Explaining MAP Scores

Are the RIT scores targets?
The scores are NOT targets or benchmarks; they are mean scores. The mean score tells you the average score of most kids at a given point in time at a particular grade level.

What does the score tell us?
A RIT score represents a point on a continuous scale of learning. It is similar to measuring a students' height with a yardstick. It is not evaluative, but tells us where a child is at a given point in time. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. MAP assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your student's growth in mathematics and reading.

How do you use RIT scores?
We use them for measuring an individual student's progress over time. They are not used to compare students because the same score at different grade levels can mean different things. A child that is 5 feet tall in 4th grade means something different than a child that is 5 feet tall in 1st.

Does the score tell me about how my child is doing in math at school?
The MAP is not an assessment of the course, but is a way of knowing how your child thinks mathematically. The MAP tests are designed to be matched to the Common Core State Standards and Curriculum 2.0 is matched to the Common Core. However, the MAP test is a portrait or snapshot of where your child is in their current overall math thinking, not on a particular unit of study.

How is the RIT score helpful?
This is a way of telling us the estimated achievement of a child. The score is an equal interval scale which means that the difference between scores (like inches) is the same regardless of whether a student has a high score or a low score. It also means that the scores have the same meaning, no matter what grade level a child is in. For example, a 3rd grader that gets a score of 210 and a 4th grade that gets a score of 210 are learning at the same level.

Do all kids take the same exact test?
No. The MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test is a computer-adaptive test. A test 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.

What kinds of questions are on the test?
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.

What kind of growth should I expect? If my child is already "high" how much higher should they go? If they are low, how do we get them higher?
We expect RIT scores to increase over time. 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. Anticipated growth rates for each student are based on national norms and should be viewed as "typical", not expected.

Growth Guideline Chart

The chart below shows the NATIONAL grade level scores for 1st-9th graders who tested in **Fall** and **Spring**. This shows the yearly growth that is *typical* for each grade level. When you review your child's scores, you can check to see if his/her growth is *above, at, or below average,* compared to students in the same grade.

Grade	Reading Fall	Reading Spring	Year's Growth		Grade	Math Fall	Math Spring	Year's Growth
1	160	173	13		1	164	178	14
2	179	190	11		2	179	191	12
3	192	200	8		3	192	203	11
4	201	207	6		4	203	211	8
5	208	212	4		5	212	220	8
6	213	216	3		6	219	225	6
7	217	219	2		7	225	230	5
8	220	223	3		8	230	234	4
9	222	224	2		9	233	236	3

Because students have spent a relatively short amount of time in classes from spring to fall testing dates, changes in RIT scores will depend upon many factors.

What is the highest score you can get?
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 test and 285 or more on the math test, 240 (reading) and 250 (math) are typical top scores.

What is the average score?
RIT scores range from about 140 to 300. Students typically start at the 140 to 190 level in the third grade and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school. RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year.