

MAP Growth Family Resource

Fall 2020



Most students experienced school closures in the spring, and many schools are operating differently this fall in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, families may want more information on student learning.

The MAP® Growth™ assessment provides an important measure of what students know and are ready to learn—but our current environment may require looking at your student’s MAP Growth results differently than in the past. When reviewing your student’s 2020 MAP Growth scores, here are a few things to keep in mind.

NWEA norms

NWEA® uses a set of nationally representative norms to understand how students are doing relative to each other. When we say norms are “nationally representative,” we mean that they’re sculpted to reflect the nation as a whole. NWEA norms use anonymous data from more than 10 million students around the US. Knowing the top, middle, and bottom scores of all these students combined allows you and your child’s teachers to compare where your child is to other students and to help them grow.

Effects of COVID-19 on learning loss

Our current norms are based on test data from before 2020, so they don’t reflect the impact of school closures last spring. In an average year, students typically lose some of their learning over the summer, which is known as the summer slide. However, our research suggests the possibility that students may have experienced more learning loss than usual due to interrupted learning in the spring and an unconventional start to the school year. These losses will likely occur throughout the US as students adapt to new forms of teaching and learning.

What does this mean for your child?

Your child’s MAP Growth scores in fall 2020 may be lower than anticipated. A decline in scores may occur due to the interrupted learning our students experienced, though not all students will experience a lower score than expected. Teachers and families are encouraged to reference the NWEA norms to understand where individual students are relative to a typical school year and to set goals to help students accelerate their learning this year.

What can families do?

- Don’t worry. You’re not alone. Educators and families all over the country are in a similar place and are working together to best meet children’s needs.
- If you have any questions or concerns, collaborate with your child’s teacher to identify any urgent learning needs.
- Visit the NWEA Family Toolkit for more information on MAP Growth:
nwea.org/the-map-suite/family-toolkit

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