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.

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.
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.

COMMON QUESTIONS

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<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<td>How do schools and teachers use MAP Growth scores?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Can MAP Growth tell me if my child is working at grade level?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>How often will my child take MAP Growth tests?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>What are norms?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Is MAP Growth a standardized test?</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>What types of questions are on MAP Growth tests?</td>
<td>The MAP Growth tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. For sample tests, visit Warmup.NWEA.org.</td>
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“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

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
How to Prepare for MAP Testing

What is MAP Growth?

MAP Growth helps teachers understand what children know today, so goals can be set to improve growth throughout the year. Children cannot pass or fail this test.

This test will not affect grades. In fact, it’s normal for children to only answer about half the questions correctly. Please don’t help them!

Given the challenges of learning from home, MAP Growth test results are especially helpful for us this year. These results will help us know what children are ready to learn.

Before Testing Administration
1. Prepare devices for testing by making sure your device has an internet connection.
2. Confirm that the communication platform is working and that the child can communicate effectively with the school proctor.
3. Make sure that the child has access to any accommodations that they need and have been approved by the school/district (pencil/paper, bi-lingual dictionary, etc.).
4. Work with the child to develop a plan on how to minimize distractions that could occur during the test.
5. Practice the test at practice.mapnwea.org (Username: grow, Password: grow)

During Testing Administration
1. Provide a quiet testing environment
2. Minimize distractions for your child as much as possible
3. Help child to log in using the test session name and password provided by the proctor
4. Ensure that the child is following all rules laid out by the school/district and that the child is not using unapproved devices or accommodations
5. Monitor progress of the child and ensure that technical difficulties are not preventing the child from trying their hardest
6. Be prepared to contact the proctor or the primary school contact should any technical issues arise
7. Enable the child to demonstrate what they are ready to learn by not providing assistance in answering questions

Ending Test Session
1. Help your child shut down the MAP Growth assessment window
2. Ask the child how the assessment went, what they think they did well, and what questions they found most challenging