

2014-2015 MAP Testing Testing Dates and General Information

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Parent Information

A Guide to PALCS MAP Assessments

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Map Testing Date Windows

**Note: A teacher will be contacting you to schedule a date/time for testing during the windows listed below.*

Fall Testing Window

September 8 - 19

September 22 - 26 (Make Up Testing)

Grade Level(s)

Grades 1-10

Grades 1-10

Winter Testing Window

December 15 - January 14

Grade Level(s)

Grades 7-10 students with enrollment dates of September 15 or later

Grades 7-10 students who are enrolled in Keystone Review courses

Grades 6-8 Exploring Math course students

January 12 - 16

All K-6 Students (Except Exploring Math 6th graders)

Spring Testing Window

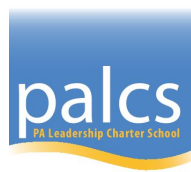
March 2 - 13

March 16 - 27 (Make Up Testing)

Grade Level(s)

Grades 1-11

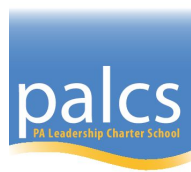
Grades 1-11



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Instructions for PALCS MAP Testing

<p>Step 1: Prepare for the Test <i>Preparation should take place prior to testing</i></p>	<p>→ If you are on a laptop, make sure that you are plugged into your router and not your wireless connection. If at all possible, please turn off all other computers in your home. This will help to ensure there is enough bandwidth for testing. Make sure you have the NWEA Lockdown Browser installed on your computer. Students on both XP and Windows 7 school computers should have the Lockdown Browser pre-installed. Students on Windows 7 will see a shortcut for the NWEA Lockdown Browser on their desktop (see picture here). If a student is on a Windows XP system and does not have the Lockdown Browser installed, they should follow the directions shown in this video.</p> <p><i>Note: You will not be able to take the test without this browser.</i></p> <p>→ For students on non-PALCS computers, the NWEA Lockdown Browser installer can be downloaded below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Windows◆ Mac <p>→ Review your scheduled time for the assessment, including the link that will be sent to you in PALCSmail and Moodle Message. This message will come from your test proctor.</p> <p>→ We ask that all students arrive early to the session. Students that arrive later than 10 minutes after the test session starts will be rescheduled.</p> <p>→ Make sure your webcam is properly connected and is ready to be used during the session. Resources on setting up your webcam can be found on the PALCS Help Desk site.</p>
<p>Step 2: Enter Virtual Room</p>	<p>→ Upon entry into the virtual room, you will be given webcam/camera rights. Once that occurs, you will be able to broadcast your webcam video camera.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Open the “NWEA Lockdown Browser.”→ Enter your Test Session Name and Password in the fields on the Lockdown Browser. (This will be given to you by your test proctor when you are in the virtual room).
Step 3: Take the Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">→ Your test proctor will begin the test, and you will see the first questions appear.→ Take and complete the test.
Still Unsure of the Process?	→ Click here to view a video of the testing process.

What are MAP tests?

Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) are computerized tests that are adaptive and offered in *Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics*. When taking a MAP® test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student’s achievement level.

How long does it take to complete a test?

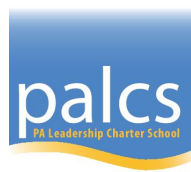
Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each MAP® test.

When will my child be tested and how often?

PALCS tests students at the beginning of the school year in fall, midway through the school year, in the winter and at the end of the school year in spring. Please see the Testing Date Windows section of this document for exact dates for your student’s grade level.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test?

No. MAP® assessments are designed to target a student’s academic performance in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science. These tests are tailored to an individual’s current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. The computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.



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What are the MAP assessments used for?

MAP® assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. MAP® assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your child's growth in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science skills. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale (Rasch unit). The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your child's academic growth from year to year.

How do teachers use the test scores?

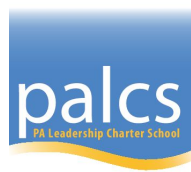
MAP® tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

As a parent, it is just as important that you know where your student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific area. New for 2014-2015, PALCS will be conducting Parent/Teacher Conferences three times a year (fall, winter and spring) to discuss your student's MAP testing scores and progress. A teacher will be contacting you to schedule a date/time to meet (virtually) to review your student's MAP testing scores.

How can I help my child prepare for testing?

- Reach out to your child's teachers as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do on your own to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
- Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read outside of PALCS schoolwork. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test.



