

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

2019-20 Academic Year

What is it?

The MAP test consists of Reading and Mathematics assessments. These tests have been aligned to the Common Core State Standards. These tests are considered to be benchmark assessments – meaning tests that provide a measure of where a student is academically compared to where the average student is at that grade level. It shows where a student starts, a baseline of student achievement, and measures growth over the year.

Why is this assessment given?

Students take this set of tests to: 1) determine their academic progress compared with local and national peers, b) provide information regarding student academic growth over time and c) help teachers determine appropriate instructional practices to support all learners. It is a “point in time” measurement of progress.

Educators use this data in part to evaluate the effectiveness of instruction at different levels of the system (e.g. classroom, grade level, school, and district). The ultimate goal of MAP is to use the data to design and modify instruction to meet student needs on an annual basis, and to use different approaches for different students.

Who takes this assessment?

The MAP tests are given to all students in grades 3-8. Exceptions include English Language Learners who have a language proficiency of DPI Level 1 or 2, and any student who, through the IEP/504 process, it is determined the test is not appropriate.

How is the test given?

All questions are presented in a written format on a computer screen. The MAP tests are “computer adaptive”, which means that they adjust the level of difficulty of each question a student sees based upon the answers to the previous questions. Each student takes a test that is “customized” to their own learning.

In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

When is the test given?

MAP is given two times each year, in fall and spring. Each individual sub-test takes approximately 50 minutes to complete, but none of the tests are timed.

This year, the district MAP assessment windows are:

Fall: 9/16 -10/18; and Spring: 4/27 -5/22

Schools may choose a 2-3 week testing window anytime within the district specified window. (Larger middle schools may require the full window to complete testing) MAP is designed for ultimate performance when the same amount of instructional time is observed between fall-spring testing sessions. As an example, if a school gives their MAP assessment in weeks 1 and 2 of the fall window, they must also choose weeks 1 and 2 for the spring sessions. This provides consistency for the snapshot of time and an accurate picture of growth. The published MAP windows cannot be extended for makeups or any other reason, so adhering to schedules on the part of schools is essential

How will results be shared?

Student data is available within 24 hours of completing the test at the school level. NWEA provides a variety of reports for teacher's use, available immediately following test administration. District reports are available when the assessment window is complete. These reports are accessible using Data Dashboard. Student data will also be placed in IC to allow continuous progress monitoring between grade levels.

Families will be given individual student profiles and growth reports in June following the end of the school year with report cards or through the mail.

How does this assessment reflect a child's performance?

As with any assessment, this is only one measure of your student's academic performance. It is only through *multiple* assessments (for example, teacher developed assessments, state and district assessments) that we are able to develop a clearer picture of your student's current level of performance as well as their growth over time.

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