

# Case Study

## Berea City Schools

### At a glance

- Berea City Schools
- Cuyahoga County, OH
- Member since fall 2006
- 7,700 Student Enrollment
- One K-12 school, seven elementary schools (K-5), two middle schools (6-8), two high schools (9-12).
- Approximately 4,810 students are tested three times a year in Mathematics, Reading, and Language Usage
- Approximately 1,685 students take Science Assessments
- Approximately 1,369 students take MAP for Primary Grades Assessments

**“We wanted the most diagnostic and productive assessment out there, one that bends to the kids and doesn’t waste anybody’s time. NWEA fit that need by understanding kids and providing recommendations for how to help them.”**

**MATT DEEVER, *Director of Instruction***

Several years ago, educators in Berea, Ohio, faced a situation familiar to many in schools around the country. Twice a year, its third graders took the all-important state reading tests. The problem was while educators could determine which children did not perform well on the test, they could not determine in which specific areas students were underachieving. Teachers were left to guess. What Matt Deever and his staff really needed was in-depth data they could use to drive learning for each of Berea’s 8,000 students.

**In 2006, Deever and his team brought in NWEA.**

### Data Done Right

Data gleaned from NWEA’s Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing provided the insight needed. Because the MAP assessments adapt to each student as he is taking the test, it provides an unsurpassed view into a student’s knowledge and learning.

Adaptive testing means that if the student misses several items in a row, the test—administered via computer—will drop down a notch in difficulty. If the student gets several correct answers, the test becomes more difficult. In this way, it always seeks to balance challenge and achievement.

The result for educators is a map of a student’s exact and particular needs, both in terms of remediation and achievement.

### Immediate Impact

Prior to implementing the NWEA suite, Deever and his team would spend time helping kids who weren’t truly at risk; they did not have the data they needed to target intervention effectively. But armed with NWEA’s data and reporting, they knew exactly which students needed help—and precisely where the help was needed.

### Book Learning

In addition to the testing data, NWEA also provides both a RIT score and a Lexile number. Deever recalls a mother who was frustrated because her daughter’s reading scores did not match the girl’s potential.

“The daughter was bringing home books based on the number of points they were worth in the reading program, rather than on what she was interested in,” he says. “I went into NWEA’s Dynamic Reporting Suite, found her daughter’s Lexile score, and was able to recommend a long list of titles based on her real interests.”

This is the kind of actionable data NWEA assessments and reports provide, empowering educators to impact a student’s learning right away.

### Actionable Data to Transform Learning

Although Berea’s schools were only required to reassess the lower 16 percent of students, more than half of the schools chose to reassess all of their students.

Why? Because the teachers did not want to wait until spring to find out if their strategies were making a difference. The teachers knew that with the flexibility of the MAP assessments—coupled with the quick results-reporting—they’d have the information they needed to help their students do more than simply pass a proficiency test. Now they could put children at the center of the educational experience and help them bloom into students who love learning.