

About the GMAP field test

1. What is GMAP?

GMAP stands for “Georgia MAP Assessment Partnership” and is a consortium of Georgia school districts that will pilot an innovative, through-year approach to assessment from NWEA®. Through-year assessments are administered in the fall, winter, and spring. They adapt in response to student performance and provide timely insights on students’ instructional needs as well as summative proficiency data at the end of the year. A through-year assessment is designed to replace interim assessments such as MAP Growth and the summative test in states that adopt it.

2. What does this mean for my district?

Districts that are part of the consortium have a rare opportunity to influence the development of a new assessment. In spring of the 2021-22 school year, students in grade 3-8 will participate in field tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. GMAP will gather feedback from districts on the experience and information provided from the assessments.

3. Why is the Field Test important?

GMAP and NWEA® are committed to increasing the connection between growth and proficiency, streamlining testing, and supporting teaching and learning with more timely and instructionally useful assessment data. Field testing the GMAP assessment in Spring 2022 is an important step forward in the journey to creating a through-year assessment that can be implemented statewide in Georgia in place of MAP Growth and the Georgia Milestones test. The field test allows us to collect data for the purpose of calibrating new items so that the items can be evaluated for potential operational use in the future. It also provides districts with the opportunity to provide feedback on the assessment experience.

4. What is the difference between the field test and the pilot?

After the through-year field test in Spring 2022 there will be a pilot year in 2022-23. This pilot year allows us to continue conducting research and implement the adaptive, through-year assessment. With State Board of Education approval, the intent is for the GMAP through-year test to be administered in lieu of MAP Growth and the Georgia Milestones test for ELA and mathematics in 2022-23. However, the GMAP assessment might not be approved by the State Board of Education to replace Georgia Milestones until 2023-24.

5. Will we also have to administer MAP Growth during the Spring that we give the field test?

If you use MAP Growth reports to inform instruction or for decision-making about students (i.e., Gifted Programs) you are recommended to also administer MAP Growth to your students.

6. When will the GMAP through-year test be operational?

After the spring 2022 field test, the 2023–24 school year will represent the “demonstration year” intended to illustrate that the through-year solution is viable for statewide implementation for ELA and mathematics. With State Board of Education approval, the intent is for the GMAP through-year test to be administered in lieu of MAP Growth and the Georgia Milestones test for ELA and mathematics in 2022-23. However, the GMAP assessment might not be approved by the State Board of Education to replace Georgia Milestones as the accountability measure until 2023-24.

7. Which tests will be part of the field test (grades and subjects)?

Field tests will be administered for English Language Arts and mathematics in grades 3-8. Science for grades 5 & 8 will follow the same timeline as ELA and mathematics starting in 2022-23 and high school will follow in subsequent years (timeline TBD).

8. How many questions are on each field test?

There are approximately 50 questions on the ELA and mathematics tests. Analysis from the field test and further research will help us determine the appropriate length of future administrations.

9. Does the field test need to be administered in one sitting?

There is flexibility when it comes to test scheduling; however, it is recommended that tests are completed within 2 days or as short window as possible. The administration manuals will give more guidance to administrators.

10. How long does the field test take?

The test is untimed. The amount of time to complete the test varies amongst students. The field test is expected to take between 60-90 minutes but can be more or less depending on the student.

11. When will testing take place for the field test—what is the test window?

The field tests for ELA and mathematics will take place in Spring 2022 only. The field test window is April 4, 2022 to May 13, 2022. Districts may take the field test at their own discretion, however for optimal for data analysis and comparability to Milestones, the recommendation is that the field test is scheduled as close as possible to Milestones. Districts who plan to also take MAP Growth may set their MAP Growth winter test window at their own discretion as in past administrations.

12. Is the field test optional?

No, GMAP districts must participate in the field test for a variety of reasons. Your participation in the test will provide a large enough sample size to validate the results of the assessment and support studies needed for through-year assessment to produce instructionally relevant data types that help educators and administrators foster learning while also producing summative data.

