

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.

217 Personal goal 209 Spring growth projection 203 Fall reading score

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

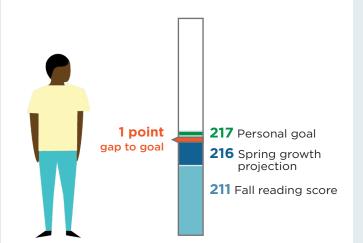
A multi-year, catch-up strategy, along with teacher-led interventions and support to get her on track.



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

*According to growth percentiles from the NWEA norms study.

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*

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