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MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) - Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

What is MAP?

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is an efficient, online assessment that provides valuable information related to students' performance in English language arts and mathematics (science is also available in some grades). MAP is administered three times per year and is unique in several ways:

- **Tailored to individual students.** MAP is an adaptive assessment that provides information for all students regardless if they are currently below, at, or above grade level. The difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier.
- **Next day results.** Teachers and students receive individual results immediately after the MAP test is taken and teachers can receive class results the next day. These real-time results can be put to use right away to enhance quality planning and instruction.
- **Time Savings.** MAP tests typically take less than an hour, about half the time it took for the assessment used previously. It also saves teacher time because it is scored automatically.

What information does MAP provide?

Students have unique learning needs, and teachers can best support their students by using timely and accurate information. MAP provides teachers with real-time, actionable data for each student that is aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards. In addition to current performance, MAP also provides several measures of growth that offer both absolute (how the student's score changed) and relative (how the change compares to similar students) indicators of how a student is progressing.

How can MAP information be used?

MAP results provide important information about the progress students are making toward important educational standards. This information is useful to everyone involved in supporting students:

- **Teachers use the information** to identify areas of strength and areas of need for individual students and for their entire class. MAP provides precise and detailed information that teachers can use to guide their instruction and plan for all their students regardless if they are currently performing below, at, or above grade level.
- **Students use the information** to better understand how well they are achieving their learning targets and where they need to improve. MAP provides various tools that teachers and students can use to set meaningful goals that can be assessed throughout the year.

- **Parents use the information** to monitor their student's progress and support the attainment of their goals. Parents can see the connection between the reports provided and activities done at home such as reading with their student and monitoring homework. Parents can also discuss the reports with their student's teacher for questions or for additional ways in which they can work with their students at home.
- **School and district leaders use the information** in a body of evidence to determine the strengths and areas of need for a school or instructional program. No single assessment should ever be used for these purposes, and MAP serves as another measure or way of viewing school and district performance.

Who provides the MAP assessments?

MAP assessments are administered by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), a global not-for-profit educational services organization. NWEA works with over 7,400 partners in U.S. schools, districts, and education agencies to offer student assessments that accurately measure academic growth. Being a not-for-profit organization, NWEA is able to dedicate their resources to ensuring that MAP is both accurate and useful. MAP has been a well-respected, stable measure of student achievement for over 30 years, and they have a long track record of providing timely service to schools and school districts.

How secure is the MAP system?

Jeffco Public Schools has worked hard to ensure that MAP meets the strictest privacy and security standards. MAP has passed Jeffco's in-depth vendor approval process, which measures the security and privacy of software. The approval process also reviews various technical features such as encryption, logging, system roles, and incident response.

How was MAP selected?

Educators, parents, and students alike want schools to measure student achievement and growth without spending too much time on assessments. With this in mind, a team of Jeffco teachers and administrators was charged with researching and selecting an improved interim assessment. The team unanimously voted to replace the district's previous assessments with MAP.

How do I find out more information about MAP?

For additional information about MAP assessments from NWEA, please visit their website at <https://www.nwea.org/assessments/map>. You may also contact the Jeffco Public Schools Assessment Office by phone at (303) 982-6565 for information about MAP in Jeffco Schools.