



## **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)**

Assessments should make a difference. Dedicated to this belief, NWEA developed Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), a state- aligned computerized adaptive assessment program that provides educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning. Educators use the growth and achievement data from MAP to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvement. With the ability to test students up to four seasons a year, MAP test results help educators make student-focused, data-driven decisions.

More than 2500 school districts and educational partners use MAP Mathematics, Reading, and Language Usage tests to help all students learn. These assessments are unique in that they adapt to each student's ability, accurately measuring what a child knows and needs to learn. In addition, MAP tests measure academic growth over time, independent of grade level or age. Most importantly, the results educators receive have practical application to teaching and learning. MAP test results provide educators with timely information that guides instructional planning and school improvement.

### **MAP tests are available in these four subject areas:**

- Mathematics
- Reading
- Language Usage
- Science (Optional)

### **MAP tests:**

- Are aligned to each state's measurement scales and content standards, and are often used as an indicator of preparedness for state assessments.
- Allow educators to test up to four seasons a year providing the opportunity to make timely instructional adjustments.
- Are grade independent allowing educators to monitor a student's academic growth.
- Dynamically adjust to each student's performance, providing accurate indication of his or her instructional level.
- Report scores as norm-referenced, achievement, and growth, providing different perspectives on an individual student's learning.

MAP tests are adaptive, meaning that they dynamically adjust to each student's performance. As a student answers a test question on a computer, the program immediately analyzes the student's response, and based on how well the student has answered previous questions, selects a question of appropriate difficulty to display next. Because the questions are chosen

specifically for the student taking the test, no question is wasted. Students can meaningfully attempt all of the items on a test, creating a more challenging and positive testing experience.

This type of adaptive testing is a better indicator of a student's true achievement and academic needs than traditional assessment, which is often a single test given to all students and written for the average ability within a grade level.

MAP tests are state-aligned and are often used as an indicator of preparedness for state assessments. Administering the tests up to four seasons each year allows educators to closely monitor the progress of students. Student test results are maintained test after test, so teachers and parents can monitor the growth of individual students year after year. With access to aggregated student report, building and central office administrators use MAP data to inform curriculum and school improvement decisions.

#### **Educators use MAP tests to:**

- Identify the skills and concepts individual students have learned.
- Diagnose instructional needs of individual students.
- Monitor academic growth over time.
- Make data-driven decisions at the classroom, school, and district levels.
- Help place new students into appropriate instructional programs.

#### **Classroom Resources**

Students learn and grow when information is appropriately challenging — not too difficult, yet not boring. NWEA classroom resources let teachers move quickly from test results to instructional planning.

Teachers use these classroom resources to:

- Define flexible groups for instruction.
- Guide differentiated instruction.
- Link test results to skills and concepts included in state standards.
- Evaluate appropriate reading materials.
- Facilitate goal-setting and student learning plans.

Teachers easily target appropriate and relevant instruction for each student or group of students using DesCartes, NWEA's continuum of learning. DesCartes translates test scores to skills and concepts in your state standards. NWEA Reading tests report Lexile scores so that teachers and media center staff can help students and parents select appropriately challenging reading materials.

Provide intervention when it has the greatest impact. With immediate results, educators know where a student's instructional needs are and can make timely adjustments to instruction.

- Immediate scores upon completion of a test.
- Performance data within one day.
- Achievement and summary reports within three days.