

Natural Science Academy Testing Calendar for 2018/19

Natural Science Academy gives two types of standardized tests during the school year.

- The NWEA MAP - local option

2018/19 Dates of administration:

For grades K-5:

Fall - Sept. 17-27, 2018, Fall MAP data is used by teachers to plan and differentiate instruction at the beginning of the school year.

Winter - January 7-17, 2019, Winter MAP test scores provide teachers with data on each student's growth since the fall, giving them the ability to gauge the effectiveness of instruction and the time to spot and address problems.

Spring – April 30 – May 10, 2019, Spring MAP tests provide a school years' worth of data on student growth and proficiency for teachers, parents and the students themselves.

For grades 3-5 only:

- The MCA - required by law

Dates of administration:

April 15-19, 2019, The tests are administered every year to measure student performance relative to the Minnesota Academic Standards that specify what students in a particular grade should know and be able to do.

About the tests

NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Test

NSA elects to administer the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test to all students, once each trimester test for the valuable and easily summarized data regarding our student's academic progress. MAP is the flagship assessment tool of Northwest Evaluation Association which was founded by educators nearly 40 years ago. NWEA's MAP test is a computer adaptive assessment, meaning that the levels of questions adapt to each student response to accurately determine their instructional level. While MAP testing is just one of the many ways educators at NSA assess their students' learning to ensure they are making progress and to chart each student's course, the MAP test provides educators with robust, real-time information to inform instruction and the knowledge to drive curricular adjustments and programmatic changes to benefit students.

The Academic goals of Natural Science Academy include both measurement of both growth and grade-level proficiency of students. Measuring a student's academic growth requires multiple snapshots throughout the school year. NSA gives the MAP test once each trimester and the results when viewed together provide a learning snapshot of a student's pattern of growth.

The benefits of the MAP test are:

- It provides real-time data to our teachers, allowing them to measure growth and maximize all student's chances for academic success
- It has assessments specially designed for even our youngest students
- It provides the means by which we can assess science learning in students younger than 5th grade, which is important in a school with our emphasis on the sciences

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are state tests in reading, mathematics, and science that are used to meet federal and state legislative requirements.

All students in public schools are required to participate in the statewide assessment program. Reading and mathematics tests are administered in grades 3–8. The Science MCA is administered to students in grades 5.