

Executive Summary: **NWEA MAP 2025 Updates and Impact on Board Goals**

Overview

NWEA implemented major updates to the MAP Growth assessment beginning in the 2025–26 school year, including:

- **2025 Growth Norms and Linking Study** — recalibrated national norms reflecting lower average growth across grades and subjects.
- **Enhanced Item Selection Algorithm (EISA)** — increases early-year rigor by prioritizing grade-level items.

Key Impacts of Updates

NWEA Update	Description & Impact	HISD Example
2025 NWEA Norms	• Norms recalculated using post-COVID student data (2020–2024) • Reflect national shifts in performance and growth • Under 2025 norms, the same RIT score may now correspond to a <i>higher percentile rank</i>	HISD 3rd-grade Reading median percentile increased when applying 2025 norms retroactively, due to lower national averages.
2025 STAAR Linking Study	• New linking study conducted under 2025 Growth Norms • Updated proficiency projections (“Projected Meets”) reflect lower national growth expectations based on updated norms	When applying 2025 norms to historical data, BOY projections appear lower, but HISD’s EOY results “catch up” — showing students are growing faster than new national averages.
EISA	• Implementation of a new item-selection algorithm that more precisely adapts to student performance by balancing grade-level and out-of-level items • Students may show lower performance at BOY due to greater grade-level rigor	TBD – EISA was first implemented in Fall 2025-26, EOY impact cannot yet be determined

Decisions and Recommendations

Decision #1: Board Reporting – Reset Baseline

Decision	Rationale
Remove historical MAP data (2020 Norms) from 2025–26 Goal Progress Measure (GPM) reports.	• Avoids misinterpretation and making inaccurate comparisons • Establishes a clear new baseline aligned to 2025 norms and EISA.

Decision #2: Delay Reset Until EOY 2025-26

Decision	Rationale
----------	-----------

Do not make any changes to current GPM targets until full-year results under the new framework are available.	• Stability and credibility • Setting new targets before a full-year baseline risks public perception of “lowering the bar.” • Avoids possibility of having to do multiple resets
---	---

Decision #3: Temporary GPM Revision to Growth Metrics

Decision	Rationale
• Temporarily shift MAP-based GPMs (1.1–3.5, 4.3) to measure “Met Expected Growth” for one year only. • Re-establish new proficiency baselines and targets at EOY 2025–26; resume proficiency reporting in 2026–27.	• Proficiency projections are not comparable under the new system. • Measuring “Met Expected Growth” provides a valid and stable way to monitor student progress during this transition year

Summary

These NWEA updates represent a methodological recalibration rather than a decline in performance. HISD students continue to demonstrate growth exceeding national norms. The proposed transition plan ensures transparency, comparability, and integrity in Board reporting while allowing time to establish a valid new baseline under the 2025 MAP framework.