

May 2006 Newsletter

Northeast Regional MAP Center

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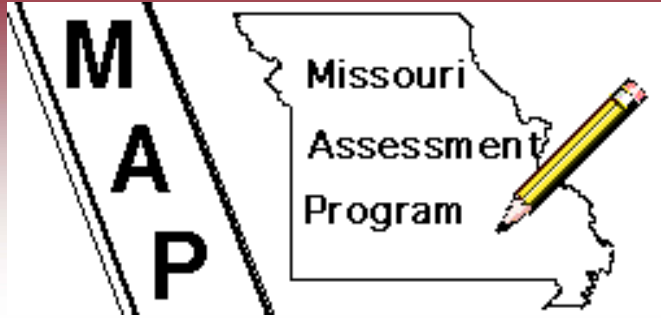
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STATE NEWS

Come Visit a MAP Site

Every year, the sites where MAP tests are scored are opened to visitors who would like to observe how the student work is viewed and evaluated. Visitors can observe from 9:00 to 11:00 and/or 1:00-3:00 on any of the visiting days. Each visitor will have a short introductory session and will sign a non-disclosure form before entering the scoring room. Visitors may talk quietly to the teachers involved in scoring and may see their training materials as well as student responses on the MAP test questions. For those interested in visiting a scoring site, refer to the chart below for visiting dates and cities.



The Reflective Teacher

- Reflects on current instruction and assessment practices
- Makes gradual changes in instructional practice to provide a non-threatening learning environment
- Makes gradual changes in assessment practice which reflect instructional change
- Reflects on results and makes modifications to instruction and assessment based on those results



Inside This Issue ...

- *Visit a MAP Site*
- *Curriculum Units*
- *Free Resources*
- *Tips for Teachers*
- *MAP Sample Items*
- *Math GLE Examples*
- *Hats Off*
- *Farewell from Sheila*

Location	Content	Session I Visiting Day	Session II Visiting Day
Columbia	4th grade Math	June 8	June 14
Hazelwood	4th grade Math	June 9	June 14
Liberty	3rd grade Comm. Arts	June 8	June 15
Lindbergh	8th grade Math	June 8	June 14
Macon	11th grade Comm. Arts	June 8	June 15
Raytown	4th grade Math	June 9	June 14
Rockwood	3rd grade Comm. Arts	June 9	June 14
Rolla	7th grade Comm. Arts	June 8	June 15
St. Joseph	3rd grade Comm. Arts	June 9	June 15
Sikeston	8th grade Math	June 9	June 15
Springfield	10th grade Math	June 8	June 14
Webb City	7th grade Comm. Arts	June 9	June 15

Communication Arts Model Curriculum Units

Communication Arts model curriculum units offer examples for instruction and assessment of specific grade level expectations. The lessons within each of the posted units illustrate use of specific, effective instructional and assessment strategies. These examples do not represent a limited set of prescribed strategies; instead, they are supportive of research-based instruction.

Other units for kindergarten through eleventh grade will be posted as they become available. All units may be viewed by clicking the links below or by going directly to <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/ModelCurriculum/>.



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Communication Arts Model Curriculum Units continued

Third Grade: Using Nonfiction to Investigate Acts of Courage focus on reading and writing nonfiction while investigating the concept of courage. They apply their understanding of nonfiction to produce their own expository texts. (completed 3-31-06)

Patricia Polacco Writer's Process through Author Study (completed 3-27-06)

Living Things A focus on identifying messages, writing expository text and following directions. (completed 3-27-06)

Fourth Grade: **Figurative Language** A focus on figurative language and sensory detail in fiction and nonfiction poetry and prose, and comparing and contrasting. (completed 3-31-06)

Tall Tales A focus on characteristics of tall tales, delve into comprehension through decoding and vocabulary practice, and identify story elements of the tall tales they read. (completed 3-31-06)

Seventh Grade: **Challenged by Choices** A focus on reading and writing fiction and nonfiction. (completed 3-31-06)

Meeting Challenges A focus on meeting challenges using media and writing. (completed 3-31-06)

Ninth Grade: **Life Is a Journey** A focus on reading strategies to unknown text, decode unknown words, summarize text, evaluate media messages. (completed 3-27-06)

Tenth Grade: **Career and Job Opportunities** A focus on writing for the workplace. (completed 2-20-06)

Eleventh Grade: **Reading and Writing Nonfiction from Various Perspectives: A Study of the Elements of Persuasive Text** – Chief Red Jacket and Reverend Cram (completed 2-18-06)

Challenge A focus on giving and following directions and expository writing. (completed 3-27-06)

Free Resources for Missouri Schools

Is your district grappling with how to get a return on your technology investment – and a return in higher student performance? Do you want to inform your decision-making about curriculum resources with sound, reliable research? Is it difficult to locate research aligned to your interests, and even more difficult to know which research findings are valid and significant?

To help address these issues, the Department purchased a subscription to Metiri Group's *Technology Solutions that Work* (TSW). The TSW database puts at your fingertips research on early and adolescent literacy, middle and high school math, and technology. You can review detailed analyses of technology-based learning solutions and software, along with a summary of associated research studies. Tap into TSW to determine which research findings to factor into your school's investments. The Missouri subscription is effective through October 2006.

What is TSW?

TSW is an online database to learn which content area software or technology-based learning solutions have sound research. Metiri has two active databases available at this time, on:

- Early and Adolescent Literacy <AND>
- Middle and High School Mathematics

How does it work?

