

BRINGING NEWS THAT MATTERS TO PARENTS OF LCS STUDENTS

# MEASURES OF *Academic Progress*

Winter  
2016-17

LCS PARENTS'  
**Quarterly**  
UPDATE

***We test students three times yearly in reading and mathematics at grades K-8. Here's some information from 'A Parents Guide to MAP', which you can access on our district's website - look for the 'Curriculum & Instruction' department.***



▲ *Sketch of sample MAP student progress report.*

## *What is MAP?*

You may be familiar with paper and pencil tests where all students are asked the same questions and spend a fixed amount of time taking the test. Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®), created by Northwest Evaluation Association™ (NWEA™), is different. 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. By the end of the test, most students will answer about half the questions correctly.

## *What does MAP measure?*

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 compute 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.

## *Can MAP tell me if my child is working at grade level?*

Just as a doctor has a chart showing the most common heights of people at certain ages, NWEA has put together charts showing the median RIT scores for students at various grade levels. NWEA researchers examined the scores of millions of students to find the average scores for students in various grades.

## *How do schools and teachers use MAP scores?*

NWEA provides many different reports to help schools and teachers use MAP information. Schools, grade levels, and classes can be monitored to see how students are growing. 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.

## *School Closings or Delays Due to Inclement Weather*

*Information is posted on our web site, radio and TV stations, and a text message is sent to parents via School Messenger. Please contact your child's school if you need to enroll or change your School Messenger information.*

*Parents are encouraged to make their own decisions about the safety of their children. If school is open but you do not feel comfortable about your child's safety, just call your child's school to request an excused absence and your child will be able to make up any missed assignments.*

*This data is often used to help students set goals and understand what they need to learn to achieve their goals.*