## NWEA Assessment Item Illustrating 5.NBT.A.3.b

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**Domain:** Number and Operations in Base Ten **5.NBT.A:** Understand the place value system. **Calculator Availability:** No

| Move symbols to the boxes to create true comparisons. |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 3.3 3.26  |   |   |  |
| 3.026 3.26  |   |   |  |
| 3. 206 3. 26  |   |   |  |
| <   | = | > |  |
|   |   |   |  |

**Alignment: 5.NBT.A.3b:** Compare two decimals to thousandths based on meanings of the digits in each place, using >, =, and < symbols to record the results of comparisons.

This item asks students to compare the number 3.26 to three different numbers. These numbers were selected to highlight common misconceptions regarding place value and number magnitude. For example, comparing 3.3 and 3.26 assesses whether students understand that having more digits does not necessarily indicate that a number is greater. Comparing 3.26 to 3.026 and to 3.206 assesses understanding of the meaning of 0 in each number.

**Coherence:** This standard builds upon the work students did in previous grades in understanding place value and comparing and ordering whole numbers. Students began exploring place value in kindergarten by composing and decomposing numbers from 11 to 19 into tens and ones<sup>K.NBT.A.1</sup> and by comparing numbers between 1 and 10 using words.<sup>K.CC.C.7</sup> In grades 1 and 2, students worked with place value relationships and used symbols to compare two-digit<sup>1.NBT.B</sup> and three-digit numbers.<sup>2.NBT.A.1</sup> In grade 4, in addition to comparing greater numbers,<sup>4.NBT.A.2</sup> students began relating decimal fractions and decimal numbers and comparing decimals using visual models.<sup>4.NF.C</sup> The place value understanding that supports the ability to compare decimals also supports the understanding of rounding decimals, which is introduced in grade 5 as well.<sup>5.NBT.A.4</sup>

**Rigor:** This item attends to the conceptual understanding that the location of a digit in a number determines its value in that number.

## Answer Key:

| Move symbols to the boxes to create true comparisons. |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 3.3 > 3.26  |   |   |  |
| 3.026 < 3.26  |   |   |  |
| 3.206 < 3.26  |   |   |  |
| <   | = | > |  |
|   |   |   |  |

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