

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Grade-Level Assessments evaluate students' progress toward the Missouri Learning Standards. Grade-Level Assessments provide important information that contributes to decisions concerning individual students, groups of students, and educational programs. Assessments are given in the subject areas of Communication Arts (grades 3-8), Mathematics (grades 3-8) and Science (grades 5 and 8).

A policy statement, adopted by the Missouri State Board of Education, designated the purposes of the Missouri Assessment Program as:

- Improving students' acquisition of important knowledge, skills and competencies;
- Monitoring the performance of Missouri's education system;
- Empowering students and their families to improve their educational prospects; and
- Supporting the teaching and learning process.

The effectiveness of an assessment program depends on the wise choice of assessment methods, appropriate administration procedures and accurate interpretation of results.

The Grade-Level Assessments include multiple types of questions or items:

- **Selected Response (also known as multiple choice)** items are composed of a question followed by a series of possible responses. Students must select the correct response or responses.
- **Constructed Response or Short Text** items require students to supply an appropriate response rather than making a selection from a list of choices.
- **Performance Tasks/Events** allow students to work through more complicated items using real-world scenarios.
- **Technology Enhanced** items make use of technology in the presentation of the item, the ways in which students respond, or both. For example, students might listen to a story and then drag and drop labels into a diagram, or click on specific parts of a text to provide a response.

Your child's Individual Student Report (ISR), includes an Achievement Level, which will describe his or her performance as Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, or Advanced. The report will also include a short description of the knowledge and skills that are typically demonstrated by students in each Achievement Level.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) publishes a *Guide to Interpreting Results (GIR)* that provides additional details about the content of the Individual Student Reports. The GIR is available on the DESE website at: <http://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/assessment/grade-level>