13. Will the field- test adapt as far outside of grade level as the student needs, like MAP Growth does today?

The field test is designed to support finer on-grade adaptivity than MAP Growth allows, identifying student learning at the earliest stages of development within the on-grade standards all the way through more advanced performance on-grade. However, the test will still adapt off grade to capture the learning needs of students who are not yet performing on-grade or who are ready to move beyond on-grade content. Continuing research and information from the field test and pilot will help inform decisions about the degree of adaptivity needed to reveal what each student is ready to learn next.

Accessibility

1. What accessibility/accommodation will be available?

The Through-Year field test and pilot will have versions of the same accessibility and accommodation features that are currently available for Milestones.

2. Is Spanish an option for the field test?

No. Spanish will not be made available. Please refer to State Board Policy 160-3-1-.07 (4) (i)

- *All students shall be assessed in English.* (<https://www.gadoe.org/External-Affairs-and-Policy/State-Board-of-Education/SBOE%20Rules/160-3-1-.07.pdf>)

Technology

1. Will the spring 2022 MAP Growth assessment be administered on the same platform as the through-year field test?

No. The field test will be administered on a different platform than MAP Growth.

2. What devices can students use to test? Will there be a different secure testing browser?

Students can use the same devices they currently use to take MAP Growth tests. Students must use a secure testing browser when testing. Districts will need to download a new secure testing browser, separate from the MAP Growth secure browser.

Platforms
Windows 10, versions 1803, 1809, 1903, 1909, 2004, 20H2, 21H1 (Windows 10 S is not supported at this time)
Chrome OS*: (<i>Release Channel only, current version plus previous 5 versions</i>)
Mac OSX: 10.14, 10.15, 11
iOS: 13, 14
Specifications
Minimum Screen: 9.5 inches
Resolution: 1024 x 768
Windows: 2 GB (4 GB recommended)
Chrome OS: 2 GB minimum (4 GB recommended)
Mac OSX: 2 GB (4 GB recommended)
iOS: 1 GB (2 GB recommended)

3. Can student tests be reset?

No. Future determinations will need to be made for administrations beyond the field test.

4. How long can students be paused?

The student will be logged out after 15 minutes of inactivity. Any unfinished tests will be scored as is at the end of the testing window.

5. Will there be Single Sign On (SSO) between MAP Growth and the through-year field test?

MAP Growth is administered on a different platform than the field test, so single sign-on is not currently possible. If through-year assessment is eventually adopted statewide, there would not be a need to log into both MAP Growth and the through-year assessment, as through-year assessment is designed to replace MAP Growth and the Georgia Milestones test. However, as many Georgia districts may continue to administer MAP Growth in grades 3-8 for science and in grades K-2 and high school, we recognize that it would be ideal to avoid managing more than one sign-in process and are investigating ways to make the experience across the two systems as seamless as possible.

Test Session Set-up and Administration

1. Will the field test process be the same as for MAP Growth?

The testing procedures and experience for the through-year field test will be different from a MAP Growth test. The through-year field test will be offered on a different platform. The platform will be used for the spring 2022 field test. Districts participating in the field test will be trained to use the new platform.

2. Can I use Clever to roster my students?

No, partners cannot roster students for the spring term field test with Clever. However, we recognize that Georgia districts use a variety of ways to efficiently roster and are investigating ways to make this process easier and more efficient.

3. How will students be rostered?

Spring 2022 field test pilot participants will roster students using a process similar to the manual process used for MAP Growth.

4. Is setting up a test session for the field test similar to setting up a MAP Growth session?

No. Because the field test will be on a different platform than MAP Growth, the login and set-up process will be different. Test sessions are automatically created based on information included in the roster (registration) file.

