
Mary Kay Gallagher
Superintendent



Aaron Baughman
Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Sandra Brock
Director of Instructional
Programs & Services

September 11, 2018

Dear Parent(s)

As you may know, we administer the NWEA test with every student K-7, up to three times per year (8-11 grade students take PSAT/SAT). We find the information gleaned from the NWEA assessment valuable to the parent, the student, and the teacher. It also allows the school district to identify strengths and deltas, so that we can design an instructional program that best meets the needs of your child. When your child is assessed using the NWEA computer adaptive platform, there is a data quality control process in place to ensure that the results your child receives are valid and reliable. Part of this process is measuring the amount of time it took to complete the assessment and to answer individual questions. This is done to insure that rapid guessing does not produce a result that is not reflective of the child's true ability. Beginning this year, NWEA will be adding an additional layer of which we wanted to make you aware.

Beginning with the first NWEA assessment this year, when 30% or more of the test items received rapid guesses, the assessment will be flagged as invalid. Rapid-guessing detection is based on the amount of time needed to read, understand, and answer each unique item, and can vary from question to question. If this occurs, the score for that assessment may not appear on their student profile. If it does appear, you will notice that it has been grayed out to identify it as an invalid score. In the event that a student receives an invalid score, we will review the assessment to ensure that it is truly invalid, and if so, we will have the student retake the test to obtain a valid and reliable score.

While invalid scores are rare occurrences for our students, we wanted to make you aware of this process. We take great steps to make sure we assess your child properly, and provide you with the best possible data on your child's growth over time. If you have any questions about this update, please feel free to contact the Office of Instruction at 249-344-3520 or email me at baughmanaa@northvilleschools.org