



FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

225 E. 10<sup>TH</sup> Street, Brookville, Indiana 47012

## **Parent's Guide to NWEA Assessments**

### **NWEA - Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is NWEA?**

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a not-for-profit organization committed to helping school districts throughout the nation improve learning for all students. NWEA partners with more than 7,400 school districts/institutions representing more than 10 million students. As a result of NWEA tests, educators can make informed decisions to promote your child's academic growth.

#### **Where can I learn more about NWEA?**

For information on resources for parents, download the *Parent Toolkit* on the parent tab located on the Franklin County Community School Corporation website.

#### **At our School, which grades are being tested?**

We are presently testing students in grades K-8 and students in Algebra I and English at FCHS.

#### **What is the MAP NWEA Assessment?**

MAP— NWEA's computerized adaptive tests are called Measure of Academic Progress, or MAP. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

#### **What is the average score?**

RIT scores range from about 140 to 300. Students typically start at the 140 to 190 level in elementary school and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school. RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale (Rasch unIT). The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your student's academic growth from year to year.

#### **What subjects does MAP assess?**

We are using the MAP tests in the areas of mathematics and reading.

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**How long does it take to complete a test?**

Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each test.

**When will my student be tested and how often?**

In our school corporation students are testing in the fall, winter and spring.

**Do all students in the same grade take the same test?**

No. NWEA assessments are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. If a school uses MAP, the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

**What can I do as a parent?**

Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework and discussing school matters.

**What are NWEA assessments used for?**

NWEA assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. These scores will also help teachers make the best placement choices for your student.

**How do teachers use the test scores?**

NWEA tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

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