A Parent's Guide to MAP—Measures of Academic Progress

What is MAP?

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a computerized adaptive assessment program in English that provides FAA educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning and make student-focused, data-driven decisions. Students in grades one through five are tested two times per year in math, reading, and language usage. Educators use the growth and achievement data from MAP to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvement.

MAP

• Is not an achievement test
• Generates test questions based on student responses
• Reports student results in RIT scores (see back page)
• Gives immediate results
• Is aligned to Common Core Standards
• Measures growth over time
• Provides information used to target individual instruction

Student MAP Scores

Student MAP testing results are reported in RIT scores (short for Rasch Unit). A RIT score is an estimation of a student’s instructional level and also measures student 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 to show how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. MAP do the same sort of thing, except they measure your student’s growth in mathematics, reading, and language usage. 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. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to pinpoint what students have learned and what students are ready to learn.

WHEN ARE TESTS GIVEN?

September / October (Fall)
January / February (Winter)
(at teachers’ discretion)
May / June (Spring)

HOW ARE TESTS GIVEN?

On a laptop under adult supervision in the school setting
Adjusts to a student’s skill level so that each takes an individualized test

WHAT TESTS ARE GIVEN?

Reading and Math in 1st grade
Reading, Math and Language in 2nd through 8th grade
One topic per day

For more information, contact your English teacher or visit the NWEA website at www.nwea.org
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Understanding the RIT Score

The charts on the inside of this brochure show national mean RIT scores (2020 NWEA Normative Data) for grades 1-9 in a typical school district. You may use these charts to help determine if your student is performing at, above, or below grade level compared to students across the nation. It is important to understand that the MAP test is one test at one point in time. It does not measure intelligence or a student’s capacity for learning.

When making important decisions about students, school staff will consider the MAP test results along with other data such as classroom performance, other test scores, and input from parents and teachers.

Growth Over Time

We expect RIT scores to increase over time. Typically, younger students show more growth in one year than older students. Students who test above grade level often show less growth. Sometimes RIT scores may decline from one test to the next. One low test score is not cause for immediate concern. Like adults, students have good and bad days and their test results do not always indicate what they know. Students’ attitudes toward the test can also affect their score. Therefore, growth over time is a better measure of student learning. Parents and guardians should become comfortable with the understanding that individuals will grow at different rates. Teachers and principals have participated in training to learn what the MAP test results mean and how to best utilize the results. Our goal is for teachers to use the data to differentiate and adjust instruction so that all students grow at levels appropriate for each individual.