

# **Frequently Asked Questions for Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Assessments in PGCPS**

## **1. What is MAP and which students take MAP?**

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Assessments are computer adaptive instructional achievement tests in Reading. The assessment is administered in all Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), except for select charter or contract schools that choose not to administer it. Some student groups, such as English Language Learners, students enrolled in Immersion Programs, and other Special Education programs may be exempt from some or all MAP test administrations. The chart below depicts the MAP Growth test names and grade levels where the test is administered.

<b>Test Name</b>	<b>Grade Level Administration in PGCPS</b>
Growth: Reading K-2 MD 2011	2
Growth: Reading 2-5 MD 2011	3-5
Growth: Reading 6+ MD 2011	6-10

## **2. Why take MAP Growth?**

The MAP Growth Assessment is designed to measure a student's academic achievement and growth over time in reading. Together with other student assessments and classroom information, the MAP Growth results can help teachers make instructional decisions that are based on the reading needs of each child.

## **3. What are computer adaptive tests?**

Computer adaptive tests are tests where the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test, personalized for their individual achievement and skill level. The difficulty of each question is based on how the student answered previous questions. The computer adjusts the types and difficulty of the questions to get the most accurate gauge of the student's current reading ability in multiple domains.

#### **4. How is MAP Growth K-2 unique?**

MAP Growth K-2 measures the skills of early learners who may not yet be fluent readers, and meets the unique needs of early learners by utilizing advanced technology to display interactive visuals and audio for beginning readers. Students are provided headphones to assist them in taking the MAP Growth K-2 Assessment. Once a student reaches a certain level, the audio questions are turned off and students will simply read and respond to the questions without audio support.

#### **5. When are the MAP Growth testing windows?**

The MAP Growth test is administered three times a year in PGCPs, as shown below. Specific testing windows are set each year and can be located on the district testing calendar.

- Fall (September)
- Winter (January)
- Spring (March/April)

#### **6. How long does it take to complete MAP?**

Although the tests are not timed, the typical length of time for the MAP Growth test is 50 minutes.

#### **7. How does a student know how they performed on the MAP assessment?**

After a student takes a MAP Growth test, the **Rasch Unit (RIT)** score will appear on the student screen. Staff at the school can use the assessment reports to explain what the RIT score means and how students can improve.

#### **8. What is a RIT score?**

The MAP Growth results are reported using the RIT scoring and scale, which is an achievement scale that measures growth over time, not mastery of skills in reading.

## **9. What is a RIT scale?**

RIT is used to measure a student's academic growth from administration to administration using a scale, which ranges from 120 to 250. The RIT is not a measure of mastery and does not correspond to a grade, rather it provides information about what a student is ready to learn. The RIT scale is a scale that uses individual item difficulty values to estimate student achievement and growth. An advantage of the RIT scale is that it can relate the numbers on the scale directly to the difficulty of items on the tests. In addition, the RIT scale is an equal interval scale. Equal interval means that the distance between scores is the same regardless of whether a student is at the top, bottom, or middle of the RIT scale, and it has the same meaning regardless of grade level.

## **10. How is progress measured?**

MAP Growth Assessments are used to measure a student's growth in reading over time. The fall assessment gives you information about where the student started at the beginning of the school year. The winter assessment measures progress thus far, from fall to winter. The spring assessment measures the student's growth from the beginning to the end of the school year.

## **11. What can the parent/family do to support their child?**

Before your child takes the test, be sure they get a good night's sleep, remind them that the test is untimed, and encourage them to do their best.

After the assessment, discuss the MAP scores with your child and teacher. Continue to encourage your child to read a wide variety of texts for enjoyment and to provide new challenges. Create opportunities to have conversations about the books they are reading.

## **12. How will teachers use this information?**

Teachers use a variety of tools including formative assessments, state and local assessments, and MAP Growth data to monitor students' progress, provide targeted instruction, and to link students to appropriate interventions and enrichment. The MAP Growth reports provide teachers with additional pieces of information regarding student's instructional

strengths and needs. Teachers will use this information to help guide instruction in the classroom and create flexible groupings to better differentiate lessons based on content. Teachers can also engage in goal setting with students using MAP Growth information and other performance information available in the classroom.

### **13. How does MAP fit with other pieces of information?**

MAP Growth is **only** one piece of information and should always be used and considered in conjunction with the other pieces of information collected about the student, such as classroom-based observations, tests, quizzes, classwork, homework, etc. Also, MAP Growth is a selected response assessment and **does not include a writing component**. To have a full picture of your child's academic skills, it is important to look at all components of a student's overall progress and skills.

### **14. How are accommodations used during the MAP assessments?**

The adaptive nature of the MAP Growth assessment makes it appropriate for students with a wide range of skills and needs. All tests are untimed and any form of read-aloud accommodation is not allowed.

### **15. My student's current RIT score is lower than his/her previous score. Should I be concerned?**

MAP Growth data should always be used in conjunction with other academic data to develop a comprehensive picture of student achievement.

There are several possible reasons why a student's MAP Growth score may be lower than what you might expect. All tests have a margin of testing error and no single administration can, with complete certainty, capture a student's true performance. For that reason, MAP Growth is designed to be given several times a year, to minimize the effects of testing error and to provide a better picture of a student's performance by examining the trend of his or her performance over several administrations.