5. How will students log into the system for the field test?

The field test will be on a different platform than MAP Growth, so the login process will be different. Like MAP Growth, the through-year field test will require students to use a session name and password to log into the assessment. Students will receive test credentials similar to MAP Growth in the form of a test ticket (printed from the platform) containing the login information. This method helps reduce student error (for example, it avoids students inadvertently choosing the wrong name).

6. Can the GMAP field test be administered remotely?

We recognize the value of a testing system that is responsive to remote learning environments. We will be working directly with Virtual schools to develop remote testing plans.

7. Is the MAP Growth student test engagement capability part of the pilot?

The field test will not support student test engagement functionality, but we recognize its value and are discussing the feasibility of integrating it into a future version of the assessment.

Reports and Data

1. Will the through-year field test provide a "RIT" score?

Yes, the through-year field test will provide a RIT score based on a linking study that correlates through-year field test scores with MAP Growth scores.

2. If a student takes MAP Growth and the field test, will they get the exact same RIT score?

No. Each test draws from different item pools designed for different purposes. The reports and results will still use the same normative data and have a linked RIT value; however, results may not be identical, because MAP Growth and the GMAP through-year assessment measure different constructs. MAP Growth uses a RIT scale (a grade-independent difficulty scale) and the field test uses a proficiency scale (a grade-level difficulty scale). The RIT score provided by the field test will be valid and reliable.

4. At the conclusion of the field test, will a test taker see a RIT score?

No, student level scores will not be displayed at the end of the field test. However, we recognize how important this feature is and we are working to provide a solution in future.

5. How soon will I receive student data and reports?

A comprehensive data file will be available within a reasonable time after administering the assessment.

6. Will the data files be similar to traditional MAP Growth data files received in the past?

NWEA is working to provide data files that can be used to ease the transition between MAP Growth and the new platform being used for through-year tests. More information will be determined following further linking studies and research and provided in the future about the exact data that will be available.

7. Will the field test produce MAP Growth reports?

No, the Spring 2022 field test will not provide MAP Growth reports. We are working to create prototype through-year reports that may be available in future administrations.

8. Will it be possible to use test results with instructional connections?

For the 2021-22 school year, Georgia districts can use MAP Growth to support instructional connections. We recognize the value of supporting instructional connections and we are investigating how soon they can be supported by through-year assessment.

9. How can I use the student data I receive from the field test?

After the spring 2022 through-year assessment field tests, districts and schools will receive files containing RIT and subscore data for individual students. Given the transitional nature of the tests, results will not be comparable to preceding years and should be interpreted with caution and in context of other data sources.

10. Will field test results be connected to the Learning Continuum?

In 2021-22, the MAP Growth Learning Continuum will be accessible to districts via MAP Growth. Once GMAP is fully operational, it will be able to be administered in lieu of MAP Growth and educators will have access to a different but similar tool that is rooted in Georgia's range ALDs. The new tool will help Georgia educators scaffold students toward standards-based learning targets.

11. Will learning statements be available through the student profile?

No, the Student Profile report will not be available for the field test.

12. Will the student progress reports include past testing results as well as the field test results?

No, past data results will not be available in the through-year field test platform.

**More information on reports and data will be made available at a later date and this FAQ updated.*

Training and Support

1. Will I need to train my staff differently for the field test compared to MAP Growth?

Training on the new platform will be provided to data administrators responsible for rostering students into the platform as well as anyone responsible for the administration of the field test.

2. What training resources will be available?

Trainings will be provided in webinar, virtual workshop, and pre-recorded on-demand formats. Additional resources such as user guides will be made available and can be accessed on the dedicated GMAP Connection website.

3. Who do we contact for support?

NWEA will have a specific support system set up for the field test.

4. Will there be an opportunity to practice the test before for the field test?

There will be an item type sampler for students, parents, and educators to experience the look and feel of the assessment, so they are prepared for the testing interface. We will also have short videos available that demonstrate the student experience.