



Richardson ISD will administer the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Growth, or MAP Growth, assessments as part of a comprehensive assessment system. NWEA MAP Growth is a nationally normed, standardized achievement test which measures what students know and informs what they're ready to learn next by using a computer adaptive test that adjusts to the ability and knowledge of the student. Your child's teacher will use the results of the NWEA MAP Growth assessments to better understand your child's individual needs and to help him/her progress in the assessed area. Because the assessment is a growth measure, it can track the growth of the student between testing events and over multiple years of testing.

All students in grades K-10 will be evaluated using NWEA MAP Growth assessments in math and reading. NWEA MAP science assessments are being piloted at twenty-two elementary campuses and two junior high schools.

All assessments will be given at the beginning, middle, and end of the year.

For more information about NWEA and the MAP Growth assessments, you can visit the following websites:

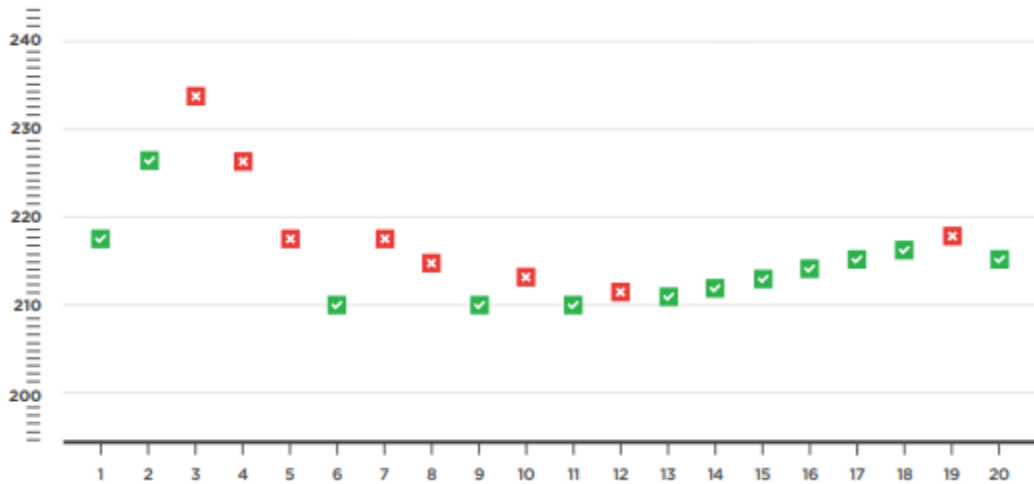
- [MAP Growth - https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/](https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/)
- [Parent Toolkit - https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/](https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/)
- [Normative Data and RIT Scores- https://www.nwea.org/normative-data-rit-scores/](https://www.nwea.org/normative-data-rit-scores/)

## **Parent's 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 9 million students in the US and in 140 countries worldwide use MAP® Growth™.

### **How it Works**

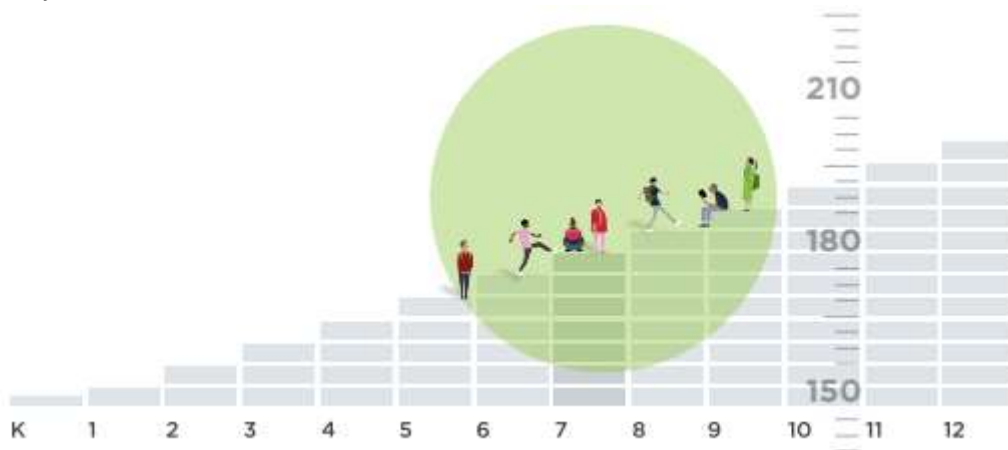
MAP Growth is a computer-adaptive test. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This type of assessment challenges top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.



MAP Growth begins with a question at each student's grade level and adjusts the level of difficulty based on individual performance.

### 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.

## **The Results: 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. You can use your child's RIT score to help them meet their goals. For example, students can enter their RIT scores into the 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 web-based exercises such as [ixl.com](http://ixl.com), and [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org).

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How do schools and teachers use MAP Growth scores?**

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.

### **Will I get a copy of my child's MAP scores?**

Parents will be provided their child's MAP Student Progress Report after each assessment administration. This may be sent by itself or with the next report card.

### **How will I know what the MAP scores tell me about my child's growth?**

Please see the NWEA MAP Growth parent letter for detailed explanations. You are always welcome to contact your child's campus administration and classroom teacher to have a conversation about your child's progress.

