

DECIDING TO RETEST

1. ***Who can retake the NWEA MAP in fall 2014?***

CPS students in grades 4-8 in fall 2014, who are interested in applying to programs that require NWEA MAP scores, and whose spring scores do not reflect their capabilities, will be permitted to retake the NWEA MAP. NWEA MAP percentiles are required in order to apply for the centralized high school programs: CTE-College and Career Academies, International Baccalaureate (IB), Magnet, Military, and Selective Enrollment High Schools. NWEA MAP percentiles are also required for elementary school students applying to selective enrollment programs for grades 5-8. The NWEA MAP percentiles will replace the ISAT percentiles for determining eligibility and are included in the rubrics for IB High Schools, Selective Enrollment High Schools, and Academic Centers (7-8 grade programs).

2. ***Is it to my advantage to have my child test in the Fall after they've already taken the MAP assessment(s) the previous Spring term?***

We recommend that you review with your school's counselor or administrator the previous NWEA MAP test results and determine whether the spring NWEA MAP score is an anomaly. In a small number of cases where your child may have scored lower than anticipated on the MAP assessment(s) due to an irregular test experience (e.g. in cases of extreme illness), it may be to a student's advantage to test again in Fall. If your student has been consistent in NWEA MAP results, then retesting in the fall may not be recommended. If a student scored below the 24th percentile in a given subject, then a retest is recommended, as that is the minimum percentile to qualify for most of the centralized high school programs. If your student missed the Spring test for any reason, he/she will be tested in the fall.

Please note that choosing to take the Fall administration of the NWEA test means that Fall results will be used, regardless of which test your child did better on. You will not be allowed to choose which test you want to use.

REQUEST PROCESS & LOGISTICS

3. ***What is the process to request my child take the NWEA MAP test again in the Fall to replace their spring 2014 MAP score for Selective Enrollment?***

Parents must request their child participate in the alternative Fall testing any point between now and September 5, 2014 by contacting their child's home school counselor or administrator and completing the [NWEA MAP Selective Enrollment Retest request form](#). The parent must submit a retest request form that contains the signature of the counselor or school administrator at the child's current school. The counselor or school administrator should make a copy of the form so they can track requests.

4. ***When is the deadline for a parent to request a retest?***

Parents/guardians must submit the retest request form by September 5, 2014. The request must be submitted through U.S. mail and postmarked by Sept 5, 2014, or hand-delivered to the Office of Access and Enrollment (OAE), 125 S. Clark St., 10th floor, Chicago, IL 60603, or scanned and emailed to oaecommunications@cps.edu. If a retest request is mailed, the parent should enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope so that OAE can send a receipt

5. ***Why is the signature of a counselor or school administrator needed on the retest form?***

Retesting a student is a decision that should be made with the aid of principals and counselors. Parents and students must understand the risks of retesting. A student should not request a retest simply because he scored lower on the NWEA MAP than on the previous year's ISAT. The decision to retest should be based on comparisons to previous NWEA MAP scores, and not ISAT scores. Students will be compared to other eighth graders nationally taking the fall NWEA MAP test. Their scores WILL NOT be compared to students who took the test in the spring as seventh graders.

6. ***How can I obtain from and submit the request form to my child's school during the summer?***

You may obtain and submit the form prior to the last day of school. For summer hours, please reach out to your child's school administrator to determine when personnel will be in the building. If your child's school is closed for construction, contact the principal to obtain the address and telephone number of the alternative site where he/she will work during the summer months. If your school's counselor does not work during the summer, the principal or assistant principal is authorized to sign off on the request form.

7. *Where and when will Fall testing take place?*

Your child's home school is responsible for scheduling and administering the Fall test. Fall testing for CPS students will take place at the child's home school and during the regular school day. The test window will be between mid-September and early October (exact dates TBD).

8. *Can a student retake both subject areas or can they just take one?*

A student may retake both subjects, or just reading, or just math.

9. *Will students take both math and reading tests on the same day?*

No, students requesting to test in fall for NWEA MAP will not take both subjects on the same day.

10. *Can a student keep the spring score if the fall retest score is lower?*

No. If a student retests in the fall, the spring scores are voided and only the fall scores will be used for the purpose of high school admissions and elementary selective enrollment admissions.

