



NEW YORK LINKING STUDY

A Study of the Alignment of the NWEA RIT Scale
with the New York State (NYS) Testing Program

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A STUDY OF THE ALIGNMENT OF THE NWEA RIT SCALE WITH THE NEW YORK STATE (NYS) TESTING PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 2013

Recently, NWEA completed a project to connect the scale of the New York State (NYS) Testing Program used for New York’s mathematics and reading assessments with NWEA’s RIT scale. Information from the state assessments was used in a study to establish performance-level scores on the RIT scale that would indicate a good chance of success on these tests.

To perform the analysis, we linked together state test and NWEA test results for a sample of 6,209 New York students who completed both exams in the spring of 2013. The New York state test is administered in the spring. For the spring season (labeled “current season”), an Equipercentile method was used to estimate the RIT score equivalent to each state performance level. For fall (labeled “prior season”), we determined the percentage of the population within the selected study group that performed at each level on the state test and found the equivalent percentile ranges within the NWEA dataset to estimate the cut scores. For example, if 40% of the study group population in grade 3 mathematics performed below the proficient level on the state test, we would find the RIT score that would be equivalent to the 40th percentile for the study population (this would not be the same as the 40th percentile in the NWEA norms). This RIT score would be the estimated point on the NWEA RIT scale that would be equivalent to the minimum score for proficiency on the state test. Documentation about this method can be found on our website.

Table Sets 1 and 2 show the best estimate of the minimum RIT equivalent to each state performance level for same-season (spring) and prior-season (fall) RIT scores. These tables can be used to identify students who may need additional help to perform well on these tests.

Table Sets 3 and 4 show the estimated probability of a student receiving a proficient score on the state assessment, based on that student’s RIT score. These tables can be used to assist in identifying students who are not likely to pass these assessments, thereby increasing the probability that intervention strategies will be planned and implemented. These tables can also be useful for identifying target RIT-score objectives likely to correspond to successful or “proficient” performance on the state test.

Table 5 shows the correlation coefficients between MAP and the state test in each grade. These statistics show the degree to which MAP and the state test are linearly related, with values at or near 1.0 suggesting a perfect linear relationship, and values near 0.0 indicating no linear relationship. Table 6 shows the percentages of students at each grade and within each subject whose status on the state test (i.e., whether or not the student “met standards”) was accurately predicted by their MAP performance and using the estimated cut scores within the current study. This table can be used to understand the predictive validity of MAP with respect to the NYS.

TABLE SET 1 – MINIMUM ESTIMATED SAME-SEASON (SPRING) RIT CUT SCORES
CORRESPONDING TO STATE PERFORMANCE LEVELS

MATH - Current Season							
Cut Scores and %tiles for each State Performance Level							
Grade	Level 1	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Cut Score	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile
2	<184	184	29	193	56	204	84
3	<196	196	29	205	56	216	84
4	<207	207	35	219	68	235	95
5	<219	219	45	233	79	249	97
6	<217	217	30	232	66	242	85
7	<227	227	42	242	74	254	91
8	<227	227	34	245	72	263	95
READING - Current Season							
Cut Scores and %tiles for each State Performance Level							
Grade	Level 1	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Cut Score	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile
2	<186	186	41	200	77	213	94
3	<196	196	41	210	77	222	94
4	<204	204	42	215	72	223	88
5	<210	210	44	222	75	232	92
6	<211	211	36	225	72	232	86
7	<215	215	37	228	72	239	91
8	<219	219	41	229	67	242	91

* Note: the cut scores shown in this table are the **minimum** estimated scores. Meeting the minimum MAP cut score corresponds to a 50% probability of achieving that performance level. Use the probabilities in Table Set 3 to determine the appropriate 'target' scores for a desired level of certainty. Italics represent extrapolated data.

TABLE SET 2 – MINIMUM ESTIMATED PRIOR-SEASON (FALL) RIT CUT SCORES
CORRESPONDING TO STATE PERFORMANCE LEVELS

MATH - Prior Season							
Cut Scores and %tiles for each State Performance Level							
Grade	Level 1	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Cut Score	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile
2	<171	171	29	180	56	191	84
3	<185	185	29	194	56	204	83
4	<198	198	33	210	68	226	95
5	<211	211	45	224	78	240	97
6	<211	211	29	226	66	235	84
7	<222	222	42	236	73	248	91
8	<223	223	34	240	72	259	95
READING - Prior Season							
Cut Scores and %tiles for each State Performance Level							
Grade	Level 1	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
	Cut Score	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile	Cut Score	%tile
2	<172	172	40	187	76	200	94
3	<186	186	40	201	77	213	94
4	<197	197	42	208	72	216	87
5	<205	205	44	216	73	227	92
6	<207	207	36	220	70	228	86
7	<211	211	35	224	71	235	91
8	<216	216	41	226	67	239	91

* Note: the cut scores shown in this table are the **minimum** estimated scores. Meeting the minimum MAP cut score corresponds to a 50% probability of achieving that performance level. Use the probabilities in Table Set 4 to determine the appropriate ‘target’ scores for a desired level of certainty. Italics represent extrapolated data.

