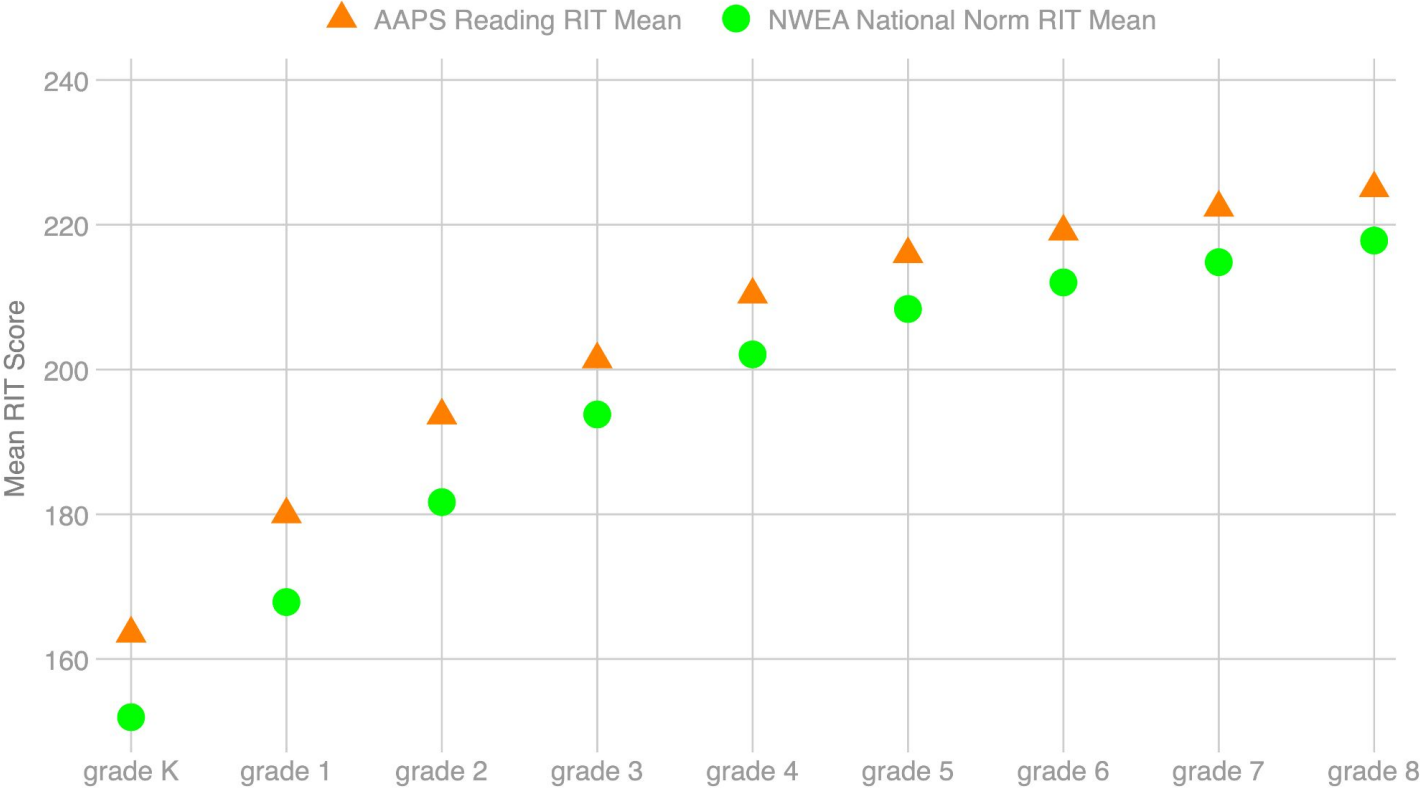
It is important to understand that both the Northwest Evaluation Administration (NWEA) tests represent *one measure* of student achievement and growth. It is used in conjunction with *many other data* to support and design instruction and experiences to maximize and monitor student learning.

NWEA results and other state testing results, in addition to detailed report cards, is shared with our families to keep them informed about the progress of their students.

