The science behind MAP

MAP measures growth on a longitudinal scale, regardless of changes to standards. A score of 200 on MAP assessments aligned to rigorous new state or Common Core standards has the same meaning as a MAP score of 200 from 30 years ago.

MAP assessments are based on a well-documented and established theory of measurement called Item Response Theory, under which the difficulty of test questions and each student’s achievement level can be measured using the same scale.

The numerical (RIT) value assigned to a student represents the level of test item complexity at which he or she is capable of answering correctly about 50% of the time. It is simply the most accurate way to pinpoint a student’s readiness for new concepts—their precise zone of proximal development.

MAP is computer-adaptive, meaning it is independent of grade level to reach below or above grade level for items to meet the student’s ability. This enables educators to use MAP test results to identify relative strength and weakness in goal areas for mathematics, reading, language usage, or science in relation to the standards being assessed. Further, this precise measure of a student’s abilities empowers educators to differentiate instruction at the level of the individual student. MAP challenges the top performers while not overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level. No students are lost at the upper and lower levels of achievement.

Because MAP enables teachers to see both what students know and what they’re ready to learn, educators can target supplemental instruction accordingly, rather than guessing where the gaps in student understanding may be.
Putting your data to use

PREDICTING PROFICIENCY
MAP provides information on where students are performing on individual state and Common Core standards, so test results can be used to project proficiency on high-stakes tests. MAP includes technology-enhanced item types and features that allow for deep assessment of reading, language usage, and mathematics comprehension, and increased cognitive complexity, or Depth of Knowledge, enabling students to demonstrate evidence of their learning.

PREDICTING COLLEGE READINESS
NWEA research has shown a high predictive relationship between students’ scores on MAP assessments and the college readiness benchmarks of the EXPLORE®, PLAN®, and ACT® achievement tests.

UNIVERSAL SCREENER / RTI PLACEMENT
MAP assessments adapt beyond grade level to find the true level of a student’s performance, helping educators identify at-risk students and build a learning plan. MAP assessments received the highest possible rating for classification accuracy, and high ratings in all other categories, from the National Center on Response to Intervention (NCRTI).

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION
Students within the same grade often perform at different grade levels, and educators face the challenge of ensuring that every child—from highest to lowest achievers—continues to grow. MAP data make it easy to identify learning levels so teachers can engage in differentiated instruction and skill-based grouping that leads to positive results for every child.

PROGRAM EVALUATION
With tightening budgets and expanding student populations, MAP data have become key components in assessing the impact of specific programs. MAP scores show conclusively what works, so when special programs are instituted, educators can see precisely how much growth has occurred with participating students.

STUDENT GOAL SETTING
Students become more committed to the learning process when they can set goals and see results. Using the Student Goal Setting worksheet and other MAP tools, it’s easy for teachers and students to build an action plan together, and for parents to become engaged in the process.

Read NWEA partner case studies on these topics, and more, at NWEA.org/CaseStudies.

“They know exactly what their goal is every time they walk in. And when you’re walking on campus, you’ll have a kid run up to you and say, ‘I hit my goal!’ It means a lot to them. They’re into it. They understand it and they know they’re getting better.”

- Principal Dean Cunningham, Nenahnezad Community Schools, NM
Interpreting your data

From the teachers who work with students every day to the administrators who manage entire districts, data from MAP empower educators.

MAP assessment data are presented in easy-to-access reports available immediately after assessment, and the content serves all levels of educational decision making. The reports are valuable in many areas:

- establishing a student's precise instructional level and identifying which areas to focus on for academic growth
- comparing a student's academic progress with others in the class, grade, school, or district
- tracking academic growth with precision over a school year or over several years, even through the transition to the Common Core State Standards or other rigorous state standards

The Class Report (excerpt) shows each student's performance level across reported goal categories defined by state standards, including the Common Core. The reports also provide RIT scores that indicate each student's instructional levels.

MAP reports are ideal for:

- planning individual or group instruction
- monitoring student growth and achievement
- predicting state assessment performance
- engaging students and parents
- diagnosing student strengths and weaknesses
- analyzing school or district performance
- planning school improvements

Visit NWEA.org/FeaturedReports to see annotated versions of key MAP reports, including the Student Progress Report, Class Overview Report, and District Summary Report.

