

Roseville Community Schools

Parent's Guide to NWEA Assessments

NWEA - Frequently Asked Questions

What is NWEA?

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a not-for-profit organization committed to helping school districts throughout the nation improve learning for all students. NWEA partners with more than 7,400 school districts/institutions representing more than 10 million students. As a result of NWEA tests, educators can make informed decisions to promote your child's academic growth.

Where can I learn more about NWEA?

For information on resources for parents, download the *Parent Toolkit* at www.nwea.org>> Partner Support.

At our School, which grades are being tested?

We are presently testing students in all grades.

What is the MAP NWEA Assessment?

MAP— NWEA's computerized adaptive tests are called Measure of Academic Progress, or MAP. 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.

What is the average score?

RIT scores range from about 140 to 300. Students typically start at the 140 to 190 level in elementary school and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school. RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year. 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 your student's academic growth from year to year.

What subjects does MAP assess?

We are using the MAP tests in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage.

How long does it take to complete a test?

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

When will my student be tested and how often?

At our School, we are testing in the fall, winter and spring.

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

No. NWEA assessments are designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, language usage, 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. If a school uses MAP, the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

What can I do as a parent?

Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: Actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework and discussing school matters.

What are NWEA assessments used for?

NWEA assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. These scores also help determine your child's classes and class levels for the upcoming trimester and the next school year.

How do teachers use the test scores?

NWEA 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 this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

What are some ways that I can help my child prepare for this test?

Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress.

Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home. Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a 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 materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test.

What are some ways I can help my child with language?

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

Give a journal or 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.

What are some ways I can help my 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.

Did you know?

Parents cannot assume that schoolwork makes up for too much TV. Children of all ages watch as much TV in one day as they read for fun in an entire week. Overall, children under age 13 spend 90 minutes a day in front of the TV—one-quarter of their free time.

– U.S. Department of Education

What are some ways I can help my child with math?

Spend time with kids on simple board games, puzzles, and activities that encourage better attitudes and stronger math skills. Check your television listings for shows that can reinforce math skills in a practical and fun way. 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 math 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.

Web sites for Kids and Parents

Math

Khan Academy by Rit score:

<https://support.nwea.org/node/19753>

Xpmath.com

Mathplayground.com...manipulatives and games Nlvm.usu.edu...national library of virtual manipulatives

Mathops.com MrNussbaum.com Mymathuniverse.com/digits

APPS: Zombie math Math heroes IXL math Meteor math Khan Academy Your teacher

www.aaamath.com Math practice and activities

www.aplusmath.com A+ Math

<http://mathforum.org/dr.math/> Ask Dr. Math

www.gomath.com On line math help

www.tangram.i-p.com/ Interactive tangrams

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

Language Arts/Reading

www.funbrain.com Language Arts games and more

www.m-w.com/game/ Merriam Webster Word Game of the Day

www.vocabulary.com Vocabulary activities

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

<http://helponenglish.homestead.com> English help

www.writesite.org Interactive Language Arts and Journalism

www.kidsreads.com Book reviews, games, authors, and more