11. *How is my student notified of the retest date and time?*

Once you have submitted a retest form that is signed by a parent/guardian AND the school counselor/administrator, your child's school is responsible for scheduling the retest.

12. *When will I get my child's results?*

Students will see their RIT score immediately upon completion of each exam. Parents may request a student progress report from their child's home school the day after the final test (if more than one subject) is taken.

POLICY

1. *Why was the change made from ISAT (SAT-10) to NWEA?*

Historically, CPS students have used the ISAT, the Illinois State Board of Education test that all IL public schools take as the qualifier for Selective Enrollment tests. As of 2014, CPS students were no longer able to use the ISAT because the SAT-10 percentiles were no longer included in the test (you can read about this here: <http://isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm>). This was not a CPS decision. However, as a result, CPS needed to find an alternative measure for use in selective enrollment admissions. In 2013, CPS adopted the NWEA MAP in 2013 as a rigorous, Common Core aligned measure of student skills that results in a nationally-normed percentile. This was the best option for CPS to adopt as a qualifying exam for selective enrollment admissions. Historically, CPS has allowed private/parochial schools to submit test scores from standardized tests comparable to the ISAT. However, because the NWEA MAP test is so different than other standardized test (computerized, adaptive vs. paper pencil and static), in order to ensure equity in admission standards between CPS and non-CPS students, all students must take the NWEA MAP.

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

1. *My child has an IEP or 504 plan. Will his/her accommodations be honored?*

Applicable test accommodations described in Section 10 (c) of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan will be made available. For example, if a child has a fine motor impairment and cannot click on the correct answer choices, and his/her IEP requires that a scribe assist with completing the test, a CPS staff member will be available during the NWEA to serve as a scribe. The goal is always to measure the student's knowledge or ability, and not the disability.

2. ***My child may need extra time to test. Is this allowed?***

All NWEA MAP assessments are designed to be untimed for all students.

NWEA TEST AND FEATURES

1. ***How can my child prepare for the NWEA? Should I invest in test preparation classes/resources?***

Preparing for the NWEA MAP test is achieved through strong, Common Core-based, academic instruction and by managing student expectations.

The NWEA MAP test is adaptive and builds a custom test for each student taking it. The NWEA MAP item bank aligns with the Common Core State Standards and expands the breadth of goal areas. Success on this assessment is directly impacted by high quality classroom instruction and educational standards. Investing in test preparation classes/resources will not prepare a student to take this type of assessment.

Parents can help their student prepare for this assessment by sharing information about the nature of the assessment and by working with students on focus and concentration for extended reading and math activities. The MAP Parent ToolKit is an excellent resource for understanding these assessments and includes additional guidance on the types of activities students can do at home to prepare. Additionally, students can sample the test using the MAP Test-Warm-ups.

2. ***How does the test work?***

The NWEA MAP assessments are adaptive achievement tests in Mathematics and Reading that are taken on a computer. The difficulty of a test is adjusted to the student's performance so each student sees different test questions. The difficulty of each question is based on how well the student has answered the questions up to that point. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.

3. ***What content is covered?***

Components for the MAP Reading test include; vocabulary, long passage, short passage, fiction and non-fiction. Components of the MAP Mathematics test include; algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability and numbers and operations.

4. ***How long does the test take?***

The NWEA MAP Mathematics test is roughly 52 items in length. The NWEA MAP Reading test is roughly 42 items in length. Although the tests are untimed, it usually takes students about an hour to complete each subject.

TECHNOLOGY

1. ***Can a test be paused if a child needs to go to the bathroom or needs a break?***

Yes, the proctor can pause the test at any time during the test session for breaks.

2. ***What will happen if there is some type of technical problem like a glitch with the internet connection or a power outage?***

Occasionally events occur during online testing that interrupt a student's workstation. The NWEA platform is designed to allow for unexpected occurrences without impacting the accuracy of test results. In cases where a proctor is unable to 'pause' or 'suspend' a student test, such as power outages, NWEA platform glitches and testing device malfunctions, student data will not be lost. Once the issue is resolved and the student can log back on to the test, they will begin at the point where they left off.

3. ***Will my child test on a tablet or laptop/desktop?***

Students will test on a variety of hard-wired and wireless laptops and desktops including Chromebooks and iPads. Your child's home school will provide testing devices already familiar to your student. All equipment to be used for testing will have been audited for compatibility with the assessment platform prior to the assessment window.