NWEA: Spring 2025 Achievement Compared to National 2025 Norms

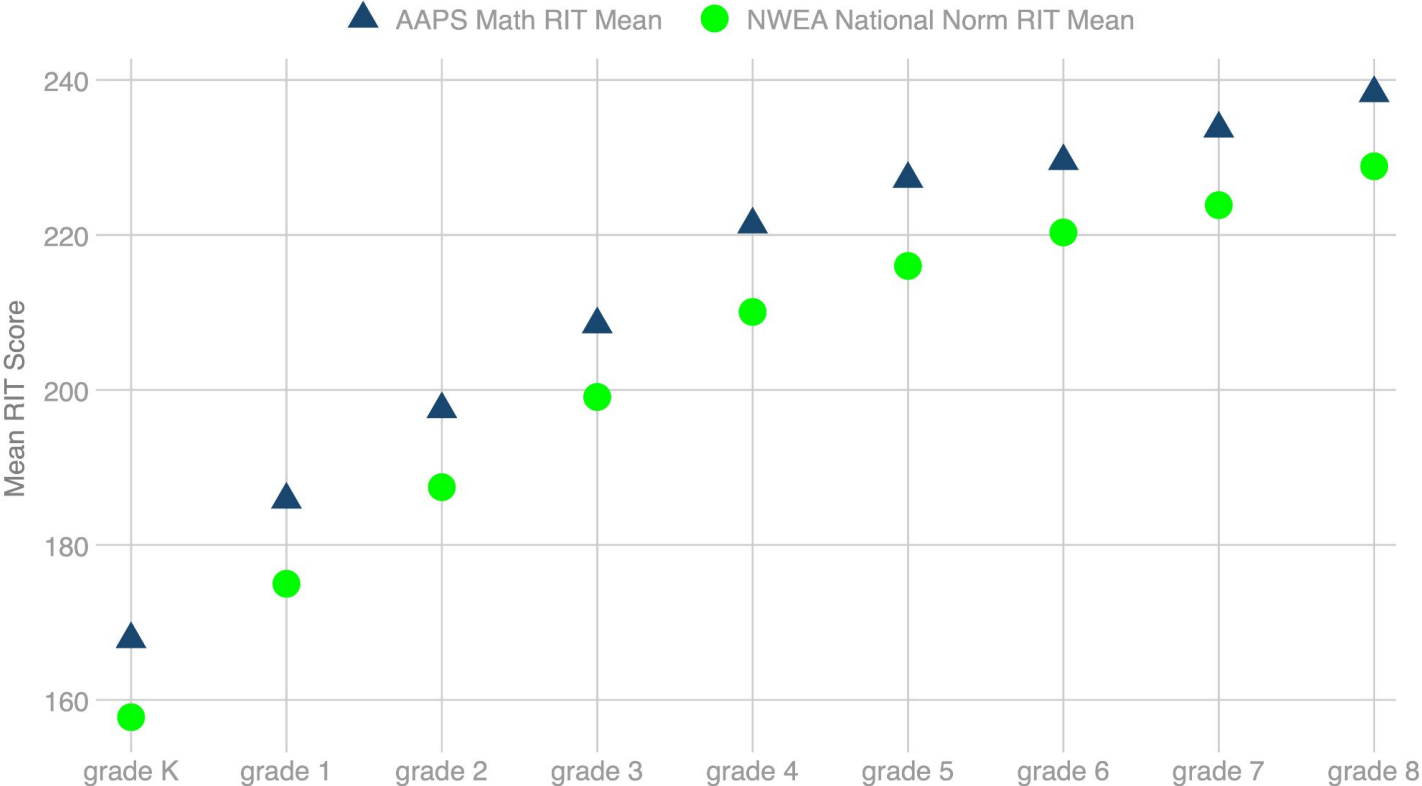
The AAPS continues to demonstrate above-average achievement at all grade levels in both reading and mathematics that exceeds national norms.

AAPS Reading Rasch Unit (RIT) Mean Scores Compared to National RIT Norms Spring 2025 Northwest Evaluation Association Test Administration



| | AAPS Reading Spring 2025 Mean Rasch Units (RIT) | NWEA Reading Spring Norm RIT Mean | AAPS Percent of Norm RIT Mean Score Achieved |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Grade K | 163.53 | 151.96 | 107.62% |
| Grade 1 | 180.00 | 167.87 | 107.23% |
| Grade 2 | 193.66 | 181.68 | 106.60% |
| Grade 3 | 201.42 | 193.79 | 103.94% |
| Grade 4 | 210.35 | 202.09 | 104.09% |
| Grade 5 | 215.95 | 208.37 | 103.64% |
| Grade 6 | 219.07 | 212.04 | 103.32% |
| Grade 7 | 222.37 | 214.83 | 103.51% |
| Grade 8 | 225.03 | 217.82 | 103.31% |

