



map Accelerator

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10 Ways to use MAP Accelerator: For educators, from educators

The start of the school year represents an assortment of emotions: butterflies for new student faces, excitement to implement new initiatives in your classroom, and—let’s face it—the anticipation of vital planning periods! Teachers are busy, and MAP® Accelerator™ saves teachers time while maximizing individualized math supplemental support. We’ve streamlined MAP Accelerator use even more by providing quick-start tips from fellow educators. No more reinventing the wheel or losing precious teaching time; these 10 tips will amplify and elevate your teaching reach.

1 Set students up for success

From Javier Perez, Math Coach Grades 5-8 (Regional School District 15, Pomperaug, CT)

When it’s time for students to log in and get started in their individualized MAP Accelerator pathway, make sure they are set up for quick success.

- **Approve student placements** before they log in to MAP Accelerator for the first time. If a student has MAP data, they will have a recommended placement; if a student has no MAP data, they will be placed on the grade-level course. You can adjust up or down based on your knowledge of the student, and this can be done from the teacher dashboard prior to class.
- **Walk students through the login process**, and allow them to work on a lesson of their choice once they’ve logged in. That way, most students can begin work while you engage in any troubleshooting.
- **Encourage students to watch the videos** before they work the exercises. Model this by encouraging students to place devices down and be “hands off” while they watch.

2 Establish a routine

From Shawna Burger, Math Interventionist (Greensburg-Salem Middle School, Greensburg-Salem, PA)

MAP Accelerator creates individualized learning pathways for each student, which means students can get started right away, on their own. Consider the recommended three 15–20-minute learning sessions per week for elementary students and two 30–60-minute sessions per week for middle school students. How could these work sessions become part of the classroom culture?

- **Make MAP Accelerator part of the start of class as a warm-up, bell ringer, or “do now.”** Students are immediately engaged while teachers take attendance, prepare the lesson, or meet with students individually or in small groups.

3 Integrate with core instruction

From Shawna Burger, Math Interventionist (Greensburg-Salem Middle School, Greensburg-Salem, PA)

Framing MAP Accelerator work as a supplement to core instruction allows students to see everyday math instruction showcased in their own individual learning pathways. As a station and a staple, MAP Accelerator makes differentiation not only easier, but infinitely customizable by the teacher.

- **Incorporate MAP Accelerator as a station or small-group work.** At any point during a lesson or unit of study, when you would normally do small-group work, have at least one station ready to go for MAP Accelerator.
- **Add MAP Accelerator as an option for early finishers.** You’ll be surprised how often this is students’ preferred way to receive individualized practice.
- **Complement your core instruction** by assigning work in the MAP Accelerator instructional area that aligns with the content you are teaching in class.

4 Meet the needs of high achievers

From Javier Perez, Math Coach Grades 5–8 (Regional School District 15, Pomperaug, CT)

Teachers do a lot of things, but they can’t be everywhere at once! MAP Accelerator alleviates the balancing act of meeting all students’ various math levels, whether reinforcing foundational needs or stretching our highest achievers to their level of readiness.

- **Allow high achievers to work on MAP Accelerator** when they finish their in-class work, which can flex and stretch with them up to higher math levels. In Javier’s school, some 5th graders receive tailored high school instruction via MAP Accelerator—they’re ready for enrichment!
- **Ensure classroom engagement during intervention time.** As teachers work with smaller, focused groups of students, MAP Accelerator allows all students to remain engaged and focused while working independently.

5 Formatively assess students

From Megan O’Boyle, Math Department Head (Elementary Schools, Palisades School District, PA)

MAP Accelerator allows teachers to drill down to specific skill sets, whether to offer students targeted practice or to run specific reports to guide conversations and decisions.

- **Customize and drill down to specific math skills** to either assign students individual practice with a given skill or to pull skills reports to determine progress and possible next steps.

