



Video Transcription
Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven
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Hi, I'm Margie Vandeven, Missouri's Commissioner of Education. Thanks for watching this month's Top 10 by 20 UPDATE.

This month, I wanted to take a moment to talk about a subject on the minds of many parents, teachers and students this time of year – Assessments. Classroom teachers assess learning every day and use results to provide students feedback throughout the teaching and learning process. And, once a year, schools administer statewide tests to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional programs. Parents receive reports on each child's performance on these tests.

This spring, the Missouri Assessment Program – more commonly known as the MAP test - will be shifting to new tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics that are aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards. These new tests are less repetitive than prior versions, and they may also prove to be more demanding. It's possible that fewer students will meet grade-level standards. It doesn't mean that students are doing worse, but that the tests are asking more of our kids.

They require students to combine multiple sources of information, and new question types will ask students to demonstrate an array of research, writing, and problem solving skills. It is less practical to teach to this new kind of test; students must be prepared by learning the content – good teaching. Teachers need our support as they work through these important transitions that will benefit our students.

An additional change is that – for the first time – our grade-level tests will be administered on a computer. We sat down with some Missouri students to ask them what they thought of the new computerized tests.

Cameron: There are all these cool little button things. There's one like if you're color blind or something you can click it and it changed the whole color.

Quentin: I kind of like the computer better because there are more tools that you can interact with them.

Kaelyn: We're using the line guide if you read and you can't keep track of where you stop and there's a magnifying glass to zoom in and stuff.

Avion: I like using the magnifying glass for if I forgot my glasses, that's a handy tool that would come in handy.

Kaelyn: There's also a highlighter so if you find important words you can just highlight that so you can remember it.

Cameron: I like how you can cross stuff out instead of making a huge mark on your paper and since it's on a computer you can go on to My On or something.

Avion: In science, you have to use grids and I know when you get in college, you'll have to use grids more often.

Braydon: I like the Smarter Balanced a little more. When we took the MAP in a book, well, we could cross out our answers, but then you'd have to go back and erase it and sometimes you'd miss a page.

Kaelyn: I like typing on the computer and typing answers.

Cameron: When you're in the computer lab, that's how you learn more and how your brain gets bigger and how your brain cells get bigger.

Thank you to all of the students who shared their impressions of the new MAP test with us!

These tests set high expectations for our students, teachers and schools. We want to ensure a high quality education for all Missouri students, so our students can graduate ready for college and their career.

We invest in public education in the knowledge that a better educated population will benefit everyone.

Thanks for everything you do to help Missouri's students reach the Top 10 by 20.