

For Immediate Release

Northwest Evaluation Association and California County Superintendents Educational Services Association Partner to Improve Student Growth

New partnership provides California school districts access to computer-adaptive educational assessments that provide academic insight and resources to inform instruction

PORTLAND, Ore. June 11, 2007 – [Northwest Evaluation Association](#) (NWEA), a national non-profit organization focused on improving K-12 education and the [California County Superintendents Educational Services Association](#) (CCSESA), today announced a new business partnership to provide NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment package to interested school districts throughout the state of California. This partnership provides a unique opportunity for CCSESA's county offices of education to partner with NWEA to support their service agency missions. Using the MAP assessment package, which includes student growth data, resources and professional development components, CCSESA can work with smaller districts and programs in their respective counties to offer a tool that provides insight into student academic needs, and resources to adjust instruction accordingly to help students.

Under the terms of the agreement, NWEA will make MAP assessments available to any County Office of Education of California that requests it. The MAP Assessment package includes assessments for Mathematics, Reading, Language Usage, and optional assessments for Science, and Primary Grades, timely reporting, practical classroom resources and ongoing professional development.

"Our MAP assessments will help districts in California effectively measure student growth over time and provide teachers a way to improve the quality of education through differentiated instruction," said Raymond Yeagley, vice president of product and business development. "This new business partnership also reflects our shared organizational values to partner to help all kids learn."

"We are excited to be partnering with the Northwest Evaluation Association to support our ongoing leadership and service offering to districts across California," said Sue Burr executive director, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA). "NWEA's MAP assessment will offer our membership a tool to gain an immediate understanding of each student's academic needs, so they can adjust instruction as needed. This kind of powerful tool will allow administrators and teachers to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of education to children."

NWEA plays an active role in improving education in California, and currently works with more than 100 member districts in California. The organization has earned recognition as the top-ranked measurement system for California schools that qualify for the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM), according to the WestEd ASAM taskforce, and has performance alignment studies between its measures and the California Standards Test and the California High School Exit Examination. NWEA's MAP assessment has also been thoroughly reviewed and approved by the California Technology Assistance Project's (CTAP) Electronic Learning Assessment Resource (ELAR) system.

About Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments

MAP is a computerized adaptive test that measures student growth over time and across grades. Rather than giving the same questions to students in the same grade, MAP adapts to each child's abilities, offering easier or harder questions based on the student's response to the previous question. This model provides an accurate and immediate understanding of each student's skill level that teachers and administrators can use to plan instruction and allocate resources.

Teachers are able to administer MAP tests up to four times annually to monitor each student's academic progress closely. MAP tests are aligned to individual state standards, allowing educators to compare each student's instructional level with the proficiency levels set by the state.

About Northwest Evaluation Association

[Northwest Evaluation Association](http://www.nwea.org) (NWEA) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping all children learn. NWEA provides formative assessment, research-based educational growth measures, and professional training to improve teaching and learning. Partnering with school districts, states and other education organizations, NWEA delivers computer-adapted assessment services to two million students nationwide. Additionally, containing multiple years of academic assessment records for millions of students, its Growth Research Database (GRD) is one of the most extensive and accurate collections of individual student growth and achievement information available. More information is available at <http://www.nwea.org>.

About CCSESA

CCSESA's mission is to strengthen the service and leadership capabilities of California's 58 County Superintendents in support of students, schools, districts, and communities.

California's 58 County Superintendents of Schools and their respective County Offices of Education support the financial and academic soundness of every district and school in the state. County Superintendents strive to ensure that every student in every community achieves and is prepared to learn continuously throughout life, to successfully enter the workforce, and to be active citizens. The primary aim of County Superintendents is to work collaboratively with schools districts to ensure that every student benefits from a quality educational experience, regardless of their circumstances, including students with disabilities, juvenile offenders, students at risk of dropping out of who thrive in alternative classroom settings, or students in high-priority schools.

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