



GUIDE

Assessing literacy with the MAP Suite for Early Learning

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Introduction

Educators use data from high-quality assessments to make instructional decisions that inform lesson planning, scaffolding, interventions, and differentiation. Access to this trustworthy data drives positive long-term outcomes for children, particularly in reading. When time and resources go to specific prevention and intervention efforts for early learners, students see benefits for years to come.

Early learners can't wait. MAP® Suite simplifies screening and identifying needs for all students. It's never too soon to close gaps, support students with unfinished learning, and empower school communities to achieve short- and long-term goals.

Literacy growth and emerging readers

Psychology professor Dr. Scott G. Paris suggests early learners learn to read by [mastering a myriad of constrained and unconstrained skills](#) simultaneously.

Constrained skills: Reading domains characterized by a short, steep period of growth with a fixed end point, like letter recognition or phoneme blending. Once students have full understanding of the skill, they achieve mastery and move on.

Constrained skills are found in *foundational reading standards*. These cornerstone standards are only present in elementary grades, as it's expected students achieve mastery and advance to the capstone fluency standard—reading with adequate accuracy and fluency to support comprehension. MAP Reading Fluency™ with Coach covers the skills and abilities required to meet these standards.

Unconstrained skills: Reading domains characterized by steady, ongoing growth without a fixed end point, like vocabulary or language comprehension. These are skills without a “box to check,” as they can grow from pre-K through adulthood.

Unconstrained skills are embedded in *anchor reading standards*: continuous reading comprehension standards that focus on meaning-making skills. These standards are typically grouped into related clusters. In the Common Core State Standards, these include Key Ideas and Detail, Craft and Structure, and Integration of Knowledge and Ideas.

In kindergarten, an example anchor standard may be, “With prompting and support, identify characters, setting, and major events.” By high school, that standard expands to, “Analyze the author’s choices...” MAP Growth™ aligns to these standards and provides key insights on student growth in the overall reading domain.

For early learners, anchor standards and foundational reading standards appear simultaneously in the curriculum. After third grade, many of the foundational reading standards fall away, as students are expected to have mastered the constrained skills they need to learn to read.

MAP Suite for Early Learning and literacy growth

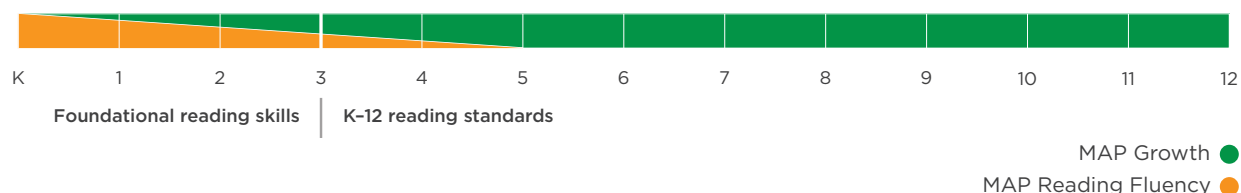
MAP Reading Fluency with Coach is used alongside MAP Growth while students are in the emergent stages of literacy development to put additional focus on the critical learning-to-read skills. Together, MAP Growth and MAP Reading Fluency provide a richer and more complete picture of early learners' knowledge and skills. In an [article that first appeared on NWEA's blog](#), early literacy expert Dr. Cindy Jiban details how.

MAP Reading Fluency is designed to focus on foundational skills and early reading fluency. It locates which skills are growing now, tracking development toward that independent reading that later grades will assume. MAP Reading Fluency does not assess any of the “anchor” standards in reading comprehension. Instead, it focuses on the foundational reading standards. The focus differs for each student: for some, growth now is on sounding out simple words, while others have moved on to developing fluency. With constrained skills, you can't keep looking at the same skill indefinitely to find growth—you have to move with the child.

MAP Growth Reading is designed to track overall growth in reading, from kindergarten to grade 12. It has a strong focus on the “anchor” standards in reading comprehension, right from the start. For the youngest students, MAP Growth Reading can gauge growth on those standards even before kids are reading independently, by reading text aloud to kids. While many foundational skills are also included, the focus of MAP Growth Reading is on growth in overall reading proficiency over time on a stable interval scale.

