



NWEA MAP OPT OUT FACTS: Risks and opportunities for CPS families 2014

What is NWEA? What is MAP? The Measures of Academic Progress test is developed and sold by the Northwest Evaluation Association. The MAP test is given twice a year in most CPS elementary schools in 2nd through 8th grades, in winter and spring. There is a K-2 version of the same test called MPG.

Why opt out of the NWEA MAP? Parents all over the U.S. are opting their children out of standardized tests in record numbers. Parents are concerned that tests have taken over public education, and they are acting to put a stop to it by simply refusing to allow their children to be exploited. The NWEA was not designed to be used as a summative or End-Of-Year test and should not be used as one. (Read more in our MTAS fact sheet, <http://bit.ly/1qisa5s>)

What are the risks to opting out of the NWEA MAP spring test?

- CPS has stated that students without NWEA spring scores in the 3rd, 6th and 8th grades will have to go to summer school and will be held back if they do not pass summer school.
- Students without NWEA spring scores in 5th grade will not be allowed to apply for the 7th-8th grade Academic Centers.
- Students without NWEA spring scores in 7th grade will not be allowed to apply for selective enrollment high schools.
- CPS will lower a school's quality (level) rating if less than 95% of its students take the NWEA.

Who is "safe" opting out of the spring NWEA MAP? There will be no consequences for:

- 2nd or 4th grade students,
- 5th grade students who do not intend to apply for a 7th-8th grade Academic Center and
- 7th grade students who do not intend to apply for a selective enrollment high school.

What other actions can parents take to challenge the misuse of the NWEA MAP?

- Join MTAS in supporting opting out students, parents and teachers. Ask your principal and LSC to endorse the "Administrator's Pledge on Ethical Treatment of Students Who Opt Out": <http://bit.ly/OyoChg>
- Tell your state and federal legislators to support 2014 legislation to reduce testing, including Illinois General Assembly bill SB3460 and US Congress bill HR4172.
- Support MTAS's alternative promotion policy. Grades have been shown to be better indicators of student success than standardized test scores. Teacher-created report cards look at students' work over time and use many different forms of assessment. See our full proposal here: <http://bit.ly/PZYX1W>
- Join the MTAS announcement list: <http://bit.ly/1sxZ04v>

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