

This brochure describes the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Tests used by the district for competency assessment and answers the most often-asked questions.

What is the MAP Test?

These computerized tests are adaptive and offered in Reading, Language Usage, Mathematics, and Science. When taking a MAP test, 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. 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.

How long does it take to complete a test?

Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each MAP test. MAP for Primary Grades tests take from about 15 to 30 minutes to complete.

When will my child be tested and how often?

Schools will test students at the beginning of the school year in fall and at the end of the school year in spring. Some schools may also choose to test students in winter and summer.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test?

No. MAP assessments are designed to target a student’s academic performance in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science. These tests are tailored to an individual’s current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. If a school uses MAP assessments, the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

What are NWEA assessments used for?

MAP assessments are used to measure your student’s progress or growth in school. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child’s height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. MAP assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your child’s growth in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science skills. The scale used to measure your child’s progress is called the RIT scale (Rasch unit). The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your child’s academic growth from year to year.

The following table identifies the RIT score to percentile rank (50th) conversion.

NWEA MAP RIT Score to Percentile Rank (50th) Conversion (DCSD-REV 8/19/2015)

Reading	Fall	Winter	Spring
Gr K	138	150	158
Gr 1	161	172	178
Gr 2	175	184	189
Gr 3	188	196	199
Gr 4	198	204	206
Gr 5	206	210	212
Gr 6	211	214	216
Gr 7	214	217	218
Gr 8	217	219	220
Gr 9	220	221	222
Math	Fall	Winter	Spring
Gr K	136	150	159
Gr 1	162	174	181
Gr 2	177	186	192
Gr 3	190	198	203
Gr 4	202	209	213
Gr 5	211	217	221
Gr 6	218	222	225
Gr 7	223	226	229
Gr 8	226	229	231
Gr 9	230	232	233
Science	Fall	Winter	Spring
Gr 7	207	209	211
Gr 8	210	212	214
Gr 9	212	214	215
Language	Fall	Winter	Spring
Gr 2	175	185	190
Gr 3	189	197	200
Gr 4	199	204	207
Gr 5	206	210	211
Gr 6	211	214	215
Gr 7	214	217	218
Gr 8	216	218	219
Gr 9	218	220	220

What do MAP Tests tell me about how my child is doing?

Your score report will show how your child's scores compare to those of other students at his/her grade level. Goal performance in each of the tests is described as "High," "HiAvg", "Avg", "LoAvg", or "Low." Goal descriptions can indicate specific skill areas in which a student may need help or enrichment. They also provide information about your child's performance relative to the expectations identified in this brochure.

When your child has taken MAP tests for at least two seasons, his/her score report will show the scores and the amount of change between each one. That amount represents our best estimate of his/her growth over time.

The best information about students comes from combining perspectives. For example, a "Low" student who is showing exceptional growth may be more of a cause for celebration than a "High" one who shows less than average growth.

Do my child's MAP Test results reflect his/her classroom performance?

The richest and most consistent source of information about your child's achievement is the classroom teacher. Any district test score represents a student's performance at one point in time. The teacher observes and tracks performance on daily assignments, projects, and activities throughout the school year. If your child's test results do not reflect his/her consistent classroom work, you should consult with the classroom teacher as to why this may have been the case.



Questions About MAP Tests Reading, Math, Science, and Language



Answers to questions
frequently asked by
parents about
MAP Tests.



Douglas County School District

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