TABLE SET 3 –ESTIMATED PROBABILITY OF SCORING AS PROFICIENT OR HIGHER ON THE STATE TEST IN SAME SEASON (SPRING), BY STUDENT GRADE AND RIT SCORE RANGE ON MAP ASSESSMENT

MATH - Current Season							
Estimated Probability of Passing State Test Based on Observed MAP Score							
RIT Range	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
120	<i>0%</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
125	<i>0%</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
130	<i>0%</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
135	<i>0%</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
140	<i>0%</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
145	<i>1%</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
150	<i>1%</i>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
155	<i>2%</i>	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
160	<i>4%</i>	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
165	<i>6%</i>	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
170	<i>9%</i>	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
175	<i>14%</i>	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
180	<i>21%</i>	8%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%
185	<i>31%</i>	12%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%
190	<i>43%</i>	18%	5%	1%	1%	1%	0%
195	<i>55%</i>	27%	8%	2%	2%	1%	1%
200	<i>67%</i>	38%	13%	4%	4%	1%	1%
205	<i>77%</i>	50%	20%	6%	6%	2%	2%
210	<i>85%</i>	62%	29%	9%	10%	4%	3%
215	<i>90%</i>	73%	40%	14%	15%	6%	5%
220	<i>94%</i>	82%	52%	21%	23%	10%	8%
225	<i>96%</i>	88%	65%	31%	33%	15%	12%
230	<i>98%</i>	92%	75%	43%	45%	23%	18%
235	<i>99%</i>	95%	83%	55%	57%	33%	27%
240	<i>99%</i>	97%	89%	67%	69%	45%	38%
245	<i>99%</i>	98%	93%	77%	79%	57%	50%
250	<i>100%</i>	99%	96%	85%	86%	69%	62%
255	<i>100%</i>	99%	97%	90%	91%	79%	73%
260	<i>100%</i>	100%	98%	94%	94%	86%	82%
265	<i>100%</i>	100%	99%	96%	96%	91%	88%
270	<i>100%</i>	100%	99%	98%	98%	94%	92%
275	<i>100%</i>	100%	100%	99%	99%	96%	95%
280	<i>100%</i>	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	97%
285	<i>100%</i>	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	98%
290	<i>100%</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%
295	<i>100%</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
300	<i>100%</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Note: This table provides the estimated probability of passing the state test based on a MAP test score taken during that same (spring) season. Example: if a fifth grade student scored 200 on a MAP test taken during the spring season, her/his estimated probability of passing the state test is 4%.

Italics represent extrapolated data.

READING - Current Season							
Estimated Probability of Passing State Test Based on Observed MAP Score							
RIT Range	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
120	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
125	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
130	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
135	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
140	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
145	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
150	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
155	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
160	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
165	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
170	5%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
175	8%	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%
180	12%	5%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%
185	18%	8%	5%	2%	2%	1%	1%
190	27%	12%	8%	4%	3%	2%	2%
195	38%	18%	12%	6%	5%	4%	3%
200	50%	27%	18%	10%	8%	6%	5%
205	62%	38%	27%	15%	12%	9%	8%
210	73%	50%	38%	23%	18%	14%	13%
215	82%	62%	50%	33%	27%	21%	20%
220	88%	73%	62%	45%	38%	31%	29%
225	92%	82%	73%	57%	50%	43%	40%
230	95%	88%	82%	69%	62%	55%	52%
235	97%	92%	88%	79%	73%	67%	65%
240	98%	95%	92%	86%	82%	77%	75%
245	99%	97%	95%	91%	88%	85%	83%
250	99%	98%	97%	94%	92%	90%	89%
255	100%	99%	98%	96%	95%	94%	93%
260	100%	99%	99%	98%	97%	96%	96%
265	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	98%	97%
270	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%	98%
275	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%
280	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%
285	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
290	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
295	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
300	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Note: This table provides the estimated probability of passing the state test based on a MAP test score taken during that same (spring) season. Example: if a fifth grade student scored 200 on a MAP test taken during the spring season, her/his estimated probability of passing the state test is 10%.

Italics represent extrapolated data.