AAPS Math Rasch Unit (RIT) Mean Scores Compared to National RIT Norms Spring 2025 Northwest Evaluation Association Test Administration



| | AAPS Math Spring 2025 Mean Rasch Units (RIT) | NWEA Math Spring Norm RIT Mean | AAPS Percent of Norm RIT Mean Score Achieved |
|----------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Grade K | 167.84 | 157.77 | 106.38% |
| Grade 1 | 185.85 | 174.99 | 106.21% |
| Grade 2 | 197.52 | 187.46 | 105.37% |
| Grade 3 | 208.48 | 199.10 | 104.71% |
| Grade 4 | 221.36 | 210.07 | 105.37% |
| Grade 5 | 227.25 | 216.01 | 105.20% |
| Grade 6 | 229.53 | 220.33 | 104.18% |
| Grade 7 | 233.74 | 223.85 | 104.42% |
| Grade 8 | 238.32 | 228.87 | 104.13% |

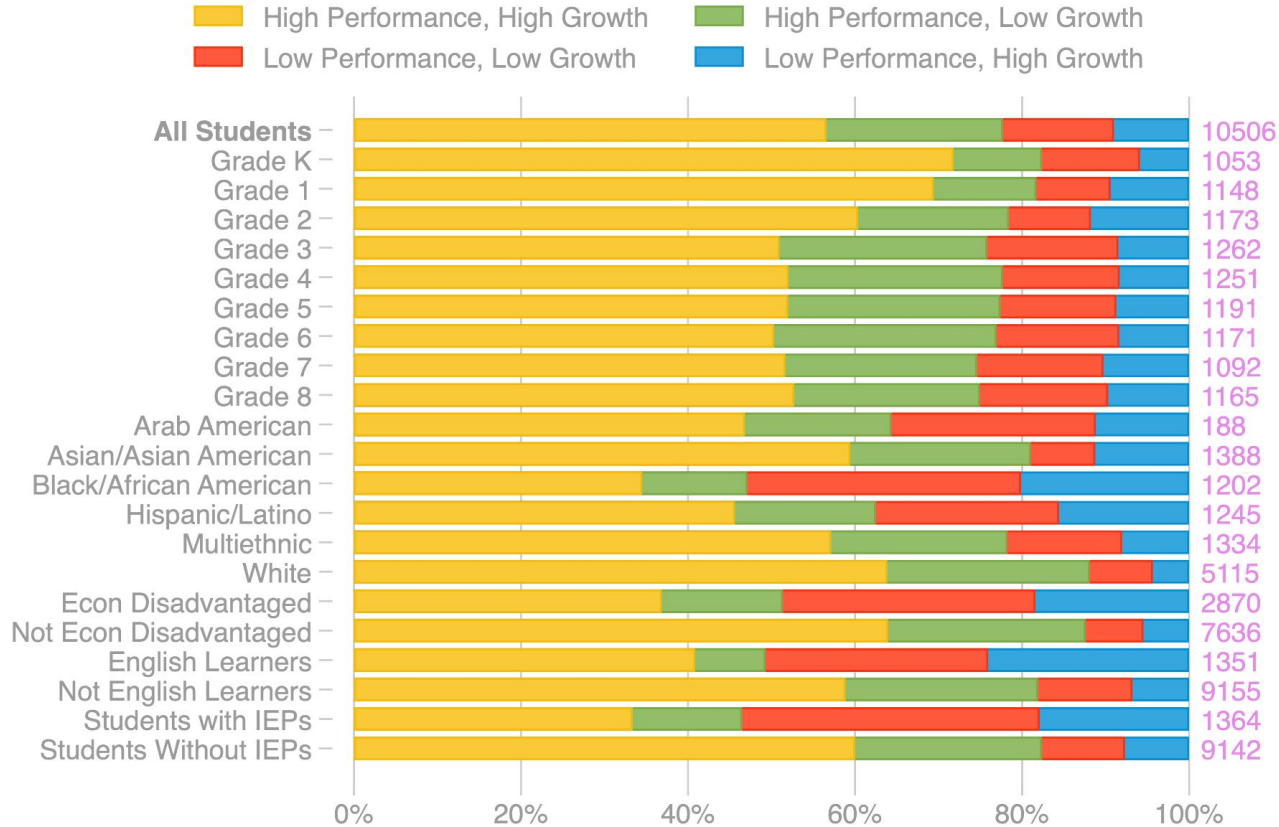
NWEA: Fall to Spring Growth and Percentiles

The majority of AAPS students fall into High Growth/High Performance categories in both reading and mathematics, but this does vary across student demographic groups.

