



Missouri Learning, Engagement and Preparation (MO LEAP)

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is committed to supporting students and educators in Missouri as they prepare for the 2020-21 school year. Extended school closures in 2019-20 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have created a number of challenges and questions for districts. Of pressing concern is understanding the impact of school closures on the educational process and ensuring opportunities for recovery of student learning.

To support acceleration of learning strategies, DESE will be providing districts free access to Missouri Learning, Engagement and Preparation (MO LEAP) resources. Available beginning in the fall of 2020, MO LEAP has two components:

- **MO LEAP Blocks** – Includes grade- and content-specific resources that support standards-aligned, grade-appropriate classroom-level instruction.
- **MO LEAP Assessments** – Free assessments evaluate student learning loss and help accelerate learning in the new school year.

MO LEAP Assessments and MO LEAP Blocks are voluntary. Access to MO LEAP Assessments is provided through the MAP Grade-Level and EOC platforms.

Background

Although the system-wide school closure this year was unique, analysis of other school disruptions (hurricane Katrina, the Joplin tornado, etc.) indicate that educators should expect to implement multi-year strategies to address recovery of student learning.

The curriculum and assessment teams at DESE have been working on several fronts to plan and develop support for Missouri educators when schools re-open. As part of this work, we have heard feedback from stakeholders and have charged ourselves to help districts with evaluating learning gaps and addressing unfinished learning with supports for curriculum and instruction. While we recognize the potential for over-testing when students return to schools, it is important to gauge where students are with respect to the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS), and critical to devote as much time as possible to instruction in the coming school year.

During the summer of 2020, DESE organized a ***Task Force for Learning Acceleration***. Members of this task force provided advice and recommendations to DESE on issues related to accelerating learning for students in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years including:

- Assessing learning loss as a result of the extended school closures including discussions of instructional progress, variances in local pacing, systemic sources of data and formative assessment tools
- Identification of the learning standards that are prerequisites for future knowledge and the use of available assessment data
- Discussions of equity, meeting the needs of Missouri’s most vulnerable, economically challenged students, students in the primary grades, and responses to the social-emotional needs of students and educators

These and other recommendations of the Task Force for Learning Acceleration informed the development and deployment of MO LEAP resources. Find more task force information at <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/task-force-learning-acceleration>.

MO LEAP Blocks

The content contained in MO LEAP Blocks focus on problem solving and application of skills, not on memorization of facts. The Blocks are designed to be used flexibly by teachers (in whole or in parts) and woven into curricula as needed. Linked to the MLS and the PLDs, the blocks include scoring guides for open-ended items and stimulus sets with associated questions.

MO LEAP Blocks consider:

- Balancing remediation with on-grade-level curricula
- Avoiding depletion of instructional time by over-testing
- Foundations, learning progressions and content spiraling within curricula
- Cognitive skills students need to demonstrate acquisition of skills
- Support of rich and robust grade-appropriate curriculum and instruction
- Understanding that typical or traditional ways of instructing may need to change
- Importance of student-centered, individual learning

Each content area will have a number of Blocks available and districts can choose which ones they wish to download and use.

Social Studies Blocks in grades 3-8 are currently available. Additional MO LEAP Blocks will become available in late fall.

Additional information about the MO LEAP Blocks, including how to access materials, scoring and instruction is forthcoming. For questions about the design and use of MO LEAP Blocks, contact DESE Curriculum at curriculum@dese.mo.gov or 573-522-4003.

MO LEAP Assessments

MO LEAP Assessments can be used to evaluate skills and concepts that are *essential* for students to have learned in SY19-20 in order to be prepared for SY20-21.

These assessments are designed to measure the knowledge of content from the previous year by assessing clusters of standards that leverage learning of the current year's standards. To measure the readiness for the current year, MO LEAP Assessments "look back" at the previous year's expectations. For example, MO LEAP Assessments for a student entering 6th grade this fall will cover expectations for 5th grade ELA, math and science.

