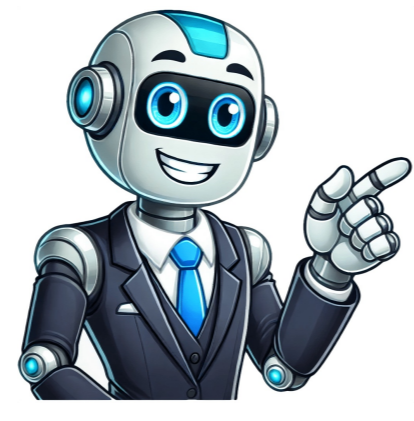


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## Map testing for homeschoolers

As we are wanting to finish grade 6 early and jump straight into 7th grade, I wanted to do some standardized testing. See why we love map testing for homeschoolers with Homeschool Boss. I know I have a bright child, and that is one of the reasons I decided to homeschool in the first place. But actually, I have no idea where he sits with his peers. Please don't get me wrong, I have not decided to do map growth test to compare my son with anyone else, as neither of us needs that level of validation. The reason we decided to do a homeschooling test was that I know when he gets to college he will have to start testing. But I wanted to get him prepared now! I have heard from lots of other public school moms who tell me that they learn to test, and they have tests every week! That to me is ridiculous, but going forward we will continue to use these mapping tests once or twice a year. Probably when we think about going to the next grade. \*This post may contain affiliate links. As an Amazon Associate and a participant in other affiliate programs, I earn a commission on qualifying purchases.\*\* We opted to do all the subjects, so math, reading, English language, and science through Homeschool Boss. Going forward we will continue to do all subjects annually but leave science out if we test again in the year. The benefits of taking a map standardized test in your homeschool depend on the child. Although for us there are the following benefits, there are plenty of disadvantages too which I will discuss afterward. College preparedness. Assists in organizing our best non religious homeschool curriculum. Identifies areas that need more focus. Ensures children are meeting educational standards. Can be used for year end homeschool evaluation depending on your state. If you can use as your homeschool evaluation another benefit is you don't need to keep a really detailed portfolio. Puts a lot of stress on children. It is not entirely accurate as it is just one test on one day, and we all know that things can change day to day. We didn't prepare at all for the test, but if we had a disadvantage would be teaching to test (as they do in public schools). Does not instill a natural love of learning into children. NWEA mapping tests are the best-standardized adaptive tests and are the most up-to-date. The online homeschool testing is administered remotely over the phone via Homeschool Boss. You call the number provided on the day and time that testing is scheduled for and you can start testing in minutes. (What I also loved is they sent me about 3 emails reminding me of the tests, and detailed instructions.) They are taken at home on your own computer or iPad and are not timed. The average time to take each of the tests is 45-60 minutes. But it took my son 1 hour and 47 minutes to complete grade 6 math and much longer for reading. Check out our top picks homeschool curriculum for 6th grade. There were approximately 53 adaptive questions for all four subjects. He did have a few breaks with all of the tests. On the first day of testing, he definitely got a little stressed out. But he calmed down after the first say 10 questions. By the time it had finished and we got his raw results he was completely fine, in fact, he enjoyed it. Although he did call me once to tell me that he must have got a question wrong as the question he was working on was too easy! They recommend not doing testing on the same day, and so we opted for Monday - Thursday for our tests. We also went for the earliest time, as Freddie works better in the morning. Check out our homeschool curriculum 7th grade choices When the adaptive test is complete you will get your basic results. The raw results are just that. Homeschool Boss does give you the NWEA Research 2020 Comparative Data, but, at first glance, I didn't get it. In fact, I was concerned that he had done really badly. I emailed Homeschool Boss and within 10 minutes she had put our mind at rest, and he was where we would have expected, above grade level. Within less than 24 hours of completing each test, we received a DETAILED report showing how he did. This was so helpful to decide what areas we needed to work harder on. But also it confirmed to me that he was ready for the next grade. Now when I said detailed I really meant it, the report is roughly 40 pages per subject! Of course, I didn't print it all out for our records, in fact, I only printed out 5 pages (for all 4 subjects). Find out how to keep records for homeschool! Below is a sample score report that you will receive. The graph below shows how your child compares with other students in their grade. Testing with Homeschool Boss was very easy, and the communication via email, telephone, and the online chat was excellent. The mapping tests are not cheap though. It costs \$60 for math and reading, plus an extra \$10 for English language and an extra \$20 for science. This is the option I took, but, I think going forward I will pay for the yearly subscription which is \$162. This includes 3 x reading and math tests plus an extra \$10 for English language and \$20 for science. On our first mapping tests that he has just taken we did zero test preparation. This was intentional, I wanted to know how much information he already knew. If I am honest it has just been Christmas and his birthday so I didn't want to overwhelm him. But, when we come to test again (we are going to do this at least twice if not three times a year going forward.) we will "revise". There are many ways you can do this: Test Practice Workbooks from Spectrum, if you have not used their workbooks before you