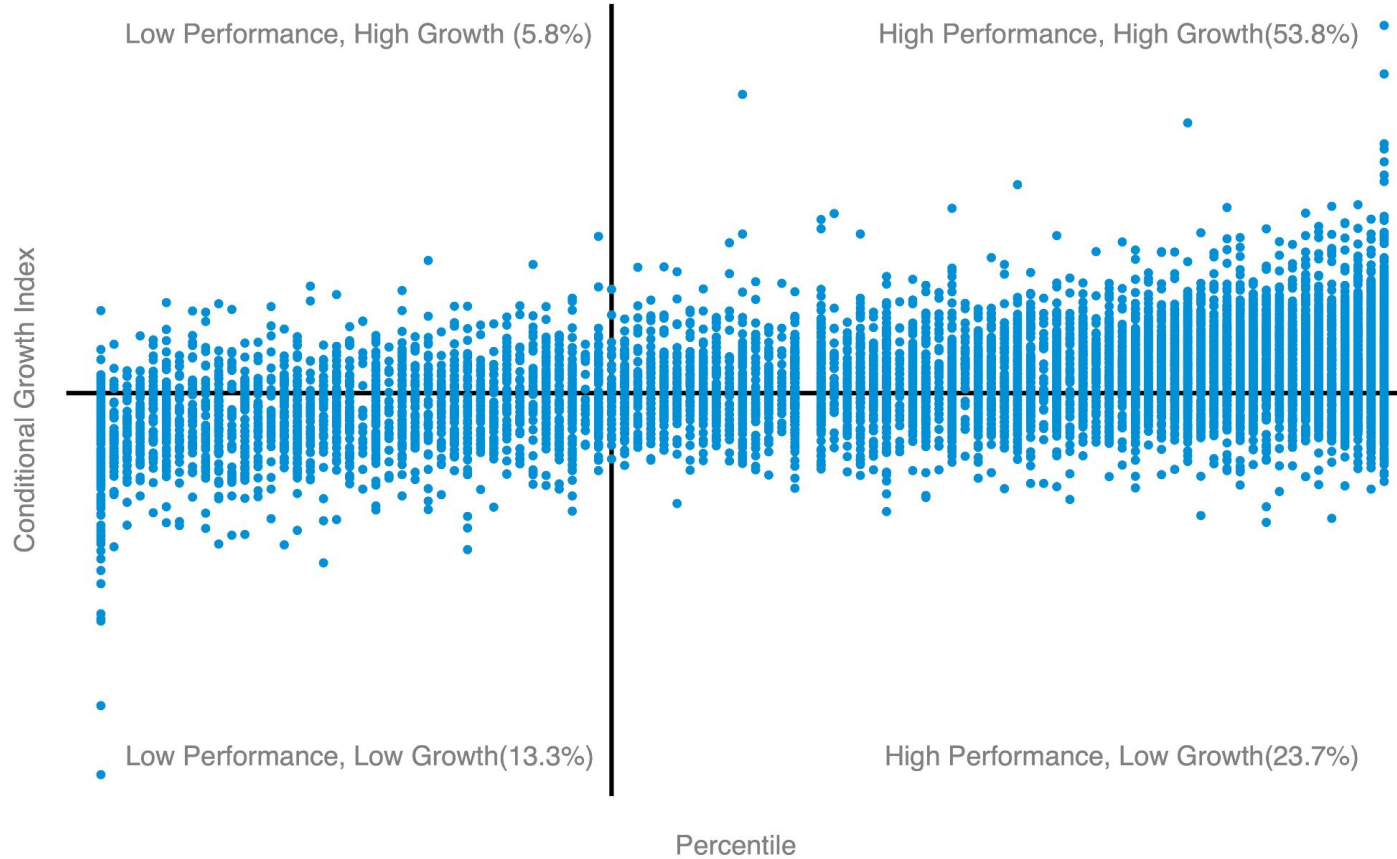
2024-25 AAPS Reading Percentile & Growth



