



# LEARNING SNAPSHOT

## ELEMENTARY ASSESSMENT SERIES

### WEEK 4

# HOW EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS SUPPORT STUDENT GROWTH

Dear Families,

In this final Learning Snapshot of our Elementary Assessment Framework series, we are highlighting External Adaptive Assessments — NWEA MAP (K-2) and Utah RISE (3-6).

Throughout this series, we have shared how Screeners, Common Formative Assessments (CFAs), and External Assessments work together to give a complete and balanced picture of student learning. This week, we focus on how external assessments provide an objective, rigorous perspective that helps us monitor progress and ensure we are on track to meet our student gain goals.

## EXTERNAL ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENTS



**NWEA MAP** (GRADES K-2)

**Utah RISE** (GRADES K-2)

Taken 3 times a year: Fall and winter interims, then a summative in May

- Adaptive — adjusts challenge based on student responses
- Designed to measure deeper thinking, problem-solving, and applied learning
- Align to state standards and readiness for middle school and beyond
- Reflect backward-design model of rigor students should demonstrate by year's end

### PART OF A CONTINUOUS PLC PROCESS

- Students complete interim assessments
- Teacher teams review data collaboratively
- Instruction is adjusted to increase rigor or provide support
- Gain goal progress is tracked consistently



## SKILL BENEFITS BEYOND A SINGLE TEST

- ➔ Thinking critically and solving complex problems.
- ➔ Applying learning rather than memorizing answers.
- ➔ Building stamina, focus, and attention over time.
- ➔ Promoting a Growth Mindset: Setting goals, persevering through challenge, and reflecting on progress.

## HOW EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS FIT INTO THE FRAMEWORK

**SCREENERS** identify foundational skills.

**CFAs** guide daily instructional decisions.

**EXTERNAL ASSESSMENTS** confirm application and rigor.

Together, external assessments provide a big-picture, accurate view of student learning and progress toward goals.

## OUR GOAL

Our goal is for as many students as possible to demonstrate both proficiency and growth by the end of the school year. We monitor progress consistently, review interim data carefully, and adjust instruction intentionally to ensure students are on track to meet their gain goals.

[Wasatch.edu/blog/unity-in-our-community](https://Wasatch.edu/blog/unity-in-our-community)