Aligned with Missouri's performance level descriptors (PLDs) and the MLS, data from these assessments will help Missouri educators link the results to locally designated priority standards, which drive curriculum.

The development of MO LEAP Assessments is informed by best practices in test design and administration, the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*, and evidence- and research-based approaches to learning recovery. As with the other assessments that make up the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP), the input of Missouri educators is incorporated at key stages in the design and deployment of MO LEAP Assessments.

Assessment Availability

The assessments, which can be administered starting in late August, are available for students in grade 4 and above.

MO LEAP Assessments cover the content and standards of the previous year, thus the test administration at each grade 4-9 must follow the rules, guidelines, instruction and appropriate tools/accommodations of the preceding grade assessment. The same tools and accommodations available for the MAP Grade-Level and End-Of-Course (EOC) tests are available for the MO LEAP assessments.

As MO LEAP Assessments are voluntary, districts do not need to test students in all available content areas.

2020-2021 Grade Level	Available MO LEAP Assessments	Students Use
Grade 4	Math and ELA	DRC Insight
Grade 5	Math and ELA	DRC Insight
Grade 6	Math, ELA and Science	DRC Insight
Grade 7	Math and ELA	DRC Insight
Grade 8	Math and ELA	DRC Insight
Grade 9	Math, ELA and Science	DRC Insight
End-Of-Course students (Relate to courses taken in 2019-2020)	Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Biology, English I, English II, American Government	Questar Secure Browser

NOTES

- **MATH:** The 4-9 assessments have 3 sessions. The 3rd session contains a performance event. Calculators are not allowed in grades 4-6 without an IEP/504 Plan. Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry have 2 sessions.
- **ELA:** The 4-9 assessments have 4 sessions. The first session is the Reading and Writing Strand. The second session is the Reading Strand. The third session is the Research and Writing Strand. The final session is the Listening Strand. Headphones are required for the final session. English I and English II have two sessions. The first session has listening items and requires headphones and the second contains a writing prompt.
- **SCIENCE:** The grades 6 and 9 Science assessments have 2 sessions. Biology and Physical Science have 1 session.
- **SOCIAL STUDIES:** The Government assessment has 1 session.

Test Setup

Test setup operates the same way as it does for the MAP Grade-Level and EOC assessments. For MO LEAP Grade-Level assessments, districts do not need to set a testing window. For EOC, districts will need to set a district window for each content area.

Students should be assigned only to the content areas in which they will be assessed.

Students, pre-populated in the system, will need to be placed into testing sessions by the District Test Coordinator (DTC). For EOC, all high school students in grades 10-12 (and those students who were retained in grade 9) will be pre-populated for every content area. Districts will have to assign students to an examiner and test session. For those students not testing a specific content area, districts take no steps to assign the student.

The pre-population of students was based on the district's June enrollment file. Because of this, some enrolled students may be missing while other available students may no longer be a part of your district. The following chart outlines some scenarios that may need to be addressed prior to test administration.

DRC Portal – Students In Grades 4-9	
Scenario	Prior To Test Administration...
A student assigned to your district in the system is no longer enrolled	Do not put that student in any testing sessions
A student enrolled after the June enrollment file was finalized and is therefore missing from your district in the system	The student will need to be added to the system manually. Under the Manage Students tab, select the school and click the Add Student button at the bottom of the page. Enter the necessary info under each tab and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session. Districts can also use the Upload Multiple Students tab under Manage Students to add multiple students at once. If you are unable to add the student, contact the MAP Help Desk at 800-544-9868.
A student was retained at the same grade level	Edit the grade of the student using the Manage Students tab under Student Management. Click on the View/Edit icon in the action column, which will display the student information. Edit the student grade level and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session.
A student was assigned building code 1000 (Central Office)	Students were assigned building code 1000 if it could not be determined which building the student should be assigned. Edit the building of the student Manage Students tab under Student Management. Click on the View/Edit icon in the action column, which will display the student information. Edit the student school and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session.
Other demographic information about the student is incorrect	Edit the demographic information of the student using the Manage Students tab under Student Management. Click on the View/Edit icon in the action column, which will display the student information. Edit the student and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session.

