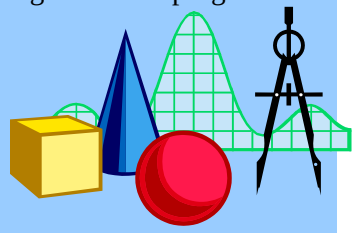
How Important are the Tests to Students and to Teachers?

These tests are important because they keep track of progress or growth in the basic skills. They let teachers know where students' strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. MAP is just one look at how children are doing. Teachers already routinely assign projects and tasks, administer other tests, discuss student work, and report grades. These are all very important ways of looking at student progress.



Can Your Students Prepare for MAP?

The best thing your child can do to prepare for testing is to work hard in school everyday. Regular attendance, good nutrition, and adequate rest are also important components for successful test performance.

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Northwest Evaluation Association

Summit Hill School District 161

WHAT ARE MEASURES OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS (MAP)?

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are a series of tests developed by Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) that measure your child's general knowledge in reading, math, and language. Your 2nd – 6th grade child took the MAP test during the month of September.

What are Measures of Academic Progress Used For?

They measure your child'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 their birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how they have grown from one year to the next.

Measures of Academic Progress also measure your child's growth, except they measure your child's growth in reading, math skills, and language skills.

How Do the Tests Measure Growth in Learning?

The Measures of Academic Progress use scores to measure growth in reading, math, and language. Scores depend on two things: how many questions are answered correctly and the difficulty of each question.

What Do the Tests Cover?

Each Measure of Academic Progress is made up of parts, which are called goals. Take a look at these sample goal areas for each test. Your child will take tests with goals that are similar to these.

Reading

- Word Analysis Vocabulary
- Literary Works
- Literature
- Reading Strategies/ Comprehension

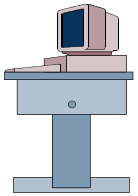
Mathematics

- Number Sense
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability
- Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

Language

- Grammar and Spelling
- Punctuation / Capitalization / Structure
- Compose Writing
- Writing: Variety of Purposes

When you, your child, and your child's teacher look at MAP results, it may become apparent that certain goal areas need more attention than others.



Do All Students Take the Same Test?

Yes and no.

All students take a computerized reading, math, and language. Although every test has questions covering the same goal areas, not every test has the same questions, and the test questions vary in difficulty.

In a computerized adaptive test, the difficulty of the test is adjusted to the student's performance so each student sees different test questions. The difficulty of each question is based on how well the student has answered the questions up to that point. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. This enables the school to monitor the growth of students of all abilities.

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