- **Pull up the Skills Report** after teaching a lesson from the core curriculum by assigning students complementary content on MAP Accelerator, using the “skills” section under the Account Overview tab. Megan says this is a seamless, quick assessment of how students absorbed core teaching.

6

Aid intervention

From Shawna Burger, Math Interventionist (Greensburg-Salem Middle School, Greensburg-Salem, PA)

MAP Accelerator maximizes and extends intervention as an opportunity for students to have one-on-one attention and gives students a sense of tangible accomplishment.

- **Positively name your intervention time** to capture the benefits of working on individual needs. Shawna titles hers as “WIN: What I Need.”
- **Build time for dependable, ongoing intervention** to preserve this effort and make it a part of the school day.
- **Spark students’ autonomy** by allowing them solo work time in their MAP Accelerator’s instructional area of greatest need.

7

Assign supplementary work

From Kelly Solttroff, 3rd Grade Math Teacher (Scotland Elementary School, Chambersburg Area School District, Chambersburg, PA)

MAP Accelerator’s individualized pathways make it possible to introduce students to new concepts—even those not yet covered in core curriculum—if they are ready. This previewing of new material is controlled by the teacher and often means a more natural transition of conceptual understanding and additional exposure for state tests.

- **Use MAP Accelerator to preview new concepts.** Kelly’s curriculum doesn’t include geometry until the end of the academic school year, which limits exposure to these skills on the state summative assessment, but with MAP Accelerator, students have more exposure and practice. Her students have grown with only 30 minutes a week in MAP Accelerator and increased their scores on MAP Growth™.

8

Enhance a hybrid model of instruction

From Shawna Burger, Math Interventionist (Greensburg-Salem Middle School, Greensburg-Salem, PA)

Due to the pandemic, many schools instituted a hybrid model. Shawna’s school, like many, provided opportunities to have teachers work with students at home as well as in the classroom. MAP Accelerator can be accessed from home with students’ logins, allowing work to continue.

- **Set a weekly expectation** for students to work on MAP Accelerator for at least 30 minutes per week. You can use the Progress tab to quickly check students’ learning minutes.
- **Work online together in a “live” format** on certain days and times. As students work in the MAP Accelerator program, the dashboard will update. Teachers can see learning minutes in real time and congratulate students virtually as they level up their skills.

9

Create course challenges

From Shawna Burger, Math Interventionist (Greensburg-Salem Middle School, Greensburg-Salem, PA)

Everything is more exciting with a goal ahead! MAP Accelerator focuses on improvement. Teachers can set goals that flex student-by-student—honoring everyone’s learning speed and path—and students can get excited about challenging themselves.

- **Create course challenges** to help engage students in skill practice. Each month, assign students a goal to reach: “Increase 20% in your course mastery!” or “Complete the Decimal Place Value course through Quiz 1!” Different rewards—such as extra recess time or tickets to an event—incentivize students, and posters with time frames can hang throughout the school to remind students to strive.

10

Instill a consistent culture

From Shawna Burger, Math Interventionist (Greensburg-Salem Middle School, Greensburg-Salem, PA), and Misty Hodge, NWEA Product Marketing Manager, MATH Accelerator Lead

Help students find structure and familiarity within MAP Accelerator by implementing consistent practices in your classroom. As with any other endeavor, routines provide a backbone for repeatable success.

- **Keep a “trail log” for MAP Accelerator progress.** Using a composition notebook or something similar, this journal allows your students to record their RIT ranges for each instructional area. Once a week, Shawna meets with each student to review strengths and weaknesses, their progress, and set goals for the next week—all based on their trail log.
- **Celebrate with a winning wall.** When students reach 90% and can move to the next RIT range, celebrate by allowing students to write their name on the winning wall for all to see. Inspire your learners to keep striving!
- **Trim time** by reviewing teacher MAP Accelerator resources—the Getting Started Checklist and the MAP Accelerator Monthly Newsletter—for helpful tips and resources to implement with your students.



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