

## DesCartes – New Tool from NWEA for Guiding Instruction

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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 Idaho 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: [reports.nwea.org](https://reports.nwea.org)
2. Log in using the User Name and Password provided by your administrator (the same log-in used to access ISAT reports for your classes)
3. "DesCartes" can be found near the bottom of the toolbar on the left side of the page

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

1. Select a Test
2. Select a Goal Area
3. 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. Open report "Class by RIT" (on the left toolbar)
2. Click on Math, Reading, or Language Usage
3. 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)



Note: Unfortunately, this resource is only available in districts that have purchased this tool (called "Instructional Resources") for their teachers.

### Additional Resources from NWEA:

#### (Available from NWEA after logging in to their reports site)

- "Essentials" - More information about DesCartes, including Teacher Tips
- "Annotated Sample" – Reading sample and explanation of the DesCartes reports (on back)
- "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/](https://www.nwea.org/tools/descartes/)