



# SJS Parent's Guide to the MAP Assessment

(Measures of Academic Progress)

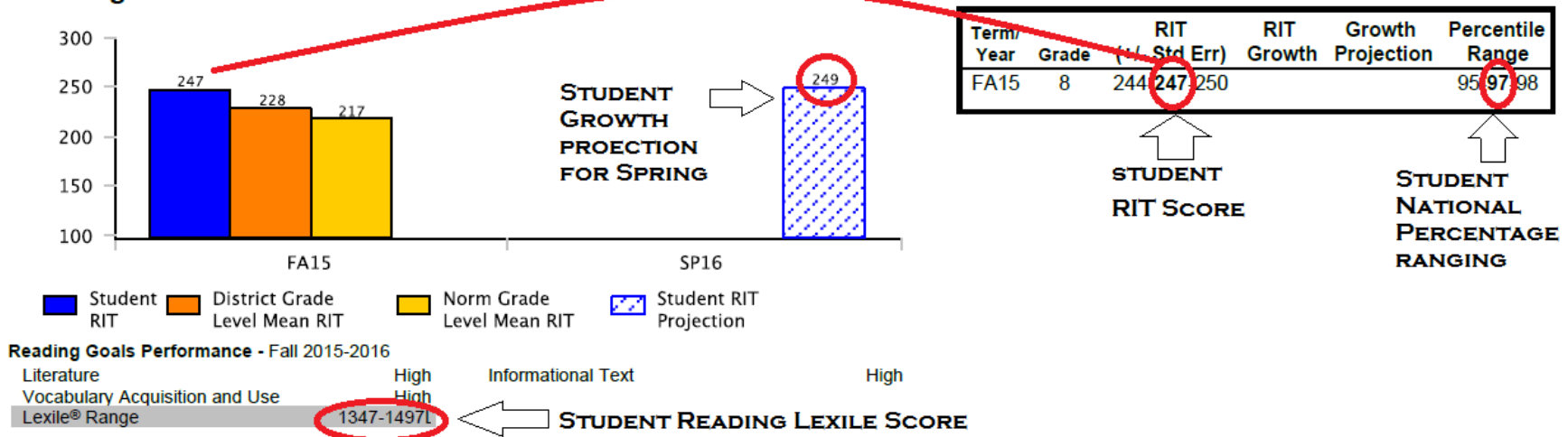
## What is a MAP Assessment

The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment is a computer-adaptive assessment. The assessment is uniquely created for each student based on how he or she responds to question. If a student responds correctly the next question will be a little harder, or, a little easier if the student responded incorrectly. All students are measured on a single, continuous scale, called a RIT scale, and the score is reported in RIT points or RITs.

All questions come from a huge bank of questions with each corresponding in difficulty to a particular RIT score. Because a question with a RIT level of 215 is more difficult, or represents a higher level of learning or skill level, than a question from a RIT level of 214, it is possible to measure growth over time.

**The Student Progress Reports:** When reading your child's report there are 4 scores to focus on Student Percentage, Student RIT score, Student growth projection, and the Reading Lexile score. For more in-depth discussion on RIT scores there is a video you can watch at: [click here-> Video](#)

## Reading



**Student National Percentile** is based on 2015 normative data from all tests taken nationwide. This shows where your student stands compared to the rest of the nation.

- LO** <21 % - the student is performing 2 grades below
- LO AVG** >20 and <40 % - the student is performing 1 grade level below
- AVG** 40-60 % - the student is performing on grade level
- HI AVG** 60-80 % - the student is performing 1 grade level above
- HI** 81+ % - the student is performing 2+ grade levels above

**What is the RIT scale and what does a score on the scale mean?**

The RIT score is your student’s measure of level of knowledge at that point in time. A RIT score represents a point on a continuous scale of learning. Measuring a student’s learning on the RIT scale is similar to measuring a student’s height with a yardstick. Each unit on the scale represents the same degree of change so it is possible to measure growth over time. For example if a student measured 46 inches tall in spring and measured 48 inches in October we would say the student grew two inches in height. Similarly, if a student’s spring RIT score was 195 and his or October RIT score is 198, the student’s academic growth increased by 3 RITs.

A RIT score indicates the difficulty level at which the student is answering about 50% of the questions correctly. Although it is possible to score as high as 265 or more on the reading assessment and 285 or more on the math assessment, 240 (reading) and 250 (math) are typical top scores.

Below is the 2015 normalized data for the nation. It shows how students, at each grade level, performed on the assessment. Under the Fall column of each assessment provides you the 50 percentile RIT Scores. 50 percentile means your child is performing at grade level. The Spring Column shows you the expected growth of knowledge over the year so when we test again in the spring that is growth goal we expect to see.