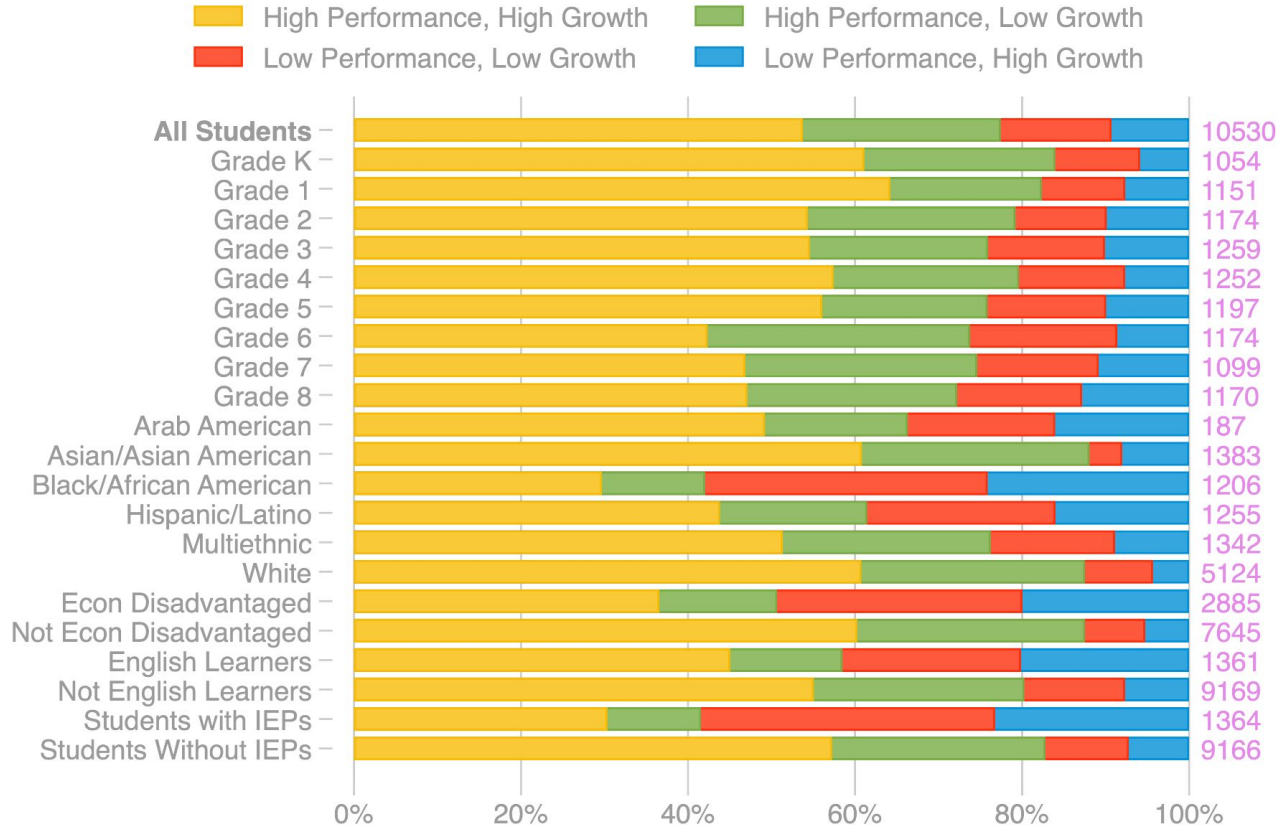
2024-25 AAPS Reading Percentile & Growth by Student Groups