When might I use both? Ultimately, our goal is for students to “graduate” from MAP Reading Fluency, demonstrating that they have moved beyond those more constrained skills and that they can read grade level passages with fluency and understanding. For students still learning to read, though, a fuller picture of reading development comes from tracking both kinds of growth.

This graphic illustrates how foundational reading skills and K-12 anchor standards overlap for emerging readers in elementary grades. Using MAP Suite for Early Learning is the best way to get a clear, comprehensive picture of how these learners are doing.



MAP Suite for Early Learning assessments

MAP Reading Fluency with Coach

A better way to evaluate early reading

Quickly and accurately assess your pre-K–5 readers. MAP Reading Fluency with Coach enables teachers to efficiently measure oral reading fluency with an online, adaptive benchmark and progress-monitoring assessment. Streamlined universal screening identifies students at risk of reading difficulty, including those with possible risk factors for dyslexia. In addition to fluency, the test measures foundational skills and literal comprehension—all with one 20-minute assessment. Coach then takes the assessment data and places students into a 1:1 personalized tutoring program that actively listens to students read aloud, detects oral reading errors, and delivers real-time microinterventions.

MAP Growth

Precisely measure growth and performance

MAP Growth measures what students know and helps teachers make strategic decisions while planning instruction. By dynamically adjusting to each student's responses, MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures performance—whether a student is on, above, or below grade level. This interim assessment solution also connects to the largest set of instructional content providers, giving educators flexibility in curriculum choices. MAP Growth assessments measure performance and growth in math and reading for K–12 students and language usage and science in grades 2–12. This guide focuses on the MAP Growth Reading solution.

Support for emerging bilingual learners

MAP Growth Reading and MAP Reading Fluency benchmark assessments are both available in Spanish. Spanish language assessments help educators clearly differentiate student learning needs related to skills and concepts from needs related to language barriers.

Maximizing reading instruction with MAP Reading Fluency with Coach

MAP Reading Fluency with Coach is designed around the Simple View of Reading.

Adapted from the scholarship of Gough and Tunmer, the Simple View of Reading suggests reading comprehension is dependent on decoding skills and language comprehension abilities. The aim of decoding skills is to achieve automatic word recognition—to read fluently. Language comprehension involves understanding the spoken language, including vocabulary and syntax. Fluency involves those two factors coming together to ultimately build reading comprehension.

Simple View of Reading

$$RC = D \times LC$$

Reading Comprehension (RC) is the product of **Decoding (D)** and **Language Comprehension (LC)** proficiencies.

Formula adapted from Gough, Philip B., and William E. Tunmer. 1986. "Decoding, Reading, and Reading Disability." *RASE: Remedial & Special Education* 7: 6-10.

While these skills can be assessed and taught separately, both decoding and language comprehension must be high to produce reading comprehension.

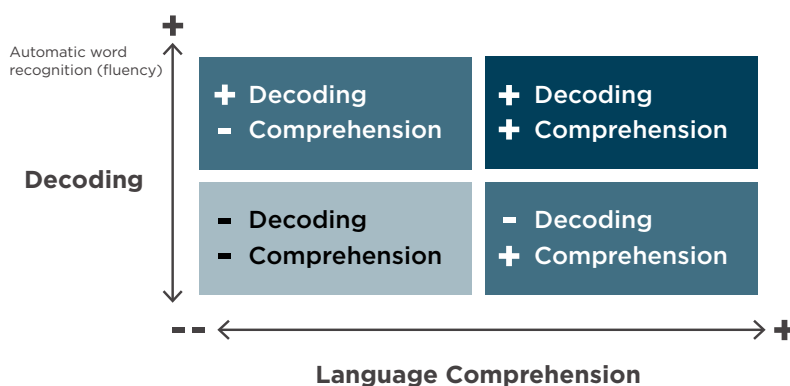
Early literacy instruction prioritizes moving students to become confident decoders with strong comprehension skills. Things can go awry, however, if interventions aren't well aligned to the needs of each student.

By measuring each skill and dimension of reading separately, educators can get a comprehensive view of each student's early literacy development and needs.

