



Lawrence Public Schools USD 497

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP): A Tool to Improve Teaching and Learning

Dear USD 497 Parents,



Lawrence Public Schools completed a full year of using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments with all students in grades 3-10. MAP assesses student academic growth in the areas of mathematics and reading.

Our schools are discovering many benefits to the MAP tests: they are easily administered via computer,

they produce immediate results and teachers can readily use the data from each student's test to adjust instructional strategies to best meet student needs.

MAP tests are adaptive – test items adjust based on the accuracy of the student's answers. In this way, the tests more accurately measure what students actually know in the areas of reading and mathematics.

The results of the MAP assessment are calculated on an equal interval scale called a Rasch Interval Unit (RIT). The RIT measures the exact place a student scores, much like one would

measure an object in inches – the inch is always the same, whether it is measured with a ruler, a yardstick or a tape measure. The RIT is always the same, regardless of the student's age, gender or grade level. The RIT also is useful for determining academic growth from fall to spring and from one school year to the next.

As parents, you will see benefits from MAP in terms of user-friendly reports that provide information about your student's academic growth during the school year. These reports also allow parents to see their own student's growth in comparison to a district average of students in the same grade and to a national average of students in the same grade.

We're excited about the data that MAP provides to the district, but we are most pleased with the information it provides to teachers, students and parents. MAP results enable our schools to be more data informed and data driven as we continue to focus on our mission of learning for all.

Please ask your child's teacher or school principal about MAP and your child's academic growth.

***Sincerely,
Randy Weseman, Superintendent***

Questions and Answers About Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

What is MAP?

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are a series of tests developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association.

How are the tests used?

We use MAP tests to measure your child's general knowledge in reading and math. Our schools give these tests twice a year to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth in those subject areas. Much like a growth chart illustrates your child's height from one year to the next, MAP tests measure your student's growth in reading and math skills from fall to spring and from one year to the next.

When will MAP testing take place?

Between September 11-28 in the fall and between April 28–May 9 in the spring.

What grades will be tested?

Students in grades 3-10 will take a math and a reading assessment. Each test takes about an hour to complete.

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

No. The questions are different for each student, because the computer adjusts the difficulty level. As students answer correctly, questions become more difficult. If students answer incorrectly, the questions become less difficult.

Visit the Northwest Evaluation Association's Web site (www.nwea.org) to learn more about MAP or to take a sample practice test or guided tour of the MAP system.