2024-25 AAPS Math Percentile & Growth



2024-25 AAPS Math Percentile & Growth by Student Groups

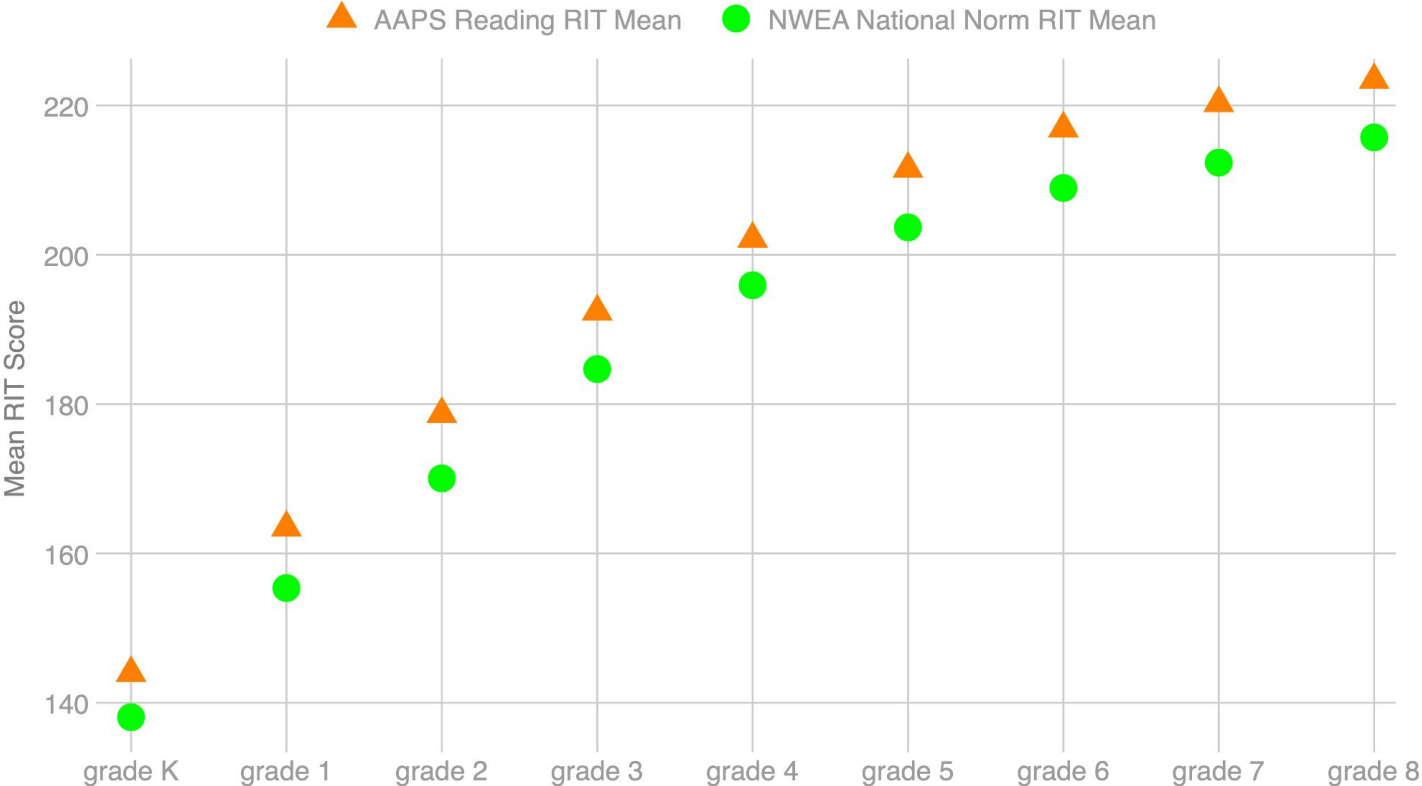


NWEA: Fall 2025 Achievement Compared to National 2025 Norms

The AAPS continues to demonstrate above-average achievement at all grade levels in both reading and mathematics that exceeds national norms.

