



# MPS Assessment System 2019-20

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***The mission of the Millard Public Schools** is to guarantee each student demonstrates the character, knowledge, and skills necessary for personal excellence and responsible citizenship through an innovative, world-class educational community that engages and challenges all students.*

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**The Millard Public Schools (MPS) Board of Education, through Policy 6300 Assessed Curriculum:** Comprehensive Student Assessment and accompanying rules, establishes the expectation that the Millard comprehensive student assessment system be aligned with our written and taught curriculum in order to:

- monitor student progress and their level of College and Career Readiness;
- monitor the progress of students in a program, school, or the district;
- aid in planning and providing classroom instruction appropriate to student needs;
- assist in making decisions about placement of students;
- provide information for program monitoring, management, and evaluation.

**The Millard comprehensive student assessment system is further explained in:**

- **Policy 6315: Millard Education Program:** Use of Assessment Data and accompanying rules
- **Policy 6320: Students' Graduation** and accompanying rules

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

## Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

Students who qualify based on a variety of measures may complete this ability instrument in February to March. The CogAT is a group test designed to assess students' abilities through verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal test items. Results are used for identification for High Ability Learner (HAL) program services. Students new to Millard will be given the opportunity to test in the fall.

## English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)

In February, all identified English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades kindergarten through five complete this state-delivered assessment. The ELPA21 measures a child's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. "Proficiency" is defined as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information.

## Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System (Text Leveling)

All students in first through fifth grades complete this reading assessment in fall and winter. Some students will also complete the assessment during the spring. Kindergarten students will assess in winter and spring. The Benchmark Assessment System is used to determine students' independent and instructional reading levels. Results are used to make informed decisions for small-group instruction and to match students with appropriate reading material.

## Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI)

Some students in grades kindergarten through two will be assessed on seven categories of observable behaviors used for initial screening of potentially gifted students. Students identified by the KOI are then included in the Kaleidoscope curriculum and are eventually tested for HAL in the spring of second grade.

## MPS Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA)

In Fall and Spring, all students in grades three through five complete the MPS district writing assessment. The AWA is used to assess students' ability to write in a specific mode. Results provide information in the areas of ideas / content, organization, voice/word choice, and sentence fluency / conventions.



## MPS Course Assessments

Throughout the school year, all students complete assessments delivered in their mathematics and ELA courses. These assessments are designed to ensure that all students throughout our elementaries gain the knowledge and skills detailed in the Millard Public Schools course curriculum.

## MPS Student Survey

In September, students in grades three through five complete this web-based student survey. The poll measures three main areas: Academics, Safety / Kindness, and Future. The information provides student engagement information to the district.

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## Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth

All students in grades kindergarten through five complete computer adaptive assessments that align to Nebraska academic standards in reading and mathematics. The real-time results provide information on which skills students are ready to learn next, student achievement levels, a student's relative strengths and weaknesses, reading levels, national comparisons, and student growth over time. This assessment is completed in fall, winter, and spring.

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## MAP Skills

Some students in grades two through five complete a series of online diagnostic mathematics assessments that identify and monitor skills for which students need additional practice. The skills within the system are prerequisite skills that students need to know in order to be prepared for a college and career ready high school curriculum. The assessments are administered as needed based on student mastery.

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## National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Mid-year, some fourth grade students in selected schools complete the NAEP. The NAEP test is the "largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects. NAEP is congressionally mandated, and was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. The results of NAEP are released as the Nation's Report Card." Individual student or school results are not provided. <http://www.education.ne.gov/naep/>

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## Orleans-Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test

In January, all fifth grade students complete this mathematics placement test. This assessment is designed to measure abstract mathematical thinking in order to gauge readiness for higher levels of mathematics in middle school. Results are used as one factor in recommending future mathematics course placement in grade six.

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## Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) - State Summative Test

In April, all students in grades three through five complete the online-administered state test that assesses the state's College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts (grades 3-5), mathematics (grades 3-5) and science (grade 5 only).

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## NSCAS State Alternate Assessments (NSCAS-AA)

In April, some students in grades three through five with severe cognitive limitations complete the individually administered state alternate assessments. These assessments measure the alternate state content standards in English language arts (grades 3-5), mathematics (grades 3-5), and science (grade 5 only).

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

### **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)**

Students who qualify based on a variety of measures may complete this ability instrument in February to March. The CogAT is a group test designed to assess students' abilities through verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal test items. Results are used for identification for HAL program services. Students new to Millard will be given the opportunity to test in the fall.

### **English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)**

In February, all identified English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades six through eight complete the state-delivered assessment. The ELPA21 measures a child's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. "Proficiency" is defined as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information.

### **MPS Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA)**

In Fall and Spring, all students in grades six through eight complete the MPS district writing assessment. The AWA is used to assess students' ability to write in a specific mode. Results provide information in the areas of introduction and thesis / claim, conclusion, main ideas, supporting details, transitional strategies, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions.

### **MPS Course Assessments**

Throughout the school year, all students complete assessments delivered in their courses. These assessments are written by MPS teachers and are designed to ensure that all students throughout our middle schools gain the knowledge and skills detailed in the Millard Public Schools course curriculum.

### **MPS Student Survey**

In September, students in grades six through eight complete this web-based student survey. The poll measures four main areas: Academics, Activities / Athletics, Safety / Kindness, and Future. The information provides student engagement information to the district.

### **Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth**

Students in grades six through eight complete computer adaptive assessments that align to Nebraska academic standards in reading and mathematics. The real-time results provide information on which skills students are ready to learn next, student achievement levels, a student's relative strengths and weaknesses, reading levels, national comparisons, and student growth over time. This assessment is completed in fall, winter, and spring.

