

Alaska innovative assessment system

A connected approach: Bridging MAP Growth interim assessments and the annual summative

As part of its commitment to improving student learning, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is partnering with NWEA® starting in fall 2021 to implement a creative approach to balanced statewide assessment that better reflects learning throughout the school year and helps educators target instruction to students' individual needs.

This first-of-its-kind balanced approach connects fall and winter MAP® Growth™ interim assessments and the Alaska spring summative assessment to provide a comprehensive assessment system that improves efficiency and cohesion and drives student outcomes by prioritizing teaching and learning.

The Alaska innovative assessment system is designed to streamline the testing experience for grades 3–9 in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. In the first year of implementation (2021–22), districts will administer MAP Growth in fall, winter, and spring so research studies can be conducted to support the production of MAP Growth scores (RIT scores) by the summative test starting in the following year (2022–23). In the second year of implementation (2022–23), testing events are reduced to two MAP Growth interim assessments in the fall and winter, and the on-grade adaptive summative test in the spring, which will also produce RIT scores.

Districts that use MAP Growth in grades K–2 will enjoy the connectivity afforded with the Alaska innovative assessment system in grades 3–9, given that the system utilizes MAP Growth. Monitoring growth from second to third grade via MAP Growth scores could be particularly useful for district efforts to support students in becoming proficient in reading by grade 3.



At a glance:

The Alaska innovative assessment system connects fall and winter interim (MAP Growth) assessments with the spring summative test.

Grades:
3–9

Content areas:
English language arts (ELA);
mathematics

Initial implementation year:
2021–2022

Alaska innovative assessment system

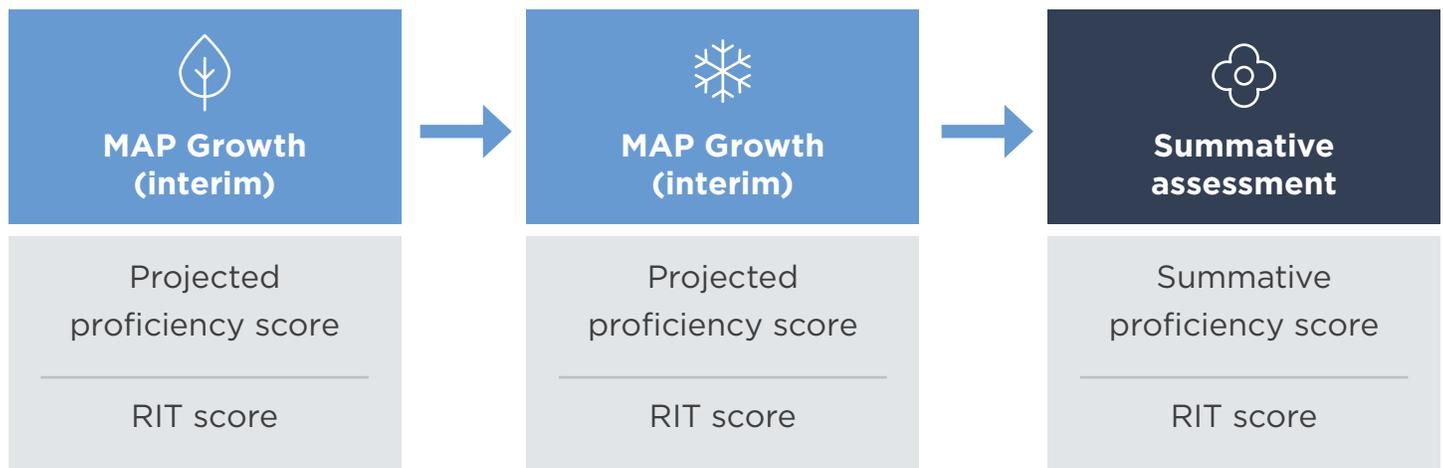


Image reflects the system in 2022–23, following research studies conducted in the initial implementation year (2021–22).

Professional learning and resources for informed instructional decisions

The Alaska innovative assessment system will support educators in making data actionable and advancing effective instructional practices. Virtual, onsite, and self-directed professional learning and resources are designed to help Alaska educators take informed action and improve student outcomes. Professional learning promotes assessment literacy and enables educators to hone formative instructional practices with a focus on using data from multiple sources to inform decisions and provide differentiated and personalized learning.

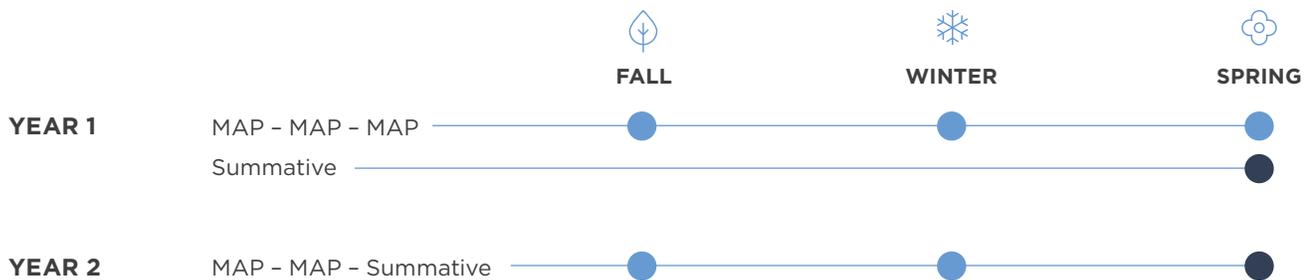
In addition, a resource describing the range of skills within and across achievement levels for each Alaska standard will help educators connect instruction to Alaska’s grade-level standards so every student can have the opportunity to learn and be held to high expectations throughout the year.

The Alaska innovative assessment system will:

- **Streamline testing and maximize efficiency.** A connected system provides a more seamless experience between interim and end-of-year assessments for students and educators and reduces testing events (starting in 2022-23).
- **Increase coherence** across interim and end-of-year tests so educators can drive students toward consistent, challenging learning targets.
- **Help to amplify student learning.** Alaska’s innovative assessment system will give educators, students, and parents meaningful insights on student strengths and areas of need to support students in reaching their highest academic potential.
- **Increase opportunity for students and schools to show growth.** Fall-to-spring and year-to-year growth data, along with access to normative data, are available to both districts and DEED. Within-year growth data enables all students and educators to show and celebrate growth and provides districts with a more complete view of school performance as they work to ensure equitable educational rigor and resources for all Alaska students.

Implementation timeline

During the first school year (2021-22), districts administer MAP Growth interim assessments for grades 3-9 reading, language usage, and math in fall, winter, and spring, and a new on-grade adaptive summative assessment in the spring for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Starting the second year (2022-23), districts administer MAP Growth interim assessments for grades 3-9 in fall and winter and an on-grade adaptive summative assessment that also produces RIT scores in the spring.



Information produced by Alaska innovative assessment system

WHAT	WHEN
Grade-independent RIT scores to illustrate student learning level/needs	Fall, winter, spring
Norm-referenced fall-to-spring growth measure (based on RIT)	Fall, winter, spring
Projected proficiency scores	Fall, winter
Summative proficiency scores for accountability	Spring



NWEA and MAP are registered trademarks, and MAP Growth is a trademark, of NWEA in the US and in other countries. The names of other companies and their products mentioned are the trademarks of their respective owners.