

How Important are the Tests to Students and Teachers?

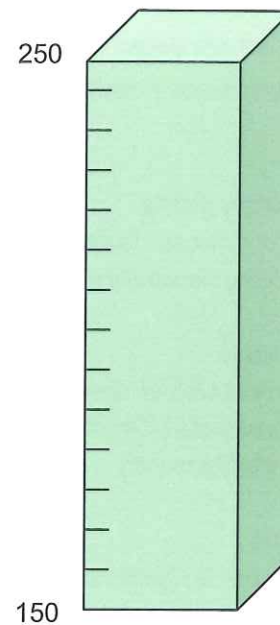
These tests are important because they keep track of progress or growth in the basic skills. They let teachers know where students' strengths are and if help is needed in any specific area. MAP is just one look at how students are doing. Teachers already routinely assign projects and tasks, administer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



Can Your Child 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 of successful test performance.

Measuring Academic Growth with MAP



Where is your child on this growth chart?

Measures of Academic Progress
are developed by
NORTHWEST EVALUATION
ASSOCIATION

"Partnering to help all kids learn"

Website: www.nwea.org

CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

What are Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)?

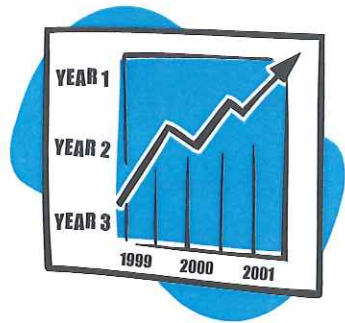


Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are a series of tests that measure your child's general knowledge in reading, language usage, math and science. Students take MAP as early as kindergarten and continue taking MAP each year through grade 10. Students take MAP in the fall, winter, and spring.

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 your child's birthday. This is a growth chart, which shows how your child has grown from one year to the next.

Measures of Academic Progress do the same sort of thing, except they measure your child's growth in reading, language usage, math, and science skills.



How Do the Tests Measure Growth in Learning?

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

What Do the Tests Cover?

Each MAP test is made up of parts which are called goals. Your child will take tests with goals that are based on South Carolina's curriculum standards.

Reading

- Literary Texts
- Informational Texts
- Building Vocabulary

Language Usage

- Correct Use of Conventions
- Focus/Detail/Organization
- Forms/Research

Mathematics

- Number & Operations
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Data Analysis & Probability

Science

- General Science
- Concepts and Processes

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 computerized reading, language usage, math and science tests. 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.

