

Dakota Valley Elementary School

The mission of Dakota Valley Schools is to ensure all students receive an enriched educational experience in a safe environment.

A Parent's Guide to **MAP**

Measures of Academic Progress

Students at DVES take the MAP Assessment three times per year (fall, winter, and spring). MAP stands for "Measures of Academic Progress" and the results provide valuable assessment data for the school. Teachers are able to find the instructional level of all students so they can make the best decisions about each student's education, and, they are able to monitor each student's academic growth over the school year.



What are the main features of MAP testing?

- MAP testing is *computer adaptive* which means that questions will adapt to the student's achievement level—in other words, as a student answers questions correctly, the questions will get more difficult, and as a student answers questions incorrectly, the questions will become easier
- The computer continues to adapt the questions until it finds the student's RIT score within an acceptable standard error of measure (see more information about this in the RIT Score explanation below)
- MAP assessments are not timed—students may take as much time as they need, but, on average, students spend about 20-35 minutes on each test (reading and math in the elementary)
- MAP measures and reports student growth over time—we are able to look at both achievement AND growth
- A MAP test includes a variety of question types (i.e., multiple choice, fill in the blank, drag and drop, etc.)

What are the RIT Scores and the RIT Scale (RIT is pronounced /rit/)?

- RIT stands for *Rasch Unit* for the mathematician who developed the theory for the RIT Scale
- The RIT Scale is an achievement scale that starts at 110 and goes to 300
- The RIT Scale is an equal interval scale that allows educators to monitor growth accurately, much like a ruler measures physical growth—2 inches is the same no matter what is being measured
- A RIT score is a student's instructional level on the RIT Scale where they can answer questions with approximately 50% accuracy
- The RIT Scale is NOT grade level dependent—any student at any grade can attain any RIT score
- A RIT score also does NOT indicate whether a student is on grade-level or not





How does DVES use the results from the MAP assessment?

- Using MAP assessment results, our teachers are able to:
 - Identify skills and concepts that students have already learned
 - Monitor students' academic growth over time
 - Diagnose students' instructional needs
 - Place students into appropriate learning groups and environments
 - Make predictions of how students in grade 3-11 will perform on the Smarter Balanced Assessment given by the state of South Dakota each spring
- Using MAP assessment results, the administrator is able to:
 - Identify overall growth trends within the school and the district
 - Diagnose curriculum needs within the school and the district

How can parents/guardians help their child with his/her performance on the MAP assessment and school?

- When you receive the report for your child, look over the results in order to help gain a picture of how your child is making progress (please remember, though, this is only one piece of information—you will also need to look at class work, special projects, and other assessments)
- Look for ways at home to help support your child's academic progress—for example, read together often, provide high-interest books or magazines for your child, and use real-life moments to practice math or vocabulary
- Hold high expectations for your child's academic growth, *and* achievement—the benefit of the MAP assessment is that it provides you information on your child's academic *achievement* and it shows how much your child is *growing* academically through each school year and over multiple years

Please note, children don't grow in a consistent upward slope. There will be times when your child's growth may show a drop or a sharp spike. This is typical, and expected! You will want to look at the overall trend of growth.

- Make sure your child is getting adequate rest each evening, not just on testing days



You can find more information regarding the MAP assessment at:

<https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>

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