AAPS Reading Rasch Unit (RIT) Mean Scores Compared to National RIT Norms

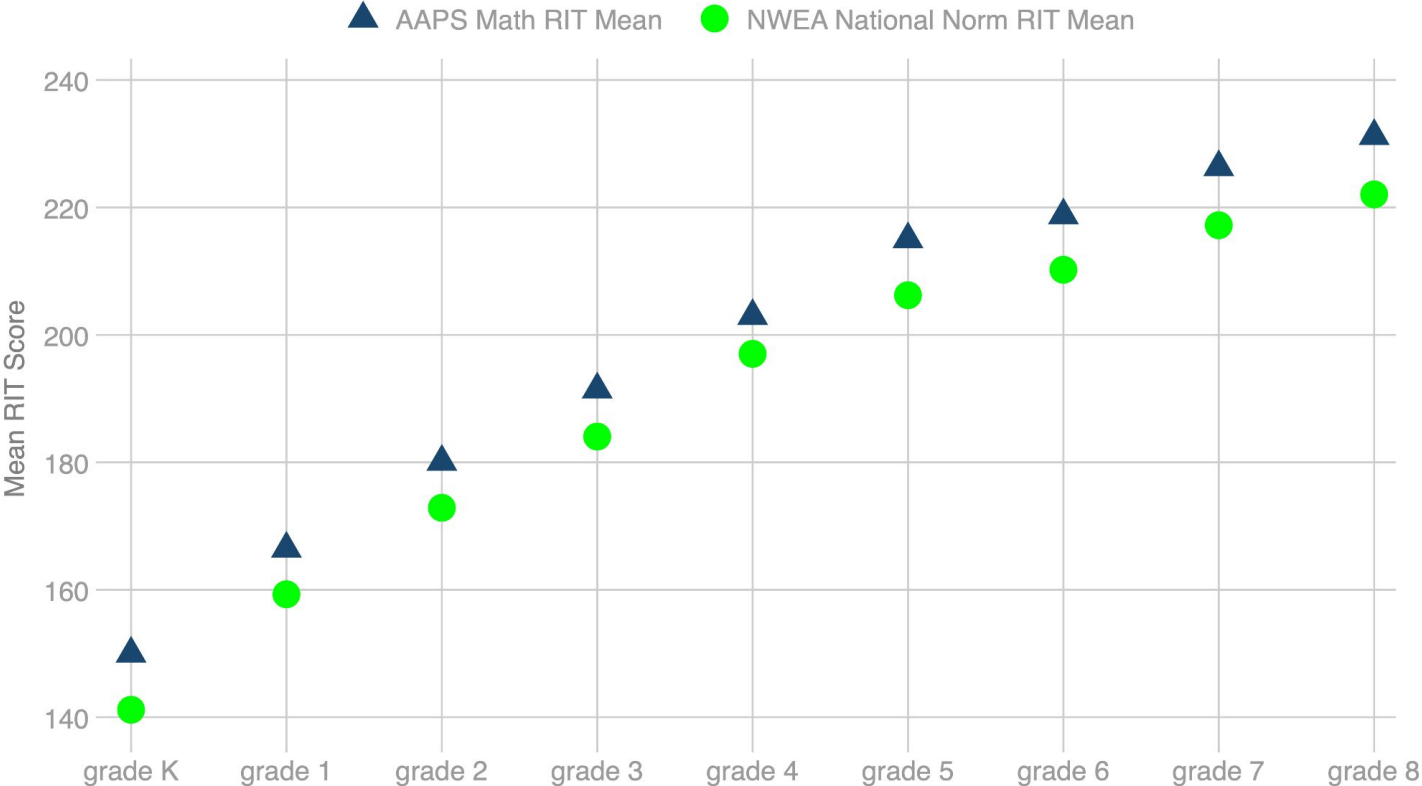
Fall 2025 Northwest Evaluation Association Test Administration



| | AAPS Reading Fall 2025 Mean Rasch Units (RIT) | NWEA Reading Fall Norm RIT Mean | AAPS Percent of Norm RIT Mean Score Achieved |
|----------------|--|--|---|
| Grade K | 143.99 | 138.07 | 104.29% |
| Grade 1 | 163.47 | 155.37 | 105.21% |
| Grade 2 | 178.68 | 170.06 | 105.07% |
| Grade 3 | 192.40 | 184.69 | 104.17% |
| Grade 4 | 202.14 | 195.92 | 103.17% |
| Grade 5 | 211.52 | 203.67 | 103.85% |
| Grade 6 | 216.91 | 208.95 | 103.81% |
| Grade 7 | 220.30 | 212.34 | 103.75% |
| Grade 8 | 223.40 | 215.72 | 103.56% |

AAPS Math Rasch Unit (RIT) Mean Scores Compared to National RIT Norms

Fall 2025 Northwest Evaluation Association Test Administration



| | AAPS Math Fall 2025 Mean Rasch Units (RIT) | NWEA Math Fall Norm RIT Mean | AAPS Percent of Norm RIT Mean Score Achieved |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Grade K | 149.98 | 141.17 | 106.24% |
| Grade 1 | 166.45 | 159.29 | 104.50% |
| Grade 2 | 180.09 | 172.87 | 104.18% |
| Grade 3 | 191.44 | 184.05 | 104.01% |
| Grade 4 | 202.98 | 197.03 | 103.02% |
| Grade 5 | 215.02 | 206.23 | 104.26% |
| Grade 6 | 218.77 | 210.23 | 104.06% |
| Grade 7 | 226.33 | 217.21 | 104.20% |
| Grade 8 | 231.22 | 222.05 | 104.13% |

Mean Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Fall Rasch Unit (RIT) Scores and Percent At/Above Mean RIT, 2021-22 through 2025-26 by Grade by Year, 2025 Norms

