

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Tests

These computerized tests (linked to Washington State Standards) are adaptive and offered in Reading and Mathematics at Cavelero Mid High School this year. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. The computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

For what are the assessments used?

MAP assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. MAPS assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your student's growth in mathematics and reading. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale. This scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your child's interim academic growth three times per year.

How do teachers use the test scores?

The scores let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

More information can be found at www.nwea.org

The Lexile Framework for Reading

A Lexile is a unit for measuring text difficulty that is linked to the Reading RIT score (related to MAP assessment). Lexile is reported on an equal-interval scale, like the RIT scale. 10L is at the low end of the scale and 1700L is at the high end. Books for beginning readers are listed as BR on the scale. The 150 point Lexile range is included on the MAP assessment Individual Student Progress Reports. It allows educators and parents to find books, periodicals, and other reading material that is appropriately challenging for each student. The Lexile range represents a level of reading difficulty that leaves readers neither frustrated nor bored. This level should stimulate a student to new learning while rewarding their current reading abilities.

The Lexile database currently includes tens of thousands of titles. You can access the Lexile website at www.lexile.com. You can search titles (both Spanish and English) at the website free of charge. The regular search feature allows you to search by title, author, ISBN, subject, or Lexile range. By using the detailed search on the same page, you can also search by theme, interest, or content area. Other features of the website include a page for families. This section includes tabs for Resources, Tools and Frequently Asked Questions. Check it out!