

The top five features of MAP Growth norms

MAP® Growth™ norms are among the most robust and trusted in K-12 education, thanks to the rigor, transparency, and scale behind their development. Here are five research-driven benefits to remember:

1 Broad, representative sample

NWEA's MAP Growth norms are based on data from 116+ million test events from a diverse, nationwide sample of 13+ million students. NWEA® applies rigorous statistical methods to data from a large national sample to ensure that our norms are reflective of the population of public-school students. This approach allows the norms to capture a wide range of student experiences, school contexts, and achievement levels, making them both representative and useful for interpreting student performance across varied settings.

2 Methodological rigor

The norms are developed using a transparent and statistically sound process that accounts for key factors like when in a season a student tested and their prior achievement. Each update is guided by best practices in educational measurement and supported by publicly available technical documentation.

3 Conditional growth norms

One of the most powerful features of MAP Growth is its conditional growth norms, meaning it provides growth norms based on a student's starting achievement level, not just their grade. This allows educators to set growth goals that are realistic, particularly for students who are above or below grade level.

4 More precise than seasonal labels alone

Unlike blunt seasonal indicators such as “fall” or “spring,” our norms incorporate actual school calendar data, allowing for more precise measurement of growth relative to weeks of school. This helps partners interpret growth in the context of opportunity to learn in a more nuanced way.

5 Clear connection to proficiency through linking studies

In addition to its normative data, through its linking studies, MAP Growth also provides projections of whether a student is likely to score proficient on his or her state summative assessment. Together, norms and linking studies help educators know how students are performing compared to their peers and how they are performing compared to state standards.

What's new in the 2025 norms

- Based on postpandemic data (2022–2024) in the US, reflecting the most current academic landscape
- Fully aligned to MAP Growth's item-selection algorithm, improving coherence between test scale and growth expectations