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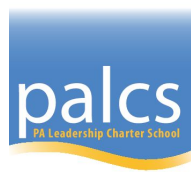
How can I help my child with reading?

- Provide many opportunities for your child to read books or other materials. Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read. Read aloud to your child. Research shows that this is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Keep reading aloud even when your child can read independently.
- Make time for the library.
- Play games like Scrabble®, Spill and Spell, Scattergories®, and Balderdash together.
- Follow your child's interest—find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into this interest. There are several third-party web site links to generate booklists for students along with some additional features.
 - ◆ [MetaMetrics® Find a Book](#)
 - ◆ [Barnes and Noble® Lexile® Booklist Wizard](#)
 - ◆ [Scholastic® Teacher Book Wizard](#)
- Work on crossword puzzles with your child.
- Give a magazine subscription for a gift.

How can I help my child with math?

- Spend time with kids on simple board games, puzzles, and activities that encourage better attitudes and stronger mathematics skills. Even everyday activities such as playing with toys in a sandbox or in a tub at bath time can teach children mathematics concepts such as weight, density, and volume. Check your television listings for shows that can reinforce mathematics skills in a practical and fun way.
- Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. Problem solving is a lifetime skill.
- The kitchen is filled with tasty opportunities to teach fractional measurements, such as doubling and dividing cookie recipes.
- Point out ways that people use mathematics every day to pay bills, balance their checkbooks, figure out their net earnings, make change, and how to tip at restaurants. Involve older children in projects that incorporate geometric and algebraic concepts such as planting a garden, building a bookshelf, or figuring how long it will take to drive to your family vacation destination.
- Children should learn to read and interpret charts and graphs such as those found in daily newspapers. Collecting and analyzing data will help your child draw conclusions and become discriminating readers of numerical information.

FAQs



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What subjects are tested?

Students will be tested in reading and in mathematics.

Is the test graded?

Teachers will give students points for participation. The students don't receive a traditional score on the assessment, so there is no need to worry about passing or failing.

How long will the test take?

Each test should take about an hour.

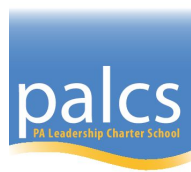
What if my student is taking longer than an hour? Remind your student to not stress out about the test. Remind them we want to see what they know and what they don't know. It's ok to make an educated guess on a question they aren't sure about. A good rule of thumb is – if it's taking more than 2 minutes to answer a question, they should make an educated guess and move on.

How many questions are on the test?

The number of questions varies, but it is usually between 35-50.

I've heard that the test is hard. Is that true?

The test is individual to each student. It will start on the student's grade level. As the student begins answering questions, the test will adapt to the student's ability. If a student answers a number of questions correctly, the questions will begin to get harder. The opposite is also true – if a student answers number of questions incorrectly, the test will give them easier questions that are more on the student's ability level.



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Ok. So I shouldn't help my student answer questions?

RIGHT! Resist the urge to help! This can be the frustrating part. Your student WILL get questions he/she doesn't know the answers to. That's ok! If you help your student answer something he/she doesn't know, that means the next question will be sure to be even more difficult.

So that's what computer adaptive test means? Yes. If you want to learn more about computer adaptive assessments, [click here](#).

Why are we doing this?

At PALCS, we strive to offer individualized instruction. The MAP test will help us to do an even better job of doing that.

What if my student needs to stop in the middle of the session. Will the test be saved?

Yes. The proctor can suspend the test. We can schedule a make-up session for the student to complete it. It will pick up where the student left off.

What if I don't have a webcam or my webcam isn't working? Please contact the Help Desk at 1-877-PALCS-TLC.

Want to submit a question? [Click here!](#)

Websites for Kids and Parents

Mathematics

www.aaamath.com

www.coolmath.com

www.funbrain.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.mathforum.org/dr.math/

www.mathleague.com/help/help.htm

Math practice and activities

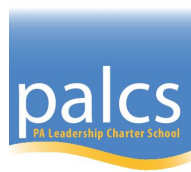
Interactive math games

Great site for kids

A+ Math

Ask Dr. Math

Math League help topics



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www.edhelper.com

Help for all subjects

Language Arts/Reading

www.funbrain.com

www.merriam-webster.com

www.vocabulary.com

www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/words

www.lexile.com

Language Arts games and more
Merriam Webster Word Game of the Day
Vocabulary activities
Vocabulary builders
Lexile Framework for Reading