Students in kindergarten through eighth grade will be assessed in reading and math in the fall, winter and spring of each year.

These assessments help teachers:
- learn your child’s strengths, as well as areas where help is needed
- provide instruction most appropriate for your child
- determine your child’s academic growth in reading and math over the course of the school year.

This guide is intended to:
- help you understand the MAP assessment
- assist you in understanding how to read the parent report
- provide you with tips for helping your child prepare for testing.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a MAP assessment?
MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is a computerized adaptive assessment that measures your child’s knowledge of reading and math. All students are asked the same number of questions, but the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier and then become progressively more challenging. This enables the assessment to precisely identify the full spectrum of a student’s strengths and weaknesses. Starting in the 2012-13 school year, MAP tests are aligned to the national Common Core Standards. To better measure some of the more complex Common Core Standards, students will experience responses in multiple choice, drag-and-drop and click-and-pop formats.

How long does it take to complete an assessment?
Although the assessments are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each assessment. Students taking the Math 6+ or Reading 6+ MAP assessment usually take 60 to 70 minutes to complete each assessment. These two assessments are scheduled on different days to avoid test saturation.

How are the assessment results used?
MAP assessments are used to measure student progress and growth in reading and math. These assessments will help all of your child’s teachers understand your child’s areas of strength and weakness in order to provide appropriate instruction.

When will I get the results of my child’s assessment?
In the winter, the assessment results will be mailed home to parents. A final report will be shared in the spring.

What is a RIT score?
RIT stands for Rasch Unit, which is used to measure a student’s academic growth over the course of the student’s academic career in our district. The score is unrelated to the age or grade of the student, but reflects the level at which the student is currently performing.

Where can I go to learn more about the MAP assessments?
If you have any questions regarding MAP scores or how the test is administered, please call your child’s teacher or principal. Additional information can also be found on the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) website: www.nwea.org.
EXPLANATORY NOTES

Season/Year
The season and the year the test was taken.
F = fall; S = spring; W = winter

Student Score Range
The bold print middle number is the RIT score your child received. The numbers on either side of the RIT score define the score range. If retested, your child would score within this range most of the time.

District Average RIT
The average score for all students in that grade level in our district who were tested at the same time as your child.

Norm Group Average
The average score observed for students in the 2011 NWEA Norming Study who were in the same grade and tested in the same season (e.g., fall or spring).

Student Growth
Represents the growth in the RITs your child made from the fall to the spring of the year in which growth is reported.

Typical Growth
The average growth of students in the 2011 NWEA Norming Study who were in the same grade and began the growth comparison period at a similar achievement level.

Student %ile Range
The number in the middle is your child’s percentile rank - the percentage of students in the 2011 NWEA Norming study that had a RIT score equal to your child’s score. The numbers on either side of the bold number define the percentile range. Percentiles are used to compare one student’s performance to that of a larger group. Percentile means the student scored as well as or better than that percent of students taking the test in that grade.

Goal Performance
Each area tested is listed along with a descriptive adjective of your child’s score.

The descriptors are
Low (<21 percentile)
LoAvg (21-40 percentile)
Avg (41-60 percentile)
HiAvg (61-80 percentile)
High (>80 percentile)

Lexile Range
The difficulty range of text that can be understood by the student 75% of the time.
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Reading Definitions Grades 2-8

**Literature**: Indicates a student’s ability to identify key ideas and details as well as craft and structure in literature.

**Informational Text**: Indicates a student’s ability to identify key ideas and details as well as craft and structure within informational text.

**Foundational Skills and Vocabulary Acquisition and Use**: Indicates a student’s ability to identify print concepts, phonics and word recognition. It also indicates how a student uses context clues and references when reading as well as word relationships and nuance within the text.

**Lexile Range**: Lexile is a unit for measuring text difficulty that is linked to the RIT score. Books that fall within this range are considered to be appropriately challenging for your child. More information about the lexile measure can be found at [www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com).

Mathematics Definitions Grades 6-8

**Algebra, Functions, Expressions & Equations**: Indicates a student’s ability to understand expressions & properties of operations, solve problems and use equations & inequalities and to use functions to model relationships.

**The Real & Complex Number Systems**: Indicates a student’s ability to understand ratios and proportional relationships, understand how to perform operations and understand how to extend and use properties.

**Geometry**: Indicates a student’s ability to understand geometric measurement and dimension and understand congruence, similarity, transformations & trig.

**Statistics and Probability**: Indicates a student’s understanding of interpreting categorical and quantitative data as well as his or her understanding of using sampling and probability to make decisions.
More about MAP

The Testing Experience
During the first administration of the MAP assessment your child logged into the computer with a unique ID. The computer selects and displays items that are appropriate for his or her grade level. After that, the computer will select items specifically for that student depending on how he or she performs on all of the previous items. If the student misses an item, the computer selects an easier item and continues this way until an appropriate instructional level has reached what he or she knows and can do.

How your child’s teacher uses the MAP results.
MAP tests provide highly accurate results that can be used to:
- Identify the skills and concepts individual students have learned
- Diagnose instructional needs
- Monitor academic growth over time
- Make data-driven decisions at the classroom, school and district levels
- Place new students into appropriate instructional programs

MAP is only one indication of how well your child is doing in mathematics and reading. You should also consider how well your child is doing on classwork, special projects and other assessments.

Which children take the MAP test?
Students in grades one through eight are assessed in reading and math in the fall, winter and spring of each year. While the name of the test denotes 6+, the test questions are computer adaptive and adjust in difficulty based on a student’s response. Students in grades 6-8 take the following two assessments three times per year:

- **MAP: Reading 6+ Common Core 2010 / Common Core English Language Arts K-12: 2010**
- **MAP: Math 6+ Common Core 2010 / Common Core Mathematics K-12: 2010.**

Ways to help your student prepare for testing
- Meet with your child’s teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for grade level assessments and improve your child’s understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
- Give your child a well-rounded diet. Starting your child’s day with a healthy breakfast is critical to a productive day of learning. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child is able to transfer skills they are learning in his or her classes. Ask your child’s school about a suggested outside reading list or get suggestions from the public library.

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