

## **STATEMENT ON 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORTS**

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted education as we know it and continues to do so for the 2020-21 academic year.

Because of the pandemic, both authorizer and state testing requirements were waived for spring 20. This included the authorizer required spring administration of Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) Measure of Academic Progress for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders as well as the state required M-STEP and PSAT/SAT for various grade levels.

This necessary waiving of testing requirements resulted in an absence of full year academic data. As an Authorizer, we did collect NWEA test data for fall 19 and winter 20 but it was absent for spring 2020.

As an authorizer, we decided against publishing individual Academy reports due to a lack of data. We did, however, publish a Portfolio Report for 2019 that included aggregated fall and winter test data from all of our academies. The report was published because we felt it was important to document the year, however, academic data is to be viewed with caution. The fall and winter NWEA targets are based on NWEA's 2020 norm study which was completed prior to the pandemic. The pandemic has and continues to impact student instructional time, alters the type of instruction (virtual/remote or in person), and widens the disparity gap. If a norm study were conducted during a pandemic, it would likely yield different targets.

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