

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 2015 Reading Status Norms (RIT Values)

	Beginning-of-Year	Middle-of-Year	End-of-Year
Grade	Mean	Mean	Mean
K	141	151.3	158.1
1	160.7	171.5	177.5
2	174.7	184.2	188.7
3	188.3	195.6	198.6
4	198.2	203.6	205.9
5	205.7	209.8	211.8
6	211	214.2	215.8
7	214.4	216.9	218.2
8	217.2	219.1	220.1
9	220.2	221.3	221.9
10	220.4	221	221.2
11	222.6	222.7	222.3

### 2015 Mathematics Status Norms (RIT Values)

	Beginning-of-Year	Middle-of-Year	End-of-Year
Grade	Mean	Mean	Mean
K	140.0	151.5	159.1
1	162.4	173.8	180.8
2	176.9	186.4	192.1
3	190.4	198.2	203.4
4	201.9	208.7	213.5
5	211.4	217.2	221.4
6	217.6	222.1	225.3
7	222.6	226.1	228.6
8	226.3	229.1	230.9
9	230.3	232.2	233.4
10	230.1	231.5	232.4
11	233.3	234.4	235

#### How does this information help teachers and parents?

Each child's performance is compared to the national average for other students in the same grade. Both parents and teachers can gain an understanding of the child's academic strengths as well as areas which require additional attention. This important information can be found at the bottom of the report to parents.

#### How is the national data collected?

In 2015, the Northwest Evaluation Association conducted further norm studies that involved over 2.8 million students from 6,905 schools and 1,142 school districts in 42 states. The MAP is normed in a similar fashion every three years to assure reliable information for parents and teachers.

#### What is a norm?

The norm is not a measure of performance, but a typical score for individuals of the same age or grade level. The norm for a test compares an individual's score against the scores of a group of people who have already taken the same test.

#### How is the test level determined for each student?

The MAP test is computerized. The test is developed dynamically for each student as they test. The computer system adjusts the difficulty of subsequent questions based on the pattern of correct and incorrect answers of previous questions.

#### How does the RIT score guide instruction?

The RIT scores are correlated to specific skills. Teachers use this information to develop instructional strategies targeted to the student's needs.

## A Parents' Guide

# MAP

MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

# Testing



### Harrison County Schools

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#### Introduction

It takes more than a single test to measure a child's academic progress. This year our district adopted the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test to assess student achievement in reading and mathematics in Kindergarten through twelfth grade. This brochure is designed to help parents understand the MAP test and their child's individual test report.

Currently, students in grades K-8 take the MAP test in reading and mathematics during the fall, winter and spring of each year. Students in grades 4-8 are tested in science.

Your child's testing report is enclosed and is designed to provide you with an overall picture of your child's performance in the areas assessed. As your child continues through school, the MAP reports will show progress over time.

The enclosed report provides information from your child's testing session. Perhaps the most useful part of the report is the "Goals Performance" section (left side, middle), which shows the learner's level of mastery for particular skills from this current assessment.

## The RIT Score

Each child's report gives teachers and parents a RIT (Rausch Unit) score in each subject area tested. This score is a measure of a child's individual achievement. As students take MAP tests over a period of time, the RIT scores will show academic growth.

RIT scores create an equal-interval scale. Equal interval means that the difference between scores is the same regardless of whether a student is at the top, bottom or middle of the RIT scale; it has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age. One way to understand this is to picture a yard stick. Each of the RIT scores can be assigned to an inch. Any student in any grade can score anywhere along the yard stick or along the RIT continuum. A second grader and a fifth grader could score the same and need to learn the same next steps.

You will see your child's actual RIT score and percentile range in bold face type. That score is contained within a RIT score range. The range includes the standard error of measurement which allows for a variance of performance. In other words, if a child were to be tested on any given day close to the actual test date, their score would most likely fall somewhere within that range.

Although any student can score anywhere along the continuum, RIT norms have been developed as a typical score for individuals of the same age or grade level. This score is listed as the "Norm Group

Average" on your child's report. These norms are revised every three years and are based on a sample of almost three million students. Current norms are reported on the back of this brochure. A district average also appears on the report indicating an average score of all students taking a test at a particular grade level. While district averages and norm group averages provide important information, the real value of the MAP test is the ability to track the progress of an individual student over time.

## The Percentile Score

Your child's report also provides a second score. This is the percentile rank. It also falls within a range which includes a standard error of measurement. This score tells you how your child is doing compared to other students in the same grade. For example, if your child has a percentile score of 81, your child scored better than 81% of students nationally who have taken the MAP test.

## Growth Information

MAP reports show your child's test scores over time. Using this information a student's growth can be charted each time the child takes the test. This enables teachers and parents to see whether students are making adequate progress. Typically less progress or even a decline is noted over the summer (spring to fall) when no instruction is given. On the reverse side of your parent report you will find a graph such as the one below which shows a student's scores, the district average RIT and the norm group average.

Sample Graph



Another aspect of the test report given to parents is "Student Growth" and "Typical Growth". After testing, students are assigned a number indicating the individual "Student's Growth". "Typical Growth" is the number assigned by the Northwest Education Association (NWEA), the group that constructed the MAP test. This number is statistically determined taking into consideration the child's score, age and grade level. The score shows typical growth from fall to spring of a given year.

If you have any questions concerning MAP information, please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher.

**\*\*\*For more information on resources for parents, download the *Parent Toolkit* at [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org), *Students & Parents / Review the Parent's Guide / Download Parent Toolkit.***

**If you have additional questions about MAP testing and how it can help your child grow academically contact:**

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