The Metiri Group and its consultants undertake rigorous, unbiased, and independent reviews of a software/learning solution. They examine products in terms of their:

- Theoretical base <AND>
- Impact studies

The criteria and associated rubrics used for the cumulative intervention rating are designed to consider the entire research base that supports an intervention and, based on this evidence, make a judgment about the demonstrated efficacy of the program. Metiri assigns one of four possible ratings:

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Free Resources for Missouri Schools continued

What Works

- Grounded in sound theory
- Impact studies find casual or strong correlational links to student academic achievement

New & Promising

- Grounded in sound theory
- Few studies conducted but results are promising

Inconclusive

- Impact studies have mixed results

Can't Recommend

- Little or no research; research seems contrived (vendor driven)

How can educators use the database?

The Department purchased a year's subscription to both databases, effective through October 30, 2006. Department staff, affiliate agencies, and district staff have access privileges to the password-protected website. *[See directions below for requesting access privileges.]*

Educators can search the databases to find technology-based resources that meet school need and make sound purchase decisions based on the product's likely return on investment. The TSW databases can be searched by:

- Topic or content area, such as literacy or phonemic awareness
- Software/solution name, such as Waterford Early Reading or Accelerated Math

TSW provides general information about the software/solution, summarizes and evaluates existing research studies, and summarizes the overall rating.

- General description of the product – the publisher, how the product works, the intended grade levels or suggested age groups, equipment requirements, pricing, and such
- Impact studies – overview of each study, who conducted it and its findings, and Metiri's confidence-level rating regarding the nature of the study
- Metiri's overall recommendation – whether or not the product is worth the investment
- Comments – user comments about their experiences in using a product

Directions:

Step 1: Request access (Missouri token number) via email to webreplyimprTSW@dese.mo.gov

Step 2: Access the TSW site at: <http://www.metiri.com/techsolutions> and type in your (Missouri) number in the Group Token box under New users with a token.

Step 3: Register as a user, selecting the username and password that you will use from now on. Once you click Submit at the bottom of the form, you become a registered user.

Write both down for easy access later!

Tips for Teachers Calendar

Tips and Techniques to Improve Student Achievement

The *Tips for Teachers Calendar* is another excellent resource for educators. It includes ideas that can be used in the classroom as well as for home-work. Visit the websites below to view these resources.

April <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/map/PDF/tipsforteacherscalendarapril06.pdf>

May <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/map/PDF/tipsforteacherscalendararmay06.pdf>

June <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/map/PDF/tipsforteacherscalendarjune06.pdf>

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Mathematics MAP Sample Items

DESe has posted some sample MAP-like mathematics assessments for grades 3-10 at:

http://www.coe.missouri.edu/~map/gle_sample_items.htm

Communication Arts MAP Sample Items

You may view sample MAP-like communication arts assessments for grades 3-10 at:

http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/Practice_Tests/index.html

Mathematics Grade Level Expectations Examples

The Mathematics Grade-Level Expectation Examples represent the Department's continuing efforts to clarify the Grade-Level Expectations required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The examples provide sample problems, definitions, and teacher notes to support effective instruction, and serve as a framework for the development of model curriculum and assessment items. The document is still in draft format; further revisions will be published as they become available. Additional examples for all mathematics strands and K – 10 grade levels will be posted. Thanks to the many Missouri educators who have offered their assistance in writing and/or reviewing the examples. You may view the examples by clicking the links below or by going to <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/GLE/examples/>.



- Algebra K-6, DRAFT 11/1/2005
- Geometry K-6, DRAFT 11/1/2005
- Algebra 7, DRAFT 2/5/2006
- Algebra 8, DRAFT 2/20/2006
- Algebra 9, DRAFT 2/20/2006
- Algebra 10, DRAFT 2/20/2006

Better Teaching Newsletters:

Tips and Techniques to Improve Student Achievement

The *Better Teaching* newsletter is published monthly by The Teacher Institute, a division of NIS. The newsletter covers a variety of topics to help educators. Click on the links below to view copies of this excellent resource.

Elem. April 2006 <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/map/PDF/betterteachingElementaryApril06.pdf>

Elem. May 2006 <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/map/PDF/betterteachingElementaryMay06.pdf>

Secondary April <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/map/PDF/betterteachingSecondaryApril06.pdf>

Secondary May <http://www.nwmissouri.edu/map/PDF/betterteachingSecondaryMay06.pdf>

REGIONAL NEWS



Hats Off to the Northeast Regional Districts

To see if your school is listed as one of the top ten high performing schools in the state or as one of the most improved in the state, visit:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/TopTen/HighPerforming05.pdf>

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/assess/TopTen/MostImproved05.pdf>

“Professional Development is thinking about how you do the job better while you are doing the job.”

- Tony Alvarado

REGIONAL NEWS

A Note from Sheila Thurman

Time is a wondrous thing. It seems like yesterday that I took the position as your Northeast Regional MAP Facilitator when actually; it was seven years ago! We grew together in our depth of instructional and assessment knowledge to raise student achievement.

I have accepted the position as Assistant Director of Assessment at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Even though my office will be housed in Jefferson City, I will continue to be just a phone call away if I can be of assistance to you or your district.

Northeast school districts continue to bring the joy of learning to all our youth. Thank you for placing your emphasis on helping students develop higher-order thinking skills so they can more effectively apply their knowledge and skills.

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