

## **Okemos Public Schools Adds New Resources to Advance its Equity Initiative and to Support Teachers**

*Top-ranked Michigan school adds key data tools as part of its focus to engage best practices for teaching and learning as outlined in its strategic plan.*

**Okemos, Mich. — Sept. 12, 2022 —** Okemos Public Schools announced today its selection of two new assessment resources both designed by the not-for-profit, research-based organization, [NWEA](#). [MAP® Growth™](#) is a computer-adaptive assessment that measures academic growth at key intervals during the school year, which will be administered K-8 in Okemos. The other resource is [MAP® Reading Fluency™](#), which can assess an entire class of early readers in about 20 minutes, saving teachers time and providing quality information on their students.

The addition of these resources is part of the district's five-year strategic plan with key initiatives for this school year that include engaging in best practices for teaching and learning that create more equitable classroom environments. At the heart of that goal is the use of high-quality data to analyze instructional intentions, evaluate processes and practices, and measure impact to inform decisions as part of the district's continuous improvement.

"Both of these new tools are critical assets to our schools, educators and community to better understand our students' academic growth and how best we can move forward to meet their specific academic needs," said John Hood, Superintendent of Schools. "These assets are especially key in our efforts to target interventions and resources to students who need it the most in intentional ways that not only help us address the impacts of the pandemic, but also help all of our students thrive."

The district will incorporate these new resources this school year. The data will be one component of many for educators to get a more holistic view of student progress.

"We're excited to get this level of detail and data on our students, especially being able to see across grades and schools to truly understand strengths of our instructional programs, but this data is just one part of a bigger picture" said Stacy Bailey, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, "Assessment data is important alongside other indicators that give us a more complete story of an individual learner and how best to support them."

Learn more about Okemos Public Schools [2022-23 strategic initiatives](#).

### **About MAP Growth**

[MAP® Growth™](#) is NWEA's flagship computer-adaptive assessment. It measures what students know and what they are ready to learn next. By dynamically adjusting to each student's performance, [MAP® Growth™](#) creates a personalized assessment experience that accurately measures performance – whether a student performs on, above or below grade level. Timely, easy-to-use reports help educators differentiate instruction to meet the academic needs of each student. [MAP® Growth™](#) is also available in Spanish. To learn more about NWEA's [MAP® Growth™](#), visit: <https://www.nwea.org/map-growth/>

### **About [MAP® Reading Fluency™](#)**

It's the first computer adaptive, automatically scored pre-K–5 universal screening and progress

monitoring assessment that eliminates the need for one-on-one, teacher-student administration. The innovative assessment of oral reading fluency, comprehension, and foundational reading skills is delivered online, enabling educators to assess an entire class in a short time. Teachers receive immediate objective results, actionable data, and instructional guidance to support individualized reading development for every student. MAP Reading Fluency is available for remote and on-site administration, and efficiently assesses in English and Spanish. To learn more about NWEA's MAP® Reading Fluency™ and its embedded [Dyslexia Screener](#), visit: <https://www.nwea.org/map-reading-fluency/>

### **About Okemos Public Schools**

[The Okemos Public Schools](#) district is situated in the south-central portion of Michigan's lower peninsula near Lansing, the state capital, and shares a common border with Michigan State University. Approximately four thousand five hundred students attend four elementary schools (three traditional and one public Montessori), a 5-6 school and a 7-8 school (each with Montessori), and one high school. Okemos is well known for educational excellence with strong parent and community support. School/Match, the nation's largest school-select consulting firm, annually names fourteen percent of the nation's schools as meeting the educational needs of families. In 2019, Okemos ranked as the #2 district in the State of Michigan according to website Niche.com, who ranks almost a hundred thousand schools and districts based on district statistics and input from the community. We take pride in our mission of "Together...educating with excellence, inspiring each learner for life."

Contact: John J. Hood, Superintendent