### **Can MAP Growth tell me if my child is working at grade level?**

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 your child's teacher.

### **How often will my child take MAP Growth tests?**

Most schools give MAP Growth tests to students at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year (in the fall, winter, and spring). The science assessment might be administered less frequently as it is in a pilot year.

### **What are norms?**

NWEA provides schools with norms every three years. This is anonymous data from more than 10 million students around the country. Knowing the scores of all these students combined allows teachers to compare where your child is to other students and help them grow.

### **Is MAP Growth a standardized test?**

Unlike a standardized test, 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.

### **What types of questions are on MAP Growth tests?**

The MAP Growth tests include multiple choice, drag-and-drop, and other types of questions. For sample tests, visit [warmup.nwea.org](http://warmup.nwea.org).

***For tips on getting ready for MAP Growth testing, check out our blog:***

***[nwea.org/blog/category/parents](http://nwea.org/blog/category/parents)***

***Find more parent resources at [nwea.org/parent-toolkit](http://nwea.org/parent-toolkit)***

*NWEA® is a not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by providing assessment solutions, insightful reports, professional learning offerings, and research services. Visit [NWEA.org](http://NWEA.org) to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.*

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*JULY 2017 | KAP1029*

# NWEA MAP Growth Report Parent Letter

August 2020

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s),

Three times during this year you will be provided your child's MAP Student Progress Report and a Quick Reference chart. MAP tests determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth throughout the school year. Richardson ISD assesses your student at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. The growth you see on the attached report is indicative of growth seen between the assessments. This letter will provide directions on how to read the Quick Reference Chart and Student Progress Report.

## THE QUICK REFERENCE CHART

This chart provides you with:

- a Chart Legend to explain the terminology used in the graph portion of the Student Progress Report, and
- a Results Table Legend to explain the terminology used in the table portion of the Student Progress Report.

## THE STUDENT PROGRESS REPORT: GRAPH, GOALS PERFORMANCE, AND RESULTS TABLE

The Student Progress Report has three sections: a bar graph for each of your student's assessed content areas, a Goals Performance section, and a table indicating the student's results.

### GRAPH

- The blue bar indicates the student's RIT growth from each testing point.
- The yellow bar indicates the norm grade level mean RIT growth from each testing point.
- The orange bar indicates the district grade level mean RIT growth from each data point.
- The nationally normed RIT score is provided by NWEA, the company which created the MAP testing system. The 50th percentile is the national average with the 70th-80th percentile indicating college readiness.

### GOALS PERFORMANCE

Below the bar graph, the Student Progress Report provides a Goal Performance section. This area breaks down the tested subject area into its objectives and reports how your student performed in each objective. This section also provides a Lexile® Range for your student.

### RESULTS TABLE - Areas to Note

- Term/Year: FA19 (fall) and WI20 (mid-year) will be on all reports for students who were present during both testing periods. Richardson ISD piloted MAP reading and math at half of the campuses last year. If your student attended a campus that piloted MAP he/she will have last school year's data points in addition to the tests administered in the 20-21 school year. If your student was not present during fall testing, you will not see fall data or growth information. Your student will have a growth index once he/she has taken the assessment at least twice.
- Grade: your student's grade

- RIT: The RIT score in bold is your student's RIT score. The number to the left and right indicate a standard error. The standard error indicates a RIT range; if the student were to retest close to the testing date, MAP predicts the RIT score would fall within the range.
- RIT GROWTH AND GROWTH PROJECTION: Of particular interest are the two areas labeled as RIT Growth and Growth Projection. Using the **fall** RIT score, MAP calculates a projected year's growth for your student. Each student's projected growth is unique, since the calculation is based upon where the student falls on the RIT scale in the fall and the amount of time for instruction. The RIT Growth indicates the growth during the year made by your student on the RIT scale. The Growth Projection indicates MAP's projected growth for your student based on the fall RIT score. For instance, if your 5th grade student's fall (FA19) RIT score in mathematics was 214, his/her growth projection might be 3 for a projected mid-year (WI20) RIT score of 217. If s/he scored 219 on the mid-year (WI20) assessment, the actual RIT Growth is 5 indicating greater than expected growth. It's important to remember that the projected growth for the mid-year report is based on approximately half a year of instruction instead of a full year.
- PERCENTILE RANGE: The bolded number is your student's percentile with the numbers on either side providing a percentile range. As with the RIT range, if retested soon, MAP predicts the student would fall within the percentile range.

As you view the Student Progress Report, consider the following questions:

- Is my child making progress, and is my child making progress compared to the nationally normed average?

*If the answers are "yes," celebrate with your child!*

If "no," you may use these questions to guide a discussion with your child's teacher:

- Which objectives are strongest and which are weakest for my child in each assessed area?
- What instructional plans are in place to address my child's needs?
- How may I support the instructional plan at home?

As with all assessments, individual MAP scores represent performance on one test, on one day. Multiple measures and trends over time will provide a more accurate picture of student achievement and growth. In Richardson ISD, we use a variety of assessment pieces to differentiate instruction for our students.

For additional information on MAP testing and your child's scores, please contact your child's teacher or campus administrator.

Sincerely,  
RISD MTSS Team