



PROPER USE OF THE NEW MAP ASSESSMENT IN GIFTED PROGRAMS

Many school districts have been accustomed to using the Terra Nova section of the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) as part of their screening and/or placement process for state approved gifted programs. As the Terra Nova is no longer a part of the MAP, districts have been seeking clarification on the impact of this on their selection process and what is allowable use of the current MAP results.

The current MAP assessments are 100% criterion referenced. Looking at the Achievement-Level Descriptors for advanced, it discusses that the student has exceeded the achievement standard and demonstrate advanced progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

School districts may use any evidence for screening students to determine if the students should receive further assessment for possible placement in a state approved gifted program. Therefore, districts may use the current MAP results for screening. Possible uses could include, but are not limited to, taking all students who scored in the advanced category and moving them forward for additional assessment or analyzing the scaled scores of students who were placed in the gifted program last year and determining a cut-off scaled score students need to achieve before moving forward in the assessment process.

The Administrative Rule for state approved gifted programs require the use of a norm referenced achievement test scores for placement in a state approved gifted program. Therefore, these MAP scores may only be used in the OTHER category as other documented evidence for placement in a state approved gifted program. The MAP achievement scores **MUST NOT** be used as the scores in the achievement category for placement in a state approved gifted program.

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