Teachers depend on MAP reports to help them streamline teaching strategies and provide differentiated instruction, and to create flexible grouping across the classroom.

School and district leaders use MAP reports to evaluate programs and monitor school and student performance relative to growth, proficiency, and norms.

District decision makers rely on MAP reports to aid in resource management, help determine performance trends by grade and school, and compare local student achievement to the national scale.

The Class Report (excerpt) shows each student's performance level across reported goal categories defined by state standards, including the Common Core. The reports also provide RIT scores that indicate each student's instructional levels.

### Class Report (by Test RIT) | MAP: Reading 2-5 Common Core 2015/Common Core English Language Arts K-12: 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Student ID)</th>
<th>Gr</th>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>RIT (+/- Std. Err)</th>
<th>Percentile (+/- Std Err)</th>
<th>Lexile® Range</th>
<th>Test Duration</th>
<th>Goal Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dugaw, Daytan N.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>09/12/13</td>
<td>178-181-184</td>
<td>3-4-6</td>
<td>158-308</td>
<td>75 m</td>
<td>163-177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Devany, Noni I.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>09/12/13</td>
<td>185-188-191</td>
<td>7-10-13</td>
<td>288-438</td>
<td>20 m</td>
<td>185-196</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scruggs, Ambrose E.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>09/12/13</td>
<td>194-197-200</td>
<td>17-22-31</td>
<td>652-602</td>
<td>42 m</td>
<td>191-202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informational Text</th>
<th>Literature</th>
<th>Found Skills, Vocabulary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>163-177</td>
<td>175-187</td>
<td>187-197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185-196</td>
<td>185-195</td>
<td>177-189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>191-202</td>
<td>191-203</td>
<td>192-204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The value of MAP

Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) are K – 12 interim assessments that measure growth, project proficiency on high-stakes tests, and inform how educators differentiate instruction, evaluate programs, and structure curriculum.

Computer adaptive MAP assessments reveal precisely which academic skills and concepts the student has acquired and what they’re ready to learn. MAP assessments are grade independent and adapt to each student’s instructional level. Every item on a MAP assessment is anchored to a vertically aligned equal interval scale, called the RIT scale for Rasch Unit—a stable measurement, like inches on a ruler, that covers all grades.

And because the measurement is reliable and accurate, RIT scores serve as an essential data point in a student’s learning plan; educators can see their precise learning level and respond accordingly.

MAP ASSESSMENTS

- MAP for Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics (includes Spanish-language version of MAP Mathematics)
- MAP for Primary Grades (MPG) for Reading and Mathematics
- MAP for Science
- End of Course Assessments in Mathematics

Educators rely on MAP to provide essential information about their students’ continuum of learning and promote a positive growth trajectory. Unlike other standardized tests, MAP is a tool to help students, parents, and teachers identify strengths and opportunities, and focus instruction on the areas of greatest need.

A VALID MEASURE OF GROWTH

The measurement of student academic growth has never been more important to U.S. educators, and MAP is designed to meet that need. MAP provides educators with a stable, valid, and reliable measure of student academic growth on Common Core and other state standards, as well as high-value comparative data and proficiency projections. New MAP test items are introduced every year, but the scale behind the assessment remains stable and consistent year after year, regardless of the standards being assessed.

GROWTH NORMS: THE KEY TO EVALUATING GROWTH

Educators need to know if their students’ growth is above the national norm or below, and NWEA provides that context with growth norms that place your students and schools within a representative national sample. Being able to access these growth norms gives teachers the opportunity to help students set realistic growth targets and take ownership of their own learning process, and they serve as a starting point for important growth discussions among students, parents, and teachers. NWEA norming studies also produce status norms that show percentile ranking on a national scale.
Visit NWEA.org or call 866-654-3246 to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

Founded by educators nearly 40 years ago, Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a global not–for–profit educational services organization known for our flagship interim assessment, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). More than 7,600 partners in U.S. schools, school districts, education agencies, and international schools trust us to offer pre–kindergarten through grade 12 assessments that accurately measure student growth and learning needs, professional development that fosters educators’ abilities to accelerate student learning, and research that supports assessment validity and informed policy. To better inform instruction and maximize every learner’s academic growth, educators currently use NWEA assessments with nearly 8 million students.
Skills Navigator helps teachers support student progress between seasonal MAP administrations.
“There’s no guessing what to do. Skills Navigator actually tells you exactly what skills the student needs to work on.”