Simple View of Reading

Gough & Tunmer, 1986

Reading Comprehension = Decoding x Language Comprehension



A closer look at MAP Reading Fluency with Coach

Taking the assessment

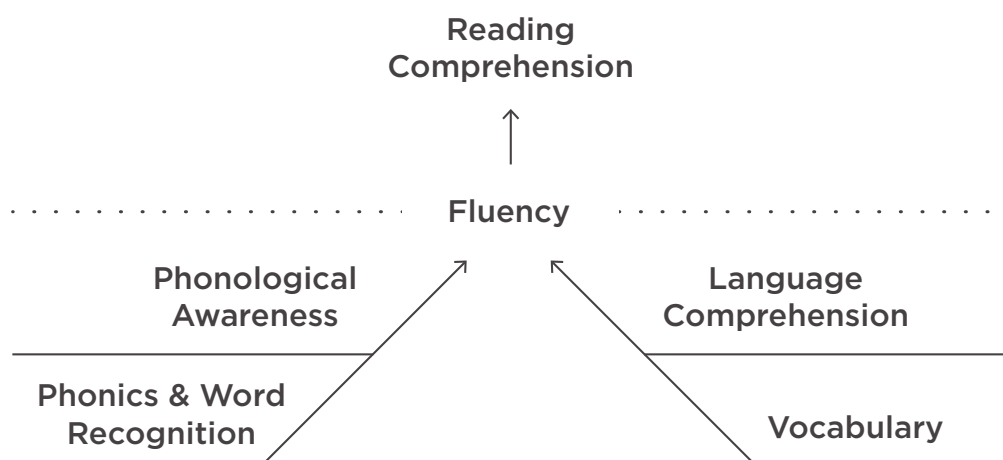
Each student taking the adaptive oral reading benchmark assessment starts by reading a short picture book and doing some timed silent reading activities; from there, the test offers either three passages for reading or a series of foundational skills measures, including phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, listening comprehension, and picture vocabulary.

Twenty minute adaptive oral reading test



Scope of content

MAP Reading Fluency with Coach looks at all pieces of the puzzle. Test results will draw attention to areas where a child might need additional support in either area of reading instruction: decoding or language comprehension.



Within each of the five key components of reading, MAP Reading Fluency measures specific skills and knowledge.

Phonological Awareness

- Rhyming
- Syllable counting
- Initial sound fluency
- Blending
- Segmenting
- Phonemic manipulation

Phonics & Word Recognition

- Letter knowledge
- Letter-sound fluency
- Decodable words

Oral Language

- Listening comprehension
- Picture vocabulary

Oral Reading Fluency

- Passages from 150L to 1000L
- Narrative and informational text
- Decodable words

Reading Comprehension

- Main idea
- Key details
- Low-level inference
- 6 questions per passage, 5 correct threshold to advance to harder text

What sets MAP Reading Fluency with Coach apart?

Holistic view. Based on the Simple View of Reading, MAP Reading Fluency with Coach captures a robust view of fluency, accounting for rate, accuracy, understanding, and text difficulty. This closely aligns to the way reading is taught, with comprehension, vocabulary, and decoding skills working in unison.

Group administration. Teachers can evaluate groups of students simultaneously, instead of just one-on-one. Early learners take a 20-minute benchmark test in groups—or as a class—wearing headsets with microphones attached to computers or tablets.

Voice recognition and audio recording. Powered by speech-scoring technology, the test records and scores students automatically; the audio recording of each student is available for playback.

Automatic, objective scoring. Immediate scoring saves teacher time and prevents bias or subjectivity.

Actionable data. Teachers receive a wealth of information from each of the benchmark tests, including a reader profile, instructional next steps, performance compared to grade-level expectations, and a universal screener outcome flag.

Personalized reading coach. Provide effective, 1-on-1 support with the AI reading coach, Maya. Coach's personable guide actively listens and detects oral reading errors and foundational skill gaps to deliver real-time microinterventions.

Support for all students

MAP Reading Fluency with Coach provides critical screening tools to help identify students who may require additional support. Shorter progress-monitoring test forms help educators track if their interventions are working.

