nweo State Solutions

Partnering with NWEA to deliver impactful statewide assessment programs

NWEA® is a not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators in more than 146 countries through research, assessment solutions, policy and advocacy services, professional learning, and school improvement services. Our State Solutions Division is committed to helping states transform systems to improve learning and advance equity.

A focus on impact

We are driven to support states in creating systems of learning, assessment, and accountability that improve opportunities and outcomes for every student. We help states not only measure learning but also support district leaders, educators, families, and students in fostering it with programs built to promote inclusivity, responsiveness, and impact.

Unified programs that support student learning and education equity



States and students first

We co-create assessment programs tailored to individual state needs and local context. Our design and development experts, assessment delivery specialists, research scientists, policy and advocacy advisors, and professional learning leaders work with each state using an intentionally holistic and cross-functional approach that results in differentiated, student-centered programs.

We are dedicated to providing unmatched onboarding, delivery, and

support services to provide a meaningful, seamless, and customized experience to our state partners. Our people serve as trusted advisors, our processes increase efficiency and stability, and our programs are tailored to each state's vision and goals.

State Solutions approach



Content areas and grades

Our solutions range from stand-alone summative assessments to balanced assessment systems for grades 3–8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics and selected grades for science. We also work with states to explore assessment options at the high school level.

Guiding principles

We specialize in the design and delivery of comprehensive programs that leverage data in new ways to avoid redundant testing and maximize informed action at both the classroom and systems level. We are guided by each state's goals and an emphasis on:



Efficiency in identifying student

learning level and reducing overall testing events.



Coherence across assessments in the system to support focused action.



Utility in the data for all stakeholders impacted by the system.



Opportunity for students, schools, and states to facilitate and recognize growth.

Individualized solutions

We listen first and offer solutions second, because we believe that prescriptive approaches are not the answer to addressing the diversity of needs across the nation. With flexible technology and test designs as well as customizable services, each solution is configured to specific state needs.

- Psychometrics and content. Our experts work
 with the state to identify the stakeholders using the
 assessments and the outcomes they hope to achieve.
 Then they design assessments to produce valid and
 reliable results in support of those goals.
 - Educator engagement: Content experts engage local educators in tasks such as item writing, alignment studies, bias and sensitivity review, range achievement level descriptor review/ definition, and standard-setting.
 - Test model: Work with psychometricians to determine the most appropriate approach, such as connecting interim and summative assessments, employing an integrated through-year model, or opting for an adaptive summative test.
 - Adaptivity: Determine if the assessment will be adaptive and if so, identify the type and degree of adaptivity (e.g., within grade only, off grade, or staged to combine fixed, adaptive, or variations of adaptivity).
 - Content: Multiple choice and technology enhanced, polytomous items, writing prompts, and science tasks are available. Universal design is incorporated into the development process to maximize accessibility.

- Platform. Our flexible, state-of-the-art enterprise
 platform allows the state to configure test
 administrations, student rosters/registrations, and
 setup custom user roles and permissions. Easily
 manage users and students across the state and
 transfer students as they move between districts.
- Insights and reporting. Interactive and static reports range from aggregate to the individual student level and are available for multiple roles such as assessment directors, school leaders, and teachers. States can choose which data to include in various reports.
- **Professional learning.** Construct a professional learning program with onsite and/or online sessions tailored to state vision and educator needs and designed to scale and build capacity to drive change at the local level. Work with our team to identify a theory of change to accompany the new statewide assessment system and provide educators and administrators with the support needed to use results to foster learning.

Driving change together

At NWEA, we are all in on partnering with states to develop systems of learning, assessment, and accountability that are tailored to the unique needs and strengths of their communities. Join us to design fair and inclusive assessment systems that support equal access to a high-quality education and successful outcomes for all students.

Connect with us at NWEA.org/state-solutions to learn how we can partner with your state to create a system that reflects your vision for student learning and success.

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NWEA is a not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by providing assessment solutions, insightful reports, professional learning offerings, and research services. Visit NWEA.org to find out how NWEA can partner with you to help all kids learn.

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