The purpose of this chart is to help you understand the NWEA measurement scale (RIT scale) and how it can be used to measure academic growth over time. For more specific information to help support instruction please see NWEA's DesCartes: A Continuum of Learning.

NWEA tests produce scores that make it possible to monitor student growth from year to year along developmental curriculum scales or continua. The chart inside shows examples of the kinds of work students can do at various points along the NWEA RIT scale, assuming they have been exposed to content. This type of information is helpful in supporting appropriate instruction.

Please note that each subject-area has a unique alignment to the RIT scale. As a result, scores between subjects are not equivalent.

How to use the charts:

- 1. Find the column containing the student's score for a particular subject. For example, if the student's score in "Number Sense/Number Systems" is 188, refer to the column labeled 181-190.
- 2. Read down the column to locate a sample test question for a given reporting area, such as "Number Sense/Number Systems." A student's score suggests that, currently, they are likely to get about half of the questions of this difficulty correct.
- 3. Now look at the questions in the column(s) to the left. The student is likely to get most of these correct, assuming he or she has been instructed in these skills and concepts.
- 4. The questions in the column(s) to the right will probably require new learning on the student's part.

RIT Scale

We use the RIT scale to measure a student's academic growth over time. Like units on a ruler, the scale is divided into equal intervals – called Rasch Units (RIT) – and is independent of grade level.

RITReference Chart for Mathematics