— Precious Barr, Professional School Counselor, Royal Live Oaks Academy of the Arts and Sciences Charter School, South Carolina
Skills Navigator
SKILLS MASTERY & PROGRESS MONITORING ASSESSMENT

Immediate, actionable data to drive individualized instruction

Skills Navigator® helps educators save time by pinpointing discrete skill gaps to focus instruction and close achievement gaps. This in-classroom tool is ideally suited for use with targeted small groups and individual students. Teachers can use this system to quickly and easily:

- Identify the skills students are ready to learn—on, above, or below grade level
- Check for evidence of learning progress and skills mastery
- Complement curriculum with resources that help students practice missing skills
- Monitor progress for students in tiered intervention programs

Skills Navigator at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Skills Mastery &amp; Progress Monitoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Use</td>
<td>Use as often as needed, anywhere with an internet connection, to identify skill gaps, monitor progress, and check for mastery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade Ranges</td>
<td>Grades 3 – 12 for remediation Grades K – 7 for enrichment Grades 3 – 8 for core instruction support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills Covered</td>
<td>Over 1,000 essential, K – 8 building-block skills unpacked from College and Career Readiness Standards, organized in logical instructional sequences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Time</td>
<td>Between five and 30 minutes, depending on subject and number of skills assessed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjects</td>
<td>Math, reading comprehension, vocabulary, and language usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item Pool</td>
<td>Nearly 10,000 quality multiple-choice and common-stimulus items, rigorously reviewed by NWEA educational specialists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Resources</td>
<td>Direct links to free, online educational resources curated by Knovation® and aligned to each skill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progress Monitoring Use</td>
<td>Designed to support progress monitoring and intervention programs, such as Tiers II and III of Response to Intervention (RTI)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Skills Navigator empowers students to
• Master new skills
• Become active participants in their learning
• Track their own progress
• Engage in learning anytime, anyplace with an internet connection

Skills Navigator makes it faster and easier for teachers to
• Pinpoint the specific skills students are missing
• Provide supplemental activities for skill practice
• Monitor progress of skills acquisition
• Check for student mastery of skills
The answer to “what’s next” after MAP

The data you get from Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) assessments helps you track each students’ growth—but what’s next? That’s where Skills Navigator comes in. MAP gives you the goal area where each students needs to grow. Skills Navigator then quickly drills down to a more granular level, showing you exactly which skills each student has mastered and is missing, so you can drive individualized instruction.

- Skills Navigator leverages MAP RIT scores to zero in on skills and reduce assessment time
- You can use Skills Navigator as frequently as needed to support student progress between administrations of MAP
- Integration with MAP makes for streamlined usage: system requirements, student rosters, and staff logins for Skills Navigator are the same as Web-Based MAP

Skills Navigator in action

Teachers can use Skills Navigator to quickly see students’ progress and needs, then adapt instruction to help each individual, as well as easily group students for targeted instruction. This makes it a powerful tool for both remediation and enrichment.

Remediation

- Quickly identify the essential, building-block skills a student is missing
- Monitor student mastery of skills as often as needed
- Assign supplemental activities aligned to the skills a student is working on
- Support progress monitoring and intervention programs, such as Tiers II and III of RTI

Enrichment

- Identify skill areas where high-performing students could be further challenged
- Provide growth opportunities with supplemental activities aligned to skills students are ready to learn
- Track progress of high-performing students as they master additional skills
- Empower students to track their own progress toward their learning goals
Founded by educators nearly 40 years ago, NWEA is a global not-for-profit educational services organization known for our flagship interim assessment, Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). More than 7,600 partners in US schools, school districts, education agencies, and international schools trust us to offer pre-kindergarten through grade 12 assessments that accurately measure student growth and learning needs, professional development that fosters educators’ abilities to accelerate student learning, and research that supports assessment validity and informed policy. To better inform instruction and maximize every learner’s academic growth, educators currently use NWEA assessments with nearly eight million students.

