

Education Services

Assessment and Research



Measures of Academic Progress: MAP Testing

To inform instructional decisions about each child's learning, Blue Valley Schools administers the MAP assessment to students in grades K – 8 each fall and spring. Developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), MAP is a computerized, adaptive assessment program that provides educators with information they can use to improve teaching and learning. The assessment itself adapts to the student's ability, accurately measuring what a child knows and needs to learn. MAP tests also allow teachers to measure individual student academic growth over time, independent of grade level or age.

MAP tests are easy to administer and each computer-based assessment takes about an hour. An advantage of the MAP assessments is that individual student scores are available immediately after testing. The reports - available immediately following the testing window - provide teachers with timely access to information they can use for instructional planning and school improvement.

NWEA has a large national norm reference group, providing highly accurate, norm-referenced scores. MAP results, however, go beyond ranking student achievement to identify the skills and concepts a student knows, and what he or she needs to learn in order to keep growing. With accurate, timely information on an individual student's needs, teachers can target instruction so every student is learning and growing.

Testing takes valuable time from instruction, so it makes sense that the assessments Blue Valley gives students should make a difference. MAP has a long and successful track record of providing educators with the information they need to help students learn and grow.

Teaching and learning is what Blue Valley is all about, and this is yet another tool that will contribute to the district's success.

MAP Scoring

MAP tests are computerized tests that adapt to your child's level of learning. Each test is uniquely created for your child as he or she proceeds through the test. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Each test, consisting of 42 questions for reading or 52 questions for math, takes about an hour.

The scores are reported on a scale called the RIT scale. This scale is used to measure student achievement and student growth. The scale is an equal-interval scale, like a yardstick in inches, so that a change of one unit indicates the same change in growth, regardless of the actual numerical values. RIT scores range from about 150 to 300. RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year.

More information about NWEA and MAP tests is available at their [website](#).