



August 1, 2016

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are excited to provide our teachers and students with a tool which will assist in identifying areas of growth based upon your student's individual needs. NWEA's MAP allows for the opportunity to set goals and track individual student growth throughout the school year. As our district continues to move toward our **2020 Vision** for personalized learning, it is important that students have common understanding of their skills. MAP aligns with our state standards and national assessments and will help your child identify their strengths and areas for growth in reading, math and science. As an introduction to you, we have provided several frequently asked questions and responses.

What is MAP?

- o MAP is a computer adaptive test, which 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. The final result will be the student's RIT score.

What does MAP measure?

- o MAP results are provided as a numerical RIT score. This score is used to measure a student's achievement level at different times of the school year and to determine growth. Think of this like marking height on a growth chart. You can tell how tall your child is at various points in time and how much they have grown between one time and another. A RIT score has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age of the student.

How long is a MAP test and how often will my child take the tests?

- o Tests are not timed, and most students take less than an hour to complete a MAP test. The tests given in Kindergarten and 1st grade typically last a shorter time. We will give MAP tests to students in August, December and March. There is nothing you need to do to prepare your student for MAP testing. It is meant to be a formative assessment of where your student is and so there is no need for preparation.

What information will I receive from my child's school?

- o You will be provided with your child's Student Progress Report. This report contains information and scores from your child's most recent and past MAP tests.

How do teachers use MAP scores?

- o Teachers can see the progress of individual students and of their class as a whole. Students with similar MAP scores are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics. MAP also provides data around the typical growth for students who are in the same grade, subject, and have the same starting achievement level. This data is often used to help students set goals and understand what they need to learn to achieve their goals.

How will my student use the MAP test?

- o Students will use MAP results to set goals for their own progress and to set personal learning targets. Students will gain critical information about themselves as a reader, mathematician and scientist and be able to own their progress towards mastering the standards and skills they need to be successful in school.

You may also find helpful information on the NWEA website at nwea.org.