Questar Nextera – EOC Students	
Scenario	Prior To Test Administration...
A student assigned to your district in the system is no longer enrolled	Do not put that student in any testing sessions
A student enrolled after the June enrollment file was finalized and is therefore missing from your district in the system	The student will need to be added to the system manually. Under the Students tab, choose New Student. Enter the necessary info and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session. Districts can also use the Pre-ID Upload tab under Students to add multiple students at once. If you are unable to add the student, contact the Questar Help Desk at 800-571-2545.
A student was retained at the same grade level	Edit the grade of the student using the Students tab. Click View, then Edit, change the student grade level and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session.
A student was assigned building code 1000 (Central Office)	Students were assigned building code 1000 if it could not be determined which building the student should be assigned. Edit the building of the student using the Students tab. Click View, then Edit, change the student building and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session.
Other demographic information about the student is incorrect	Edit the demographic information of the student using the Students tab. Click View, then Edit, change the student information and click Save. The student can now be added to a testing session.

Testing

Administration of MO LEAP Assessments should mirror the summative assessment as close as possible. Districts can use the information found in the Test Coordinators and Test Examiners manuals for instructions, guidance, rules and regulations around state assessments.

Unlike the MAP Grade-Level assessments, the MO LEAP Assessments in ELA contain a writing prompt at every grade level. For the grades 4-6 ELA assessments, use the Grade 4 Writer’s Checklist. For grades 7-9, use the Grade 8 Writer’s Checklist.

Test Examiners should receive training on state and district policies and procedures related to testing.

Manuals, training PowerPoint slides and other assessment materials for the 2020-21 year are available now on the DESE Assessment website – <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/assessment>.

As of August 2020, the MO LEAP Assessments can only be taken on campus, as the systems have to connect to the district server. DESE and our vendors continue to explore the possibilities of remote assessment.

Scoring and Reports – Grade-Level

Scoring for the MO LEAP Grade-Level Assessments will be conducted by DRC. Scoring does not wait for a district, school or classroom to finish. Scoring begins after an individual student finishes testing.

Districts will have access the following reports via the Portal Interactive Reports menu:

- **Raw Score Roster Report** – Provides the student’s raw score points earned/points possible.

- **Item Summary Report** – Provides score details for each test item.
- **Student Test Item File (Batch Download)** – Provides student-by-student item score details for each test item, in a downloadable .csv file format.
- **Lexile/Quantile Roster Report** – Provides the student’s Lexile and Quantile scores and score range, and will be available approximately 30 business days after the statewide testing window closes in October.

The results and reports of a students autoscored items will be available within two business days after the student submits the test. The results of the hand scored items will be available within ten business days after completion.

Scoring and Reports – EOC

Scoring for the MO LEAP EOC Assessments will be conducted by Questar. Once all the buildings in the district have finished testing a specific content and the district window closes, scoring will begin. Districts can close content windows early by contacting Questar Customer Service.

On demand reports, available following test administration, include raw score information and item analysis.

Districts will have access the following reports:

- **Expanded Test Map** – Provides specific metadata related to each given item administered. Some examples of metadata include MLS Code, DOK, Standard, Theme and Reporting Category.
- **Content Standard Data File** – Provides the points possible and points earned for each available reporting category.
- **Item Analysis Summary Report/Summary Data File** – Provides details for each item assessed including MLS Code, Item Type, Points Possible per item, Percent of Points earned per item at the district, school and classroom level.

Districts will receive their preliminary raw EOC results online within five business days after the district window closes. Additional item analysis, including the expanded test map, content standard data and item analysis information will be available sometime after that.

Once logged into the Nextera Administration site, DTCs and STCs can navigate to the Reports Tab and select Data Files from the menu. Reports are packaged in zipped folders by district code and school code. Users can choose to either download their entire folder or navigate to a specific report of their choosing.