

Dubai, UAE



International school effectively implements MAP Growth—and sees student growth

In 2014, the governing board at the New Academy School in Dubai made some significant changes to improve school performance. The board recruited experienced staff members to steer New Academy in a different direction, including Mohammed Sultan as the school's principal and a new leadership team. The new team looked for benchmarking systems, including an assessment that would measure the effectiveness of the school's curriculum and its impact on growth.

As previous MAP® Growth™ users, the new team knew that the assessment from NWEA® could provide New Academy School with crucial data to determine how students were performing, to adjust instruction, and to measure growth over time.

Measuring progress and using MAP Growth data

New Academy initially used MAP Growth as a baseline assessment to create a starting point for measuring student growth. The leadership team could also verify if the instructional changes, curriculum reviews, or any interventions the school had implemented were creating a positive impact on student learning.

Now, school leaders rely on MAP Growth to compare and validate data points from different assessments. In addition, the school uses norms to compare their students' performance to students in the United States. Finally, New Academy uses

MAP Growth data to enhance the self-evaluation and performance review procedures—which are required by inspection agencies and accreditation entities—by providing quantitative support to illustrate student growth over time.

Introducing a new assessment

New Academy faced some challenges in introducing a new assessment. The leadership team reinforced that the key reason for using MAP Growth was to support each student's growth.

To ensure a successful rollout, school leaders made sure that teachers were trained and understood the value of MAP Growth. Having access to the data meant that teachers could make important changes at crucial times, such as implementing more personalized and focused intervention for a student who is falling behind. "MAP Growth data is friendly, accessible, and immediate," explains Ms. Fatima Khalid, former head of the elementary school. "It tells us where the students are, and it helps us get them to where they need to be."

One challenge for students was language comprehension. Since most students are English language learners, teachers had to provide various accommodations to support them. Today, teachers administer the test in small

groups, offer short breaks during testing, and mix in other activities to keep students engaged and focused.

To help older students engage with assessment data, teachers and students used the student goal-setting sheet to create goals based on their RIT scores. Teachers also created learning portfolios with an action plan for each student, enabling students to set their own targets and measure their progress over time.

New Academy knew that for MAP Growth to be most effective, they had to create a system that would encourage parent engagement. Every three to four weeks, students take home their learning portfolios, with MAP Growth data, to share progress with their parents. As a result, parents now come into meetings ready to talk about how MAP Growth data is being used to keep their children on track. “It has a very contagious effect,” says Ms. Fatima. “When parents see the impact of MAP Growth data, they want to know more.”

“MAP Growth data is friendly, accessible, and immediate.”

Fatima Khalid, Former Head of Elementary School
New Academy School, Dubai

Leveraging NWEA professional learning

New Academy also relied on NWEA to provide them with a professional learning consultant who could help them learn how to use MAP Growth to its fullest potential. Through a series of interactive workshops, New Academy teachers developed a better understanding of how to apply MAP Growth data and connect it to instruction. Mr. Mohammed says, “We now have a more solid—and quantitative—approach that helps us to describe students’ progress accurately and to plan strategically.”

Using MAP Growth to effect change

Before implementing MAP Growth, New Academy did not have robust assessment tools to measure the impact of the school curriculum. Once the school had MAP Growth data, they used the Learning Continuum to help them address gaps in learning and incorporate skills they had missed. Mr. Mohammed explains: “MAP Growth helps us tighten the scope and sequence of our curriculum by identifying specific skills to develop for particular students at a particular time.”

For teachers and school leaders, MAP Growth data provided the validation they needed to create specific learning strategies that would help each student learn and grow. By giving students the support they needed, New Academy has seen multiple improvements in English language learning, MAP Growth scores, and overall student growth.



School Snapshot

DUBAI, UAE



K-12 STUDENTS

1,400

DEMOGRAPHICS

70%

ARE FROM
THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY

44

DIFFERENT
NATIONALITIES
ARE REPRESENTED

PRODUCT USE

IMPLEMENTED MAP GROWTH IN

2014

IMPLEMENTED MAP SKILLS AND
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN

2015

nwea

NWEA is a not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by providing assessment solutions, insightful reports, professional learning offerings, and research services. Visit [NWEA.org](https://www.nwea.org) to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

© 2020 NWEA. NWEA and MAP are registered trademarks, and MAP Growth is a trademark, of NWEA in the US and in other countries.

SEP20 | KAP844