



Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessments

Background

Beginning in fall 2015, all ANCS students will be taking the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments in reading and math three times, in the fall, winter, and spring. The MAP assessments are a highly regarded tool for gauging student learning and progress on foundational reading and math skills. MAP assessments will be taking the place of multiple different assessments (STAR, CAAS, & ITBS) our school used in prior years, so not only will administering them yield useful data, it will also help us cut down on the amount of time students spend taking standardized tests.

MAP assessments are web-based, computer-adaptive tests that are designed to be developmentally appropriate to the age of students taking them. The assessments are aligned with Georgia's Common Core State Standards. Student results from these assessments will be used in a variety of ways, including helping teachers plan for their classes, determining intervention and enrichment needs, and tracking progress over the course of a student's time at ANCS. You can find much more information about the MAP assessments in this online "Parent Toolkit": <https://www.nwea.org/resources/parent-toolkit/> A parent MAP workshop was held on Tuesday, October 13th.

Fall 2015 MAP Summary

What follows is a summary of performance data from the first administration of the MAP in August-September 2015.

A few general themes emerge from this first administration's data:

Strengths

- Reading skills are particularly strong across all grade levels, including three grade levels scoring above the 70th percentile nationally.
- Geometry skills and knowledge were consistently high across all grade levels.
- In general, students with disabilities perform as well as their peers without disabilities on the MAP.

Areas for Further Attention

- The distribution of student performance on the first MAP administration reveals a statistically lower than usual percentage of students within the "average" range—only about 20%. About 20% of students scored in the low range and 60% of students scored in the high range.

The following page contains the mean (average) "RIT" score by grade level for reading and math from the first MAP administration at ANCS. RIT stands for a Rasch Unit and the RIT scale gives a scale score that is independent of a student's grade level and indicates where on the scale—from 0 to 300—a student falls in being able to consistently answer questions of a certain level of difficulty. So students with the same RIT score who are in different grade levels are demonstrating skills at about the same level on the MAP. Using RIT scores will allow us to track growth at a student, grade level, and school level over multiple years. For our new charter, we will track the percentage of students meeting their RIT score growth target annually.