TABLE SET 4 –ESTIMATED PROBABILITY OF SCORING AS PROFICIENT OR HIGHER ON THE STATE TEST IN PRIOR SEASON (FALL), BY STUDENT GRADE AND RIT SCORE RANGE ON MAP

MATH - Prior Season							
Estimated Probability of Passing State Test Based on Observed MAP Score							
RIT Range	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
120	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
125	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
130	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
135	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
140	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
145	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
150	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
155	8%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
160	12%	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
165	18%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
170	27%	8%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
175	38%	13%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%
180	50%	20%	5%	1%	1%	0%	0%
185	62%	29%	8%	2%	2%	1%	0%
190	73%	40%	12%	3%	3%	1%	1%
195	82%	52%	18%	5%	4%	2%	1%
200	88%	65%	27%	8%	7%	3%	2%
205	92%	75%	38%	13%	11%	4%	3%
210	95%	83%	50%	20%	17%	7%	5%
215	97%	89%	62%	29%	25%	11%	8%
220	98%	93%	73%	40%	35%	17%	12%
225	99%	96%	82%	52%	48%	25%	18%
230	99%	97%	88%	65%	60%	35%	27%
235	100%	98%	92%	75%	71%	48%	38%
240	100%	99%	95%	83%	80%	60%	50%
245	100%	99%	97%	89%	87%	71%	62%
250	100%	100%	98%	93%	92%	80%	73%
255	100%	100%	99%	96%	95%	87%	82%
260	100%	100%	99%	97%	97%	92%	88%
265	100%	100%	100%	98%	98%	95%	92%
270	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	97%	95%
275	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	97%
280	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%
285	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%
290	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
295	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
300	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Note: This table provides the estimated probability of passing the state test based on a MAP test score taken during that prior (fall) season. Example: if a fifth grade student scored 200 on a MAP test taken during the fall season, her/his estimated probability of passing the state test is 8%.

Italics represent extrapolated data.

READING - Prior Season							
Estimated Probability of Passing State Test Based on Observed MAP Score							
RIT Range	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
120	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
125	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
130	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
135	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
140	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
145	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
150	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
155	4%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
160	6%	2%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
165	10%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
170	15%	4%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%
175	23%	7%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%
180	33%	11%	6%	3%	2%	1%	1%
185	45%	17%	9%	4%	3%	2%	2%
190	57%	25%	14%	7%	5%	3%	3%
195	69%	35%	21%	11%	8%	5%	4%
200	79%	48%	31%	17%	12%	8%	7%
205	86%	60%	43%	25%	18%	13%	11%
210	91%	71%	55%	35%	27%	20%	17%
215	94%	80%	67%	48%	38%	29%	25%
220	96%	87%	77%	60%	50%	40%	35%
225	98%	92%	85%	71%	62%	52%	48%
230	99%	95%	90%	80%	73%	65%	60%
235	99%	97%	94%	87%	82%	75%	71%
240	100%	98%	96%	92%	88%	83%	80%
245	100%	99%	98%	95%	92%	89%	87%
250	100%	99%	99%	97%	95%	93%	92%
255	100%	100%	99%	98%	97%	96%	95%
260	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	97%	97%
265	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	98%
270	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%
275	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%
280	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
285	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
290	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
295	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
300	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Note: This table provides the estimated probability of passing the state test based on a MAP test score taken during that prior (fall) season. Example: if a fifth grade student scored 200 on a MAP test taken during the fall season, her/his estimated probability of passing the state test is 17%.

Italics represent extrapolated data.

TABLE 5 – CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS BETWEEN MAP AND STATE TEST FOR EACH GRADE AND TEST SUBJECT

Grade	Math Correlation Pearson's r	Reading Correlation Pearson's r
3	0.752	0.726
4	0.756	0.745
5	0.756	0.724
6	0.739	0.704
7	0.758	0.700
8	0.767	0.708

* Note: Correlations range from 0 (indicating no correlation between the state test score and the NWEA test score) to 1 (indicating complete correlation between the state test score and the NWEA test score).

TABLE 6 – PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHOSE PASS STATUS WAS ACCURATELY PREDICTED BY THEIR MAP PERFORMANCE USING REPORTED CUT SCORES

Grade	Sample Size	MAP Accurately Predicted State Performance	MAP Underestimated State Performance	MAP Overestimated State Performance
Mathematics				
3	1025	81.0%	8.9%	10.1%
4	1074	80.0%	9.7%	10.3%
5	1048	80.4%	10.2%	9.4%
6	1018	77.2%	11.3%	11.5%
7	1029	81.0%	10.3%	8.7%
8	954	81.9%	9.4%	8.7%
Reading				
3	1027	83.0%	9.3%	7.7%
4	1070	82.8%	8.5%	8.7%
5	1047	80.7%	10.2%	9.1%
6	1026	81.0%	9.7%	9.3%
7	1028	82.1%	8.7%	9.2%
8	958	79.9%	9.9%	10.2%

*Note: The third column of this table shows the percentage of students whose Pass/NotPass status was predicted accurately when their state test score was linked to their MAP score based on this linking study. The fourth column shows the percentage of students whose MAP score predicted they would not pass the state benchmark but they did pass. The last column shows the percentage of students whose MAP score predicted they would pass the state benchmark but they did not pass. Due to rounding, percentages may not add to 100%.