have been missing out. They are absolutely excellent. We have used lots of them for different grades and subjects, so I am also confident these test practice workbooks will be as good. They have these books in all grades from grades 1 - 8. Khan Academy for math. Type in the RIT scores and it gives you questions that match your child's level. We are in Florida which is a relatively easy state to homeschool in, we have the following options for our annual evaluation: An individual evaluation by a Florida-certified teacher of your choice. Any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher of your choice. A state student assessment test. A psychological evaluation. Any other method mutually agreed upon by the parent and the superintendent. If you are not sure about what requirements there are in your state check out HSLDA. Last Updated on 8 April 2025 by Clare Brown HSB is located in Minneapolis, MN - we are currently under a tornado watch and have taken shelter. We will be back to assist you as soon as possible. NWEA® MAP® Growth™ tests are an option to meet Ohio homeschool testing requirements. The Ohio MAP test is a nationally normed test that assesses student growth. Homeschool Boss is offering MAP Growth tests in reading, math, and language usage (optional). We use the 2015 norms and the same version of MAP Growth tests currently in use in schools across the country. These untimed, web-based tests can be taken on a laptop, iPad, or Chromebook and are administered remotely by Homeschool Boss. There is no degree requirement for parents. Families commonly take the reading test on a Monday, followed up by math on Tuesday, and finally the language usage on Wednesday. Once complete, they will receive the score report on Friday of the same week. Computer adaptive MAP Growth assessments reveal precisely which academic skills and concepts the student has acquired and what they're ready to learn. MAP Growth assessments are grade independent and adapt to each student's instructional level. Every item on a MAP Growth assessment is anchored to a vertically aligned equal interval scale, called the RIT scale for Rasch UNIT—a stable measurement, like inches on a ruler, that covers all grades. And because the measurement is reliable and accurate, RIT scores serve as an essential data point in a student's learning plan; educators can see their precise learning level and respond accordingly. How To Homeschool in Ohio MAP Growth creates a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student's learning level—precisely measuring student progress and growth for each individual. You'll have essential information about what each student knows and is ready to learn within the week. For more information about Ohio homeschool testing, contact Homeschool Boss today. As a homeschool parent, understanding your child's academic level can be challenging. NWEA MAP Evaluation provides detailed reports that highlight strengths and areas needing improvement, making it easier to tailor your child's education for better outcomes.Tracking Academic Progress with the MAP ExamThis test adapts to your child's performance during each test, ensuring an accurate reflection of their knowledge. After testing, you'll receive a report featuring a RIT score, which shows how much progress your child has made over time. These insights help you identify which areas of your homeschooling approach are effective and where adjustments may be needed.Advantages of Using MAP Exam in HomeschoolingMAP Exam is an ideal choice for homeschooling due to its flexibility and personalized approach. Administered online, the test is untimed, allowing your child to progress at their own pace.Beyond providing scores, NWEA Growth delivers valuable insights to help you craft a learning plan that promotes continuous progress and academic growth.What Subjects Does the NWEA Exam Cover?The test assesses four core subjects: math, reading, language usage, and science. Each subject includes a wide range of topics suited for various grade levels.For younger students, the focus is on foundational skills, while older students tackle more advanced concepts. This makes it a versatile tool for evaluating your child's knowledge across essential academic areas, regardless of age or grade.How Long Does the Test Take?One key advantage of this assessment is its untimed format, allowing children to take their time without pressure. On average, each section takes 45 to 60 minutes to complete.The test typically includes 43 to 53 questions per subject (depending on the child's grade). Because it adapts to each student's abilities, the experience is unique for every child, keeping it engaging and low-stress for homeschoolers. HSB is located in Minneapolis, MN - we are currently under a tornado watch and have taken shelter. We will be back to assist you as soon as possible. Most homeschool families run their homeschool like a private academy with their own educational emphasis and method. It's true that not one home educating experience is like another. However, all homeschool families have the same goal - well-educated children. No matter how we start or what methods we employ along the way, we need to stop and evaluate our progress at certain points. While I am not a proponent of over testing or teaching for the test as has become the norm in US public schools, I do believe that certain standardized achievement tests can be useful in the educational journey. Why Take A Standardized Test To make sure students are really learning core skills and information To give encouragement to homeschool parents that they are doing a good job To determine where the student is needing some additional help If the student is planning on enrolling in a