Universal screener outcome flag

MAP Reading Fluency with Coach reports include several measures and performance-level indicators to help inform instruction for each student. The universal screener flag provides a bird's-eye, summary-level outcome. This flag does not indicate a diagnosis but instead marks scores that may suggest possible reading difficulty. It indicates students who may benefit from additional supports like intervention and progress monitoring. The universal screener outcome flag is only available for English benchmark tests.

Dyslexia screener

The dyslexia screener assesses key foundational reading skills, including those more often associated with dyslexia. This test form includes a predictive flag to identify students whose scores suggest possible risk factors for dyslexia or other reading difficulties and warrant a follow-up. The dyslexia screener is included with every MAP Reading Fluency with Coach license at no extra cost.

MAP Reading Fluency with Coach reports

Automatically scored MAP Reading Fluency with Coach results appear in practical, easy-to-use reports to help you advance reading development for all students.

Benchmark Matrix report

This report offers an at-a-glance summary of all students assessed during the selected term. An intuitive, purpose-built design makes it easy to identify strengths and weaknesses, indicate areas of risk and opportunity, and group students for differentiation.

map

Reading Fluency

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PROCTOR DASHBOARD

ASSIGNMENTS

STUDENT PASSWORDS

REPORTS

Viewing as: School Administrator

Term: Fall 2021-2022

School: Bryce Canyon Elementary School

Current Grade: 2nd Grade

Classes: All Classes

Language: English

Print

Benchmark Matrix

Filter Results

All Classes | 50 Students

What does flagged mean?		FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS							ORAL READING			
Students	Tested Grade	Universal Screener Outcome	Listening Comprehension	Picture Vocabulary	Phonological Awareness	Phonics/Word Recognition	Sentence Reading Fluency	Oral Reading Rate	Accuracy	Oral Reading Level*	Literal Comprehension	
▼ Hemphill, Deon	2	Flagged	M 100%	M 100%	B Blending & Segmenting	A Decodable: One-syllable	A 12/15					
▼ King, Clarence	2	Not Flagged	M 87%	M 100%	A Phonemic Manipulation	A Decodable: One-syllable	A 14/18					
Taylor, Steve	2	Flagged	B 53%	A 60%	A Phonemic Manipulation	B Decodable: CVC	A 10/11					
Bull, Horace	2	Not Flagged					M 23/24	E 94	M 96%	390L	M	
Boone, Peter	2	Not Flagged					M 17/17	M 79	E 100%	380L	M	
Bryant, Carlos	2	Not Flagged					M 20/22	M 70	A 93%	120L	B	
Crouse, Donn	2	Not Flagged					M 20/20	M 79	E 98%	320L	E	
Davis, Samuel	2	Not Flagged					M 16/17	A 42	B 88%	BR305L	A	
Estrada, Casey	2	Not Flagged					M 20/21	M 79	M 95%	250L	M	
Garcia, Lawrence	2	Not Flagged					M 22/23	E 90	E 98%	385L	M	
Hill, Aaron	2	Not Flagged					A 21/24	E 87	M 97%	315L	M	
James, Brian	2	Not Flagged					M 25/27	E 86	M 97%	320L	M	
Lopez, Inez	2	Not Flagged					A 15/20	A 36	B 71%	BR720L	B	
Moore, Heather	2	Not Flagged					M 19/20	M 63	A 92%	15L	A	
Patterson, Jack	2	Not Flagged					M 23/25	M 82	M 96%	255L	M	
Peterman, Brian	2	Not Flagged					A 16/18	M 58	B 87%	BR150L	B	
Price, Bonnie	2	Not Flagged					M 25/26	E 127	E 98%	570L	E	
Reynolds, Jessica	2	Not Flagged					M 23/25	E 118	M 96%	520L	E	
Sanchez, Elizabeth	2	Not Flagged					M 24/24	M 71	A 94%	115L	A	
Santiago, Pamela	2	Not Flagged					A 16/18	M 54	M 96%	BR115L	A	
Scott, Johnny	2	Not Flagged					M 23/25	E 95	M 97%	415L	E	
Taylor, Barbara	2	Not Flagged					M 18/19	M 55	A 94%	BR80L	M	
Taylor, Maria	2	Not Flagged					M 25/27	E 89	M 95%	320L	E	
Turner, Sharon	2	Not Flagged					M 25/25	M 79	A 90%	130L	M	
Watts, Lorraine	2	Not Flagged					M 18/20	M 78	A 93%	100L	A	
Wood, Samantha	2	Not Flagged					M 15/16	M 54	B 85%	BR240L	B	

Individual student reports

Each student report includes valuable and actionable data for the teacher, including a summary of key performance areas, a reader profile, instructional next steps, and performance compared to grade-level expectations, along with a universal screener outcome.

