Validity of the Evaluación del nivel independiente de lectura (ENIL)

The Evaluación del nivel independiente de lectura® (ENIL®) is a criterion-referenced formative assessment based on a developmental taxonomy for reading acquisition that is authentic to Spanish. Four studies examining the validity of the ENIL show strong, positive correlations between students' scores on the ENIL and NWEA's MAP Spanish. As shown in the table below, correlations *(r)* between the two assessments exceed .70, the threshold for what is considered a strong correlation. These results show that the ENIL and MAP Spanish measure the same construct.

ENIL-MAP Spanish Correlation Coefficients								
Study: State	Year	Grade	Fall		Winter		Spring	
			n	r	n	r	n	r
1: Illinois	2021-22	K-5	169	0.84*	168	0.85*	167	0.86*
2: Illinois	2022-23	K-5	126	0.86*	143	0.89*		
3: Illinois	2022-23	K-2	91	0.78*	88	0.74*	70	0.74*
4: Michigan	2023-24	K-5	90	0.74*				

*$p<.001$

Additionally, the ENIL and the Independent Reading Level Assessment (IRLA) are standards-aligned assessments that function in the same way. The ENIL is based on a taxonomy that parallels the IRLA as appropriate and diverges as called for by the language. Therefore, the growing body of research establishing the validity of the IRLA also supports the validity of the ENIL (see https://arc.red/validity).

What is validity and why is it important?

Validity is the most fundamental consideration in evaluating an assessment. It answers the question: Is the assessment measuring what it is designed to measure? The process of validation involves accumulating relevant evidence over time to provide a sound basis for score interpretation.

When establishing the validity of a Spanish assessment, the criterion measures (i.e. other assessments of the same construct) used to validate the assessment should also be in Spanish. Given that most interim and state ELA assessments are English-only, it is difficult to collect this type of validity evidence.