Math Test

| | Fall 21-22 | | | Fall 22-23 | | | Fall 23-24 | | | Fall 24-25 | | | Fall 25-26 | | |
|---------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n |
| Grade 0 | 150.80 | 75.4% | 1117 | 149.08 | 72.9% | 1149 | 149.81 | 74.4% | 1171 | 149.67 | 75.2% | 1065 | 149.98 | 75.5% | 1069 |
| Grade 1 | 168.85 | 76.9% | 1197 | 167.00 | 71.4% | 1236 | 166.27 | 70.9% | 1182 | 166.84 | 73.1% | 1166 | 166.45 | 71.7% | 1079 |
| Grade 2 | 182.52 | 78.1% | 1161 | 181.97 | 74.6% | 1216 | 179.05 | 67.8% | 1241 | 180.78 | 71.5% | 1171 | 180.09 | 71.4% | 1155 |
| Grade 3 | 194.15 | 76.9% | 1184 | 193.03 | 73.9% | 1200 | 191.61 | 68.5% | 1275 | 191.17 | 68.0% | 1259 | 191.44 | 67.1% | 1179 |
| Grade 4 | 203.64 | 69.1% | 1167 | 204.87 | 70.3% | 1238 | 203.74 | 66.4% | 1210 | 205.11 | 67.9% | 1260 | 202.98 | 65.1% | 1266 |
| Grade 5 | 213.97 | 68.3% | 1252 | 214.13 | 68.8% | 1172 | 213.94 | 65.8% | 1267 | 214.26 | 66.8% | 1200 | 215.02 | 68.1% | 1230 |
| Grade 6 | 218.02 | 68.1% | 1130 | 219.57 | 70.4% | 1192 | 217.65 | 61.2% | 1125 | 219.47 | 65.8% | 1204 | 218.77 | 64.3% | 1144 |
| Grade 7 | 225.40 | 67.1% | 1159 | 224.47 | 65.3% | 1159 | 223.94 | 62.2% | 1219 | 225.80 | 67.4% | 1128 | 226.33 | 67.1% | 1205 |
| Grade 8 | 231.37 | 68.0% | 1143 | 231.22 | 65.4% | 1202 | 229.87 | 63.8% | 1159 | 231.12 | 65.3% | 1184 | 231.22 | 64.5% | 1142 |

Reading Test

| | Fall 21-22 | | | Fall 22-23 | | | Fall 23-24 | | | Fall 24-25 | | | Fall 25-26 | | |
|---------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n | Mean RIT | Percent At or Above Grade Level Mean | n |
| Grade 0 | 145.11 | 67.7% | 1121 | 143.02 | 62.5% | 1147 | 143.91 | 66.5% | 1168 | 144.35 | 68.4% | 1068 | 143.99 | 65.4% | 1071 |
| Grade 1 | 163.47 | 67.8% | 1194 | 162.20 | 66.5% | 1238 | 162.69 | 69.1% | 1181 | 162.80 | 67.5% | 1176 | 163.47 | 68.0% | 1074 |
| Grade 2 | 180.63 | 70.7% | 1169 | 178.26 | 62.3% | 1215 | 177.32 | 58.6% | 1238 | 178.09 | 62.0% | 1177 | 178.68 | 62.8% | 1161 |
| Grade 3 | 194.88 | 73.5% | 1176 | 193.52 | 69.6% | 1195 | 193.55 | 68.9% | 1272 | 192.71 | 65.7% | 1255 | 192.40 | 67.7% | 1203 |
| Grade 4 | 203.93 | 71.8% | 1165 | 203.66 | 71.9% | 1237 | 203.57 | 70.7% | 1205 | 203.89 | 71.5% | 1266 | 202.14 | 68.3% | 1266 |
| Grade 5 | 210.36 | 69.3% | 1244 | 210.25 | 69.5% | 1168 | 210.10 | 70.2% | 1278 | 210.94 | 71.1% | 1237 | 211.52 | 73.3% | 1234 |
| Grade 6 | 216.95 | 72.8% | 1133 | 217.01 | 73.6% | 1191 | 215.63 | 69.7% | 1104 | 216.30 | 71.2% | 1193 | 216.91 | 71.7% | 1129 |
| Grade 7 | 221.32 | 75.4% | 1157 | 218.60 | 68.5% | 1148 | 218.12 | 66.4% | 1192 | 219.30 | 68.5% | 1127 | 220.30 | 73.2% | 1200 |
| Grade 8 | 225.41 | 75.1% | 1151 | 223.64 | 74.2% | 1192 | 222.59 | 70.3% | 1157 | 222.85 | 69.9% | 1197 | 223.40 | 73.2% | 1137 |



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