

DesCartes – Tool from NWEA for Guiding Instruction

DesCartes is a new tool from NWEA that makes connections between specific academic skills and RIT scores. The structure of DesCartes is very similar to the Learning Continuum - specific skills within each ISAT Goal Area (such as Literal Comprehension for Reading and Geometry for Math) are connected to RIT scores. However, DesCartes includes more depth and breadth than the continuum - more specific skills in more RIT ranges.

DesCartes can be used for:

- Planning small group instruction, including flexible grouping
- Goal setting
- Creating centers, homework, or other assignments based on skills needed for each student
- Providing students, parents, and aides with specific skill sets for a student to focus on

To Access DesCartes:

1. Go to the NWEA Reports website: www.nwea.org then click on: [Log on to the Reports Site >](#)
2. Log in using the User Name and Password provided by your administrator (the same login used to access ISAT reports for your classes)

*** View DesCartes by Test, Goal Area, and RIT Range:

1. Scroll down and click on "DesCartes" near the bottom of the toolbar on the left
2. Select a Test
3. Select a Goal Area
4. Select a RIT block to view DesCartes skills

*** View DesCartes for a Student or Group of Students:


DesCartes can be accessed directly from the students' RIT score reports, making it even easier to match skills to students and to organize flexible grouping and differentiated assignments.

1. Click on "**Class by RIT**" (on left toolbar)
2. Choose the Term (i.e. Fall 2005) and click "**Submit**"
3. Scroll down to view the chart.
Click on **Math**, **Reading**, or **Language Usage** to see the goal areas
4. For each goal area desired, click on a student's name to view DesCartes skills for that individual student

-OR- Click on "**All Students in Cell**" to view DesCartes for the group of students (useful for flexible grouping)

The score in parentheses by the student's name (i.e. Name (219)) represents their overall RIT score for this subject.

Create PDF for printing on Legal size (8½ x 14) paper.

To create a PDF report of the chart below, click here 

	< 161	161-170	171-180	181-190	1
Mathematics			B. Y. Alexander (176) M. N. Jacob (176) H. H. Karly (177)	C. Y. Luis (182) J. B. Danielle (186) J. N. Nathan (189) J. N. Hannah (190) L. A. Thomas (190)	A. A. T M. L. S. A. K. Y. J. N. C. Y.
Reading	B. Y. Alexander (160) M. N. Jacob (160)	H. H. Karly (167)	J. N. Jairo (178)	J. N. Hannah (184) L. A. Thomas (187) C. Y. Luis (189)	A. A. T J. B. C K. Y. J. N. † S. A. M. L.
Language Usage	M. N. Jacob (157)	B. Y. Alexander (169)		J. N. Jairo (182) H. H. Karly (184) J. N. Hannah (187) L. A. Thomas (187)	C. Y. A. A. T J. B. C S. A. J. N. † K. Y.

To Print This Report:

1. Uncheck the box "Create PDF for 8½ by 14 paper"
2. Click on the PDF symbol 

Additional Resources from NWEA: (Available from NWEA after logging in to their reports site)

- "Essentials" - More information about DesCartes, including Teacher Tips
- "Vocabulary by Subject Area and RIT Range" - Lists vocabulary words introduced at each RIT level
- "Signs and Symbols by Subject Area and RIT Range" - Lists signs/symbols introduced at each RIT level

For More Information about DesCartes: www.nwea.org/tools/descartes/

Subject: Mathematics
 Goal Strand: Estimation and Accurate Computations
 RIT Score Range: 171 - 180

Skills and Concepts to Enhance 161 - 170	Skills and Concepts to Develop 171 - 180	Skills and Concepts to Introduce 181 - 190
<p>Whole Numbers - Addition and Subtraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds two 1-digit numbers with sums to 10 in horizontal format Adds two 1-digit numbers with sums between 10 and 19 in horizontal format Adds two 1-digit numbers with sums to 10 in vertical format 	<p>Whole Numbers - Addition and Subtraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds 1-digit numbers with sums to 18 (with parentheses) Adds 2-digit to 3-digit number, with no regrouping, with sums under 1000* Adds 3-digit numbers, with no regrouping Adds two or three 2-digit numbers, with regrouping Adds 3-digit numbers, with regrouping, with sums 	<p>Whole Numbers - Addition and Subtraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adds 1-digit to multiple-digit number, with regrouping* Adds two or three 2-digit numbers, with regrouping Adds 2-digit to 3-digit number, with regrouping Adds 3-digit numbers, with regrouping, with sums under 1000
<p>Left Column: Skills to Enhance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills on which the student is closer to approaching mastery 	<p>Middle Column: Skills to Develop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the student's RIT score falls Represents the student's Instructional Level, the skills he or she should be working on right now Reminder: A RIT score represents the level at which the student is answering questions correctly 50% of the time 	<p>Right Column: Skills to Introduce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills to work toward Use for goal setting and for future instructional planning