

map GROWTH

MAP Testing

All the conferences in the Southwestern Union are now using the *MAP (Measure of Academic Progress)* tests that were created by NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association). The 2020-2021 school year was the first year that we gave these tests to our students. Many may be wanting to know more about these tests so below are some frequently asked questions and answers about them.

What is MAP Growth and what does it measure?

Unlike paper and pencil tests, where all students are asked the same questions and spend a fixed amount of time taking the test, *MAP Growth* is a computer adaptive test. That means every student gets a unique set of test questions based on responses to previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions get harder. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions get easier. By the end of the test, most students will have answered about half the questions correctly, as is common on adaptive tests. The purpose of *MAP Growth* is to determine what the student knows and is ready to learn next.

MAP Growth can also track students' individual growth over time, wherever they are starting from and regardless of the grade they are in. For instance, if a third grader is actually reading like a fifth grader, *MAP Growth* will be able to identify that. Or, if a fifth grader is doing math like a third grader, *MAP Growth* will identify that, too. Both things are incredibly important for a teacher to know so that they can plan instruction efficiently.

What is a RIT score?

When students finish their *MAP Growth* test, they receive a number called a RIT (short for Rasch Unit) score for each area they are tested in: reading, language usage, math, or science. This score represents a student's achievement level at any given moment and helps measure their academic growth over time. The RIT scale is a stable scale, like feet and inches, that accurately measures student performance, regardless of age, grades, or grade level. Like marking height on a growth chart and being able to see how tall a child is at various points in time, you can also see how much they have grown between tests.

How often will my child take MAP Growth?

Most schools give *MAP Growth* tests to students at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year.

How long is MAP Growth?

Most students take less than an hour to complete a *MAP Growth* test. However, *MAP Growth* is not timed, and students may take as much time as they need to complete it.