

**■ Knowledge + Performance = Academic Success**

In 1997, Missouri began implementing a performance-based assessment system for use by all public schools in the state, as required by the Outstanding Schools Act of 1993. The assessment system, known as Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), is designed to measure student progress in meeting the Show-Me Standards. The 73 Show-Me Standards, created by Missouri educators and adopted by the State Board of Education in 1996, describe what graduates of the state's public schools must know and do. To achieve proficiency in the Show-Me Standards, students must have a strong foundation of knowledge and skills in basic subject areas and must be able to apply what they know to new situations and real-world problems.

**■ Subject Areas**

The Missouri Assessment Program initially addressed all six content areas of the Show-Me Standards: mathematics, communication arts, science, social studies, health/physical education and fine arts. Due to budget cuts, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has suspended assessment in health/physical education and fine arts. The Department requires school districts to administer only the communication arts and mathematics assessments, although the agency offers the science and social studies assessments on a voluntary basis.

**■ The Tests**

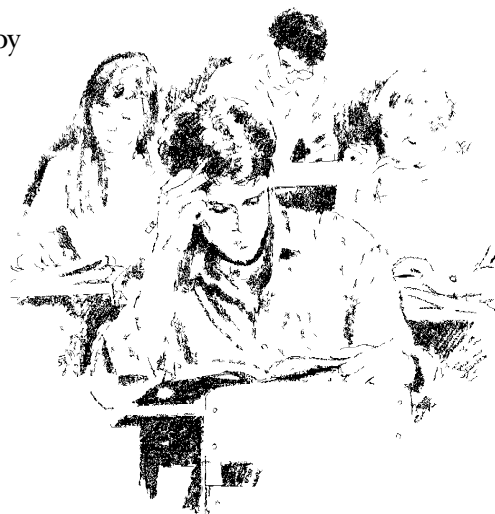
The MAP assessments incorporate three types of test questions in order to evaluate student achievement: selected-response questions, requiring students to select the correct answer; constructed-response items, requiring students to generate an appropriate response; and performance events, requiring students to respond to, solve problems or address issues of a complex nature.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) required all states to annually assess student learning in reading/language arts and mathematics at grades 3-8 and at a high-school grade by the 2005-06 school year. The act also required states to annually measure student learning in science using grade-span assessments by the 2007-08 school year. Therefore, the Department has developed communication arts and mathematics grade-level assessments, as well as grade-span science assessments, in order to comply with NCLB requirements.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as revised by Congress in 1997, required Missouri to develop an alternate to the statewide assessment for students whose disabilities are so severe that they cannot participate in the regular MAP testing. The Department developed the MAP-Alternate (MAP-A) to allow the participation of severely disabled students.

**■ Developing and Scoring the Assessments**

The Department continues to involve a large number of Missouri teachers in the MAP development process. Highly trained Missouri educators also score students' responses to MAP items. In the summer of 2006, more than 500 educators scored items at 12 sites across the state. The assessment section anticipates using 12 sites again during the summer of 2007.



## ■ Report Forms

The MAP assessments yield data about individual and group academic achievement. The data includes a national percentile rank, achievement levels and raw scores by content standard/strand. Each level of achievement — Below Basic, Basic, Proficient and Advanced — has accompanying descriptors that articulate the skills associated with that particular level.

## ■ What's Ahead

The following chart shows the projected assessment schedule by subject area through 2009.

Subject Area	2007	2008	2009
Communication Arts	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
Math	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
Science	3, 7, 10 <i>(status unknown)</i>	5, 8, 11	5, 8, 11
Social Studies	4, 8, 11 <i>(status unknown)</i>	4, 8, 11 <i>(status unknown)</i>	4, 8, 11 <i>(status unknown)</i>
MAP-Alternate	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 <i>*(MA)</i> , 11 <i>(CA)</i>	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 <i>(MA)</i> , 11 <i>(CA, SC)</i>	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 <i>(MA)</i> , 11 <i>(CA, SC)</i>

*\*(MA) – Math; (CA) – Communication Arts; (SC) - Science*

**Note:** *The science and social studies assessments are voluntary for school districts in spring of 2007. The status of state funding for these subjects in 2008 is not known.*



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