

# Revised NWEA MAP Growth Methodology For AEC Optional Measures



## WHO USES NWEA MAP GROWTH NORMS?

Many schools use NWEA MAP as a local measure to understand how students are progressing throughout the year. Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) may submit NWEA MAP data through the Selection of Measures process in order to have this data be included on their AEC School Performance Framework (see sidebar). For AEC schools wishing to use NWEA MAP Growth data in this way, CDE is piloting a new vetted, optional methodology to measure Growth for 2017. The previous methodology may be used for 2017 frameworks.

## WHY WERE THEY REVISED?

There are two main reasons why CDE has revisited the previously approved NWEA MAP Growth methodology:

1. The original study on NWEA MAP Growth norms was conducted by Dr. Jody Ernst in 2012. Since then, the population of AECs and the needs of AECs may have changed.
2. The original study created a methodology that produced the percentage of students by school who met growth targets. As a state, we have shifted from looking at academic performance in aggregate from percentages attaining a target to mean scale scores. The new methodology, also based on a study by Dr. Jody Ernst, is more in line with this philosophy.

## WHAT IS THE REVISED METHODOLOGY?

The new methodology we are piloting asks you to determine a student's RIT growth across the longest available testing window as before.

Data used for the AEC SPF must meet the following inclusion rules:

- Test instances must be at least eight weeks apart at the same school
- Each test session must take at least 15 minutes and no longer than 300 minutes

Test duration information is available in your NWEA MAP vendor file. Once data from students/test sessions that fall outside of this test duration window have been removed, then you may calculate the change in RIT score for each student in your data set. From there, use the NWEA MAP AEC Growth Percentile Rank tables posted on our website, developed by Dr. Jody Ernst, to determine each individual student's percentile rank by grade, longest window, and content area.

Once all students' growth scores have been converted to percentile ranks, take the median percentile rank of the school overall. This is the value you will submit as your school's overall growth performance.

## The AEC SPF Selection of Measures Process

The AEC Selection of Measures Process allows Alternative Education Campuses the opportunity to include local data in their School Performance Framework.

This process opens in early May and will remain open until the end of June. While many AEC schools use NWEA MAP, this is only one of many available optional measures.

We encourage AEC schools to dig deeply into the Selection of Measures Process to develop optional measures that are mission-driven and align with your school's practices and goals.

If you're not sure where to start with the Selection of Measures process, CDE staff is here to help you! Below are training opportunities on this process for the 2017-2018 cycle:

- Office hours: 5/9, 12-3pm
- Webinar, 5/17, 2-3pm
- Office hours: 5/25, 8:30-11:30am
- Office hours: 6/6, 10am-1pm
- Office hours: 6/22, 1-4pm



## HOW DO I REPORT NWEA MAP GROWTH USING THE NEW METHODOLOGY?

Using the [Selection of Measures form available here](#), you will submit your information in the Academic Growth indicator. If you wish to receive credit on your AEC SPF for multiple content areas of NWEA MAP, then you will need to submit the following information more than once.

Using the Selection of Measures form – Optional Measures ALL EMH Lvl Tab, submit:

- Select NWEA MAP from the dropdown menu
- Select “Your school’s median growth percentile across all students was:” from the dropdown menu
- Select your content area from the dropdown menu
- Report your *representativeness score* in a given content area where it says “enter number of students meeting measure” in bold blue text. In the cell beside this (column E) you may type Representativeness Score for clarity.
- Report the number of students *eligible* for NWEA MAP growth in a given content area where it says “enter number of students contributing to additional measure” in bold blue text
- Report your *median percentile rank* in a given content area where it says “#VALUE!”

All documents related to the revised methodology, including all NWEA RIT Growth Score to Percentile Rank conversion tables and a full calculation guidance document, are available on CDE’s Alternative Education Campus website here:

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/StateAccountabilityAECs>

## WHO CAN I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

For questions on how to use this methodology for use on the Alternative Education Campus School Performance Framework, contact B Sanders:

- B Sanders, Colorado Department of Education
- [Sanders\\_m@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Sanders_m@cde.state.co.us)
- 303.866.2865

For questions on how this methodology was developed, contact Jody Ernst:

- Jody Ernst, Momentum Strategy & Research
- [jernst@momentum-sr.org](mailto:jernst@momentum-sr.org)

## Where can I learn more?

- CDE AEC website: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/Accountability/StateAccountabilityAECs>
- B Sanders, AEC Accountability Analyst: [sanders\\_m@cde.state.co.us](mailto:sanders_m@cde.state.co.us), 303.866.2865
- [View all CDE fact sheets: www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs](http://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfaqs)