

<<DATE>>

Dear Parent

Enclosed you will find your child's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test results. These tests measure your child's academic growth from year to year in the areas of Mathematics, Reading, and Language Usage. In the MAP system, the difficulty of the test is adjusted to the student's performance. The difficulty of each question is based on how well the student has answered all of the questions up to that point. As the student answers correctly, the questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. Within an optimal test, the student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

The tests are aligned with the <<district/state>> curriculum. They cover <<district/state>> goals within each subject area. MAP test reports provide information for each goal in each subject for each student. This increases the value of the tests as a tool to improving student learning because it enables teachers to recognize areas where the student needs help.

Because each student takes a test at his or her achievement level, each has the opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. This also makes it possible to administer shorter tests and use less class time.

Student results are reported in RIT scores. The RIT score is an equal interval scale, like feet and inches, which makes growth in learning easy to measure. RIT scores range from approximately 150 to 260. Students typically start at a RIT score of about 170-190 in the third grade and progress to the 230-260 range by high school. Of course, some students start at a higher RIT level and some never reach the top level.

MAP testing is a powerful tool for monitoring student growth over time. Attached to this letter is a *Monitoring Growth in Student Achievement* chart. The charts on this document show the average (median) and mean RIT scores for different grades for a "typical" school district. Mean growth in student achievement is also shown on the chart.

I hope you find the enclosed reports informative. If you have questions, please contact your <<building principal/student's counselor>> at <<phone number>>. Thank you for taking an active interest in your child's education.

Sincerely