

# Frequently Asked Questions

## NWEA MAP

### 1) *What is NWEA?*

**Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)** is a global not-for-profit educational services organization with over 30 years experience developing **adaptive** assessments.

### 2) *What is **MAP** testing?*

**Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)** is an adaptive computerized individual measure performed in both reading 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, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

### 3) *What is the purpose of MAP testing?*

MAP is a **norm-referenced** measure of student growth over time. MAP assessments, joined with other data points, provide detailed, actionable data about where each child is on his or her unique learning path. MAP assessments differ from other data sources used by the district to inform instruction by being nationally normed, by tracking student progress throughout a year and across school years, and can assist teachers and administrators in planning instruction.

### 4) *How long does it take to complete a test?*

Tests are not timed, however, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each MAP test.

### 5) *When will my child be tested and how often?*

All students grades 2-8 will be tested in the spring, and then testing in the fall and winter varies by grade level.

### 6) *Do all students in the same grade take the same test?*

No. MAP assessments are designed to measure individual student's academic performance in reading and mathematics. Each test is unique, and questions are based on the student responses and current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do.

### 7) *What are the assessments used for?*

MAP assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale (**Rasch UnIT**). The **RIT** scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart growth from year to year.