

Tips for Parents

Ways to help your student prepare for testing:

- Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
- Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside list or get suggestions from the public library.

Ways to help your child with reading:

- Provide many opportunities for your child to read books or other materials. Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read.
- Read aloud to your child. Research shows that this is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Keep reading aloud even when your child can read independently.
- Make time for the library.
- Play games like Scrabble, Spill and Spell, Scattergories, and Balderdash together.
- Follow your child's interest - find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into their interest.
- Work crossword puzzles with your child.
- Give a magazine subscription for a gift.

Did you know?
Children of all ages watch as much TV in one day as they read for fun in an entire week. Overall, children under age 13 spend 90 minutes a day in front of the TV-one quarter of their free time.

-U.S. Department of Education

Ways to help your child with math:

- Spend time with kids on simple board games, puzzles, and activities that encourage better attitudes and stronger math skills. Even everyday activities such as playing with toys in a sandbox or in a tub at bath time can teach children math concepts such as weight, density, and volume. Check your television listings for shows that can reinforce math skills in a practical and fun way.
- Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves.
- Problem solving is a lifetime skill.
- The kitchen is filled with tasty opportunities to teach fractional measurements, such as doubling and dividing cookie recipes.
- Point out ways that people use math every day to pay bills, balance their checkbooks, figure out their net earnings, make change, and tip at restaurants. Involve older children in projects that incorporate geometric and algebraic concepts such as planting a garden, building a bookshelf, or figuring out how long it will take to drive to your family vacation destination.
- Children should learn to read and interpret charts and graphs such as those found in daily newspapers. Collecting and analyzing data will help your child draw conclusions and become discriminating readers of numerical information.

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Mount Prospect School District 57

A Parent Guide

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress)

Northwest Evaluation Association



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S MAP SCORES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a MAP assessment?

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) is a computerized adaptive test that measures your child's knowledge of reading and mathematics. A test is uniquely built for each child based on the child's responses to the questions presented.

How long does the assessment take?

Each assessment takes approximately 45 to 60 minutes.

How are the assessment results used?

MAP assessments are used to help teachers provide appropriate instruction and measure student progress and growth in the areas of reading and mathematics. These assessments will help teachers understand your child's areas of strength and weakness.

When will I get the results of my child's assessment?

Parents will be provided with student progress reports during the fall and spring, following the completion of testing. Results for Lincoln students will be mailed home.

What is a RIT score?

This is the student's overall score on the test. This is one of the most important pieces of information on the entire report. This score is unrelated to the age or grade of the student, but reflects the level at which the student is currently performing. RIT stands for **Rasch UnIT**, which is used to measure a child's achievement growth similar to how inches are used to measure a child's heights.

Where can I go to learn more about the MAP assessments?

If you have any questions regarding the MAP assessment, please contact your child's principal or the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at (847) 394-7300. Additional information can be found on the Northwest Evaluation Association website: www.nwea.org.

Students in grades 2-8 will be assessed in Reading and Mathematics in the fall and spring of each year. These assessments help teachers:

- provide instruction most appropriate for your child
- determine your child's academic growth in Reading and Mathematics over the course of the school year.

This parent guide is intended to:

- help you understand the MAP assessment
- assist you in understanding how to read the parent report
- provide you with tips for helping your child prepare for testing.

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