

Mathematics

Resource Depot: AK STAR & MAP Assessment Support

Interested in increasing your students' success on the AK STAR & MAP Assessments

Use the checklist below to guide your preparations.

Purpose and Audience:

The resource was drafted to:

- Unpack and compare the AK STAR Assessment and the MAP Growth Assessment
- Share and promote a list of suggested steps for improving student outcomes on the AK STAR Assessment
- Collect and curate lists of resources to bolster AK STAR & MAP Assessment preparation

This resource is intended to support the following audiences:

- Math teachers in Alaska in grades 3-9
- Pre-service Math teachers preparing to teach in grades 3-9
- Alaska districts

Overview: AK STAR vs MAP Growth Assessment

AK STAR Assessment (Alaska System of Academic Readiness)	MAP Growth Assessment (Measures of Academic Progress)
AK STAR Assessment: a standards-based summative assessment that measures student progress in English Language Arts and Math in grades 3-9. Regulations: The Alaska Admin code regulation 4 AAC 06.710 lists the required state-wide assessments. 4 AAC 06.737 requires that grade 3-9 students take an assessment based on standards, which is currently the AK STAR, in the spring of each school year. Structure: AK STAR combines the required summative assessment with the MAP Growth component and is adaptive. Some items are dual-purposed, providing information for both scores (see Scoring). Scoring: Students receive a summative test score on the AK STAR Assessment. The current achievement levels include: Needs Support, Approaching Proficient, Proficient, and Advanced. For Achievement Level Scale Score Ranges scores please reference the current educators guide.	MAP Growth Assessment: an adaptive interim test that measures student growth in English Language Arts and Math in grades 3-9. The MAP Growth Assessment is not required per Alaska regulations, however, it is given to some students in all Alaska school districts. Structure: The MAP Growth Assessment is item-adaptive, meaning the assessment adapts to the students' ability based on previous questions answered. Some items are dual-purposed, providing information for both scores (see scoring). Scoring: Students receive a RIT score on the MAP Growth Assessment—a score that estimates their academic growth in Math, Reading, and Language.

Checklist for AK STAR Preparation (AK DEED)

- ☐ **Watch:** Students: [AK STAR Student Tutorial 2026](#) ****highly recommended****
- ☐ **Practice:** Students: Take the [AK STAR practice test](#) ****highly recommended****
- ☐ **Resource:** Teachers: [AK STAR Educator Guide with practice test keys](#)
- ☐ **Practice:** Teachers: Take a [MAP practice test](#) ****highly recommended****
- ☐ **Practice:** Students: Take a [MAP practice test](#) ****highly recommended****

- ☐ **Review Curriculum Coverage:**
Review your mathematics curriculum for coverage of the [Alaska Mathematics Standards \(2012\)](#) and plan instruction to address any gaps or weaknesses

Resource to support:
[Instructional Focus and Cluster Worksheet for Grades K-8 \(word\)](#)
[Instructional Focus and High School Course Clusters \(word\)](#)

- ☐ **Analyze Student Data:**
Collect and review students' most recent MAP data, and plan your instruction based on your findings.
 - ☐ [Determine report](#) that is most aligned with your goals
 - ☐ AK STAR: [Video: ISR results](#)

- ☐ **Read the Blueprint:**
Read the [AK STAR Summative Blueprint for Mathematics \(PDF\)](#)

- ☐ **Explore the ALD's:**
Explore how the [Achievement Level Descriptors](#) (ALD's) can support instruction

Resources to support:
[Achievement Level Explorer Tool](#)
[Grades 3-5](#)
[Grades 6-8](#)
[Grade 9](#)

- ☐ **Teach Academic Vocabulary:**
Teach academic vocabulary embedded in your course content.

Resource to support:
[Academic Vocabulary and Word Lists](#) from the [Vocabulary Instruction Resource Depot](#)
 Use mathematics vocabulary from [Alaska Mathematics Standards Website](#).
 Vocabulary lists for: [Kindergarten](#), [1st](#), [2nd](#), [3rd](#), [4th](#), [5th](#), [6th](#), [7th](#), [8th](#).

- ☐ **Collaborate:**
Complete any / all of the items above with an instructional coach, your PLC, or your grade-band or content-area team. ****highly recommended****

Resources
<i>Understanding the Standards and Standards Implementation:</i> Required Fluencies for Grades K-6 (docx) Overview Focus of Mathematical Content Standards Progression K-8 Achieve the Core Standards Focus Sheets (by grade level) Standards for Mathematical Practice (docx) Guide for Reading Math Standards (word)
<i>ELL Support:</i> ELD Standards (WIDA) Mathematics with Multilingual Learners (WIDA) Math specific EL lesson videos (WIDA)
<i>Professional Development:</i> Fractions Toolkit (IES) Developing Language for Learning Mathematics (WIDA) AK STAR/MAP Growth Assessment Literacy Training (NWEA)