

# Alternative Education Campus Use of NWEA MAP and STAR Data for Optional Measures

## New Approved Methodology

NWEA MAP and STAR are some of the most popular optional measures used by AECs for both Achievement and Growth. As part of the AEC Work Groups in 2024/25, CDE identified guiding principles for optional measures in coordination with school and district AEC leaders. These principles are outlined in the [AEC Accountability Handbook](#) and more information on the calculation of optional measures can be found in the [Calculation Guidance](#). Historically, CDE has approved multiple methodological approaches for these assessments in both the growth and achievement indicators. In response to the outcomes of the AEC Work Group, optional measures are more accessible and consistent and in line with the established guiding principles. CDE is making the following changes:

- There is only one approved methodology per assessment. Multiple approaches create an issue in comparability between sites and concerns in comparative rigor of the different approaches. In short, there is no way to ensure that each approach has the same level of difficulty, which makes the use of multiple approaches a problem for a normative based accountability system.
- The approved methodology is simple to implement and engages in the least manipulation of the vendor data. This makes the measures accessible to more schools, given that the approaches are simple and do not require intensive analytics at the district level.
- The approved methodology can be maintained year over year without external consultation. Since CDE does not have a relationship to the vendors, we need to create a methodological approach that does not rely on annual or semi-annual adjustments.

## Achievement

### Sunsetted Measures

- NWEA MAP Achievement (% GLE Increase)
- NWEA MAP GLE Increase Percentile Rank
- STAR (% GLE Increase)

### Approvable Measures

- NWEA MAP Median Percentile Rank
- STAR Median Percentile Rank

For achievement, the latest test instance in a given year which provides percentile rank data should be included, and only that test instance.

## Achievement Cut Points

Measure	Category	Metric	Does Not Meet	Approaching	Meets	Exceeds
NWEA MAP	Math	Percentile Rank	1	15	20.5	26
NWEA MAP	Reading	Percentile Rank	1	18	25	34
NWEA MAP	Language Usage	Percentile Rank	1	17	22	28
STAR	Math	Percentile Rank	1	15	20.5	26
STAR	Reading	Percentile Rank	1	18	25	34

## Growth

### Sunsetted Measures

- NWEA MAP Growth Target
- NWEA MAP RIT Change Percentile
- STAR Enterprise Growth Target

### Approvable Measures

- NWEA MAP Median Growth Percentile
- STAR Enterprise Median Growth Percentile

## Growth Cut Points

Measure	Category	Metric	Does Not Meet	Approaching	Meets	Exceeds
NWEA MAP	Math	Median Growth Percentile	1	35	50	65
NWEA MAP	Reading	Median Growth Percentile	1	35	50	65
NWEA MAP	Language Usage	Median Growth Percentile	1	35	50	65
STAR	Math	Median Growth Percentile	1	35	50	65
STAR	Reading	Median Growth Percentile	1	35	50	65



## Submitting Optional Measures

Ensure that you are using a measure that has been approved for use by your district/school. In [data pipeline](#) you will only be able to select measures that have been approved for use by the specific site.

To submit NWEA MAP or STAR data:

- The denominator (the count of students included in the measure) should be entered
- The Percentile Rank needs to be entered as a decimal. For example 75% should be entered as .75
- The numerator field may be left blank as medians do not use a numerator in calculations
- Take note that you are using the median percentile rank of your data set, not the mean.

Contact CDE for any questions: [accountability@cde.state.co.us](mailto:accountability@cde.state.co.us)