**Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP)   
Frequently Asked Questions for Parents**

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

MAAP is the required state assessment for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for students in grades 3-8 and high school Algebra I and English II. MAAP is aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards, which means it measures students on the content and skills they have learned during the school year. Mississippi teachers participated in the development of MAAP to identify students’ strengths and areas for improvement to ensure they are on track for the next grade and eventually, college and career.

1. **How is MAAP different from previous state assessments?**

MAAP is a Mississippi-developed assessment that tests students on critical thinking and problem-solving. The test goes beyond multiple-choice questions to get a deeper understanding of students’ learning. Students are required to apply their knowledge and skills to address real-world problems and describe their reasoning. Students take the MAAP test on a computer.

1. **Is there an alternate test for students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD)?**

Yes. The alternate test for students with SCD is called MAAP-A. It includes ELA and Mathematics tests for grades 3-8, science tests for grades 5 and 8, and tests for Algebra I, English II and Biology I.

1. **What if my child receives special education or English language services?**

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or English Language Learners are also eligible for accommodations on the assessments. Talk with your child’s teacher if you have questions about eligibility or the types of accommodations available.

1. **When will my child take the MAAP test?**

Your district will schedule MAAP tests within the state testing window. Your child’s teacher will provide you with specific test dates.

1. **How much time will my child spend on the annual MAAP test?**

The maximum test times range from approximately 3.5 to 4.5 hours. Most tests are scheduled over a two-day period. Overall, students spend less than 2 percent of classroom time taking the annual MAAP tests.

Since the assessments are aligned to our state standards, all learning prepares students for these assessments. Good teaching will always be the best method of preparing students for success—whether that’s success on an assessment, a project or presentation, or whether it’s being prepared for the next grade.

1. **Why does my child take the MAAP test?**

MAAP provides valuable information about your child’s strengths and areas for improvement so you and your child’s teacher can ensure your child is on track for the next grade and eventually, college and career. When combined with other measures, including teacher reports and student grades, MAAP helps provide a complete picture of student achievement. MAAP also helps ensure schools are meeting the needs of all students by comparing student performance across schools and districts.

1. **Why is my child’s participation important?**

MAAP serves as an “academic check-up.” Although it is only one measure of your child’s progress, the scores on MAAP can be compared from one year to the next. This makes them a useful tool to ensure your child is making progress and is on track for the next grade level and to graduate prepared for the next step.

1. **Will the MAAP help my child improve?**

Yes. MAAP score reports break down each subject into different categories of skills and shows how well your child performed in each. You can use this information to guide a discussion with your child’s teacher(s) about additional supports or challenges needed in class and other ways to help build your child’s skillset at home.

1. **How will my child prepare for the annual MAAP test?**

Since the MAAP tests are aligned to our state standards, what students are learning throughout the school year prepares them for the tests. Good teaching will always be the best method of preparing students for success.

1. **When will I see my child’s MAAP results?**

Test results are delivered to schools over the summer. Schools typically distribute individual student score reports near the beginning of the school year.

1. **Where can I go for more information?**

For more information on the MAAP test, including links to sample test items, visit <https://mdek12.org/OSA/MAAP>