

It is the goal of the Mequon Thiensville School District 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 Wisconsin all students in grades three through eight and ten must take the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Test (WKCE) in reading, math, writing, science and social studies. The state tests are based on the Wisconsin State Standards and give valuable information regarding the status of our students in relation to students across the state. The WKCE is only one measure. A number of data points are needed to track your child's progress. This brochure describes our district-wide assessment, called Measure of Academic Progress (or, MAP).

What is a MAP test?

MAP is a computerized test in Reading, Language Use and Math. The tests are not timed, but usually take about an hour to complete. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is adjusted based on the student's previous answer. For example, if the student answers the question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If answered incorrectly,

the next question is adjusted to the child's level. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level, called a RIT score.

How often are students tested?

All students in grades three through five will be tested in fall, winter and spring. This helps teachers monitor students' growth throughout the year.

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.

What is a percentile score?

The percentile rank tells us how each child is doing in comparison to other children in the same grade nationally who have taken the MAP tests. For example, if a student had a percentile score of 75 on the fifth grade MAP reading test, this would mean that she scored better than 75% of all fifth grade students nationally.

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 a 10L (L=Lexile) being at the end of a scale and 1700L being 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 at www.lexile.com. You can search by title, author, theme, interest and Lexile range. It currently includes thousands of titles in both 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.

Tips for Parents

Ways to help prepare for testing

Communicate with your child's teacher on a regular basis.

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 increase their vocabulary, which in turn help them understand words that may appear on a test.

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Mequon-Thiensville
MAP Testing
Parent Overview