

NWEA MAP Growth Assessment FAQ

What is the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP Growth Assessment?

The MAP Growth assessment is an assessment that helps pinpoint where your child is excelling academically, where your child is performing on grade level and where your child still needs to make progress. The MAP Growth provides real time and personalized data to see if students perform on, above or below grade level.

MAP data allows for comparisons at local and national levels and helps your child's teacher and principal gain greater understanding of student growth and achievement at your child's school, as well districtwide. It also provides predictions of performance on state accountability assessments.

The NWEA MAP Growth assessment is administered in thousands of districts across the country and is taken by more than 34 million students.

Why is GCS asking students to take this assessment?

The assessment will be used to inform instruction, personalize learning and monitor the growth of individual students. The assessment also helps everyone involved in the learning process.

A student and his/her teacher are able to immediately see which skills students have mastered and which skills need to be addressed next.

The assessment also helps parents understand which skills and topics their students understand well, what they may be missing and what they're ready to tackle next in terms of academic learning.

Lastly, knowing information about how the pandemic has impacted student learning could be the key to addressing learning loss more effectively in future years.

What assessments will students be taking?

Students will be taking both reading and math MAP Growth assessments. These assessments will take approximately an hour each to complete, although times will likely vary by student.

How does the assessment work?

The assessment is a computer-adaptive test, which means if a student answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier, allowing them to perform at their current level.

How is this assessment different from the Beginning and End of Grade assessments students are required to take each year?

This is not a state accountability assessment. This is a local assessment designed to help teachers better address student learning needs. The assessment will also help principals and district leaders analyze student growth, identify learning gains and losses, and work with teachers to better prepare students for state and accountability assessments that will be administered in the spring. Unlike state

assessments, the MAP Growth assessments provide specific real-time information on student learning with comparisons across schools and districts across the country as well as expected growth and proficiency.

We already know students are falling behind due to remote learning in the spring. Why are we spending time on assessments instead of learning?

Knowing where we are is the first step to getting where we want to be. We know students are falling behind due to the pandemic. Having data to show us where we need to focus our efforts as educators is invaluable.

When will students participate in the assessment?

Students in grades K-2 will start taking the assessments beginning the week of December 8th. Students in grades 3 through 10 will begin testing after the winter break.

With so many students learning remotely, how will the assessment be administered?

The assessment will be administered in-person to students who are currently attending class in-person. To get the most accurate and reliable data, all students are highly encouraged to take the assessment in-person. Several options will be provided for remote students to test in person.

However, remote learning students will be able to take the assessment online if they choose. If taken remotely, parents **should not** assist students in answering questions as this will invalidate assessment scores.

My child is currently taking classes remotely. Will GCS transport my student to school to participate in the assessment?

Parents are highly encouraged to transport their students to take the assessment in-person in order to get the most accurate results, however but other options will be provided for remote student to test in person if student do not have transportation.

What health and safety protocols will be in place during the assessment for students who normally learn remotely?

Schools will be instructed to allow these students to test by themselves in individual classrooms with the test proctor located outside of the classroom (by the door) for support. All COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be followed.

How will I know how my child performed on the assessment?

Your student's teacher will communicate the MAP Growth assessment score with you and your student.

How will this assessment impact my student's grade or academic standing?

This assessment will not impact your student's grade or academic standing. The information gleaned from the assessments will be used to help teachers better target their instruction to meet their students' needs.

My student is in a virtual school. How will the assessment be administered to my student?

Students in virtual schools will have the opportunity to test in person or remotely, although they are strongly encouraged to test in person.