

Maryland School Assessment

Given to Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
March 1 – March 10, 2005

The assessment consists of reading and mathematics portions. The assessment is broken into two 90-minute blocks, each given on two days within the testing dates. Both the reading and mathematics portions of the assessment contain items that have been given to students nationwide, known as **norm-referenced** items, and items that are specific to the Maryland standards, known as **criterion-referenced** items. Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for schools, counties, and the state is determined by scores from the criterion-referenced part of the assessment only.

Mathematics section:

- Norm-referenced items come from the TerraNova Second Edition. These are selected response items (multiple choice).
- Criterion-referenced items are developed by the state and consist of both selected response and constructed response items. Constructed response item responses consist of two parts: an answer to the problem, and an explanation of how mathematics reasoning was used to solve the problem. Students may use diagrams as well as words in the explanation. Each part of a constructed response item is scored separately.

Reading section: contains both literature and non-fiction reading passages on the student's grade level. Each passage is followed by a combination of selected response (multiple choice) and brief written constructed response items.

- Norm-referenced items are taken from or adapted from the Stanford 10 assessment. These are selected response items.
- Criterion-reference items are developed by the state and consist of both selected response and constructed response items.
- There are no items that measure writing, spelling, or language use (grammar, punctuation, etc.)

Parent reports for each student will show how well the student did in comparison to national norms as well as how well knowledge and skills expected by the state of Maryland were demonstrated. School scores will be provided to the local systems by summer 2005 for Grades 3, 5, and 8. School scores for Grades 4, 6, and 7 will be provided by the state to the local systems by early fall. Individual scores will be provided by the state to local systems some time in fall of 2005.

Detailed information about the Maryland School Assessments, including test item examples, can be found on the web at:

<http://www.mdk12.org/mspp/index.html>