

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

[Parent Toolkit](#): A Guide to [NWEA](#) Assessments (PDF)

[RIT: Reference Charts](#)

What is MAP testing?

(taken from the [NWEA](#) website's [Parent Toolkit](#) document)

What are the different NWEA assessments?

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) These computerized tests are adaptive and offered in **Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics**. When taking a **MAP** test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

MAP for Primary Grades

These computerized tests include Screening (diagnostic) tests, Skills Checklist (diagnostic) tests, and Survey w/ Goals (adaptive) tests in **Reading** and **Mathematics**. These assessments:

- Provide teachers with an efficient way to assess achievement levels of early learners so they can spend more time teaching and less time administering individual diagnostic tests.
- Provide information to guide instruction during the early stages of a student's academic career. Early learners enter school with a wide variety of educational experiences. Early identification of achievement levels is foundational for teachers establishing an environment for early academic success.
- Identify the needs of all primary grades students, from struggling to advanced learners.
- Utilize engaging test items that encourage student participation for more accurate results.

How long does it take to complete a test?

Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes student about one hour to complete each **MAP** test.

MAP for Primary Grades tests take from about 15 to 30 minutes to complete.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test?

No. This assessment is designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, and science. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. Because the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions as the test progresses, each student takes a unique test.

What are the MAP test results used for?

MAP is used to measure a student's progress or growth in school. They are important to teachers because they let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

If you have ever used a growth chart in your home to show how much your child has grown from one year to the next, this will help you understand the scale MAP uses to measure your child's academic progress. Called the RIT scale (Rasch unit), it is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your child's academic growth from year to year. RIT scores typically start at the 140 to 190 level in 3rd grade and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school.

How do teachers use the test scores?

MAP tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use the information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

Ways to help your child prepare for testing

Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Parents and teachers working together benefit students.

- Provide a comfortable, quiet place for studying at home.
- Make sure that your child is well-rested on school days, especially the day of the test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
- Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new material, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's teacher or media specialist for a suggested outside reading list.

Ways to help your child with language

Talk to your child and encourage him or her to engage in conversation during family activities.

Give a journal or a diary as a gift. Help your child write a letter to a friend or family member. Offer assistance with correct grammar usage and content. Have a "word of the week" that is defined every Monday. Encourage your child to use the new word throughout the week. Plan a special snack or meal and have your child write the menu.

After finishing a chapter in a book or a magazine article, have your child explain his or her favorite event.

Ways to help your child with reading

Provide many opportunities for your child to read books or other materials. Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read. Read aloud to your child. Research shows that this is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Keep reading aloud even when your child can read independently.

Make time for the library. Play games like Scrabble, Spill and Spell, Scattergories, and Balderdash together.

Follow your child's interest – find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into this interest. Work crossword puzzles with your child. Give a magazine subscription for a gift.

Ways to help your child with mathematics

Spend time with kids on simple board games, puzzles, and activities that encourage better attitudes and stronger mathematics skills. Everyday activities such as playing with toys in a sandbox or in a tub at bath time can teach children mathematics concepts such as weight, density, and volume. Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. **Problem solving is a lifetime skill.** The kitchen is filled with tasty opportunities to teach fractional measurements, such as doubling and dividing cookie recipes. Point out ways that people use mathematics every day to pay bills, balance their checkbooks, figure out their net earnings, make change, and how to tip at restaurants. Involve older children in projects that incorporate geometric and algebraic concepts such as planting a garden, building a bookshelf, or figuring how long it will take to drive to your family vacation destination. Children should learn to read and interpret charts and graphs such as those found in daily newspapers. Collecting and analyzing data will help your child draw conclusions and become discriminating readers of numerical information.

Where can I go for more information about MAP testing?

You can talk with your child's teacher, go directly to the NWEA website at <http://www.nwea.org>, or read the whole Parent's Toolkit document at [Parent%20Toolkit1.pdf](#).

Web Sites for Kids and Parents

Mathematics

www.aaamath.com Math practice and activities

www.coolmath.com Interactive math games

www.funbrain.com Great site for kids

www.aplusmath.com A+ Math

www.mathforum.or/dr.math/ Ask Dr. Math

www.mathleague.com/help/help.htm Math League help topics

www.edhelper.com Help for all subject

Language Arts/Reading

www.funbrain.com Language Arts games and more

www.merriam-webster.com Merriam Webster Word Game of the Day

www.vocabulary.com Vocabulary activities

www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/words Vocabulary builders

www.lexile.com Lexile Framework for Reading

MAP Skill Building

[MAP Math](#)

[MAP Reading](#)