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## **New Partnership Brings the MAP Assessment to Charter Schools in California**

NWEA and the California Charter Schools Alliance enter partnership to help schools effectively transition to the Common Core

**Portland, OR – October 29, 2013** – Northwest Evaluation Association™ (NWEA™) today announced that it has entered into a partnership with the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA). The partnership will make the Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) assessment available to any California charter school at a significant discount. The partnership also entails discounts on professional development to support educators in using data to differentiate instruction to improve student outcomes.

In addition to the CCSA discounts, charter schools will benefit from the economic value of the assessment, which includes 140 reports, testing up to three times yearly, as well as complimentary technical support and online professional development resources, and access to the SPARK Community, an online users group.

MAP assessments provide critical information to help schools effectively transition to Common Core. Data from the assessment help educators answer important questions on three levels:

- **At the student level:** Are students successfully making the transition to Common Core? What mid-course corrections to instruction are needed?
- **At the school level:** How will schools maintain transparency and accountability with parents and the public? How will schools demonstrate academic success school-wide and with subgroups?
- **At the charter movement level:** How can charter schools successfully advocate for continued access to facilities, funding, and policies that support innovation?

"CCSA would like to thank the NWEA organization, their leadership, and the charter school professionals who helped craft an agreement that focused on providing a valuable and affordable assessment tool for all charter public schools. In a time where the state has suspended state testing, it will be key to the movement's success that we have the MAP data to tell the story of how gains are being made statewide in communities being served by charter schools," said Jed Wallace, president and CEO of CCSA.

"I am pleased to see that CCSA and NWEA have created a partnership to assist all charter public schools in a time when state mandated testing has been suspended. This crucial alliance is one that not only supports individual schools, but also strengthens the ability to capture valuable data to showcase the amazing work being performed daily throughout the Golden State in public schools of choice," said Cameron Curry, Executive Director of The Classical Academies in San Diego.

“Charter schools are an important incubator of innovation for America’s schools, and NWEA is proud to partner with CCSA. We know from our 6,800 partner schools and districts that MAP data can offer immediate insight to guide student learning and analyze trends in program impact,” said Matt Chapman, president and CEO of NWEA.

**About Northwest Evaluation Association**

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is a global not-for-profit educational services organization headquartered in Portland, Oregon. NWEA partners with educational organizations worldwide to provide computer-based assessment suites, professional development, and research services. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) adaptive assessments from NWEA leverage more than 30 years of research into student growth that informs decision-making at every level, from classrooms to boardrooms. The NWEA research center, The Kingsbury Center, uses the Growth Research Database (GRD™) to drive original research with universities, foundations, and policymakers. Learn more at [NWEA.org](http://NWEA.org).

**About the California Charter Schools Association**

The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) is the membership and professional organization serving 1,063 charter public schools and more than 470,600 students in the state of California. The Vision of CCSA is to empower parents and educators to unleash a new era of innovation within public education so that highly autonomous and accountable schools of choice provide quality learning opportunities for all California students. The Mission of CCSA is to increase the number of students attending quality charter schools in California as quickly as possible by securing policy wins and providing the supports necessary to open and expand quality charter schools. For more information, please visit [www.calcharters.org](http://www.calcharters.org).

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