RIT and Lexile Measure—How They Connect

What is the Lexile measure shown on MAP reports?

A Lexile® range is a measure (displayed as a 150-point range) resulting from a correlation between the Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) Reading RIT score and the MetaMetrics® Lexile scale to assist in identifying level-appropriate reading material for an individual student. The Lexile range is based on the Lexile measure plus 50 points and minus 100 points. This is intended to include reading materials that a student can read independently (the lower end of the range up to the Lexile measure) up through materials for which a student would benefit from instruction (the upper end of the range above the Lexile measure).

How are the Lexile measure grade bands correlated with the RIT scale?

Research from the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers associates ranges of text complexity with grade bands. This shows the ranges of text complexity that students need to be able to read independently at each grade band in order to be on track for college and career readiness. Based on the correlation of Lexile measures with the Reading RIT scale, the following table shows what the matching RIT bands are.

Grade Bands related to Lexile measure and RIT

Grade Band	Lexile Bands Associated with College and Career Readiness*	Associated Reading RIT Band
K-1	N/A	<202
2-3	420L-820L	190-212
4-5	740L-1010L	208-223
6-8	925L-1185L	218-232
9-10	1050L-1335L	225-241
11-CCR	1185L-1385L	232-244

*Source: Supplemental Information for Appendix A of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: New Research on Text Complexity

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How is the Lexile measure correlated to the MAP assessment?

NWEA™ Research collaborated with MetaMetrics, the company that developed the Lexile measure, to create a conversion software to calculate the Lexile measure and range from the RIT scale. MetaMetrics provided NWEA with a set of items that had Lexile estimates. After performing a correlation study, NWEA derived the formula and software to show the relationship between RIT and the Lexile measure. The relationship between the Reading RIT score and the Lexile range is a simple linear transformation of the observed Reading RIT score.

RIT	Lexile	RIT	Lexile	RIT	Lexile	RIT	Lexile	RIT	Lexile	RIT	Lexile
140-172	100	189	403	206	709	223	1015	240	1321	257	1627
173	115	190	421	207	727	224	1033	241	1339	258	1645
174	133	191	439	208	745	225	1051	242	1357	259	1663
175	151	192	457	209	763	226	1069	243	1375	260	1681
176	169	193	475	210	781	227	1087	244	1393	261	1699
177	187	194	493	211	799	228	1105	245	1411	262	1717
178	205	195	511	212	817	229	1123	246	1429	263	1735
179	223	196	529	213	835	230	1141	247	1447	264	1753
180	241	197	547	214	853	231	1159	248	1465	265	1771
181	259	198	565	215	871	232	1177	249	1483	266	1789
182	277	199	583	216	889	233	1195	250	1501	267	1807
183	295	200	601	217	907	234	1213	251	1519	268	1825
184	313	201	619	218	925	235	1231	252	1537	269	1843
185	331	202	637	219	943	236	1249	253	1555	270	1861
186	349	203	655	220	961	237	1267	254	1573		
187	367	204	673	221	979	238	1285	255	1591		
188	385	205	691	222	997	239	1303	256	1609		

Note: Lexile measures of 100 are often shown as "BR" on reports, indicating "Beginning Reader" level. Correlation data from study completed in 1999.

NWEA has nearly 40 years of experience helping educators accelerate student learning through computer-based assessment suites, professional development offerings, and research services.

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