

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Missouri Assessment Program assesses students' progress toward mastery of the Show-Me Standards which are the educational standards in Missouri. The Missouri Assessment Program includes assessments in the subject areas of communication arts (grades 3-8), mathematics (grades 3-8), and science (grades 5 and 8).

The grade-level assessments use two different types of questions or items:

- **Multiple choice** items are composed of selected response questions developed specifically for Missouri/or the survey portion of *TerraNova*, a nationally normed test.
- **Constructed response** items require students to supply an appropriate response rather than making a selection from a list of choices.

Missouri's Show-Me Standards are assessed on state tests and classroom assessments. There are 40 content standards that provide a solid foundation of knowledge and basic skills every student should acquire in mathematics, science, communication arts, social studies, health/physical education, and fine arts. These standards define the body of knowledge that every student should experience within the K-12 curriculum. There are also 33 process standards that include skills students should master in order to successfully gather, analyze, and apply information, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, and become responsible citizens.

While intended to establish higher expectations for all of Missouri's public school students, the 73 Show-Me Standards do not represent everything a student should or will learn. However, graduates who meet these standards should be well prepared for future endeavors in continuing education, the work force, and civic responsibilities.

Achievement level scores provide a measure of what students can do in terms of the content and skills assessed by the Missouri Assessment Program, which are typically found in the curriculum for the grade or grade span being assessed. "Proficient" or "Advanced" levels of achievement are desirable.

On the **student report**, the triangle next to the box indicates the achievement level your student reached at the time of testing. The "Overview of Performance" panel to the left contains your student's actual score along with the state mean score. The score range for each achievement level is indicated on the right side of the boxes so you may compare your student's score to the range of scores in each achievement level. The achievement level attained by your student indicates he/she can perform the majority of what is described at that level and the greater part of the content and skills described in the level(s) below. Your student may also be capable of performing some of the content described in the level(s) above, but not enough to have adequately demonstrated a complete understanding of the content at the time of the assessment.

The TerraNova National Percentile (NP) compares your student's score to a sample of students across the nation. For example, a student whose NP is 65 scored better than 65 percent of the students in the nation who took the *TerraNova* test.