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PROCTOR DASHBOARD
ASSIGNMENTS
STUDENT PASSWORDS
REPORTS

Term: Fall 2021-2022
Test & Date: Adaptive Oral Reading, English
Print

← Back to Matrix
Carlos Bryant - 2nd Grade (Tested Grade)
→

Benchmark
Progress Monitoring

ORAL READING RATE

M Meets grade level
Carlos meets grade level expectation.

Fall expectation: 50 wcpm in 2nd grade text

ORAL READING LEVEL

Carlos's Lexile® oral reading measure is **120L**.

Oral reading materials in 2nd grade typically have Lexile oral readability measures from 380L to 580L.

PROFILE & NEXT STEPS

Carlos reads with good rate. However, Carlos's accuracy is not yet at a level that supports deeper comprehension.

[Building comprehension for readers with good rate](#)

[Building decoding accuracy for readers with good rate](#)

Test Details and Results

Passage Title	Lexile® Text Measure	WCPM (Scaled)	Accuracy	Comprehension	Actions
Losing Teeth	400L	70	93%	2/6 (33%)	Review Audio
Bird Nests	220L	67	92%	3/6 (50%)	Review Audio
Group World Records	980L	FIELD TEST	-	-	Review Audio

Picture Book (Warm-up)	WCPM (Raw)	Accuracy	Actions
Duck in the Sink	70	93%	Review Audio

Activity	Raw Score
Sentence Reading Fluency	20/22

Audio review

The audio archive allows teachers and families to hear oral reading fluency progress, both season to season and year to year.

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← Back to Report Carlos Bryant - 2nd Grade (Grade when tested)

SAVE

REVIEW AUDIO

0:00 / 4:59

Undo

Redo

Clear Changes

Omit Passage

Losing Teeth

Have you ever lost a tooth? I sure have. I was worried before it happened. But now I am happy. Now I have a story to tell!

Last month, I lost my first one. I started to eat a taco. I forgot that my tooth was loose. I took a big bite. I crunched the shell of the taco. Then my mouth felt odd. I felt a gap. I wondered where my tooth was. Did I eat it? I put down my food. My taco tipped over. Guess what fell out of it? It was my tooth.

Just a week later, I lost another one. This time, it was math that made it come out. I sat down to do my math. It was a little hard. I had to really think. I closed my eyes. I tapped my pencil on my mouth. On one tap, it happened. I guess it poked my other loose tooth. Before I knew it, it fell out. It landed on the math problem. The good news is, it made me think of the answer.

Are you worried about losing a tooth? If you are, this story is for you. It has a lesson. Watch out for tacos and math!

System Score

Hand-Score

70

WCPM(scaled)

Keyboard Controls

→ Next word

c Correct

← Previous word

s Substitution

SPACE Start/Stop audio

o Omission

r Rewind (5 sec)

u Unattempted

f Fast forward (5 sec)