See how Skills Navigator can make a difference for your students

Call 866-654-3246 to learn more, or visit NWEA.org/SkillsNavigator

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Gain skill-specific instructional guidance starting in Pre-K, as well as powerful tools to partner with parents.

For every skill our youngest school-aged students are mastering, a dozen new skills are constantly emerging. Early childhood educators need a quick and reliable way to take a snapshot of the pieces of each student’s skill development puzzle and identify specific next steps to fill in the gaps.

Children’s Progress Academic Assessment™ (CPAA™) helps you do just that by answering these key questions:

- **OVERALL SKILL DEVELOPMENT**: What is each student (and the group) currently able to do and ready to learn? Which skills are emerging?
- **INSTRUCTIONAL NEXT STEPS**: How can we work with each student (and the group) on specific skills, both in class and at home?

CPAA is an adaptive diagnostic assessment that is meant to be used first and foremost as a teaching tool. This patented, child-friendly program was designed at Columbia University and MIT.

The assessment includes instructional scaffolding (targeted support) for students who struggle and the reports provide educators with skill-specific next steps for each child and classroom. Parent reports and activities are built into the program to help educators engage families. Additionally, a Spanish version of the assessment makes it easy to evaluate English Language Learners’ academic skills independent of their English proficiency.

You can use CPAA on its own or pair it with our adaptive growth measure for young learners (MAP® for Primary Grades) to inform instruction and get all students on track well before 3rd grade.

**Patented Scaffolding Structure: Mimicking the Student-Teacher Interaction**

Whereas a traditional assessment can tell you if a student answered a question correctly or incorrectly, CPAA’s unique format digs deeper. After each incorrect response, students receive a second chance. They see the question again, with scaffolding (targeted support). In this way, the assessment experience mirrors a 1:1 student-teacher interaction.

In addition to ensuring a personalized, stress-free experience for young students, scaffolding allows CPAA to generate more granular data for educators, including instructional recommendations for specific skills. CPAA scoring algorithm takes into account how much scaffolding each student required, and reports include item level information.
How CPAA Works: Benefits at Each Step

Step 1: Assess
Students complete the adaptive skills diagnostic assessment independently on the computer, from three times a year to as often as once a month, as needed to inform instruction.

- Quickly identify fully and partially developed skills. Students are evaluated on grade-level literacy and math content in just 15-30 minutes.
- Assess seamlessly within an instructional experience. CPAA adapts to individual student performance and presents scaffolding (targeted support) to students who struggle, giving them another opportunity to succeed.
- Be data-driven without sacrificing developmental appropriateness. CPAA starts as early as Pre-K with a format and content that is child friendly, so you can set skill acquisition on the right path from day one.

Step 2: Analyze
Educators and administrators instantly access interactive reports.

- Benchmark against end-of-year grade level expectations. CPAA reports are available aligned to Common Core or state standards for each grade.
- Dig into skill level data. Reports include narrative skill summaries, item level detail and descriptions of what each student knows and is able to do compared to each standard. Use this information to find trouble areas, group students, prepare lesson plans, and more.

Step 3: Act
Educators can get started right away with targeted recommended activities and parent reports.

- Move quickly from assessment to instruction. Skill-specific recommended activities and item level insight take the guesswork out of differentiation, providing a starting point for each child and classroom.
- Partner with parents beyond teacher conferences. CPAA parent reports include performance summaries and at-home activities (in English and Spanish), empowering families to engage in the learning process.
- Inform placement decisions and support English Language Learners. Reports help you gain a clear sense of skill development independent of English proficiency.

Northwest Evaluation Association™ (NWEA™) has nearly 40 years of experience helping educators accelerate student learning through computer-based assessment suites, professional development offerings, and research services. Visit NWEA.org to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.