### **MAP Skills**

Some students in grades six through eight complete a series of diagnostic mathematics assessments that identify and monitor skills for which students need additional practice. The skills within the system are prerequisite skills that students need to know in order to be prepared for a college and career ready high school curriculum. The assessments are administered as needed based on student mastery.



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### National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Some eighth grade students in selected schools complete the NAEP test mid year. NAEP is the “largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation’s students know and can do in core subjects. NAEP is congressionally mandated, and was first administered in 1969 to measure student achievement nationally. The results of NAEP are released as the Nation’s Report Card.” Individual student or school results are not provided. <http://www.education.ne.gov/naep/>.

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### Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) - State Summative Test

In April, all students in grades six through eight complete the online-administered state test that assesses the state’s College and Career Ready Standards in English language arts (grades 6-8), mathematics (grades 6-8), and science (grade 8 only).

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### NSCAS State Alternate Assessments (NSCAS-AA)

In April, some students in grades six through eight with severe cognitive limitations complete the individually administered state alternate assessments. These assessments measure the alternate state content standards in English language arts (grades 6-8), mathematics (grades 6-8), and science (grade 8 only).

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## HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

### Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

Students who choose to take an AP exam will do so in May. AP exams allow students to earn college credit while in high school. The results are used by colleges to make decisions on scholarships, course placement, and admissions. MPS also uses these results in curriculum planning and evaluating course effectiveness.

### American College Testing (ACT) with Writing -- State Test

Each spring, all students in grade eleven complete the high school state test, ACT. The ACT is a standardized assessment for college and career readiness that also functions as the state test of Nebraska. Subjects include: English, reading, mathematics, science, and writing. Colleges use the results for admissions, loans, scholarships, course placement, and academic advising. These results are also used to fulfill MPS graduation requirements.



### MPS Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA)

In Fall (or Spring dependent on student schedule), all students in grades nine and ten complete the MPS district writing assessment. The AWA is used to assess students' ability to write in a specific mode. Results provide information in the areas of introduction and thesis / claim, conclusion, main ideas, supporting details, transitional strategies, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions.

*\*The 10th grade results can be used to fulfill MPS graduation requirements. Note: For some students, retake opportunities exist in September, November, February, and April / May.*

### MPS Course Assessments

Throughout the school year, all students complete assessments delivered in their courses. These assessments are written by MPS teachers and are designed to ensure that all students throughout our high schools gain the knowledge and skills detailed in the Millard Public Schools course curriculum.



### MPS Essential Learning Outcomes (ELO) Assessments

As needed, some students complete ELO Assessments. ELO assessments are designed to measure a student's understanding of reading and mathematics standards. Results may be used to fulfill MPS graduation requirements. Testing windows are in October, December, March, and April / May.

### MPS Student Survey

In September, students in grades nine through twelve complete this web-based student survey. The poll measures four main areas: Academics, Activities / Athletics, Safety / Kindness, and Future. The information provides student engagement information to the district.



### English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)

In February, all identified English Language Learners (ELLs) in grades nine through twelve complete the state delivered assessment. The ELPA21 measures a child's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. "Proficiency" is defined as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information.

### International Baccalaureate (IB) Course Exams

At the conclusion of IB courses, all students in the IB program complete the IB course exams. Results are used to assess student achievement on IB criteria; meeting benchmarks allow students to earn an IB diploma. The results inform colleges and universities on admissions, scholarships, earning course credit, and course placement. MPS also uses these results in curriculum planning and evaluating course effectiveness.

### MAP Skills

Some students in select courses complete a series of diagnostic mathematics assessments that identify and monitor skills for which students need additional practice. The skills within the system are prerequisite skills that students need to know in order to be prepared for a college and career ready high school curriculum. The assessments are administered as needed based on student mastery.

### Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth

All students in grade nine complete computer adaptive assessments that align to Nebraska academic standards in reading and mathematics. The real-time results provide information on which skills students are ready to learn next, student achievement levels, a student's relative strengths and weaknesses, reading levels, national comparisons, and student growth over time. This assessment is completed at the beginning and end of the appropriate course. Some additional students in select courses will also complete the MAP Growth test.

### Practice ACT

In October, all students in grade eleven complete a retired ACT test. This practice test prepares students for the state ACT test administered in the spring of the 11th grade year. Subjects include reading, English, mathematics, and science.





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## PreACT

In Spring, all students in grade ten complete the PreACT test. This standardized test is used to expose students to the rigors of the ACT assessment and to project future success on the ACT. Results inform teachers and students of strengths and weaknesses. These results may also be used to fulfill MPS graduation requirements.

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## Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)

In October, students in grade eleven who elect to participate may complete the PSAT/NMSQT test. This is a standardized test administered by the College Board and co-sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The scores are used to determine eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

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## NSCAS State Alternate Assessments (NSCAS-AA)

In April, some students in grade eleven with severe cognitive limitations complete the individually administered state alternate assessments. These assessments measure the alternate state content standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science.



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## Dr. Jim Sutfin, Superintendent

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### The Notice of Non-Discrimination:

The Millard School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, age, or on any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local laws in admission or access to or access to or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the discrimination and harassment policies: Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, 5606 South 147 Street, Omaha, NE 68137 (402) 715-8200. The Associate Superintendent of Human Resources may delegate this responsibility as needed. Complaints by school personnel or job applicants regarding unlawful discrimination or unlawful harassment (including sexual harassment) shall follow the procedures of District Rule 4001.2. Complaints by students or parents regarding unlawful discrimination or unlawful harassment (including sexual harassment) shall follow the procedures of District Rule 5010.2.



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Don Stroh Administration Center  
5606 South 147th Street • Omaha, NE 68137

**402.715.8200**  
**www.mpsomaha.org**



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