

DesCartes – Tool from NWEA for Guiding Instruction

DesCartes is a tool that makes connections between specific skills and RIT scores for the purpose of guiding instructional planning. DesCartes is structured by goal area (such as Literal Comprehension for Reading and Geometry for Math) which are connected to RIT scores and organized based on our state standards.

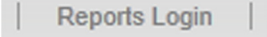
Each column in DesCartes includes the skills within a block of 10 RIT points. If a student has a RIT score of 205, then the skills within the 201-210 block are the skills that student is ready to work on in class right now.

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: 

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	191-200
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 (191) M. L. (192) S. A. (193) K. Y. (194) J. N. (195) C. Y. (196)
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 (191) J. B. C (192) K. Y. (193) J. N. (194) S. A. (195) M. L. (196)
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. (191) A. A. T (192) J. B. C (193) S. A. (194) J. N. (195) K. Y. (196)

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/