Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)

Understanding the Missouri Assessment Program

The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) is the comprehensive system that tests students to ensure they are achieving the standards of learning set forth in the Show-Me Standards. These Standards have been developed by the state of Missouri Department of Education so that students are gaining knowledge on par with students nationally and locally. The Assessments provide information on: proficiency levels of students in the subjects they are taking, whether instructional support is required in areas, the teacher’s effectiveness at teaching students to the standards of learning and the school’s progress in raising achievement levels for their students.

Missouri has laid out academic standards around four goals: ability to gather and use information and ideas, ability to communicate effectively, ability to recognize and solve problems and the ability to make decisions and act responsibly within society. These goals are supported through the curriculum developed and through classroom instruction; the assessments offer insight into whether students are meeting these academic goals.

Starting in grade 3, students begin to take portions of the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP). For students in grades 3-8, the grade level assessment in Communication Arts and Mathematics are given to all students. For students requiring an Alternate Assessment, there is one in place, called the MAP-A. For students who require testing accommodations, those are offered as per a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP). The Science Assessment is given to students in grades 5 and 8.

For students at the high school level, the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) requires that students take End-of-Course assessments in Algebra I, Biology, English II and Government. There are also End-of-Course examinations in English I, American History, Geometry and Algebra II. All of these exams are given online (unless a paper and pencil, braille or large print version is required by the student).

The testing period for these assessments is in April; local school districts will provide necessary time and date information.

Format of the Missouri Assessment Program

For students taking the Communications Arts and Mathematics Grade-Level Assessments in grades 3-8, a portion of the assessment uses sections of the TerraNova® survey. This is a norm-referenced test (questions are referenced to national standards) and is used to compare how students are performing to students across the country. The other portions of the Grade Level Assessments are developed in line with the teachings of the Show-Me Standards and measure a student’s proficiency at acquiring grade-level skills and knowledge.

The tests for students in grades 3-8 are given in multiple-choice format and constructed response format. With the constructed response students will be expected to provide a written answer to a question. The End-of-Course Assessments are all multiple-choice for each of the subject areas tested.

The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) also has a Writing Assessment; for the school years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 this assessment has been suspended due to budgetary reasons.
Taking the Missouri Assessment Program

The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) is developed to assess student’s ability and achievement at mastering the curriculum designed and laid out in the Show-Me Standards. In Communication Arts, students are expected to gain proficiency in: use of Standard English, reading comprehension, evaluation and interpretation, formal writing, and a broad understanding of language and culture.

In Mathematics, students are expected to learn about the following: numerical sense, geometry and spatial relations, data analysis (probability and statistics), algebra and patterns, and discrete mathematics (graphs, matrices). In the area of Science, student are expected to gain skills and knowledge of: matter and energy, force and motion, living organisms, ecosystems, earth and space science, scientific inquiry, and science, technology and the environment.

The assessments are not designed to cover all these materials at once; however a measurement of the knowledge of these topics at the appropriate grade-level is what is sought for through the assessment. Students are given performance indicators of Advanced, Proficient, Basic or Below Basic. For students in the categories of Basic and Below Basic, information from these assessments can help show what sort of remedial instruction might be required.

With the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests of students in grades 3-8, there are 3 different scales of scores. For Communication Arts the scale is 455 to 875, for Science the scale is 470 to 895 and for Mathematics it is 450 to 885. Students are then also given a proficiency level based on their score on the scale. The Proficiency levels are Advanced, Proficient, Basic or Below Basic.

For these same students, there is a subset of the assessment called the TerraNova® Survey; these questions are developed based on national standards. Students are given a TerraNova® National Percentile score also. If a student scores a 30, in effect that student scored as well or better than 30% of students nationally on these questions.

For the End-of-Course Exams, the performance levels are based on the scaled score students received. Scores are in the range of 100 – 250, with a score of 200-224 being the level of Proficient. The scaled scores compare a student’s test results against the standards of academic performance of Advanced, Proficient, Basic or Below Basic.

Get Your Child Ready for the MAP

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