

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Ways to help prepare for testing

- ☑ Communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis. Parents and teachers working together benefit students.
- ☑ Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- ☑ Create a routine homework/study schedule.
- ☑ Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class.
- ☑ Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- ☑ Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Outside reading lists are available at the public library.

For additional information on MAP testing contact your building principal.

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Waukegan Public Schools

NWEA

Northwest Evaluation Association

MAP Tests

Measures of Academic Progress

A Parent's Guide

It is the goal of Waukegan Public Schools to provide every student with quality instruction designed to meet their individual needs. The use of assessments plays an essential role towards meeting that goal. Every year in the state of Illinois, all students in third through eighth grades, must take the ISAT test in reading and math, and in writing and science in designated grade levels. Additionally, all eleventh graders must take the PSAE (Prairie State Achievement Exam). The state tests are based on the Illinois Learning Standards, and give us valuable information regarding the status of our students in relation to students across the state. This is only one measure however. A number of data points are used to track your child's progress. This brochure describes our new district wide assessment, "Measures of Academic Progress" or MAP.

What is a MAP test?

MAP is a computerized test in Reading, Language Usage and Math. The tests are not timed, but usually take about one hour to complete each test. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of the question is adjusted based on the student's previous answer. For example, if the student answers the question correctly, the next question is harder. If answered incorrectly, the next question is easier. The test adapts to the student's level. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level. This score is called a RIT score.

How often are students tested?

All students will be tested in fall and spring, with select testing in winter and summer.

What is a RIT score?

The RIT score is a measure of individual achievement. As students take MAP Tests over a period of time, the RIT scores will also be a measure of academic growth.

Just as a doctor has charts for height and weight for children, the chart below shows "typical" scores for students in grades 3-8 who are tested in the fall and in the spring. For example, an average 6th grader would get a RIT score of 211 in reading in the fall of the year.

Chart of Typical Scores - National Norms

GRADE	READING		MATH		LANG.	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
3 rd	188	198	188	200	191	199
4 th	199	205	199	208	201	207
5 th	206	212	207	215	207	213
6 th	211	217	213	220	212	216
7 th	215	221	219	227	216	220
8 th	220	225	226	235	219	223

What is the percentile score?

The percentile rank tells you how your child is doing compared to other students in the same grade nationally who have taken MAP tests. For example, if your child has a percentile score of 75 on the 5th grade math, that means he/she scored better than 75% of all students nationally who have taken the MAP test.

What is a Lexile?

A Lexile is a unit for measuring text difficulty and reading comprehension. It is a value assigned to a book, with 10L (Lexile) being at the low end of the scale and 1700L at the high end. Books for beginning readers are listed as BR on the scale. The Lexile range is included on the Individual Student Progress Reports. It allows teachers and parents to find books that are appropriately challenging for each student.

The Lexile website can be accessed free of charge at www.lexile.com. You can search by title, author, theme, interest, and Lexile range. It currently includes thousands of titles both in Spanish and English.

How do teachers use the test scores?

Teachers keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. The tests also let teachers know where there are specific areas of need. This information is used to guide classroom instruction.