



A Parent's Guide To Measures of Academic Progress



It takes more than a yardstick to track your child's growth. You probably use many different kinds of measures—a bathroom scale, birthday pictures, and increasing clothing sizes. Poudre School District also uses different measures to chart your child's educational progress.

This guide describes MAP, or Measures of Academic Progress. MAP is a computerized adaptive assessment. That means it assesses each student on an individual basis with each new question based on the student's previous response. Students in grades 3-7 take reading and mathematics tests in the fall; students in grade 2 take the reading test in the winter and spring; students in grade 2 take the mathematics test in the winter; and the language usage test in the winter. However, no single test can give a full accounting of your child's knowledge and skills. Each test that we use provides one part of the whole picture.

You will receive a Parent Report of your child's performance on MAP from your school twice a year. The report tells you a number of things.

The RIT Score

First, the report gives you a RIT score for your child in each subject area and is a measure of individual achievement. As students take MAP over a period of time, the RIT scores will also be a measure of academic growth.

Just as a doctor has a chart showing the most common height of people at certain ages, the chart below shows "typical" scores for students in grades 3-8 who are tested in the fall and in the spring. For example, an average 5th grader would get a RIT score of 207 in reading in the fall of the year.

The chart also shows typical growth. If a 5th grader's score in the fall is 207 in reading, that same student would typically score about 212 in the fall of 6th grade.

Chart of Typical Scores - National Norms

Grade	Reading		Math		Language	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
3	191	199	191	201	194	201
4	200	206	201	209	203	207
5	207	212	209	217	209	213
6	212	217	216	222	214	217
7	216	221	222	228	217	220
8	220	225	226	235	220	223

The Percentile Score

The second score that you are given in the Parent Report is the percentile rank. This tells you how your child is doing compared to other students in the same grade. For example, if your 7th grader has a percentile score of 81 in mathematics, your child scores better than 81% of 7th graders, nationally, who have taken MAP.

Goal Areas

If you had a bicycle that was not working well, it might be because of just one or two parts. Each MAP is made up of parts, called "goal areas." These are the goal areas for each MAP. You can look at your child's report and see if your child has stronger or weaker areas.

Reading	Mathematics	Algebra	Language
Word Analysis/Vocabulary Development	Knowledge and Use of Numbers	There are no separate goal areas for this test.	Composition Writing Skills/ Strategies
Reading Comprehension	Measure and Compare Quantities		Purposes of Writing
Literary Analysis	Algebra and Analytical Methods		Grammatical and Mechanical Conventions
	Geometry Concepts		
	Statistical Analysis and Probability		

The Lexile Score

You will also see a score called a Lexile score that will tell you some additional information about your child's reading. The Lexile score is a measure of a student's achievement in reading as it relates to the varying difficulty level of books. If a student has a Lexile score of 1000, for example, then the student should be able to read books that are at about the 1000 level with about 75% comprehension. Books that are more than 50 Lexile points above the student's Lexile score will be challenging for the student, while books more than 100 Lexile points below will be easier, independent material for the student. The Lexile Framework Web site has more information about the Lexile score. Your school's LMC and the library teacher can offer suggestions on selecting appropriate books.

This link takes you off the Poudre School District site. When you click on this link, a new page will open. To return to this page, close the new page by clicking in the small box in the top left corner.

Lexile Framework

Growth Picture

Over the years you will see a table or chart of your child's test scores that hopefully shows progress or growth.

Each table shows your child's progress in one subject area. Each student's subsequent score from the same time of year (fall-to-fall or spring-to-spring) should be higher on the graph than the previous one. In general, most students show little growth or even slip a little between the previous spring and fall testing and very high performing students tend to show somewhat less growth in scores than lower performing students.

You can also compare your child's score to that of the district average and to an established standard for the grade. However, the real value of the growth table is in tracking the progress of each student whether he or she is achieving at a higher or lower level than other students.