Shared Notes

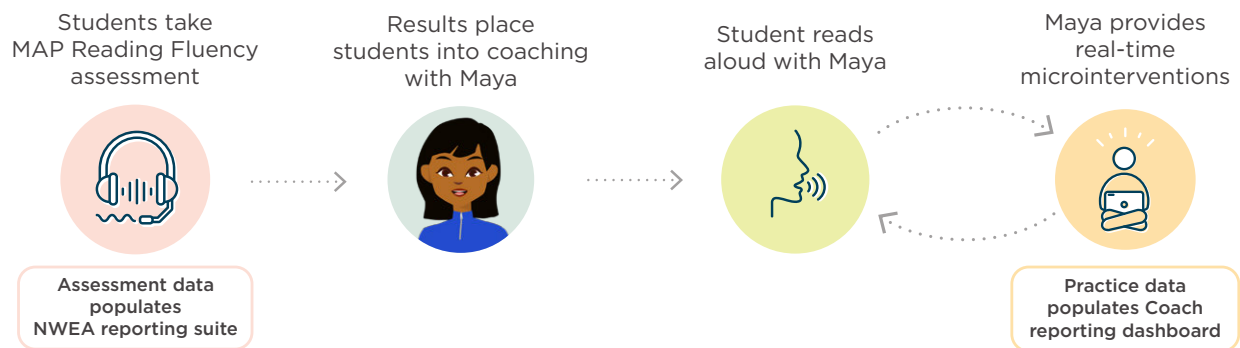
Learn More

Adds syllable for silent-e

0 / 500

MAP Reading Fluency with Coach

NWEA's newest integrated solution, MAP Reading Fluency with Coach, delivers a K-5 reading assessment and tutoring solution designed to improve student reading growth.



A personalized reading experience

After students complete the assessment, Coach takes their assessment data and places them into 1:1 personalized tutoring pathways based on where they are in their reading journey. As they practice reading, the tutoring program actively listens to students read aloud and detects oral reading errors to deliver real-time microinterventions that strengthen critical foundational skills.

A closer look at MAP Growth

Taking the test

MAP Growth is an interim, computer-adaptive test designed to help educators better understand student performance and growth over time. Students answer multiple-choice, drag-and-drop, and other innovative question types that leverage technology and interactive design to assess early learners.

If students answer a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This type of assessment challenges top performers without overwhelming students whose skills are below grade level.

MAP Growth 2–5 (Reading) scope of content*

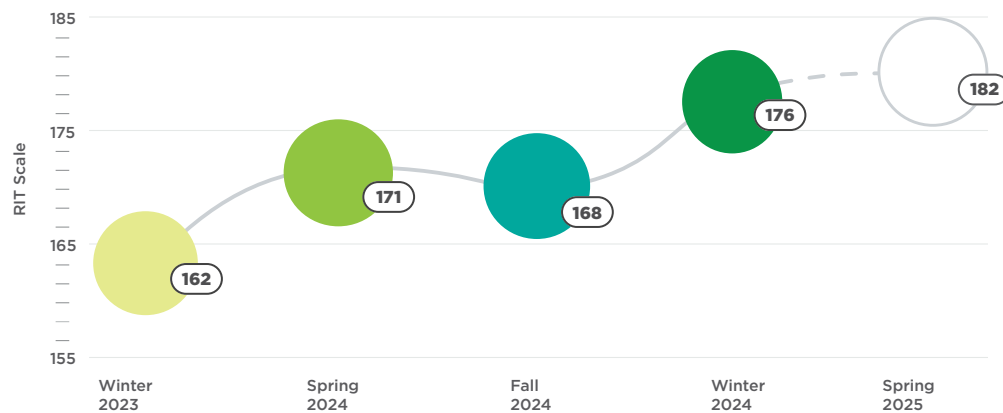
Literary Text	Analyze theme and literary elements; summarize
	Analyze point of view, features, and structure
Informational Text	Analyze central idea, concepts, and events; summarize
	Analyze point of view, purpose, features, and structure
Vocabulary	Vocabulary

*Instructional area descriptions vary state to state according to each state’s standards.

The scope of content for MAP Growth K–2 (Reading) includes some foundational skills content in addition to reading comprehension and vocabulary with audio support.

What sets MAP Growth apart?

Stable scoring scale. Every question on a MAP Growth assessment is calibrated to our proprietary RIT scale. MAP Growth uses a RIT scale to accurately measure what students know, regardless of their grade level. It also measures growth over time, allowing teachers and families to track a child's progress throughout the school year and across multiple years.



Actionable data. MAP Growth reports transform raw data into insights that help educators act. Teachers use them to differentiate instruction, inform learning goals, and communicate with families. Higher-level reports give administrators the context to drive improvement across entire schools and systems.

