

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Guide to *Talking to Students about MAP Testing*

- **Teachers should spend some time with their students before the assigned testing day to prepare them for the experience. A PowerPoint presentation (which can be made into overheads, if you'd like) is available to help you walk students through the key points.**

What is MAP?

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) are achievement tests in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science that are taken on a computer.

How does MAP work?

The MAP system displays one test question at a time on the screen. You will select an answer using the mouse or the keyboard. The difficulty of the test will adjust to how you perform on the questions that you answer. As you answer correctly, the questions will become harder. As you answer incorrectly, the questions will become easier. It will build a test just for you.

Why are you taking MAP tests?

This test will show me how well you are performing so I can best help you in class. It will also help me know what you should be working on to improve the most.

To take the test:

- You are not expected to know the answer to every question. You will need to use your best test-taking strategies. (You may want to review these with the students here.)
- You must answer every question. You cannot skip any.
- Once you have answered a question and gone on the next one, you cannot go back. Because the test uses your past answers to choose the next question, your answer is locked in.

When you enter the lab:

- Make sure your name is listed on the top of the computer screen where you are sitting. If it is not, let an adult know right away.
- You will see a blue screen that says "Start Test". Wait for directions from the proctor before you push this button. She or he will let you know when it is okay to begin the test.

As you are working on the test:

- For the math test, you will have scratch paper and pencils available. You can use this to help you work out problems and then answer the question on the computer.
- Some math questions will have a pop-up calculator appear on the screen. It will only be available for some items. You do not have to use the calculator if you do not choose to. It is available as a resource. You can hide the calculator by clicking the button at the bottom of the screen called "Hide Calculator". You can also move it if it is in your way. This calculator works just like a hand-held calculator. Just click on the numbers and symbols you want to use.
- Some reading and language usage questions may have passages that are too long to show up all at once on the screen. They will have a scroll bar to the right of the passage. This scroll bar can be moved up or down in order to view and read the entire passage.

When you finish the test:

- You will need to raise your hand to let an adult know you are done.
- Do not push any buttons; wait for the teacher or proctor to do this.
- Scoot back from your computer and read your book.

Other reminders:

- I can give you a drink and bathroom break before the test begins.
- You need to bring a book with you to read when the test is completed.
- This is just like any other test; you cannot talk to anyone or use any books to look things up.
- You need to do your personal best on this test. This information is very important in helping us to set goals for you and to monitor your progress.