

What is MAP®?

MAP® is short for **Measures of Academic Progress®**, a computer-based assessment put together by the not-for-profit organization Northwest Evaluation Association™ (NWEA™). MAP® is aligned to the more rigorous Common Core State Standards (CCSS) adopted by the State of Illinois.

The MAP® test is an **adaptive assessment**, meaning it is individualized to each student. If a student answers questions correctly, the test becomes more difficult. If a student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. The test adjusts to the current achievement level of the individual, allowing a fair opportunity to show what a student can or cannot do.

How often does my child take MAP®?

In Cook County School District 130, our students take a MAP® assessment for mathematics, as well as one for reading, **three times during a school year** – beginning, middle, and end of the school year.

There is **no time limit** to MAP® assessments, but the average student finishes a single MAP® test session in forty minutes or less. In addition, the mathematics and reading assessments are given on separate days.

Principals and teachers determine the exact dates individual students take these assessments, and they can share that information with you at the beginning of each testing window.

What are MAP® scores used for?

MAP® scores are used to measure the **academic growth** of our students.

The scale used to measure the growth of individual student's is called the RIT scale, which is an equal-interval scale like feet and inches on a yardstick. RIT scores are used to chart your child's academic growth from test session to test session. In Cook County School District 130, we think of RIT as "**Ready for Instruction Today.**"

RIT scores are used to **identify individual subject area strengths** of our students as well as particular **areas that need additional support**. The reason is because every RIT score relates to the rigorous CCSS curriculum scale of each subject area, matching specific skills and concepts that a student is academically progressing towards. This **helps guide the instruction** our children receive at Cook County School District 130 because RIT tells us what our students know and are able to do, what they are ready to learn today (RIT), and their next steps once they master their current level.

Many other assessments focus on students reaching specific scores to be considered proficient, which does not emphasize the growth or abilities of individuals. Our MAP® data, on the other hand, allows us to **focus on growth** and helping all individual students reach their fullest potential.

Who can I discuss my child's MAP® results with?

We encourage parents to discuss the MAP® results of their individual child with:

- 1) Your classroom teacher(s):
Our teachers work directly with each individual student as well as with the available MAP® data. They can provide the direct connection between classroom lessons and activities with the latest MAP® results for your child.
- 2) Your school principal or assistant principal:
Our instructional leaders in each of our buildings are versed in using MAP® data to drive the instruction of students. They have additional resources available to share if you set up an appointment to discuss your child and MAP®.
- 3) Your CCSD130 Director for Assessment & Data:
If you wish to discuss MAP® results further than what can be answered at your child's school, you can make an appointment to talk with Mr. Graig Mason by phone at (708) 489-7438 or by email at gmason@district130.org.