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**NWEA'S MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS IS SELECTED AS A STATE-
APPROVED FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT IN COLORADO**

July 31, 2009 – Portland, Ore. – Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) has been selected as an approved formative assessment by Colorado's Department of Education (DOE).

The term "formative assessment" refers to interim assessments, benchmark assessments, or any other similar tools that are designed and used to gauge the academic progress of students throughout a school year.

The selection means that NWEA will continue to assist its existing 177 educational partners in Colorado, as well as the state's growth model initiatives and partner with those districts to help all children learn.

"We are excited to continue our work in Colorado and support the State Department of Education's growth model initiatives with our computerized, adaptive assessment," said Charles Merritt, vice president of government relations.

The Colorado DOE approved MAP as a formative assessment because it will help increase student achievement in the following ways:

1. MAP expands the capacity of low performing school districts to use results from formative assessments;
2. Colorado school districts can use MAP results to guide teachers' instructional decisions and monitor student progress; and
3. MAP enhances Colorado's growth model for accountability by integrating formative results into data.

NWEA's MAP is a state-aligned, computer-adaptive assessment system that accurately measures each student's instructional level and growth over time. The comprehensive

assessment system provides insight into student academic needs and resources to adjust instruction through detailed growth data, resources and professional development components.

The MAP assessment package includes assessments for mathematics, reading and language usage, along with optional assessments for science and primary grades (K-2).

About Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)

The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a national not-for-profit educational services organization that provides research-based educational growth measures, professional training, and consulting services to improve teaching and learning. Partnering with school districts, states, and other education organizations, NWEA delivers computerized assessment services to more than 3,400 education agencies and approximately 4 million students. Additionally, its Growth Research Database, the most extensive collection of student growth data in the country, provides a rich source for the study of academic achievement. Contact and other information is available at www.nwea.org.

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