

To: Board of Education

From: Terry McEwen, director curriculum, instruction & assessment, ext. 2613

Re: Agreement with Northwest Evaluation Association

Date: June 8, 2017

Background:

During the 2006-2007 school year, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) was implemented across Lawrence Public Schools (LPS) in grades 3 through senior high. Since its inception, the MAP assessment system has enabled teachers and administrators to measure students' attainment of district outcomes and to make instructional alterations accordingly.

During the spring of 2008, Primary MAP was added for full-day kindergarten classes in the area of mathematics in order to measure the effectiveness of the district's full-day program and to ensure the attainment of foundational primary mathematics skills at the kindergarten level.

In 2008-2009, the Primary MAP was expanded to include first grade students from full-day kindergarten schools; in 2009-2010, second grade students from these schools were included. The inclusion of the 2009-2010 second graders allowed the district to evaluate more accurately the long-term effectiveness of the full-day kindergarten program, as well as provide much-needed data about primary students' performance in the area of mathematics from kindergarten through second grade. In 2010-2011, the district was able to follow an exact cohort of students from the first full-day kindergarten class into their third grade year. The data from MAP was especially useful for looking at the long-term effectiveness of the full-day kindergarten program as related to student outcomes.

For the 2011-2012 school year, full-day kindergarten was added at Broken Arrow and Sunflower Elementary Schools, increasing the number of schools testing with Primary MAP for mathematics to 10 elementary schools. In April of 2012, the Board of Education approved the addition of full-day kindergarten at the remaining four elementary schools, Deerfield, Langston Hughes, Quail Run, and Sunset Hill, which increased the number of students being assessed with Primary MAP to approximately 2,310 in all 14 LPS elementary schools. Starting in 2013-2014, the district began using Primary MAP to evaluate student achievement in both mathematics and reading.

In addition, MAP has provided and will continue to provide valuable information to teachers and parents regarding the academic achievement, potential, and growth of each and every student. The data warehouse, Viewpoint, provides teachers with additional benefits from MAP data. The warehouse generates teacher reports that graphically portray areas of relative strength and relative weakness in specific strands of mathematics and reading for each student in the class. MAP also provides important data for the organization of guided studies at the middle school level in grades six, seven, and eight.

The summary below has been taken from the Northwest Education Association (NWEA) website:

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests are common core-aligned computerized adaptive assessments that provide accurate, useful information and accurately reflect the instructional level of each student and measure growth over time.

NWEA believes in an assessment that:

- Gives a child the chance for success.
- Students find engaging.
- Respects classroom time.
- Provides useful information.
- 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.

Test items dynamically adjust to a student's performance level, and as a result, test scores are more accurate.

The ongoing use of MAP has allowed administrators and teachers to focus on the instructional needs of each individual student. The MAP is given to all students in grades 3 through 8 (and Primary MAP to grades K through 2) to measure academic growth based on student performance in reading and mathematics. MAP gives teachers information early in the academic year so they can adjust instructional strategies. MAP is administered in the winter in order to provide data for appropriate academic placement for transitional years and to measure the effectiveness of intervention programs. MAP reports provide rich information and longitudinal performance data for administrators, teachers, students, and parents; this information helps us provide effective and relevant learning opportunities for each and every student so each can achieve at her/his highest ability level.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends board approval for the renewal of the agreement with NWEA for the purpose of districtwide MAP assessment of students in grades 3 – 8 in school year 2017-2018 as well as kindergarten, first, and second grade students in all elementary schools. The cost associated with this agreement (\$115,775) was built into the current fiscal year budget. The cost for MAP for grades 3 through 8 is based on \$12.50 per pupil; Primary MAP cost is also being factored on the special rate of \$12.50 per pupil (the regular rate is \$13.50 per student) due to the number of students we are assessing (9,262). The purchase will be paid from the Teaching & Learning Assessment budget account 0122400000-54440.

Motion:

"I move the Board of Education authorize administration to enter into an agreement with the Northwest Evaluation Association to implement the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) for the 2017-2018 school year at a cost not to exceed \$115,775.