

## Frequently Asked Questions about MAP®

### **What is the MAP®?**

Measures of Academic Progress® (MAP®) – These computerized tests are adaptive and offered in Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics. When taking a MAP® test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

### **How long does it take to complete a test?**

Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about 45 minutes to one hour to complete each MAP® test.

### **When will my child be tested and how often?**

At Hickman Charter School these tests are optional. We will have several MAP testing windows throughout the school year. Please check the HCS calendar and watch your monthly newsletter for more information.

### **Do all students in the same grade take the same test?**

No. MAP® assessments are designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, and language usage. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do.

### **What are the assessments used for?**

MAP® assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. MAP® assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your child's growth in mathematics, reading, and language usage. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale (Rasch unit). The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your child's academic growth from year to year.

### **How will my EC and I use the test scores?**

MAP® tests are important because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let EC's and parents know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. You will be able to use this information to help guide your instruction.