

# Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) 2007-2008

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. How many years has Woodland District administered the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests? When will my child take MAP this year?**

This is Woodland's fourth year of MAP testing. Testing takes place in grades 2- 8 during September and in April.

### **2. What if my child's scores went down from the last test to this test?**

(a) MAP reports that in any testing season, about 10% of scores do not show growth. Most of these scores occur in children well above average and well below average. Nonetheless, they can occur in any child. **This does not mean that your child did not learn this year. Many other indicators exist to measure learning: classroom or standardized tests, grades, portfolios, etc.**

(b) Declines may occur over the summer. So, it is better to look at growth from the fall of one year to the fall of the next year, or spring of one year to spring of the next year.

(c) If scores continue to decline for two or more tests, other factors need to be taken into consideration.

- Does your child understand his or her goal?
- What does your child think about his or her scores?
- Can your child describe what goes on during testing?
- Does your child have good attendance?
- Is your child completing class-work and homework?
- Is your child attentive during testing?
- Is your child motivated?
- Is your child ready to learn each day?

Please see your child's teacher with your concerns.

### **3. Should my child's scores go up the same amount each time he or she tests?**

No. Growth targets vary by grade and by score. For example, students at Elementary School (grades 2 and 3) have larger growth targets than children in Intermediate School (grades 4-5). At the same time, children in Intermediate School have larger growth targets than children at the Middle School (grades 6-8). These growth target patterns are the same across all the schools that use MAP.

In addition, high growth years can be followed by less growth and low growth years can be followed by high growth years.

### **4. What can I do to help my child reach his or her growth target?**

There are a number of things parents can do to help their child reach his or her growth target:

- Understand your child's growth target (goal).
- Encourage your child to complete all assignments both at home and during school. Check your child's assignment notebook.
- Have a family routine that encourages a time and a place for homework.
- Ask your child to explain what he or she is doing when completing homework.
- Do not do your child's homework for him or her. Children need to practice on their own to achieve mastery of a skill.
- Visit the websites for math and language skill development. Your child's teacher may have some suggestions.
- Encourage your child to read at home. Use your child's lexile score to select books that are within the lexile range. ([www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com)).
- Keep the lines of communication open between your home and your child's teacher.

**5. How do teachers use MAP scores, called RIT scores, in the classroom?**

Teachers can use RIT scores in many ways:

- Set individual student growth targets (goal).
- Identify guided reading groups.
- Identify the need for classroom materials at all necessary reading levels (high, average and low).
- Form small, flexible groups to work on specific skills, sometimes with other classes and teachers.
- Answer questions about classroom performance.
- Make decisions at Intervention Team meetings.
- Identify support programs for your child.

**6. What scores are needed to be in Challenge and Gifted classes?**

MAP scores are one of several measures used to find children who might require a different math and/or language arts curriculum for portions of the day. In general, however, students in the 95<sup>th</sup> to 99<sup>th</sup> percentile on **multiple** measures are considered to need this placement.

**7. How does my child's score compare with other children's scores in his or her class?**

Teachers must protect the privacy of all children. However, they are at liberty to tell parents whether or not their child is average, above average or below average relative to his or her class. Teachers can also show parents what the average score is for their child's grade level.

**8. How are MAP scores used for high school placement?**

Please contact the high schools directly. They will be able to explain their placement process to you.