	<b>Math</b> Growth Guideline			<b>Reading</b> Growth Guideline			<b>Lang Usage</b> Growth Guideline			<b>Science</b> Growth Guideline	
	<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>		<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>		<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>		<b>Fall</b>	<b>Spring</b>
<b>K</b>	140	159	<b>K</b>	141	158						
<b>1</b>	163	181	<b>1</b>	161	178						
<b>2</b>	177	192	<b>2</b>	175	189						
<b>3</b>	190	203	<b>3</b>	188	199	<b>3</b>	189	200	<b>3</b>	188	195
<b>4</b>	201	214	<b>4</b>	198	206	<b>4</b>	199	207	<b>4</b>	195	201
<b>5</b>	211	221	<b>5</b>	206	212	<b>5</b>	206	212	<b>5</b>	200	206
<b>6</b>	218	225	<b>6</b>	211	216	<b>6</b>	211	215	<b>6</b>	204	209
<b>7</b>	223	229	<b>7</b>	214	218	<b>7</b>	214	218	<b>7</b>	207	211
<b>8</b>	226	231	<b>8</b>	217	220	<b>8</b>	216	219	<b>8</b>	210	214

### ***How do I interpret RIT scores?***

Each RIT score represents a point on a continuum of learning – a snapshot of a student’s academic performance at a particular time. The score represents a student’s instructional level. Because all scores fall on the same scale they give a picture of the student’s growth over time.

RIT scores should be used for measuring an individual student’s progress; RIT scores are **not intended** to be used as a comparison among students. The same score at different grade levels can mean different things.

Students at lower grade levels tend to show a greater increase in RIT scores during a school year than students in higher grade levels. At higher levels, questions get much harder and the overall growth is a smaller proportion of all that one knows.

A percentile score gives a ranking for how the student compares to students in the national norm group. The norm group represents all the students in the same grade level across the country who has taken MAP assessments. A score in the 75th percentile means that the student’s RIT score is higher than 75% of the students in the comparison group.

As a group, SJS students tend to score about a grade level higher than the national norm group. SJS curriculum is designed to reflect this trend. MAP assessments do not assess all of SJS’s curriculum. A score that is typical of students in a grade level higher than the student’s doesn’t necessarily mean that the student is ready or prepared for the higher grade level.

### **How are the results used?**

These tests will provide results that can be used to:

- Identify the skills and concepts individual students have learned;
- Diagnose instructional needs;
- Monitor academic growth over time;
- Make data-driven decisions at the classroom, school and district levels; and
- Place new students into appropriate instructional programs.
- Teachers and students will use RIT scores to identify learning goals for the school year.
- Teachers can use MAP scores in conjunction with DesCartes, a description of the learning continuum that MAP scores measure, to determine the instructional needs of students and to plan for student learning

### ***How should I interpret difference in MAP scores from spring to fall or fall to fall?***

Because students have spent a relatively short amount of time in classes from spring to fall assessment dates, changes in RIT scores will depend upon many factors. The amount of time that students spent in academic pursuits over the summer will affect their scores. Students who were in summer programs or who read extensively over the summer may show greater gains than those who did not.

# Reading Lexile Score

NWEA has partnered with MetaMetrics®, Inc., the developer of The Lexile Framework® for Reading. A Lexile range is a score (displayed as a 150-point range on your child’s test results) resulting from a correlation between NWEA’s RIT score and the Lexile scale that helps identify reading material that is at an appropriate difficulty level for an individual student. The 150-point Lexile range is included on NWEA’s Individual Student Progress Reports. It allows educators and parents to find books, periodicals, and other reading material that should stimulate a student to new learning while rewarding their current reading abilities.

A Lexile measures syntactic complexity—the number of words per sentence. We know that longer sentences are more complex and require more short-term memory to process. A Lexile also measures semantic difficulty—a measure of vocabulary. This measure looks at the frequency of words in a text compared to a body of over 400 million words. This is the largest repository of text in the world and is quickly approaching 500 million words.

It is very important for parents to keep in mind that Lexile does not evaluate genre, theme, content, or interest. Even though a student might be able to read books at a certain Lexile, the content or theme of the text may not be appropriate for that particular student because of his or her age or developmental level. Also, a student may be able to read more difficult content if it is an area of interest for that child since he or she may already be familiar with some of the vocabulary necessary to comprehend the text.

## Some Examples of Books

Green Eggs and Ham	30L	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets	940L
Amelia Bedelia	140L	Hatchet	1020L
Clifford, the Big Red Dog	220L	Pride and Prejudice	1100L
Bony-Legs	370L	The Adventures of Robin Hood	1270L
Curious George	400L	Little Women	1300L
Sarah, Plain and Tall	560L	Profiles in Courage	1410L
Charlotte’s Web	680L	The Good Earth	1530L
Jurassic Park	710L	The Principles of Scientific Management	1670L
The Fellowship of the Ring	860L	Discourse on the Method and Meditations on First Philosophy	1720L

Grade Band	“Stretch” Lexile Band*
K-1	BR: Beginner Reader
2-3	420L–820L
4-5	740L–1010L
6-8	925L–1185L
9-10	1050L–1335L
11-CCR	1185L–1385L

The “Stretch” Lexile band supports the text complexity that Common Core State Standards require. Your selection of reading material for your child’s should be within their Lexile range.

Most books have a lexile score. You can find an appropriate book using your child’s lexile range at <https://lexile.com/fab/>.