**MAP Testing: Key Facts and Details**

*What is the MAP test?* Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a test that measures how well a student can apply their skills on questions aligned to the Common Core State Standards in Reading and Math. Some students also take a Language Usage test.

*Who is taking the MAP tests?* Across San Juan students in grades 3-9 who are working toward a diploma are tested. At some schools additional grades were also tested based on the needs of the school.

*How is this test different from other tests?* The MAP tests are taken on a computer and it “adapts” to a student’s skill level by selecting easier or harder questions depending on whether they get a question right or wrong. This is especially helpful for students who are above or below grade level.

*How often do students take MAP tests?* MAP is given three times a year: Aug/Sept, Nov/Dec, and Mar/Apr. Each time the student tests, the system ‘remembers’ where they were and starts the test at that point. These tests replace the benchmark assessments which were used in the past.

*What kinds of questions are on the MAP tests?* MAP includes multiple choice questions along with items where students reorder lists, select words or phrases, draw lines, complete graphs and charts, etc.

*Why are students taking the MAP test?* Starting in 2014-15 state testing in English-language arts and math will be taken on a computer and will include different kinds of test questions. MAP testing not only provides teachers, students, and parents with good information about a student’s performance and growth but also gives them experience taking this different kind of test.

*What do the RIT scores mean?* The score from a MAP test is a scale score called the RIT. The RIT score describes a point on the scale where the student is getting ½ of the questions correct and ½ incorrect. That defines the student’s instructional level.

*How can teachers use the MAP results?*

  **Planning Instruction:** By looking at how their whole class performed in certain skills in reading or math, teachers can identify what needs to be emphasized with the class as well as what students already know and can do. This helps teachers direct their instruction to the needs of their students.

  **Personalizing:** By reviewing the instructional level of each student in his/her class a teacher can better identify what that student needs to learn next. This can support intervention or enrichment efforts.

  **Goal Setting:** Because students take the MAP tests 3 times a year teachers and students can set goals for the amount of growth expected and what each will do to make achieve that goal by the next test. Involving students in goal setting is motivational and helps students see progress over time.
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MAP Terminology

**Computer-adaptive:** Testing model where the computer selects the next item (or item group) based upon the correctness of a student’s response to a prior item.

**RIT Score:** Score on a scale ranging from 150 to 280 which describes what a student knows/can do correctly 50% of the time. We call this the student’s instructional level. The score means the same thing regardless of a student’s grade level but the instructional response differs.

**National Norm:** National average RIT scores based upon the company’s data on over 5 million tested students. The comparison between CA proficiency and national norms varies by grade and subject.

**Error band:** The estimate of error around a student’s score. Error bands of 3-4 are normal given the number of items on the test. For example a score of 180 with an error of 3 means that a student’s score lies between 177 and 183.

**Growth Projection:** The number of RIT scale points a student is expected to achieve between tests. The system sets this based upon “typical grade level growth” resulting from regular classroom instruction. Teachers and students can adjust the goal based upon a student’s starting point.

**Projected Proficiency:** The predicted performance level a student will attain on another test (CA Standards Tests) based upon their grade level, time of year and current score along with a student making “typical grade level growth” for the remainder of the year.

**College Readiness:** The RIT score a student needs to achieve to be projected to earn the ‘college ready’ designation on the ACT (college entrance test). This level is based upon a study linking ACT scores and MAP RIT scores.

**DesCartes Continuum of Learning:** A resource document for teachers, parents, and students which lists the skills and knowledge a student is ready to learn within a Common Core goal area given a specific RIT band. This information would be used for instructional planning, differentiation, and goal setting.