

District and school recommendations for MAP Growth administration in a remote environment

Introduction

This guide offers recommendations to districts and schools for the successful administration of MAP® Growth™ in a remote environment. Recommendations are divided into the following sections:

- District recommendations
- School recommendations

District recommendations

MAP Growth assessment in a remote environment

The district should establish policy/guidance and communication to address at minimum the following areas.

- What is the reason for giving the assessment?
- What are the expectations of the data use?
- What students will take the assessment?
- **NOTE:** NWEA® recommends that the assessment be offered to schools and grades that have previously administered MAP Growth for fall and winter.

Identify which assessments should be administered

The district should select one of the three options below.

1. MAP SCREENING ASSESSMENT

Overview

- Provides 20 questions and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete
- Larger standard error of measurement (SEM) than a MAP Growth test
- Provides an overall RIT score and achievement percentile
- Does not include instructional-area RIT scores
- Will not provide growth data

General use

- Placement decisions
- RTI universal screener
- Progress check

Reports available

- Student Progress Report (Must choose all valid test events)
- Class Report
- Grade Report
- District Summary Report
- Data export files

2. MAP GROWTH: 2-5 / 6+ ASSESSMENTS

Overview

- Provides 42-53 questions and takes approximately 60 minutes to complete (may require multiple sessions)
- Provides an overall RIT score and achievement percentile
- Includes instructional-area RIT scores
- Provides growth data
- The 2-5 Reading test is designed for students who can read connected text, and by default it does not include audio support
 - Please review this document if you have questions about whether a student should take the K-2 or the 2-5 test: [MAP Growth grade-level test guidance documentation](#)

General use

- Instructional guidance
- Placement decisions
- Evaluating academic growth
- Predicting status relative to proficiency or other benchmarks
- RTI universal screener
- Progress check
- Teacher evaluation

Reports available

- All MAP Growth reports

3. MAP GROWTH: K-2 ASSESSMENTS

- MAP Growth K-2 Reading assesses standards-aligned content that is appropriate for students in early grades who are pre, emergent, or beginning readers
 - Please review this document if you have questions about whether a student should take the K-2 or the 2-5 test: [MAP Growth grade-level test guidance documentation](#)
- K-2 students using iPads MUST use the NWEA testing app to properly support the audio within the test. Standard browsers (Chrome™, Firefox®, or Safari®) will not play the audio correctly.

ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

NWEA is prepared to receive support calls **from school staff** related to the administration of MAP Growth. The district should create a support plan for staff, students, and families to address concerns including, but not limited to, the following:

- Assessment technology requirements
- Connectivity issues
- Device management
- Communication platform errors
- Software support
- Firewall and web filter adjustments

ACCESSIBILITY, ACCOMMODATION, AND EQUITY

NWEA's [Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines](#) should be used to support accessibility, accommodation, and equity discussions related to the use of MAP Growth.

At minimum, districts should provide guidance to schools on:

- How students gain access to assistive technology
- When to use NWEA's embedded accommodation features
- How students gain access to non-embedded accommodation features (e.g., bilingual dictionaries, English dictionary, and abacus)
- Communication with families regarding the use of accommodations

IEP reviews should include updates to accessibility and accommodation regarding distance learning.

ASSESSMENT INTEGRITY AND SECURITY

In order to ensure the integrity and security of assessments, the district should:

- Consider having schools and parents sign assessment security agreements
- Ensure only proctors and students are logging into the system
- Ensure proctors are actively monitoring students during testing
- Provide guidance on the use of approved assessment materials (e.g., scratch paper)
- Prohibit the use of unapproved electronic devices for proctors and students
- Prohibit the use of other devices during testing (e.g., a calculator, unless it is embedded within the assessment and/or student has an accommodation)
- Prohibit the use of outside internet sources
- Prohibit the use of unauthorized assistance to students (except for the purpose of administering accommodation to students with IEP or 504 program plans)
- Prohibit the screen capture of test items

USE OF MAP GROWTH ASSESSMENT DATA FROM A REMOTE TESTING ENVIRONMENT

This guidance applies, in general, to the use of student test results from both the MAP Growth and MAP Growth Screener tests.

MAP Growth assessment data attained in a remote testing environment should be used for the purpose of informing the immediate instructional needs of students. MAP Growth results equip educators with key data to help personalize instruction and pinpoint individual student needs.

NWEA recommends that MAP Growth assessment data attained in a remote testing environment should not be used as the basis for high-stakes decisions for students, teachers, and/or schools, or to evaluate the effectiveness of remote instruction or delivery in individual schools.

Student test results obtained in a remote testing environment should be carefully scrutinized to ensure that those results are valid and reliable estimates of student achievement. This involves reviews of additional data elements including the proportion of items answered correctly, the proportion of items that were rapidly guessed, the overall test duration, and the SEM. This review is critical to ensure that sound instructional decisions are made for students on the basis of these results.

School recommendations

For the most part, testing remotely using MAP Growth is similar to testing onsite at schools. The critical difference between the two scenarios is the communication between proctors and students, due to the fact that remote testing requires a caregiver to be involved in the process. This three-way communication (student, caregiver, proctor) needs to be managed remotely at the school level to ensure that the test session is successful.

To ensure a secure and equitable testing environment for students, schools should:

- Adhere to all assessment security requirements defined by the district
- Have a policy in place to support any accommodations needed by students, and ensure staff understands how to implement accommodations remotely
 - For example, if an IEP indicates the student has access to a calculator, the proctor will need to share that accommodation with the student and caregiver prior to testing and confirm the student has access to a calculator
- Train proctors on remote testing, including:
 - Communication platform between proctor and student
 - NWEA remote testing materials
 - Support resources for proctors, caregivers, and students
- Ensure any device used for student assessment adheres to the [NWEA technical requirements](#). Proctors can have students run a self-check on their devices at [NWEA Workstation Diagnostic](#) to verify they adhere to minimum requirements.
 - If devices do not adhere, schools need to establish a support system to address technical issues with caregivers
 - Students should use a standard internet testing browser (Chrome, Firefox, or Safari) rather than the NWEA secure browser or NWEA testing applications so that they can easily use a chat program to communicate on the same device
 - If students do use the NWEA secure browser, proctors must establish an alternate communication process, such as a phone conference line
 - K-2 students using iPads **MUST** use the NWEA testing app, as the audio doesn't work properly in a standard browser (Chrome, Firefox, or Safari)
 - Students should be guided to utilize the [MAP Growth practice assessment](#) (especially if they are using a different device than they previously used for testing or if they have never used MAP Growth before) prior taking their MAP assessment

Proctors need to be the first tier of support for students/parents. NWEA is unable to support parent questions or inquiries. Proctor/school staff may contact NWEA (for MAP Growth issues) or their standard support communication channels used through the district.

Proctors should:

- Create sessions prior to testing
- Schedule and communicate the assessment time to students
- Proctor up to one class at a time to make proctoring easier. Small groups (less than 10 students) are preferable.



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