

Media Contact:
Jean Fleming
Northwest Evaluation Association
jean.fleming@nwea.org
971-271-6978



New Tool From NWEA Helps Middle School Students Assess College Readiness

College Explorer Tool helps students use their Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) score look for colleges that meet their learning needs

Portland, OR (February 25 , 2016) - The [Northwest Evaluation Association™](#) (NWEA™) has developed a unique new [College Explorer](#) tool that enables middle school and early high school-age students to use their Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) scores to see which colleges and universities they're on track to enter long before they embark on the college application process.

“By helping younger students to see how their academic performance can impact their options when it comes to choosing a college, our hope is that the College Explorer Tool can be a valuable conversation-starter for students, parents, and educators,” said Matt Chapman, CEO of NWEA. “We want to empower students to not only find the college that is right for them, but also to understand what changes they need to make, academically, in order to be admitted at their preferred institution.”

The College Explorer Tool links to MAP scores for students in grades 5-9 to colleges and universities based on the median ACT® scores of students who were admitted and enrolled in those institutions. Additionally, the tool provides a quantitative profile of each institution using data from the U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard, which includes valuable information on cost of attendance and the average annual cost borne by families at different income levels. This crucial information shows students and their families how much they would likely need to borrow in order to complete their education at a given college, as well as graduates’ typical earnings.

“NWEA’s assessments are designed to support each student’s academic growth,” said John Cronin, Senior Director of Research at NWEA. “We built this tool to give students, teachers and parents early insight into how that growth can translate into access to higher education. NWEA is dedicated to fostering a college-going culture

that enables students to make informed decisions and to choose an educational path that meets their individual needs.”

About Northwest Evaluation Association

[Northwest Evaluation Association](#)[™] (NWEA[™]) is a global not-for-profit educational services organization known for our suite of assessments, including our flagship interim assessment, [Measures of Academic Progress](#)[®] (MAP[®]), and [Skills Navigator](#)[®], a skills mastery and progress monitoring tool. More than 7,600 partners in U.S. schools, school districts, education agencies, and international schools trust us to offer pre-kindergarten through grade 12 assessments that accurately measure student growth and mastery, professional development that fosters educators' ability to accelerate student learning, and research that supports assessment validity and data interpretation. To better inform instruction and maximize every learner's academic growth, educators currently use NWEA assessments with nearly eight million students. Learn more at nwea.org.