

Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP) Key Messages

The following messages were developed to help school leaders and educators communicate about the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP). These general messages introduce the new assessment, explain why it was developed, and provide information about how MAP helps guide teaching and learning.

Although listed as talking points below, the messages may be used for any type of communication about MAP, including presentations, newsletters to parents, web sites, social media or other communications vehicles.

Official Name

Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP)

Key Messages

- **MAP is the new statewide assessment** for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3-8 and Algebra I and English II.
- **MAP was specifically developed for Mississippi** because the state adopted higher academic standards to guide teaching and learning. New tests are needed to accurately measure student mastery of the more rigorous standards. Mississippi educators participated in the development of MAP.
- **MAP assesses students on the content and skills they learn during the school year.** MAP questions are aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards, which are the set of learning goals for ELA and Mathematics for each grade level.
- **MAP provides valuable information about student progress.** Test results identify students' strengths and areas for improvement to ensure they are on track for the next grade and eventually, college and career. While no single test can give a complete picture of achievement, MAP is one of many measures, including student grades and teacher reports, that combined, provide a complete picture about student progress.

Background

- In 2010, Mississippi adopted higher K-12 standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics to ensure all students move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. These standards are called the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards.

- In 2014-2015, Mississippi students took their first set of tests aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards. These tests were developed by the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and were administered in 11 states. Mississippi is no longer a member of PARCC.
- In 2015-2016, Mississippi developed and implemented its own test aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards. The official name for this test is the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP).
- We are continuing to support teachers across our districts through professional development on the new assessments so that they can further strengthen instruction.
- In the same way, we are making sure every school and district have the resources they need to help students who may be struggling and need additional assistance.