

# Policy Agenda

NWEA® is a research-based, 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. For more than 40 years, NWEA has developed pre-K–12 assessments and professional learning offerings to help advance all students along their optimal learning paths. More than 11 million students in 146 countries use our solutions to support their learning and growth each year.

NWEA advocates for sound policy change at the state and federal level. Those positions are directly informed by our [research](#) as well as experiences and insights students and educators have with our [products](#) and [professional learning services](#).

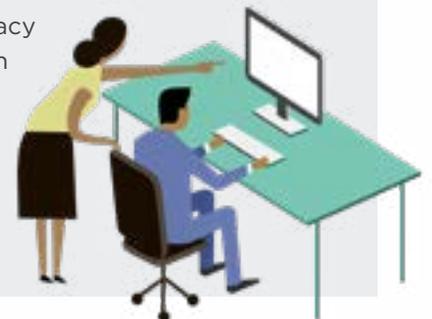
We know that it is time for the education community to broaden our vision from assessments that are “good enough” to assessment systems that act as a critical, meaningful lever for student success. Presented here are the 2020 policy and advocacy platforms of NWEA, which outline targeted solutions for state and federal education policy to achieve this shift. This cohesive agenda provides a guide for policymakers aimed to advance equity through research-based policy solutions driven by and for those closest to learning.

## 1. Create a vision for the future of high-quality assessment

- ✦ Prioritize within-year growth through [innovative assessment](#) models
- ✦ Build equitable assessment systems that measure growth and are inclusive of diverse student identity, like those with [visual and hearing impairments](#), [English learners](#), [international settings](#), and those [experiencing poverty](#)
- ✦ Center assessment design on students’ socio-cognitive factors, like [test disengagement](#), measures of student [knowledge developed in school](#), and [augmented reality](#)
- ✦ Develop novel [accessibility and accommodation guidelines](#) for the assessment industry

## 2. Empower teachers and principals as instructional leaders

- ✦ Build partnerships across instruction and assessment experts to provide teachers resources at the intersection of [personalized learning and assessment](#), [culturally responsive teaching](#),
- ✦ Foster collaborative [professional learning](#) opportunities in assessment literacy and [formative assessment practice](#) that support instructional differentiation
- ✦ Establish research-practice partnerships that inform [data reporting](#) and [instructional responses to assessment data](#)





### 3. Promote systematic and cohesive early learning opportunities

- + Promote high quality instruction and assessment systems across early learning skills, like [oral reading fluency](#)
- + Inform early childhood policymaking through rigorous research and partnerships exploring school entry and [early kindergarten transitions](#)

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### 4. Explore the role of whole child education

- + Foster [transparent communication](#) and strong relationships with families to influence key levers for advancing equity like [chronic absenteeism](#) and [summer learning](#)
- + Explore how to measure [social and emotional learning](#) in school contexts
- + Investigate the role of inter- and intrapersonal skills, like [self-efficacy](#), on student outcomes

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### 5. Improve high school, college, and career success

- + Establish cohesion between short-term student growth outcomes and long-term student success goals, like [college readiness](#), through [programmatic and instructional decision making](#)
- + Develop student agency for data-driven conversations about access to [high school completion, career, and college success](#)
- + Foster postsecondary partnerships that improve longitudinal research for evidence-based policy

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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://nwea.org) to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

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