



WILMETTE DISTRICT 39

NWEA MAP FAQ

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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What is NWEA?

NWEA stands for Northwest Evaluation Association. NWEA is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency—and provide insights to help tailor instruction.

What is MAP?

MAP is a test created by NWEA that kids take three times per school year in both reading and math on their iPads. It is a computer adaptive assessment—meaning that the difficulty of questions adjusts throughout the assessment based on the student's responses. The results provide teachers with information to help them deliver appropriate level content for each student and determine each student's academic growth over time.

How long does the MAP growth test take?

While MAP growth is an untimed test, it usually takes grade 5-8 students about one hour to complete each test and 30-45 minutes for grade 2-4 students.

How does District 39 use MAP data?

MAP helps schools and teachers know what your child is ready to learn at any point in time. Teachers can see the progress of individual students and of their class as a whole. Principals and administrators can see the progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district. Since students with similar MAP scores are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, it makes it easier for teachers to plan instruction. MAP also provides typical growth data for students who are in the same grade, subject, and have the same starting performance level. It is important to remember each data point reflects a single snapshot of a child's performance. Therefore,

[What should I do if I want more information about NWEA MAP?](#)

the results are considered along with a child's day-to-day performance in the classroom and growth over time.

When will I receive information from the district regarding my child's performance?

After each test administration, District 39 makes a copy of the child's score report available on PowerSchool. You can find the steps [here](#).

UNDERSTANDING MAP

What is a RIT score?

After each MAP test, results are delivered in the form of a RIT (Rasch Unit) score that reflects the student's academic knowledge, skills, and abilities. Think of this score like marking height on a growth chart. You can tell how tall your child is at various points in time and how much they have grown between one stage and another. The RIT scale is a stable, equal-interval scale. A RIT score has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age of the student. You can compare scores over time to tell how much growth a student has made.

What does percentile rank mean?

A student percentile rank indicates that the student scored as well as, or better than, the percent of students in the norm group. In other words, a student with a percentile rank of 72 scored as well as, or better than, 72 percent of the students in the norm group. The current norm group is based on data released in 2025 from students who tested between 2022-2024.

What is good growth?

District 39 emphasizes growth over time as the preferred measure of student success on NWEA MAP. Spring reports provide a growth projection for the school year based on a student's score in the Fall. This projection is the average growth of students who were in the same grade, tested in the same subject, tested in the same initial term, and began with a similar RIT score during the norming period.

of 2022-2024. It's not uncommon for students to sometimes dip in RIT scores or fail to make their growth projection; however, it's important to look holistically at all available data to determine if they are making progress.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

What does a student progress report look like?

[Linked here](#) is an example of a student progress report. It shows key information, such as the student's RIT score and national percentile for each time the student has taken the MAP Growth assessment in District 39. It also shows the district's average RIT score as well as the national average RIT score. For Spring scores, it also shows what the student's projected RIT growth was based on their Fall RIT score.

How do I interpret a student progress report?

[Linked here](#) is a district resource for understanding a student progress report.

What should I do if I want more information about NWEA MAP?

- [Click here](#) to view a parent's guide to NWEA MAP Growth
- NWEA also provides information on their webpage:
<https://www.nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit/>
- Additionally, you can reach out to your child's teacher or principal