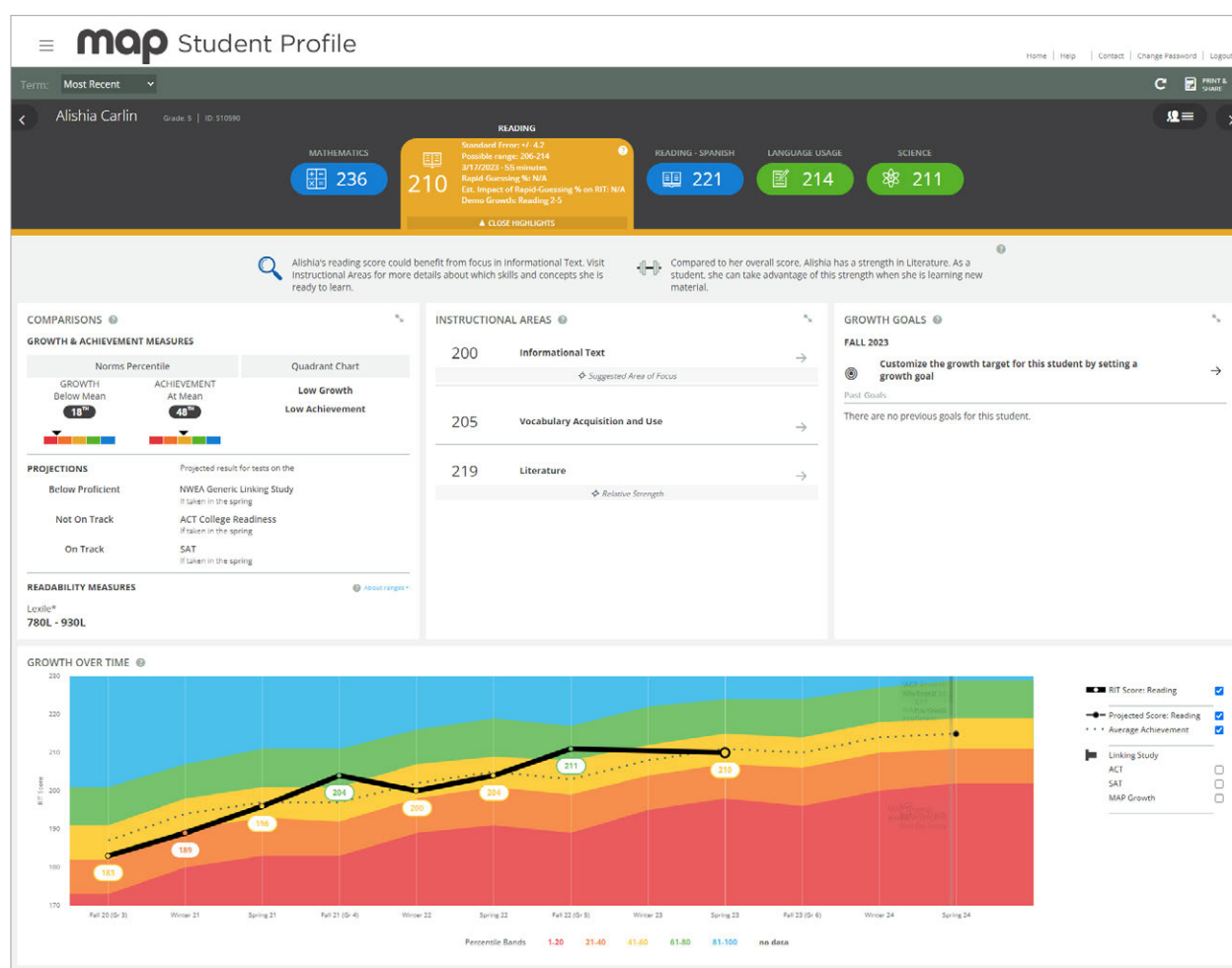
Look ahead. MAP Growth projects proficiency on state assessments, helping educators understand what additional supports students may need to reach grade-level standards.

MAP Growth reports

By adapting to how each student answers questions, MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures each student's performance and growth. Timely reports deliver essential information that can be used to inform both teaching and learning. See below for a sampling of MAP Growth reports and typical use cases.

The Student Profile report

This report provides students, classroom teachers, and instructional coaches with individual student growth and achievement trends over time, both season to season and year over year.



Teachers find this report helpful for analyzing each class's achievement data and identifying specific subjects or content areas where the entire class may benefit from additional instruction.