traditional school, standardized test scores can help determine where the child should be placed. MAP Standardized Test We chose to have our son take a standardized test this past fall. He is in 6th grade and at that pivotal place between elementary and middle school. I wanted to be sure he had a solid foundation to build on. While we were looking at testing options, Affordable Homeschool Testing Services offered to test our son in exchange for an honest review. What impressed me before we even started testing was the customer service. I had questions about which level test to take and how the test worked. I emailed the company and got a personal phone call to walk me through the process. During the phone call, we scheduled a MAP Math and Reading Test which is taken over two days online at home. There was no travel to a testing center or paper test forms that could get trashed. Those were huge benefits for us! Each tests only took an hour or so and was painless for my son. The test duration was just right for my son. Much longer and he might have lost interest. He was in a familiar environment, so he didn't feel a huge amount of pressure. Within a week, the results were mailed to me. The results were not just a test score, but a 48 page report with overall scores, scores for separate sections of the tests, percentiles, and a learning statements section. The learning statement section "details the skills and concepts that are in the range of where your child performed on the MAP test". This section had three columns showing the levels of proficiency and areas that your child needs more teaching. The MAP standardized test was a great help for me. I discovered that my son was way beyond the reading level I had thought. That meant I could breathe a little easier. His math scores were on par, so we are on the right track. The addition of the learning statements helped me see where I needed to fill some gaps in his learning. Testing through Affordable Homeschool Testing Services was a great experience for us. It was easy and thorough. I would recommend it for any homeschool family. More Information Affordable Homeschool Testing Services website Affordable Homeschool Testing Services Facebook HSB is located in Minneapolis, MN - we are currently under a tornado watch and have taken shelter. We will be back to assist you as soon as possible. If you have spent any time on my blog, then you know I firmly believe that your child is much more than a score on a standardized test. Your child is a creative, unique, and sparkling individual with a plethora of personality that cannot be measured by a test.But that doesn't mean testing is a bad thing. It just isn't the only thing.Homeschool testing can provide valuable feedback about your child's academic strengths and weaknesses. For the homeschooling parent, these strengths and weaknesses are usually not a surprise but testing results can help pinpoint specific areas that might require extra support in the future.I live in a state that requires annual standardized testing so I administer a standardized test each year. The scores my children receive for various subject areas typically do not provide helpful feedback or information, but they have met the state requirements in North Carolina. I have researched testing options that provide more specific and valuable feedback but they are usually quite expensive.But this year, I came across a solution that was affordable and would provide valuable feedback. {{ This post contains affiliate links. Read my full disclosure.}} In my research this year, I came across the MAPS Testing option through Affordable Homeschool Testing Services. I was immediately intrigued by the fact that the testing is computer adaptive and tailored to my child's learning level. One look at the sample score report and I knew this test would provide more valuable information than the options we have tried in previous years AND it was affordable.I contacted Affordable Homeschool Testing Services and asked them if they would provide our family with testing services in exchange for my honest opinion and review of their product. They agreed and I scheduled a time for testing. (Read my full disclosure.)Homeschool Standardized Testing: What is MAP testing?The MAP® Growth™ is a nationally-normed interim assessment by NWEA®. This test is computer-adaptive which means that it adjusts to your child's performance as they take the test. (MAP stands for Measure of Academic Progress)The test is tailored to your child's learning level so it can precisely measure their academic performance and track growth efficiently.Your children take the test on the first 2-3 mornings of the week. By Friday, the parent will have the results. Included in their result packet in addition to their scores is information about what they are ready to learn next.Best of all, your child can take the test in the comfort of their own home using a laptop, iPad, or Chromebook. My children are iPad natives and the option to use the testing app was one I appreciated.This is also very helpful to help a child who is overcoming test anxiety.Affordable Homeschool Testing Services offers MAP Growth Testing with detailed reports at an affordable price for homeschool families.Homeschool Standardized Testing: Before the TestTesting is required in North Carolina and the Affordable Homeschool Testing site had all of the information I needed to know in order to meet the requirements specific to my state. If you are in the same situation, you can look up the requirements for your particular state. I had to register my children for the math, reading, and language sections to meet my local requirements.Once I knew what tests to order, the process of registering my