



Abilene Independent School District

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Dear AISD,

I hope all of you are off to a great start these first few weeks of the new school year! This letter is to keep you informed on a very important initiative that we are starting in Abilene ISD. One of my first tasks coming into the role of Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction has been to assess our overall instructional plan to determine immediate needs for our district. Our team identified that one of our greatest needs as a district is to focus on ensuring that students make at least year's worth of academic growth each school year.

To support this goal, AISD is exchanging a variety of familiar assessments for a single K-8 assessment program that measures student growth in reading, math, and science. The MAP Growth assessment is used by more than one million students in 200 Texas districts – and even more worldwide. We are most excited about the way this computer-based assessment will adjust questions based on a student's level and will give an accurate picture of exactly where the student is performing. It is not a timed test and it can be given in class and over multiple days if needed. It is not meant to "feel" like a STAAR test, but instead is meant to truly measure a student's growth in knowledge and skills over time. The results of each assessment will tell teachers how much students have grown, what they are ready to learn next, and what specific gaps in learning need to be addressed. The assessment will be given to students in the fall, winter, and spring.

Yesterday all elementary and middle school campus principals and IC/ISs participated in a training to learn how best to implement MAP Growth on their campuses. Today two teachers from every elementary and middle school campus in the district are participating in a training to learn how to give the assessment. This group of four (principal, IC/IS, two teachers) will then become your campus "go-to" team for MAP Growth implementation over the coming weeks.

We will begin administering the fall MAP Growth assessment on September 30. Our goal is to complete this by October 11 (with the understanding that there may be extenuating circumstances in which more time is needed). A large portion of our Professional Development day on October 14 will be dedicated to reviewing the fall MAP Growth results and planning for response.

For more information on this assessment tool, visit www.nwea.org. We look forward to partnering with you this year on this and other instructional initiatives to improve student achievement across AISD.

Take care,
Dan