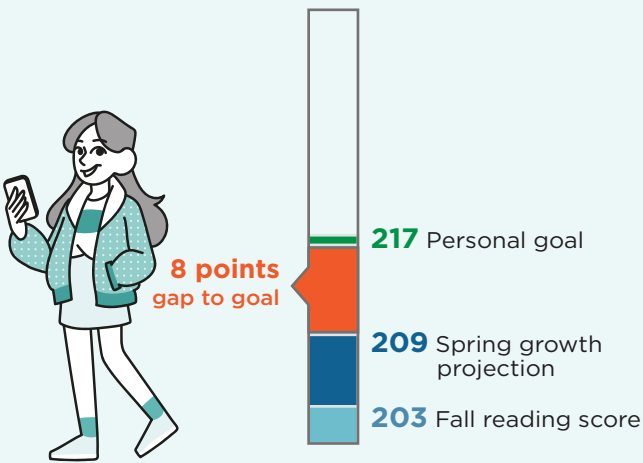


# Setting meaningful and realistic growth goals

All students deserve the opportunity to work toward meaningful and realistic academic goals. Teachers can have individual and class-wide goal setting conversations with specificity and precision, using NWEA® normative data.

Read below about three students in sixth-grade reading. Marcus, Danielle, and Anissa are in different places academically and will require different interventions and support.

## CATCH UP



Danielle's reading scores are currently below grade level norms. Her goal is to meet proficiency, but she has a lot of ground to make up.

### ➔ NEXT STEPS

There is a significant gap between where Danielle is and where she needs to be. That type of growth is atypical and unlikely in a single academic year. Pursuing a highly-ambitious goal can be motivating, but watch out for too difficult goals that can discourage students.

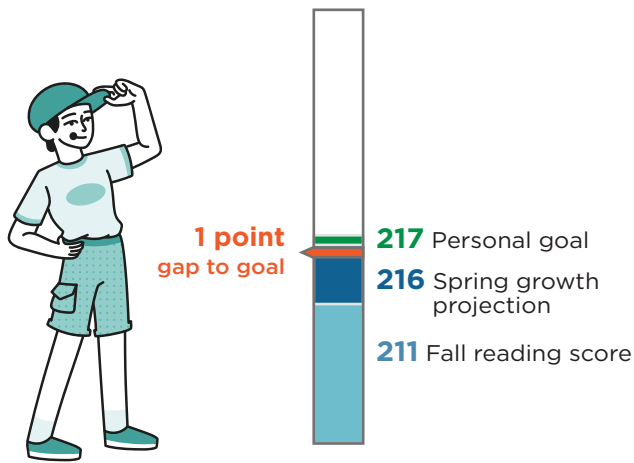
### ★ RECOMMENDATION

A multi-year, catch-up strategy, along with teacher-led interventions and support to get her on track.



12% of students similar to Danielle would likely grow at least this much from fall to spring\*

## KEEP UP



Marcus is an average reading student. His goal is to meet or exceed proficiency.

### ➔ NEXT STEPS

If Marcus makes slightly better than average growth, he will keep up with proficiency.

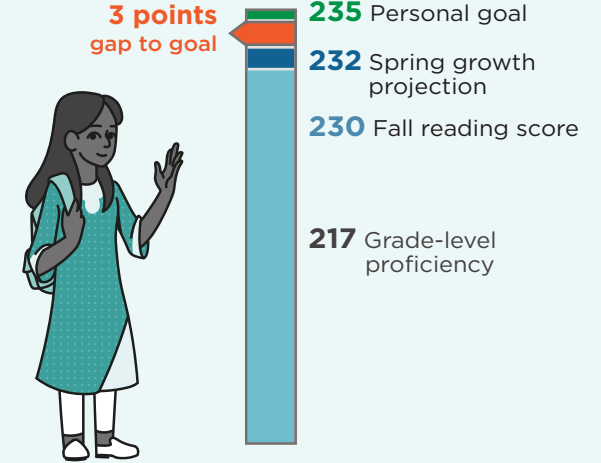
### ★ RECOMMENDATION

Set a more aggressive growth goal and create an action plan to target any skills or competencies gaps.



43% of students similar to Marcus would likely grow at least this much from fall to spring\*

## MOVE UP



Anissa is an advanced reader who has surpassed proficiency benchmarks. She has her sights set on attending a competitive university.

### ➔ NEXT STEPS

The amount of growth required for Anissa to get on track for her dream college is atypical, but could be an attainable stretch goal.

### ★ RECOMMENDATION

An enrichment or acceleration activity and assisting this motivated student on a detailed action plan.



34% of students similar to Anissa would likely grow at least this much from fall to spring\*

\*According to growth percentiles from the NWEA norms study.

# GOAL SETTING ACTION PLAN

Start developing what a meaningful growth target is for each student; it will vary.

- 1 **Ask important questions to create student-centric goals. Is the student:**
  - continuing to grow at typical rate to stay on track for grade-level proficiency?
  - making significant progress towards closing the gap to proficiency?
  - meeting college and career readiness expectations?
  - on track to get into their dream college?
- 2 **Determine if the growth goal is realistic**
  - Student data reports can help you estimate the challenge of the goal
  - Use these insights from a student's past performance to evaluate how a new goal would fit in their trend line
- 3 **Engage the student**
  - Share the assessment results and projected target
  - Create an action plan together
- 4 **Adjust goal as necessary**
  - Make the goal visible and check in regularly on actions and progress