

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC GROWTH REPORT - FAMILY COVER LETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Your student recently participated in academic growth assessments. The state legislature requires school divisions to measure student growth and progress within the school year in reading and mathematics in grades 3-8. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) monitors student growth in middle school grades 6-8 using the iReady reading test and the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) mathematics test (<u>https://www.fcps.edu/academic-screening-growth-and-diagnostic-tests</u>). iReady and MAP assessments are aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning and measure grade level skills. Students take these tests 3 times during the school year to allow teachers to see their skill growth.

## Enclosed with this cover letter is your student's iReady reading individual growth report. You will also receive a separate student progress report for your student's MAP mathematics test results along with a family guide for understanding the MAP report.

The enclosed growth report displays all iReady outcomes for your student from this school year, as illustrated in the image below. For each window, your student's report provides a **(1)** blue bar and **(2)** placement level that tell how your student performed overall in relation to (3) on-grade level expectations, displayed as green shading. Additionally, the **(4)** national norm percentile indicates how your student's performance compares to peers nationally. Finally, the **(5)** domain table shows how your student did in specific skill areas. Students who score below the FCPS 40<sup>th</sup> percentile benchmark or show domain areas of concern may receive additional diagnostic assessments and targeted interventions, as needed.



When reviewing your student's iReady and MAP academic growth reports, consider the following questions:

- How is my student progressing over time? The goal is for your student to make progress in their learning. When a student has more than one test result for the year, the blue bars show how the student is growing with grade level skills and preparing for more advanced concepts.
- What if my student is performing below the grade level expectation? This can happen for many reasons, such as test-day factors like stress or distractions. Teachers use multiple data points to understand student performance and plan instructional supports to accelerate learning, as needed. More important than a score from a single test is to ensure that your student continues to learn and grow to meet or exceed grade level expectations by the end of the year.
- What if my student's score decreased from an earlier test? A lower score does not mean your student did not learn or lost skills. Scores can be affected by things like stress, distraction, or taking the test in a different place. Teachers use multiple data points to understand student growth and plan instructional supports to accelerate learning, as needed.

More information on grade level expectations and a description of test skills are available on the iReady Test Information webpage (<u>https://www.fcps.edu/node/35282</u>) and the MAP Test Information webpage (<u>https://www.fcps.edu/node/50123</u>). If you have questions about strengths and needs in reading or mathematics, please contact your student's teacher. If your student receives English for language development (ELD) services, keep in mind that iReady and MAP tests are in English. Contact your student's ESOL teacher for information about their English language development.

For a translation of this document, please visit the webpage at https://www.fcps.edu/node/50122 or contact your student's school.

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