



Georgia Districts Team with NWEA to Launch Georgia Innovative Assessment Pilot

New adaptive interim assessment model will provide longitudinal growth data, instructionally relevant insights, and summative proficiency scores

Atlanta, Ga. and Portland, Ore. – October 1, 2018 – The Georgia MAP Assessment Partnership (GMAP), a consortium of 10 school districts serving more than 165,000 public school students across Georgia, announced today that the Georgia Board of Education has approved its petition to launch an assessment pilot that will use a new innovative assessment system.

The five-year pilot was created in response to a law passed earlier this year (Georgia Senate Bill 362) allowing for the establishment of up to 10 innovative assessment pilots to serve as potential models for a statewide program that would allow districts to use alternative assessments to the Georgia Milestones.

For the pilot, the GMAP will partner with [NWEA](#), a not-for-profit provider of assessment solutions, to create a unified assessment system that uses adaptive assessments administered in fall, winter, and spring to yield longitudinal growth data, instructionally relevant insights, and summative proficiency scores.

“We applaud the Georgia state board of education for taking advantage of the opportunities for innovative assessments that ESSA has provided, and the district leaders for working together to make assessments better for students,” said Chris Minnich, CEO, NWEA. “We look forward to partnering to create an innovative solution that supports high quality educational decisions, meets accessibility standards, and fulfills accountability requirements.”

The GMAP is made up of collaborating and affiliate district partners. Collaborating partners include Barrow County School System, Clayton County Public Schools, Floyd County Schools, Jackson County Schools, Jasper County Charter System, Marietta City Schools, and Polk County School District. Affiliate partners include Dalton County Schools, Gilmer County Schools, and Haralson County Schools.* It is anticipated that the affiliate partners, which are expected to grow in number, will transition to collaborating partner status over time.

Partners will begin the pilot with MAP Growth, an interim assessment from NWEA, currently used by one-third of Georgia districts, to accurately measure student performance – whether it is on, above, or below grade level.

While districts are implementing MAP Growth, NWEA and Georgia stakeholders will develop a new interim assessment solution that preserves MAP Growth functionality and access to national norms, while also measuring student performance relative to the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for English language arts, mathematics, and science.

In 2020, collaborating districts will transition to this new solution, which will provide timely insights on students' command of GSE grade-level standards as well as their individual learning level (whether on or off grade-level) – in time to impact learning. By 2022, it is expected that all GMAP partners will administer the new solution; data from the three assessments will culminate in end-of-year summative proficiency scores.

“We’re excited to work with fellow GMAP partners and the state to maximize classroom time and give Georgia educators the insights they need to move students forward,” said Dr. Grant Rivera, GMAP collaborating partner and Superintendent of Marietta City Schools. “This unified solution will reveal what each student needs to learn next, while also showing how each student is performing against grade-level standards – all during the year, in time to impact student learning.”

About GMAP

The Georgia MAP Assessment Partnership (GMAP) is a consortium of ten districts committed to thoughtfully creating a unified assessment system that reduces testing time, provides educators with instructional guidance, and challenges students to develop the higher-order thinking skills they need to succeed in college and careers.

About NWEA

NWEA® is a mission-driven, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency—and provide insights to help tailor instruction. Educators in more than 10,000 schools, districts, and education agencies in 141 countries rely on our flagship interim assessment, MAP® Growth™; our progress monitoring and skills mastery tool, MAP® Skills™; and our reading fluency and comprehension assessment, MAP® Reading Fluency™. Visit [NWEA.org](https://www.nwea.org) to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

**Since this press release was originally issued in October 2018, the participating districts have changed slightly. As of April 2019, collaborating partners include Barrow County School District, Clayton County Public Schools, Dalton Public Schools, Floyd County Schools, Jackson County Schools, Jasper County Charter System, Marietta City Schools, and Polk County School District. Haralson County Schools remains an affiliate partner.*