

## A Family's Guide to the MAAP Results

This past spring, your students took statewide tests in mathematics and English language arts (ELA) developed by the Mississippi Department of Education in collaboration with teachers across the state. This Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) test measures the standards that are guiding classroom instruction and focus on the critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills students need for success in higher education and the workforce.

The following are questions and answers that can help you better understand the assessments and the results, and they can also guide your conversations with teachers. You also will find links to valuable resources at the end of the questions and answers.

### **ABOUT MAAP**

#### **What is the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)?**

- The Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) measures students' knowledge, skills, and academic growth from elementary through high school.
- Student progress is measured from grades 3 through 8 with annual tests in ELA and mathematics and in high school Algebra I and English II.
- MAAP assessments are designed to let parents know how their child is progressing, and to give teachers more information to guide instruction. The goal of MAAP is to evaluate and monitor student learning to ensure students develop the knowledge and skills they need to graduate prepared for college or careers.

#### **What does my child's test score mean?**

Your child's score indicates how well your child met the expectations of the grade level. You will also be able to see how your child did in comparison to peers across the grade, school, district, and in some cases, state.

#### **Why do we need a test and standards?**

We needed a test created by Mississippi teachers to measure more challenging learning goals that are guiding teachers' instruction in the classroom in ELA and math. These standards focus on the skills students need in the real world, like critical thinking, analyzing, and problem-solving. The tests reflect the types of activities that students are now doing in the classroom every day.

#### **What subjects and grades are tested in MAAP?**

MAAP assessed student performance in math and ELA in grades 3-8 and in English II and Algebra I in high school.

#### **How will my child's score be used?**

Teachers will use scores to guide their instruction so they can provide additional supports in the areas where students need improvement or more challenging work in areas where they excel. Scores will also be used to measure how well schools, districts and states are doing against the standards.

### **When Will Score Reports be Available to Parents?**

Parents will receive their students' score reports in the fall. Each student's score report will indicate his/her performance level.

### **What is a "good score"?**

We are committed to ensuring that all students are prepared with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills that they need to be successful in life.

How a student performed on the assessment will be shown on the score report. The five performance levels are as follows:

#### **Minimal – Level 1**

A student performing below the Minimal level inconsistently demonstrates the knowledge or skills that define minimal level performance.

#### **Basic – Level 2**

Students at the Basic level demonstrate partial mastery of the knowledge and skills in the course and may experience difficulty in the next grade or course in the content area. These students are able to perform some of the content standards at a low level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency as specified by the grade-level content standards.

#### **Passing – Level 3**

Students at the Passing level demonstrate general mastery of the knowledge and skills required for success in the grade or course in the content area. These students are able to perform approaching or at the level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency specified by the grade-level content standards.

#### **Proficient – Level 4**

Students at the Proficient level demonstrate solid academic performance and mastery of the knowledge and skills required for success in the grade or course in the content area. These students are able to perform at the level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency specified by the grade-level content standards.

#### **Advanced – Level 5**

Students at the Advanced level consistently perform in a manner clearly beyond that required to be successful in the grade or course in the content area. These students are able to perform at a high level of difficulty, complexity, or fluency as specified by the grade-level content standards.

### **How will test results be used?**

The results from the MAAP assessment will be used in school and district accountability labels. High school students have several graduation options available, which can be found [here](#).

### **Will these scores exempt students from postsecondary remedial education?**

Our academic standards are guidelines that have been mapped to what students need to know to be able to successfully complete entry level college courses without remediation. Students meeting or exceeding grade-level achievement standards should not need remediation in college.

### **Will these scores impact student promotion?**

The reading portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade MAAP English Language Arts assessment is used to determine whether a student qualified for promotion to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Will these scores impact student graduation?**

If students do not pass the Algebra I or English II assessments, they have several other options to demonstrate that they qualify for graduation.

### **Is there a listing of school or district state testing scores available?**

All school and district data are posted in the “Reports & Data” section of the MDE website, [www.mdek12.org](http://www.mdek12.org).

## **SCORING**

### **What if students did well on his or her report card last year, but not as well on the test?**

A statewide assessment is only one of several measures that are used to determine your child’s academic performance. Report card grades include multiple sources of information including participation, work habits, group projects, and homework, all of which are important in determining a child’s academic achievement. These sources are not reflected on a statewide assessment.

## **ABOUT INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SCORES**

### **How can teachers help students improve and make progress on next year’s test?**

Teachers can use the information in the score reports to guide instruction. Students’ scores in the math and English language arts/literacy categories can inform next steps for teaching and learning.

### **From the score report, is it possible to identify where a student excels and where he or she needs more support and practice?**

On a child’s score report, the scores in math and English language arts/literacy are broken down into sub-categories. Your child’s score in each will help parents understand the progress their child is making and whether he/she needs additional practice or needs to be challenged by going deeper into a subject.

Not all questions on the test are broken into the sub-categories so the sub-scores will not add up.

## **PARENT RESOURCES**

### **How can I use these test results to help my child improve?**

You can use your child’s scores to locate supplemental activities designed specifically for each category at every grade level. You can also use the test results to guide a discussion with your child’s teacher(s) about additional supports or challenges that may be needed in class, as well as other ways to support your child at home.



Additional resources are available for parents to help their child:

[Parent Guides for Student Success](#)

[Reading Resources](#)

[Literacy](#)

**What types of questions were asked?**

The test included traditional multiple choice questions as well as questions that asked students to write well-organized essays and explain their reasoning. Walk through a practice test and see sample test questions [here](#).