

Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®)

November 7, 2017

Dear Parents,

At NIS, learning takes place in many ways, and assessment for and of learning is based in the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate (IB). It is also important for teachers at NIS to know how our students perform against external standards. Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®), an assessment in both Reading and Maths for students in Grades 3-10, is an internationally recognised standardised test that shows student growth over time.

On the back of this page, you will find your child's MAP test results from the September 2017 testing session. If your child was at NIS last year, you will also see test results from the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 testing sessions. Below you will see a chart and legend to help you understand the results.

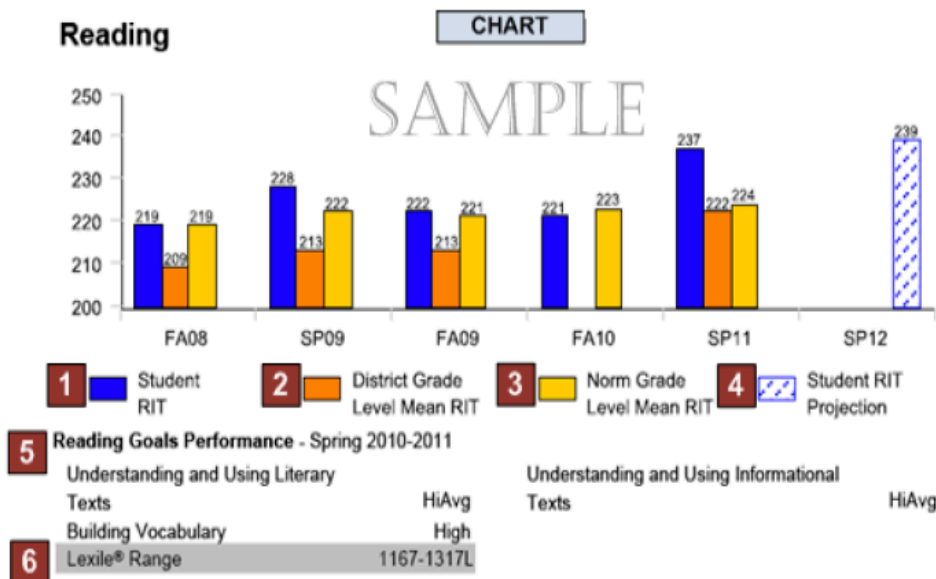
MAP assessments are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child took on a computer. That means that the test became more difficult the more questions your child answered correctly. When your child incorrectly answered a question, the test became easier.

Your child's MAP results are reported in **RIT scores**. The RIT score is a scale that is independent of grade level. This provides us with additional, standardised information about your child's instructional level and progress over time in both Reading and Maths as well as against norms in the United States.

On **Friday, November 10 at 9:00am**, you are invited to an **informational session on MAP** in the MS/US Large Group Room (D207). Please confirm your attendance at this session by emailing Samantha Zou at samanthazou@nanjing-school.com before 9:00 on Thursday, November 9.

Sincerely,

Arden Tyoschin
Deputy Director – Learning



1 Student RIT

2 NIS Grade Level mean RIT

3 Norm Grade Level mean RIT

4 Student RIT projection for next testing session

5 Goal Performance sub-areas (Low, LoAvg, Avg, HiAvg, High)

6 Lexile Range® to identify appropriately challenging reading materials

Measures of Academic Progress[®] (MAP[®])

Possible Parent Questions:

1. What is MAP like at NIS?
 - a. *Two tests: Reading & Maths*
 - b. *Takes place twice a year, Fall and Spring, in Grades 3-10*
 - c. *Computerised*
 - d. *Adaptive: no two students take the same test. The test becomes more difficult the more questions a student answers correctly; and easier when a student incorrectly answers a question.*
 - e. *Not time restricted*
 - f. *Aligned to AERO standards (similar to NIS outcomes for English & Maths)*
 - g. *Timely results*
 - h. *Focus on Growth over time*
 - i. *Connected to skills (refer to Learning Continuums)*
2. What does the RIT score mean?
 - a. *Equal interval scale (range from 100-350)*
 - b. *Useful for measuring growth over time*
 - c. *Useful for norm referencing (against AERO at NIS)*
 - d. *The same regardless of the grade or age of student*
 - e. *RIT Growth Projection: Ex: if growth projection FALL to SPRING is 5 RIT points, of all students in the same grade, starting at the same initial RIT, the average growth was 5 RIT points. About 50% of students will be above average, and about 50% will be below average.*
3. What does it mean if my child is under-performing against NIS RIT and/or normed RIT?

The focus is on individual student growth and improvement as well as results in Reading and Maths sub-sets.
4. What does it mean if my child's performance on MAP has plateaued or gone down?

There could be a range of reasons for this, including illness, lack of sleep, degree of student commitment to the test (ex: rushing to finish it). A single score on a single assessment is a snapshot only. We are more interested in inconsistencies across time and unexpected inconsistencies between MAP results and NIS reports.
5. What if the results in MAP seem to be inconsistent with how my child is doing at NIS and in semester reports?

A single MAP assessment score represents a single point in time. MAP focuses on a narrower set of skills, whereas learning at NIS and the IB is more multi-faceted and represents a range of learning over time. It is also possible, particularly for the Fall assessment, that some learning will take place in future units later in the school year. It would be unusual for MAP scores to be inconsistent over time with learning results at NIS. This would warrant further conversations.
6. How can I help my child prepare for MAP assessments?

There is no preparation needed for MAP assessments. Regularly reading for pleasure (fiction and non-fiction) should be encouraged, as well as taking an interest in your child's studies. Occasions for families to discuss current events, learning, and literature enhance your child's opportunities to articulate critical thinking skills.

See [link](#) for more information. Sample test questions [here](#).