Assessing literacy with the MAP Suite for Early Learning | 18

Leaders can dive into the details of grade- and class-level achievement percentiles to get a full picture of each school's performance. School Profile reports are also a great starting point for identifying and sharing effective teaching practices across classrooms.

Feedback

The District Profile report provides leaders with a holistic view of academic performance and growth, from the district level down to individual grades within each school, providing essential information for making the most important decisions.





Supporting success with the MAP Suite for Early Learning

Implementation

We pride ourselves on a comprehensive, personal implementation process. As our partner, you'll get a system of support designed to help your school or district use MAP Reading Fluency with Coach and MAP Growth with ease, either remotely or onsite.

From device checks and technical troubleshooting to professional learning and resources for families, our process will ensure your team is prepared to gather, access, and analyze data with confidence.

Technology

Our online assessments are compatible with most popular operating systems and devices, including iPads® and Chromebooks®. You can easily access videos, quick-start guides, and best practices, including support for remote testing based on nearly a decade of successful remote delivery.

Professional learning

NWEA offers a robust slate of professional learning experiences and services—designed by experienced educators to bring curriculum, instruction, and assessment into alignment—then measures their efficacy to ensure the short- and long-term goals of the school or district are met. Design, align, and measure—it's the best way to help educators receive the relevant, comprehensive training they need to improve outcomes for kids.

Using MAP Growth and MAP Reading Fluency together

- Both assessments are accessed through the NWEA assessment platform with a single educator entry point and common rostering.
- It is recommended each assessment be administered at consistent times throughout the year to get comparable data points.
- MAP Growth and MAP Reading Fluency with Coach should be administered in separate test sessions within two weeks of each other to get a multidimensional view of the student at the same point in time.
- MAP Reading Fluency with Coach results can be used as an indicator for MAP Growth 2-5 readiness, where reading comprehension is assessed without the aid of audio supports.
- Each assessment focuses on different sets of standards. MAP Reading Fluency with Coach assesses standards focused on constrained, foundational skills. MAP Growth Reading focuses on the unconstrained anchor standards related to reading comprehension.

MAP Suite for Early Learning



Working together to support emerging readers

We compiled common questions early learning decision-makers hope to answer through assessment. Here's how MAP Growth Reading and MAP Reading Fluency with Coach can help.

QUESTIONS	MAP GROWTH READING	MAP READING FLUENCY	CONTEXT
Are students growing?			Both assessments show whether students are growing in their reading skills. However, the specific skills and level of granularity in insights may differ.
Is there data available to help me intervene early should reading difficulties arise?	✓	✓	
Are students projected to meet proficiency benchmarks on state assessments?	✓		MAP Growth provides projected proficiency scores on state tests.
Do teachers have the trustworthy data they need to provide proper scaffolds to help students access grade-level text?	✓	✓	Insights from MAP Reading Fluency with Coach and MAP Growth help teachers decide between decoding or fluency-focused intervention strategies and strategies that focus on reading comprehension.
What foundational skills or concepts are students having trouble with?		✓	MAP Reading Fluency with Coach provides coverage for meaning-making, decoding, and language comprehension skills.
Can students read with sufficient rate and accuracy to support comprehension?		✓	MAP Reading Fluency with Coach measures the constrained skills required to achieve this capstone fluency standard.
How are English/Spanish emerging bilingual students doing in reading?	✓	✓	Both MAP Growth Reading and MAP Reading Fluency with Coach include Spanish benchmark assessments.
Do any students have possible risk factors for dyslexia or other reading difficulties?		✓	The dyslexia screener and universal screener/ benchmark included with MAP Reading Fluency with Coach flag student performance that may indicate a possible reading difficulty.
Are students able to read and understand increasingly difficult informational and literary text?	✓		MAP Growth assesses anchor standards connected to reading comprehension.



See what's possible for your early learners

When elementary educators are empowered with trustworthy data, and when emerging readers can demonstrate what they know and what they're ready to learn next, schools and districts can improve student outcomes and foster a culture of growth.

MAP Growth Reading and MAP Reading Fluency with Coach work together as part of MAP Suite for Early Learning to make it possible.

Ready to get started? Visit [NWEA.org](https://nwea.org).



NWEA, a division of HMH®, 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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