children was simple. I selected the dates and times that worked for our family then entered my children's information. I was able to describe special testing circumstances for one of my children. (more information below)The confirmation email included important information about the testing environment, what to expect, and instructions for test day. The email emphasized that my children would be given questions that would be too hard for them so that their level could be accurately determined. I made sure to convey this to my children so they knew some of the questions would be too hard.In addition, there was a link to a practice test so that my children could practice using the tablet or laptop to answer questions. It was helpful so they could learn how to select the right answer or "drag" the answer to the box when necessary.Homeschool Standardized Testing: Children with Special NeedsI appreciated that the registration form included a section to describe the special needs of any children in my house. I described the accommodations I have made for teaching and what I thought she would require for this testing experience.I received a phone call in the next day to discuss the accommodations that I could use. The test is already untimed and breaks are allowed. In addition, we talked about math accommodations and worked out a perfect solution so the results would be accurate and my child would feel supported.All of the information about accommodations can be found on the Affordable Homeschool Testing Services website.Homeschool Standardized Testing: The Testing ExperienceTesting mornings ran quite smoothly. My children took the reading test on Monday, the math test on Tuesday, and the language test on Wednesday.At the appointed time, I made a phone call to receive the password for my students. I was given basic instructions and they were approved to begin testing. All four of my children were able to log in and test at the same time.Two children used tablets while two used laptops. The testing process was smooth on both. We had one glitch occur for my son on the math section one day. I called and it was immediately corrected so my son could continue.Each day required approximately 45 minutes to 60 minutes for testing.NOTE: I did warn my kids to expect about half of the questions to be too hard for them. The math day was particularly hard and required reminders. I think that it is very clear in math when a problem is too hard. Math day required an extra reminder to expect difficult questions and encouragement to keep at it.Standardized Testing: The ResultsAffordable Homeschool Testing Services promises MAP testing results by Friday of testing week. My children's scores arrived in my inbox by Thursday afternoon and a follow-up email with more information arrived on Friday.I received much more than just simple test scores. In addition to percentiles and Lexile ranges for each child, I was provided with additional information about my children in math, reading, and language. (See a sample score report here.)For each subject, the final report included information on my child's proficiency in mathematics, reading, and language. Skills and concepts in these subject areas were divided into three categories:skills and concepts to reinforce,skills and concepts to develop,skills and concepts to introduce.These lists will be very helpful for me as I plan next year. For example, I have children who will benefit from some review of "editing for subject-verb agreement". I will find a few fun ways to incorporate editing into our copywork using some of the skills suggested in the test results.Of course, while test scores aren't everything, they do help me as I plan our year when I keep them in mind as one part of the picture of education in our home.Based on our results I know that our Brave Writer Lifestyle has paid off in reading even though we don't use the testing style "comprehension questions". I also know that we will spend more time exploring math concepts that will benefit everyone.Homeschool Standardized Testing: My Final ThoughtsI was pleased with the testing experience from Affordable Homeschool Testing Services. It was easy to schedule and implement. The customer support was top notch and everything flowed very smoothly.My kids and I were new to MAP testing and everyone was happy with it. I am glad that the test focused on three subject areas instead of several. I didn't mind that science and social studies weren't specifically tested. In fact, I preferred it.The amount of testing time was also quite reasonable because it only took about an hour or less each day.Finally, being able to test on their tablets was a helpful option for this generation of iPad natives in my house. I was glad this was an option.In the end, the results of our MAP testing equipped me with valuable knowledge about my children and their academic skills. I will use this knowledge to plan a few new additions to our curriculum next year. I appreciated Affordable Homeschool Testing Service for the ease of use and wealth of information I received.Do you use standardized testing in your homeschool? Mary is a writer and mother to four kids ranging from elementary to high school. She believes that creativity, laughter, and fun are the backbone for engaging and inspiring homeschools. You can find her encouragement and tips on this blog, Mary Hanna Wilson. She is an enneagram 7 and an extrovert. She enjoys traveling, tea (iced or hot), good conversations, and books. You can connect with her on Instagram and Facebook.Latest posts by Mary Wilson (see all) HSB is located in Minneapolis, MN - we are currently under a tornado watch and have taken shelter. We will be back to assist you as soon as possible.