



October 6, 2020

Hello District 186 Families,

To help us better understand the academic impact of COVID-19 and to maintain the district's focus on data-based decision making, Springfield Public Schools has decided to continue with the administration of the NWEA MAP assessment this fall and spring. There will be no winter assessment. MAP is an online assessment in math and reading that provides data to teachers about the precise learning level of every student, regardless of the student's ability or grade level.

MAP identifies areas of strength and opportunity at the goal level of a subject, as well as overall performance. The numerical (RIT) score earned by each student predicts the difficulty level at which a student is likely to answer about 50% of the questions correctly. Educators use MAP data to inform in-the-moment instructional practices, gain insights into college readiness, and communicate academic growth with students and families.

Most students are familiar with this assessment due to the fact that they have taken it multiple times per year for the last 3 years. The main difference this year is that students will be taking the assessment remotely instead of in a classroom with their teacher. Before the test, your child's teachers will communicate the necessary instructions and procedures for testing – which will take place on October 19 & 26, 2020. If your child has an issue with technology that prevents them from taking/completing the MAP assessment on these dates:

Step 1 - Contact your teacher (email, dojo, canvas, remind)

Step 2 - Contact the main office of the school via phone

This test IS NOT a high stakes test. What this statement means is that we use this test to determine what students know currently and how we can provide the best instruction and interventions possible to promote academic growth/achievement for every student. It does not serve the students well in any way to obtain scores that do not reflect their current academic ability/performance. In addition, the scores earned in most cases will align with each student's performance in reading and math on a daily basis. Do not provide or allow any assistance as students work to answer the problems presented on this assessment. This will prevent us from providing them with the correct instructional supports later.

Encourage them to do their best and celebrate their effort when they complete testing. Please help your child to understand we do not expect him/her to know everything presented to them on this test. We simply need them to put forth their absolute best individual effort. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelia Boozer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Shelia Boozer  
Director of Teaching and Learning