

Aligning Student Scores from the NWEA Raw Data File

The raw data file from NWEA contains a single line entry for each test completed by each student. For instance, if a student takes both the Math and Reading tests, those scores will appear on two lines (as two separate entries) of the data file.

To create a clean import, two processes must be completed with the raw data:

1. Re-align the data into a spreadsheet where all of a student's scores appear in one row (as one record).
2. Rename the column headers to match the Test Score fields in PowerSchool.

There are many different ways to approach these processes. If the number of records in the raw data file is small, fields could be aligned using the V-lookup function of excel, although this introduces a higher possibility of error due to the amount of coding that must be entered and copied.

Another method would be to use a database (Filemaker Pro) to match up and import the data, and then export the result as a new spreadsheet.

In either case, the raw data file would have to be broken into separate Math, Reading, and Language spreadsheets prior to re-alignment. This is done most easily using the AUTOFILTER function of excel.

Using Filemaker (or another database) to Align Scores.

1. Open the raw data file in Excel.
2. Turn on Autofilter.
3. Use Autofilter to filter for all Math scores.
4. Copy and paste math scores into a new tab or spreadsheet.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for Reading and Language Arts.
6. Replace the headers in the Math, Reading, and Language Arts spreadsheets with the actual headers needed for the PowerSchool import.
7. On the Reading spreadsheet, add the headers for the Math and Language Arts so that this spreadsheet contains ALL the headers you desire in the final spreadsheet.
8. Save.
9. Open a new empty file in your database program. Import the Reading spreadsheet.
10. Import the Math scores, aligning the spreadsheet headers to the appropriate database headers and using the student number as the matching field. Be sure to add any new student records in the case where students did not have Reading scores.
11. Repeat step 10 for Language Arts.
12. Export the final database in the form of a spreadsheet.
13. Import spreadsheet into PowerSchool.

Sample of Raw Data file from NWEA

StudentNa	StudentGe	StudentEth	GradeNam	TermName	Measurem	TestName	TestType	NTestRITSc	TestStdErr	TestPerce	TestStartD
student 1	F	American I	4	Winter 200	Reading	Reading G	Survey wtl	206	3.3	57	1/24/2006
student 1	F	American I	4	Winter 200	Mathemati	Math Goal	Survey wtl	211	3	64	1/18/2006
student 1	M	Caucasian	5	Winter 200	Language	Language	Survey wtl	220	2.9	78	1/30/2006
student 2	M	Caucasian	5	Winter 200	Mathemati	Math Goal	Survey wtl	225	3	77	1/19/2006
student 2	M	Caucasian	5	Winter 200	Reading	Reading G	Survey wtl	217	3.3	73	1/27/2006
student 3	F	American I	4	Winter 200	Reading	Reading G	Survey wtl	213	3.3	78	1/31/2006
student 3	F	American I	4	Winter 200	Mathemati	Math Goal	Survey wtl	211	3	64	1/24/2006

Sample of Aligned spreadsheet

lastfirst	gender	ethnicity	grade_level	NWRE_RI	NWRE_RI	school	Lexile numr	NWRE_lie	NWRE_lie	NWRE_pw	NWRE_pw	NWRE_rst	NWRE_rst
student 1	M	American I	6	207	29	Robert Mill	722	206	LO	204	LO	210	AV
student 2	M	Caucasian	6	209	34	Robert Mill	760	198	LO	214	AV	208	LO
student 3	M	Caucasian	6	230	91	Robert Mill	1134	224	HI	225	HI	224	HI
student 4	M	Caucasian	6	201	18	Robert Mill	621	208	LO	202	LO	197	LO
student 5	F	Caucasian	6	215	52	Robert Mill	868	224	HI	209	AV	225	HI
student 6	M	Caucasian	6	232	93	Robert Mill	1173	251	HI	221	HI	228	HI
student 7	M	Caucasian	6	223	76	Robert Mill	1021	222	HI	228	HI	227	HI
student 8	M	Caucasian	6	221	71	Robert Mill	977	220	HI	226	HI	222	HI
student 9	F	Caucasian	6	215	52	Robert Mill	866	219	AV	219	AV	208	LO
student 10	M	Caucasian	6	226	83	Robert Mill	1061	212	AV	230	HI	230	HI
student 11	M	American I	6	218	61	Robert Mill	923	235	HI	201	LO	223	HI
student 12	M	Caucasian	6	205	25	Robert Mill	696	207	LO	211	AV	201	LO
student 13	M	Caucasian	6	217	58	Robert Mill	916	234	HI	212	AV	223	HI

Notes of Annoying Things about Importing

- If test results are not aligned into a single record prior to importing, it will create a separate test entry for each record.
- Once a test scores have been imported, if a score needs to be updated, it must be done manually.
- If a student is inactive, test scores must be added manually.
- Be alert to student records that are not complete because they did not take a portion of the test or took a survey instead of the goals survey. PowerSchool does a poor job of recognizing empty cells in the spreadsheet being imported and often will create bad data in those empty fields.
- The record created in DDA will reflect the school from which the data was imported.

Best Practices

- When importing MAP scores for a specific window, give all tests the same test date so they can be easily identified in DDA searches.
- Import tests from the school level – one import for each school.
- Import partial records separately or enter them manually.
- Make the Tests screen view only for all users except the person who imports data.